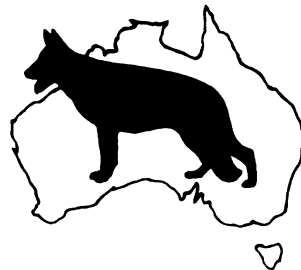


# *ANKC Aspiring GSD Judges & Ring Technique & Tips for GSDs*

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# Local Rules by Canine Controls

- ▶ Please check your local Canine Control website for requirements for GSD only Aspirants
- ▶ States differing from ANKC are Queensland & NSW
- ▶ Do I need to complete any courses/criteria prior to applying to be an Aspirant? Eg Stewarding
- ▶ Dates for applications vary state to state

# Application Dates

- ▶ NSW is across a two year period, closes early March alternate years
- ▶ Victoria closes end of February each year
- ▶ Qld closes end of February each year
- ▶ WA closes end of November each year
- ▶ SA closes end of January each year
- ▶ Tasmania closes end of February each year

# Have you just got your first Appointment?

- ▶ Remember to sign and send the contract back as soon as possible
- ▶ Clarify with the club what their requirements are, eg what classes are to be critiqued?
- ▶ Think about how you will set up your ring
- ▶ Maybe practice dictating some critiques on animals that you are familiar with
- ▶ Thinking about your microphone technique, maybe stand with your hairbrush facing the mirror and practice speaking out loud

# My first Judging Appointment

What do you need to consider?

- ▶ What is the weather going to be, do you need wet weather gear, sunscreen, a hat
- ▶ What do you wear, clothes that are not too intrusive or flow into a dogs face eg tie pin, tailored clothes, sensible shoes to stand all day
- ▶ Dogs have an acute sense of smell, so no perfume or aftershave
- ▶ Where to do you set up the ring, so you not looking into the sun when assessing dogs
- ▶ Consider where you do up and backs etc, to try and minimise walking as this adds to the time taken.
- ▶ Ask your steward to have the next group ready for presentation so you do not waste time waiting for dogs to be organised. This is important if you have a large entry

# What do I need on the day?

- ▶ File to record your call out order and make notes
- ▶ Additional clothing if weather could change
- ▶ Create a list of points to consider for critiques, so you can develop your own style and flow
- ▶ This is a practical skill that needs to be developed
- ▶ Consider the total entry and how much time do I have to get the show judged efficiently



# Class enters the ring

- ▶ Give clear instructions of what you require, 1, 2 laps around the ring
- ▶ Have your file to be able to note animals that you like
- ▶ You can use this as a cross reference with the individual assessment and creating your call out order
- ▶ Record some feature that helps you identify the specific animal

# Individual Assessment

- ▶ Conserve your energy
- ▶ Up and Back – Try and persist to get an accurate view for assessment
- ▶ Verbal Critique, record number on call out sheet. *Make a note of some feature of the dog to make it easy to remember it when placing others in the class. Some judges grade the dog at this point*
- ▶ Before calling them back in, check that you have every number written down and rewrite them for the steward checking again (*How many times have we seen animals left standing in the middle due to this procedure not being carried out properly?*)
- ▶ Remember to record measurement in critiques of Junior and up



# Critiques

- ▶ General summary of the whole class prior to verbal critique
- ▶ Try not to predict the future
- ▶ Talk to all exhibitors giving reasons for placings
- ▶ Demeanor in the ring and show interest
- ▶ Be time conscious
- ▶ Remember, don't focus on the faults of the animal
- ▶ Critiquing on the pegs takes practice.
- ▶ Use this opportunity to communicate your placings
- ▶ Be mindful of your initial critique and make adjustments to it if you missed something on the initial assessment
- ▶ Relate the final placing to the initial call out if it is relevant
- ▶ Identify colour, pigmentation and variety to help tell the story.

# Critiquing-Junior & up

- ▶ Follow the GSDCA Specialist Judges Guidelines
  - ▶ Size must be recorded in the critique accurately
  - ▶ Teeth Anomalies
  - ▶ Size description
  - ▶ Proportions
  - ▶ Colour/Pigment
  - ▶ Head/Expression
  - ▶ Neck
  - ▶ Withers
  - ▶ Back
- Croup
  - Angulations
  - Chest Proportions
  - Underchest
  - Foreleg/Pasterns/Feet
  - Stance in front
  - Movement up and back
  - Side gait

# Critiquing-Junior & up (continued)

- ▶ Use measurement to confirm your thoughts and make an adjustment about size
- ▶ Adjectives give colour
- ▶ Find interesting points about each animal that sets it apart from others
- ▶ Critiques tell a story
- ▶ Avoid contradictions - eg very good head and expression with light eyes. Expansive movement, but the drive could be more effective

# Critiquing Size - Junior & up

- ▶ **Oversize**, above 66cms for males and above 61cms for females
- ▶ Males above 67cms & females above 62cms are to be penalised at grading
- ▶ **Very Large**, 65-66 for males & 60-61 for females
- ▶ **Large**, 64-65 for males & 59-60 for females
- ▶ **Above Medium Size**, 63-64 for males & 58-59 for females
- ▶ **Medium Size**, 62-63 for males & 57-58 for females
- ▶ **Under Medium Size**, 61 – 62 for males & 56-57 for females
- ▶ **Small**, 60-61 for males & 55-56 for females

# Gradings

## Excellent

- ▶ Full correct dentition (double P1s allowed),
- ▶ Correct scissor bite,
- ▶ Successfully passed breed survey,
- ▶ Firm in character,
- ▶ Be two years and over
- ▶ Exhibited in the Open Class
- ▶ Size is up to 67 cm for males and up to 62 cm for females
- ▶ Well above breed average, and an excellent example of the breed according to the standard

# Gradings (continued)

## **Very Good – must be 12 months or over**

- ▶ Some very minor dentition faults, eg slightly level bite
- ▶ Between 67-68cms for males and 62-63 for females (that may otherwise be graded Excellent),
- ▶ Firm in character,
- ▶ In Open, some notable faults & not worthy of an Excellent, but still above breed average
- ▶ In Junior & Intermediate, very good is the highest grading, so could be an excellent animal.

# Gradings (continued)

## **Good – Must be 12 months and over**

- ▶ More noticeable dentition issues,
- ▶ between 67-68 for males and 62-63 for females (that may otherwise be graded Very Good),
- ▶ firm in character,
- ▶ at breed average, some notable faults & not worthy of a Very Good, that bring down the overall quality of the animal

# Gradings (continued)

## Ungraded

- ▶ Missing one only P3 plus one further tooth, missing one only Canine or one only P4, missing one only M1 or 2, missing 3 teeth altogether, bite is level, or undershot 2 mm or more, or overshot.
- ▶ Above 68 cm for males and above 63 cm for females.
- ▶ Character is not firm and self assured, or aggressive
- ▶ For males, not two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum
- ▶ If you judge a dog that is aggressive or doesn't have 2 testicles, these faults need to be reported to the Chief Steward and added to the report to the Canine Control



# Critique Writing

- ▶ Critiques are a verbal description of an animal
- ▶ Critiques should follow a pattern and order
- ▶ They should be rather light and general not overly critical nor misleading
- ▶ They should enable the reader to picture the animal in front of them
- ▶ Speak clearly and loud enough that the stenographer can hear without shouting



# General Sequence

- ▶ Size, Strength
- ▶ Proportions, Type, Sex Characteristics,
- ▶ Head, Withers,
- ▶ Back, Croup
- ▶ Forequarter, Hindquarter
- ▶ Front, Chest, Pigment
- ▶ Gait, Character

# Judge / Handler Interaction

- ▶ Don't let the steward do everything – communicate with the handlers directly by number or sir or madam – not by name
- ▶ Don't move a dog up over a handler when he is having a problem
- ▶ Ensure that the exhibitor understands what you want
- ▶ Exhibitors pay a lot of money to enter and therefore expect value for money
- ▶ Be in charge and be direct about how you want things done. Do not allow handlers to control the class

# Judging the class

Things to consider:

- ▶ The age of the animal being judged – age appropriate judging
- ▶ The warm up laps provide a good initial impression of the quality. *Generally look for the contenders, find the one who will probably be on the end. Make a note of their numbers*
- ▶ The rest is sorted by the critiques
- ▶ Before moving to individuals – inform the exhibitors of your expectations or get the steward to do it

# Puppies

- ▶ Spend less time judging them to leave more time to judge particularly the older classes
- ▶ Judge them mainly in stance
- ▶ Break the class up to prevent fatigue
- ▶ Critiquing puppies – size don't bother – they haven't finished growing. Keep critique to a minimum, expression, type, colour, pigment, balance of angulations, lines, movement

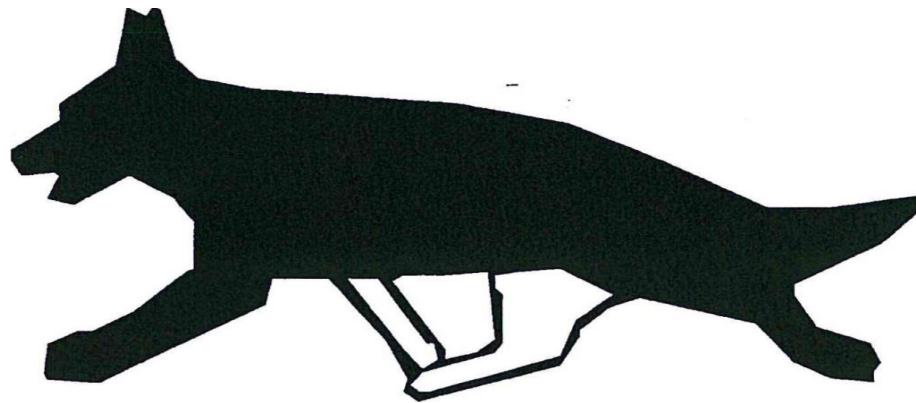


# Running the Class

- ▶ Exhibitors pay a lot of money to enter and therefore expect value for money
- ▶ Be in charge and be direct about how you want things done. Do not allow handlers to control the class
- ▶ Protect your winner if you have one in mind *Animals with lots of energy can outwork a superior specimen*
- ▶ Work methodically from the rear of the class giving the front group time to settle and get their wind before gaiting them again
- ▶ Movement – it is not a race and in groups allow dogs to compete with the higher group. Look for max ground coverage and minimum steps

# Gait

- ▶ Not more than 6, never gait the whole class
- ▶ Start from the back and move the first in the group up to the next group
- ▶ This gaiting exercise is not a race, but must be a fast gait



# On the pegs

- ▶ Involve the crowd – you are now telling them your reasons why the dogs are placed the way they are
- ▶ Microphone voice needs to be clear in articulating how the class was run
- ▶ A brief comment on a low callout that finished high or certain challenges you faced in the class gives a good overview
- ▶ Give the number of exhibits and the final gradings
- ▶ Be as positive as you can. Find something nice to say about each dog – *easy for the winners not so easy with the end of the class*





# Microphone Critiques

- ▶ Speak Clearly
- ▶ Be precise and descriptive – Practise
- ▶ Do not be too long winded
- ▶ Do not be too quick or short with lower placed animals
- ▶ Do not become overawed by the occasion
- ▶ Microphone critiques give the exhibitor and spectator the REASONS for the placing
- ▶ If in doubt, look carefully before you speak
- ▶ Always say something nice about each animal
- ▶ Average/mediocre animals are difficult to speak about
- ▶ We ALL have different aspects or areas which we seek in an animal, highlight that feature
- ▶ We want Exhibitors to come back
- ▶ Be yourself



# Tips

- ▶ Be assertive but polite
- ▶ Provide advice and assistance to handlers (particularly novices)  
Tell them to keep calm and assist them to calm their dogs
- ▶ Sense of humour
- ▶ Conserve energy
- ▶ Drink plenty of water and be mindful of weather
- ▶ Be responsible when grading – it is a GSDCA grading
- ▶ Reflect with your critical friend
- ▶ Steward or steno for other judges when possible

# Tips (continued)

- ▶ Don't be too precious or arrogant – sometimes we do get it wrong!
- ▶ Listen to your colleagues – follow the standard and if you haven't been, go to the Sieger show and see for yourself.
- ▶ Germans vs Australians
- ▶ The big picture
- ▶ Don't lose sight of the fact that the German Shepherd Dog is a working dog and therefore should not show undue fatigue. A dry and firm, well muscled, moderate dog should be celebrated.

# Support

- ▶ A Judge's decision may not be disputed
- ▶ Judges must support each other
- ▶ Refer questions from exhibitors to the Judge

# Remember

- ▶ Enjoy yourself
- ▶ Be happy
- ▶ The hallmarks of a good judge is defined in your ability to show leadership with a sense of humility thrown in.