



Creating a Club *and* Building a Legacy



Member Exclusive 

Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of Qld Inc
Written by Kathryn Winton

Founded in 1990 by a handful of Belgian Shepherd Dog enthusiasts, the Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of Qld Inc has grown from strength to strength.

In the beginning, a group of like-minded Belgian Shepherd Dog enthusiasts sat down with pen and paper and a list of names and addresses provided by the Canine Control Council of Queensland (Dogs Queensland pre-privacy law days).

Letters were hand written (this was before the use of personal computers or desktop printers) to owners of each and every Belgian Shepherd Dog registered in Queensland, as well as

interstate. The letters called for expressions of interest in establishing a 'Belgian breed club'. Sufficient to say positive responses came in, and a committee was formed along with official recognition of the Social Club being granted by the CCC(Q).

The next step was to upgrade from Social Club status to becoming officially affiliated with the CCC(Q). Affiliation was granted in April 2000 and was closely followed by the club's first Specialty Open Show held in March 2001 and its first Specialty Championship Show in June 2001 utilising local judges.

Fund Raising and persistence paid off with the appointment of the club's first International Specialist Judge in 2004 and the club continues to appoint International Specialist Judges at each Specialty Championship Show to draw maximum entries from interstate.

The original goals of the founders of the club are still upheld to this day.

The BSDCQ aims to provide information and education regarding the general health and betterment of the breed to those who own or are interested in obtaining a Belgian Shepherd Dog. The club also aims to promote the breed to the general public, to encourage responsible dog ownership and to uphold the breed standard.



There has always been a strong stance for members to only breed from health tested stock, making the BSDCQ the pioneer of ethical practices now adopted by other Belgian Shepherd Dog clubs in Australia.

The BSDCQ welcomes all Belgian Shepherd Dog fanciers and owners, local and worldwide, to be members. The BSDCQ offers its members:

- Bimonthly e-newsletters 'The Belgian Bulletin'
- Bimonthly committee meetings via skype and general meetings when needed
- Fundays as often as we can!
- Health register information (hip scores, elbow scores and eye testing results) viewable to members, breeders and the general public
- Belgian Shepherd Dog Specialty Open Shows held in March each year
- Belgian Shepherd Dog Specialty Championship Shows held in June each year
- The hosting of two Herding Trials per year (back to back trials in April each year)
- Belgian Shepherd Dog rescue services (finding homes for pedigree Belgian Shepherd Dogs in need Australia wide)
- Publisher affiliation of the Belgian Shepherd Year Books editions

1994, 1999, 2004 and 2010 (copies of these historical works are available for sale through the club secretary with next issue due late 2014/early 2015 – collectors' items!)

- Publisher affiliation of the Qld Critique book – colour photos and critiques (includes the judges' comments of each dog exhibited at our Specialty Champ Shows printed annually since 2009 – collectors' item!)
- Belgian specialty ring at Working Dog Club show held in March yearly
- Breed lectures for Dogs Queensland judging applicants
- Educational days
- Always available general breed information
- Club Facebook page 'Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland Inc'
- Complimentary limited membership offered to each new puppy buyer for the remainder of the club's financial year
- Complimentary limited membership offered to each family adopting a dog through club rescue for the remainder of the club's financial year
- Occasional 'try before you buy' complimentary membership offered to the public for the remainder of the club's financial year
- Memorabilia available for sale such as t-shirts, tea towels, stickers and key rings
- Membership attracted discounts on Specialty Show fees and memorabilia.



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The BSDCQ is a great source of information for sourcing, training, raising, grooming, showing, herding, trialling, owning and simply loving a Belgian Shepherd Dog!

At times, it has been a struggle to keep the club afloat. There have been challenges such as low membership numbers, debts exceeding bank balances, times of political turmoil and a lack of workers despite a large membership base.

The club has, however, been lucky enough to have folk step forward when times get tough, pick the club up, shake it up, fund raise to fix an ailing bank balance, liven up club activities and re-engage in public promotion of our breed and hope for an influx of new members with fresh ideas as to how we can move forward towards the future. Thus, the club continues and is now at the forefront of the Belgian Shepherd Dog breed promotion in Australia.

Breed promotion to the public (historical and current):

- Brisbane Royal EKKa breed info stall
- Pet Expo breed info stall

- Gold Coast breed info stall
- RSPCA Brisbane and Townsville Big Adopt Out breed info stall
- Fundays at prominent parklands for exposure to the public
- Local newspaper inclusions
- Club web page
- Club Facebook page
- Club t-shirts

If you own a Belgian Shepherd Dog or are interested in the breed, please consider joining our club.

We are a friendly bunch of people, with a common desire for the betterment of the Belgian breed. We invite new members to join us, or to contact us for information about our breed.

Photos credits Kathryn and Roger Winton, BSDCQ

To view online material related to this article visit:



The BSDCQ web page
www.bsdcq.com

The BSDCQ club email address
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