

Matt Mason, DVM

I have been an ASCNE member for over 20 years and have enjoyed the numerous events the organization has hosted. It was a great experience early on to find the organization and then to observe Aussies in so many different situations as well as their owners/handlers. Attending early conformation shows and club meetings allowed me to see options to pursue with my dogs and meet like minded people that could help make it happen. I had always had a desire to work dogs on livestock but did not know it could happen until I became acquainted with ASCNE. I have developed good friendships thru ASCNE and I hope to help keep ASCNE a positive experience for future members by participating as an active board member.

I presently own 10 Australian Shepherds from working lines as well as 2 Cairn Terriers and a Rottweiler and have completed 9 WTCHs on my Aussies and BCs over the years. I am looking forward to herding competitions with the younger generation in the next couple of years. Raising the dogs has been a lot of work, but I enjoy their uniqueness and know that many other members of ASCNE enjoy their dogs and want to compete and learn new things, just as this breed needs to keep them sane. As a board member, I will recognize that the various venues all require attention, and will work to accomodate their plans on the monthly calendar of events. It is not easy to accommodate every one, but I think it is possible to allow ASCNE to maintain a strong foundation and membership.

I have served on the ASCNE Board in years past and was the director of ASCNE's Aussie Rescue for 2 years, helping to evaluate and rehome a number of Aussies that found themselves in need of assistance. Fortunately the ASCNE Rescue Program that was put together by ASCNE members became the foundation for the National program that ASCA adopted at a Nationals Meeting in the 1990s when the National Rescue program needed to be reorganized. It was a hard working group of individuals that supported that program, thru the good and bad aspects of rescue.

The livestock working aspect of Aussies has been my passion in regards to this breed, and as a result I have been the Course Director for a large number of ASCNE herding events, most recently establishing Farm Trials at the NH Sheep and Wool Festival in May for the past two years. I have also been on the ASCA Stockdog Committe a couple of times. Unfortunately I did have to resign secondary to a number of personal commitments, but it was good to see that ASCNE has a very strong stockdog program in comparison to some regions of the country.

ASCNE has a long history of being a positive aspect for many people, and I am looking forward to volunteering some of my time to help it continue as its Secretary. I have dealt with enough "note taking" over the years as a veterinarian as well as with registering dogs, cattle, and sheep, so I think I can handle that component while also providing some positive thoughts to ASCNE in the coming years.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for voting.

Sincerely,

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