

Speckle Park International Inc

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To Speckle Park International members,

I thought I would drop a quick note at the end of the year to wish you a Merry Christmas and obviously a prosperous New Year and also take the opportunity to share with you some of the progress made in the last 6 months.

Brochure: An updated brochure is available free of charge from the Secretariat for members who wish to use it. It is also available for download on the SPI website at www.specklepark.org

AGM: There is currently some discussion about where to hold the AGM. It seems to have been well supported at the Sydney Easter Show however we are exploring the practicality of having it in conjunction with the sale. The sale committee, set up at the last AGM, is still to decide upon a date and venue for the sale. This decision will need to be made in the next few weeks.

Members: There are now 82 members in Australia and New Zealand. This compares to 72 members in Canada in 2011. SPI is also on track to record a \$14,000 profit in 2012. Obviously the concept is not to accumulate the money but to apply it in the best interest of the members. It is likely that some may be available for promoting the sale. The Board may also consider expanding the role of the Secretariat to include some marketing activities. Suggestions are always welcomed.

Below is a graph of animals in Australia and NZ.

| Speckle Park Statistics 2/11/2012 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Australia | | | New Zealand | | | DNA Case Number Recorded | | | | |
| Year | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Transfers By Year | Active Females By Calving Year |
| 2008 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 50 | 43 | 93 | | 25 |
| 2009 | 12 | 20 | 32 | - | - | - | 40 | 43 | 83 | 21 | 117 |
| 2010 | 102 | 96 | 198 | 30 | 28 | 58 | 9 | 24 | 33 | 63 | 201 |
| 2011 | 252 | 216 | 468 | 24 | 19 | 43 | 9 | 10 | 19 | 152 | 145 |
| 2012 | 123 | 126 | 249 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 150 | 3 |
| Totals | 489 | 458 | 947 | 60 | 53 | 113 | 109 | 122 | 231 | 386 | 491 |

Please note the registrations for 2012 births will not be complete for some time.

DNA: SPI has prepared a Fact Sheet on DNA. This service is being used more within SPI and I thought I would set out below the bare bones. For further information, always refer to the Fact Sheet.

The regulations provide as follows:

1. The owner of a sire at the time semen is collected for the first time must:
 - a. Provide the Association with a DNA profile of the sire which for semen collected after 1 January 2013 will include a DNA/Parent Verification.
 - b. Obtain an AI Permit from the Association.

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2. The owner using a female for embryo transfer must obtain a Donor Dam Permit from the Association.
3. A DNA type (or an existing blood type) of the Donor Dam must be on file with the Association before a Donor Dam Permit will be issued which for embryos collected after 1 January 2013 will include DNA/Parent Verification.
4. Each sire must have a DNA profile with the Association at the time of registering its progeny
5. Solid black animals will not be registered unless accompanied with a DNA/Parentage Verification.

Embryos: If you are registering a calf from an embryo, there is a process involved and it is wise to apply for registration as soon as possible. The DNA referred to above must be on file. In addition, in many instances an AI and ET certificate will be required. This has to be issued by SPI to the owner of the sire or dam. The owner completes it and sends it on to the member making the application. The member then sends it to the SPI.

2012 Calendar: it is clear this did not occur in 2012. We have all year to achieve this goal in 2013.

2013 Yearly Planner: Let me know your events for 2013 and I will place it on the website. If there is sufficient response we could look at publishing the planning with some advertising. The sort of events I am thinking of would be open days, sales, field days, attendance at shows, the Sale, the AGM.

New Zealand: It is planned for an open day to occur on the North Island around Masterton in mid February. I plan to attend and I am sure that other members from Australia would be welcomed.

Seasonal regards,

Mark Baker