

# Minutes Meeting Sub-Commission Dog-Handlers

## 20151015-DOG Killarney, Ireland

### Practical Workshop on the Pre-Convention Day on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

For the first time in the history of ICAR Conventions do the dog-handlers actively participate on the practical workshop on the Pre-Convention Day.

The goal of the dog handler was:

- Demonstrate the efficiency of a search mission with the search tool "dog".
- In a time span of only 45 minutes, the dog handlers from Ireland were able to present the individual build-up stages as well as a short search mission to the participants.

### Meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

Chairman: Meier Marcel, Swiss Alpine Rescue  
Attendees: 27 Dog-Handlers from 15 countries

Agenda:

1. Welcome / Address List
2. Minutes of the Meeting in Lake Tahoe 2014
3. Presentation of new Members
4. Missions, especially with Avalanche, Ground Search, Man Trailing and Death Body Search Dogs
5. Presentation of Organizations and the Work with Dogs
6. Workshop on May 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in South Tyrol
7. Various

#### 1) Welcome / Address List:

The chairman of the sub-commission dog-handlers welcomes all attendees to the meeting. A special mention get the first-time participants, which are:

- from Germany: Nick Klever
- from Canada: Jenifer Coulter
- from Bosnia-Herzegovina: Vedran Dajmovic and Damij Bilic
- from the USA: Tracy Christensen
- from Italy: Alberto Taraglia and Michele Santoro

The chairman is pleased to note that more and more delegates are attending our meetings. This year, there are 27 participants from 15 countries.

## 2) Minutes of the Meeting in Lake Tahoe 2014:

The minutes of Lake Tahoe are unanimously approved and owed to the writer.

## 3) Presentation of new Members:

- Canada: Jenifer Coulter introduces the organization as well as the work with avalanche search dogs.
- USA, WBR: Tracy Christensen explains the organization in a Power Point presentation.
- Scotland: Chris Francis presents the work with dogs in Scotland.
- Norway: Knut Skår presents the work with dogs in his Norwegian Organization.

## 4) Missions, especially with Avalanche, Ground Search, Man Trailing and Death Body Search Dogs:

Very interesting case studies and general presentations are presented to us by the following countries:

- USA, WBR: Avalanche incident
- Scotland: Search for a missing person
- Norway: Operational statistics of missions
- Switzerland, ARS: Avalanche incident
- Italy: Stress for dogs in emergency missions

## 5) Presentation of Organizations and the Work with Dogs:

- Ireland: Brendan Beirne presents the work with dogs in Ireland, which is focused 100% on search for missing persons.
- USA: Tracy Christensen, President of WBR, explains to us the behavior of a dog.

## 6) Workshop on May 5th-8th, 2016 in South Tyrol:

The workshop will take place May 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Villanderer Alm. The main topics will be:

- Training of the dogs for searches and man trailing in all categories:
  - young dogs
  - advanced dogs
  - dogs ready for emergency missions

Provided that there will be enough dog-handler teams attending, death body search dogs and water rescue dogs shall also be presented. The chairman is looking forward to many attending dog-handlers.

## 7) Various:

As discussed among the delegates at the Congress in Lake, the dog-handlers want more time for themselves and the formation of their own commission. The chairman informed the ICAR Executive Board accordingly in writing and discussed it verbally. As a result of this, the chairman then presents the relevant extract of the minutes of the ICAR Executive Board's meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. With some resentment the delegates realize that nothing of the desired changes have been implemented by the ICAR Executive Board.

This is the reason for a big discussion. The chairman proposes to meet with the ICAR President Franz Stämpfli and the Board Member Dušan Polajnar. On Friday morning, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 this took place and was chaired by the President of the sub-commission dog-handlers.

The following concerns were submitted to both Executive Board members:

- The dog handlers are not taken serious enough
- The "Avalanche Dog" division covers only about 20%
- The dog-handlers are not present in the ICAR Avalanche Rescue Commission
- Why not create a search commission? Dogs are part of search, etc.

Franz Stämpfli and Dušan Polajnar received the concerns of the delegates of the sub-commission dog-handlers and as a result, this further step is determined:

- The chairman of the sub-commission dog-handlers shall be invited to the next ICAR Executive Board meeting in January 2016.
- He shall get the necessary time to discuss the future of dog-handlers within ICAR.

Finally, the chairman thanks Franz Stämpfli and Dušan Polajnar for the constructive meeting and the delegates for the active participation.

Einsiedeln, Switzerland / October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 / Marcel Meier