

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Reg. No. A00100
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EDUCATION PACK FOR NEW ASPIRANT JUDGES

(Version 1/2018)

**This document is to be read in conjunction with the GSDCA Regulations and
ANKC Judges Regulations.**

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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	2
1.1	Introduction	2
2	REFERENCES.....	2
2.1	GSDCA Regulations	2
2.2	German Shepherd Dog Extended Breed Standard	2
2.3	ANKC Aspiring GSD Judges and Ring Technique & Tips for GSDs	2
2.4	GSDCA Code of Ethics.....	2
2.5	GSDCA Guiding Principles.....	2
2.6	GSDCA Social Media Code of Conduct	2
3	National Code of Conduct.....	3
4	Criteria for Mentor Assessment (Stage 1).....	4
5	Criteria for Examination (Stage 2)	5
6	Judging the GSD	6
7	Critiquing the GSD.....	9
8	GSDCA Gradings for Judges	11
9	Notice to all GSDCA Specialist Judges and Aspirants.....	13
10	Ring Management and Judging.....	14
11	Forms	18
11.1	GSDCA Specialist Judges Application Form	18
11.2	Aspirant Judges Methodology Report Form.....	20
11.3	Judging Practical Examination Form.....	22
11.4	Copy of Tick Sheet Form (<i>Sample</i>).....	27



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

It is suggested that any person wishing to become an Aspirant Judge, for the GSDCA Specialist Conformation Judges Extension Course all communication must be made to the GSDCA Judges Committee Chair on judgescommittee@gsdcouncilaustralia.org.

This GSDCA Aspiring Judges Education Pack is designed to assist members of the GSDCA Member Clubs to become GSDCA Specialist Conformation Judges by graduating through specific stages of training that is applicable.

This Training Program for Conformation Judges is conducted via the GSDCA Judges Committee Chairperson in conjunction with the Member Clubs in accordance with the current GSDCA Regulations at the time of the commencement of the GSDCA Judges Extension Course.

2 REFERENCES

2.1 GSDCA Regulations

Please refer to GSDCA website for GSDCA Regulations and refer to “Section 6.1 and 6.2 Specialist Judges”: <http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/documents/>

2.2 German Shepherd Dog Extended Breed Standard

Please refer to GSDCA website for German Shepherd Dog “Extended Breed Standard”:
<http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/documents/>

2.3 ANKC Aspiring GSD Judges and Ring Technique & Tips for GSDs

Please refer to GSDCA website for presentation on “Ring Techniques & Tips”
<http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/conformation/>

2.4 GSDCA Code of Ethics

<http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/documents/>

2.5 GSDCA Guiding Principles

<http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/documents/>

2.6 GSDCA Social Media Code of Conduct

<http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/documents/>



3 National Code of Conduct

National Judge's Code of Practice and Conduct

(copied from ANKC website : www.ankc.org.au)

Amended November 1992, May 1997, October 1997, May 1998, July 2013 [EM#062], October 2014, December 2014 [EM#103], February 2015 [EM#104], October 2015, October 2016.

1. A Judge shall act with professional decorum at all times.
2. A Judge shall give every exhibit and exhibitor fair and equal opportunity in each and every class.
3. A Judge shall act in a polite manner whilst carrying out each judging assignment.
4. A Judge shall present himself/herself in attire that is acceptable, appropriate and comfortable for each judging assignment.
5. A Judge is required to be punctual in availability to fulfil their judging assignment.
6. If in the judging procedures an exhibit displays an obvious physical impediment or is unable to be handled or can be regarded as savage or vicious the exhibit should be excused from the competition, in accordance with the ANKC Ltd Member Body rules/regulations.
7. A Judge shall not enter or exhibit any dog at any Conformation Show at which he or she is appointed to judge.
8. Should an exhibitor offer information to the Judge that may be regarded as designed to influence the Judge, the Judge shall excuse the exhibitor and their exhibit from competition and report the incident in accordance with the ANKC Ltd Member Body rules/regulations.
9. Should a Judge be approached to favour or disfavour a particular exhibit the matter is to be reported to the Administrator of the ANKC Ltd Member Body.
10. Should a Judge be approached with an inducement and/or bribe to advantage or disadvantage an exhibit the Judge is to report the matter in writing to the Administrator of the ANKC Ltd Member Body.
11. A Judge shall not solicit a judging appointment.
12. A Judge shall not solicit or seek entry of any particular dog or dogs.
13. A Judge shall not allow entries for a Conformation Show at which that person is judging to be received at the Judge's address.
14. A Judge shall complete all the requirements of the judging contract promptly. Any verbal acceptance of an assignment by a Judge shall be subject to the receipt of the contract within fourteen (14) days.
15. At the time of completing a contract the Judge shall inform the inviting body of any disability or limitation that could restrict carrying out in full the reasonable handling of all exhibits to be judged.
16. A Judge must not duplicate assignments in the same breeds and or group within a minimum of 3 months of each other and within a minimum of 200 kilometers at Championship Shows. (10/97), (02/15), (10/15)
17. A Judge shall honour each contract and will not be free to accept an alternative contract that will affect his or her availability to fulfil the original contract except with the written dispensation of the contracting Club. (05/98)



18. Accommodation provided to the Judge to fulfil an assignment is for the Judge only except where prior mutual agreement has been reached with the sponsoring body for variation.
19. A Judge shall be responsible for the cost of all personal telephone calls, alcoholic beverages and any personal laundering except where mutual agreement has been reached with the sponsoring body at the time the contract is accepted.
20. A Judge who withdraws from any contracted appointment for any reason shall not be permitted to judge at any other canine event wherever held on any date that would prevent him/her from attending the originally contracted event, unless dispensation has been granted in accordance with Clause 17. (05/98)
21. Judges must not smoke nor drink alcohol in the ring.
22. Judges shall not criticise by act or word the work of other judges, nor offer criticism of any previously judged dog(s) to anyone including other officiating judges during the course of the show. Except for authorised ringside mentoring.
23. All judges must judge exhibits in accordance with their relevant ANKC Ltd breed standard. (10/16)

4 Criteria for Mentor Assessment (Stage 1)

1. Meet with Aspirant and discuss the proceedings of the day, informing them that you will be together for the entire show or day. Ask them to take note of highlights of the show for both virtues and faults for this to be included in their report. Ask what the Aspirant wishes to achieve for the day?
2. Discuss how to set ring up in relation to sun and weather, impact of clothing on judging for dogs. What expectations would you have from the ring steward?
3. Judging process from the walk in, noting animals that take your eye, how to construct a call out order, judging from the back of the class to the front. Overall ring control, how to minimise walking as judge, with where to start/finish gaiting exercises.
4. Discuss difference in judging puppies to adults.
5. Encourage Aspirant to verbally critique animals, give an 'On the Pegs' summary as to why animals are placed the way they are – explaining the reasons.
6. Write at least 5 critiques to practice formatting critiques, these are to be given to the Mentor to review on the day for instant feedback. Encourage to develop own style of critiques. Check to see if any important aspects of the animal are left out, e.g. forgot to mention angulations etc.
7. Prior to the end of the classes, ask for gradings that the Aspirant would give and rationale as to why.
Discuss based on current issues within the breed, i.e. excessive hindquarters/size and how this reflects the given gradings/placings.
8. Look for and discuss points of difference between animals.
9. Discuss the animals presented and encourage the Aspirant to ask questions. Reiterate to Aspirant that their report needs to be received by Mentor Judge, along with a typed copy of written critiques with the name of the animal and class etc., within 3 weeks of the date of the show and cc'd to the GSDCA Judges Committee Chair.



5 Criteria for Examination (Stage 2)

1. Meet with Examinee and discuss the proceedings of the day, informing them you will be together for the entire show or day. Ask them to take note of highlights of the show for both virtues and faults for this to be included in their report.
2. Confirm the requirements of the day, that at least 20 critiques are to be completed for animals entered in classes from Junior to Open. If there are very large classes, not all animals need to be critiqued, but time to be spent formulating well written critiques.
3. Where possible, to go into the ring with trainee to view animals during walk in laps prior to commencement of critiques. This will help with formulating a call out order.
4. For all classes, Examinees are to provide a call out order, prior to the officiating judge doing so.
5. Encourage Examinee to verbally give an 'On the Pegs' summary as to why animals are placed the way they are – explaining the reasons and provide gradings that they would award each animal in the class. Also to comment if they would have placed animals differently and give reasons why.
6. Assessor judge to look for points of difference in animals and note down, as it is important to see if the aspirant has noted these in the critiques when received.
7. It is important that you are positioned very close to where the animals are being critiqued, so the aspirant has an opportunity to view the dogs in stance to complete critiques. Most clubs are very supportive of this process and provide an area next to the Judges tent.
8. Discuss the animals presented and encourage the Aspirant to ask questions. Reiterate to Aspirant that their summary report of the show needs to be received by Examiner Judge, along with a typed copy of written critiques with the name of the animal and class etc., within 3 weeks of the date of the show and cc'd to the GSDCA Judges Committee Chair.



6 Judging the GSD

Assessing and Approaching the GSD

When judging the GSD, it is best to stand back and get an overview of the dogs first, your impression of their outlines and overall balance. Ideally, move the class together around the ring once or twice at a walk to allow the dogs to settle down a little and again get an impression of the dogs in movement and the overall quality of the exhibits.

Judging Individual Dogs

Stand back and get the outline and balance of angulations clear in your mind. See the strength of the dog or bitch – does it sufficiently represent the breed?

The stance of the GSD - is a natural pose where the dog feels balanced, this then can be exaggerated by the handlers into an appealing "shape". If at any time you cannot see the true outline for the "stacking", ask the handler to move the dog forward 1 or 2 steps.

Approach the dog - generally from the side, near the head and I always ask the age of the dog of the handler. This allows two things - one to find out the age of the dog, but more importantly lets the dog connect to you - a stranger approaching, that the handler is totally unconcerned about. GSD's in the ring should be unconcerned and relatively easy to handle, however you are invading their space and the sound of your voice is a connection to the dog that I find settles them.

Look at the head - check the bite and the dentition, if at all concerned, ask the handler to show you the teeth. Double P1's are permissible, missing teeth are not. Do not eyeball the dog directly, rather you are flicking your eyes around the head to check the shape and strength.

Then examine the body - move along the dog and check the withers, lightly run your hand down the back if needed and check testicles on the males. I generally will check where the chest reaches to under the coat - it should reach to the elbow and not below it. You can check the breadth of muscle in the hindquarters gently - *don't grab and maul the dog*.

Stand back and look at the proportions - are the angulations balanced? Does the dog have good top and underlines?

How does the dog stand in front? - It should be straight and the feet and legs should stand directly under the shoulders - not too narrow or wide, not "east-west" or "pigeon chested".

Moving the Dog

Ask the handler to walk the dog out and back - the legs should be straight and directly under the body, they should not be too wide or narrow - the breed was developed to run in the furrows at the edges of the fields - they do not single track, rather at speed the legs will move towards the centre line. Look at the hocks and elbows, are they firm or do they "wobble in the breeze"? A young dog will be looser in ligamentation than an older dog - but excessive looseness in the hocks or elbows is not desired and should by 12 months be fairly firm.

Ask the handler to move the dog around the ring - if there is time ask the handler to settle the dog and gradually pick up speed so that you can see the dog moving freely at a gait - preferably on a loose lead once the dog is moving well. *Look for balance, is there good reach and drive, is the topline remaining firm or bouncing all over the place*. Are the withers remaining slightly higher or is the forequarter falling and the rear end kicking up? You should be looking for a flowing reach and drive, seemingly effortless that the dog could maintain for long periods of time without tiring. Nothing should be wasted, minimal number of steps covering the maximum amount of ground.



When Placing the Dogs

It is a combination of type, sound character, strength, balance and movement that should easily position the dogs.

If the class is large, always look for what strikes you - *the best and the worst in the class*. By the time you have done the individuals, your ideas on the relative qualities of the exhibits should have resolved somewhat. Place the dogs in your desired order and move the class.

When walking or gaitting the dogs, assess:

Balance in movement - does the length of reach balance the length of drive from the hindquarter? - can the dog extend freely at all speeds?

Topline - is the wither higher than the rest of the back or falling below? - is the steepness of the croup restricting the hindquarter drive? And:

Overall firmness of ligaments - does the back bounce all over the place or stay firm and steady?

In the Specialty ring we often break the class into smaller groups (4-5) and then gait them to assess the dogs at speed, and then move them out and back for a final assessment of firmness of ligaments of hocks and elbows. This can be done from either end of the class i.e. working either up or down the class. The advantage of working from the rear of the class forwards is that one can move a dog that you may have missed, up the class as you go.

Common Problems seen when Judging GSD's.

Size - we tend towards the top end in the size range. Some very large dogs and bitches can be seen. When they get too large, the balance of proportions (height to length and depth of chest to leg) tends to swing out of balance and the dog becomes cumbersome and very heavy on its feet.

Forequarters - very commonly there are restrictions in the length and lay of the upper arm, reducing the reach.

Occasionally the whole front assembly is forward placed - steep shoulder, steep upper arm, lack of prosternum, loose elbows - these dogs on the stand often have a high wither placement but are restricted in length of reach and by instability of the elbows.

Croups - often short and/or steep - this restricts hindquarter drive.

Hindquarters - poor hindquarters often going hand in hand with a short steep croup, a short upper thigh combined with long hocks - these dogs have trouble getting their hindquarters sufficiently underneath themselves to get a long stride, hence reduced drive and a tendency to kick up behind.

Overangulated hindquarter - this occurs when the lower thigh is much longer than the upper thigh, often accompanied by longer hocks - this leads to an instability of the hocks - going away they are very loose. Hocks can be loose on youngsters but should be fairly stable by 12-18 months.

Balance - lack of: - commonly seen - overangulated behind in relation to the forequarter angulation - these dogs tend to fall on the forehand at the fast gait (or on a loose lead). Less commonly seen - very good forequarter, short steep croup, short upper thigh, long hocks - no drive, tires quickly.

Desired Features to Look For when Judging the GSD

Correct proportions - height to length, depth of chest to length of leg. Older bitches may approach 50/50 chest to leg proportions.

Heads - very good strength of top and underjaw - weak underjaws are more likely to have missing teeth.



High wither - as opposed to low - maintains a better topline in movement, tighter ligamentation over the shoulders.

Firm backs - preferably without nicks and dips, but not roached during movement, particularly in the older animal.

Croups - of good length and lay - the length of the pelvis affects the width of the hindquarter musculature - broad thighs are very desirable. Steep croups will restrict hindquarter drive, equally will flat croups.

Forequarters - well laid back shoulders, and very good length and lay of the upper arm to enable maximum reach.

Hindquarters - equal of length of upper and lower thigh, this gives perfect balance to the hindquarter, and with it usually the desired width of muscles of the thighs and maximum length of stride, thus a more powerful drive.

Hocks - short, strong and firm - shorter hocks give greater stability to the drive.

Overall - ideally looking for balance of angulations i.e. very good fore and hindquarter angulations. Clear, flowing top and underlines, nothing lacking in a free flowing effortless ground covering gait, with a minimal number of steps covering a maximum amount of ground.

Problems of Youth

Ears - the ears can be every which way when young, but should be erect by 6-7 months and are definitely penalised from 9 months if not firmly erect. The erect ears of the GSD have been called "the equivalent of the Mercedes Benz symbol", i.e. no ears, no GSD.

Bat or low set ears - not common and penalised in proportion to the degree relative to the overall quality of the dog.

Overly strong ears i.e. leaning inwards, kinked/tilted at the base so they sit over the head - not uncommon below 6 months of age, should be straightening by 9 months and no or very little lean by 12 months. Tilted ears are penalised in the adult.

Soft ears - where the ears fall to the side in stance or movement - again should be erect by 6-7 months and firm in stance.

Ears can be held back during movement, but should not flap/wobble around.

Backs - in youth, the back of the GSD can appear arched or roached in stance, but should not be roached in movement i.e. the middle of the back should never be higher than the wither.

Hocks - going away hocks can be rather loose at the walk but should firm as they reach their natural gait i.e. the trot.

Elbows - until the chest develops many GSD's can be rather loose in elbows but both hocks and elbows should be reasonably firm by 12-15 months.

Ligamentation - Excessive looseness of ligamentation.

Written by Dr. Karen Hedberg BVSc - 2003



7 Critiquing the GSD

The Critique

The critique consists of 3-4 sentences which should give the reader (and owner) a mind's eye picture of the dog you are judging.

The first sentence gives overall impression of size, strength, balance, proportions and type. The second sentence gives description of the head and body, the third how the dog stands and moves coming and going. The last sentence describes the dog in movement.

When these critiques are read relative to the placing of the dogs, ideally one should be able to clearly understand why the dogs have been placed in their relative places. A critique equally gives the reader knowledge of how well the judge knows dogs and construction, as well as occasionally how poorly a judge knows dogs - both in construction and movement!

1. **Overall Impression** - the order can vary between judges.

Size - small, medium - above and below, the adjective 'well' can further break the groups, Large - indicates standing on the upper limit, and very large (indicates over size).

Strength (and substance) - very strong, strong, medium strong, sufficient and insufficient; Substantial - generally on males with very good strength.

Type - excellent, very good, good, sufficient, insufficient.

Proportions (and balance if very good) - correct, slightly stretched, stretched, long.

Top and underlines - usually only on very good individuals.

2. **Head/Body Section** - the adjectives correct, excellent, very good, good, sufficient and insufficient can be added to any area - the poorer the dog, the lower down the line one goes for the descriptive adjectives.

Head - masculine, feminine; expression, eye colour (dark, medium, light), strength of top and underjaw - generally only where very good or lacking.

Topline:

Withers - very good, good, normal, level or low.

Back - straight, tight, firm - can be just very good etc. Can be soft, nick behind wither, short, long.

Croup - length and lay. Length - very good, good, long, short. Can be excellent, correct. Lay - correct, very good, good, slightly steep, steep.

Angulation:

Forequarter angulation - shoulders - general comment of forequarter angulation followed by a specific comment on the upper arm (length and lay if needed - usually is!).

Hindquarter angulation - general comment followed by specifics if needed (not often generally).

Chest Proportions

Correct, very good, good, slightly deep etc - can comment on fore and underchest development if needed (either correct, very good, good or lacking).

3. **Dog from Front and Rear and Movement**

Stands in front - correct, slightly narrow, east west etc, - can comment on the rear but generally only if a problem.

Steps front and rear - correct, narrow/close, wide.

Hocks and elbows - firm, slightly loose, "needs to find final firmness".



4. Dog from Side in Movement

Ground covering gait -far reaching, very good, good, restricted etc. Can comment on reach and drive and firmness over the topline.

Summary

It can sound rather complicated but in reality is quite easy, very adaptable to different age groups (less detail for puppies, more depth for adults) and different breeds. The terms regarding size are obviously relative to the desired range for that breed.

Examples

Puppy

Medium size, medium strong puppy of good type and correct proportions. Very good head and expression, good angulations, the upper arm could be longer and better angled. In movement the wither could be held a little higher, good reach, very good drive.

Junior Bitch

Well above medium size, medium strong bitch of very good type and slightly stretched proportions. Very good head and expression, correct dark eye. High withers, firm back, slightly short and steep croup. Very good forequarter angulation where the upper arm while of good length is steep, very good hindquarter angulation, correct chest proportions. Hocks still to find final firmness. During movement shows good ground covering gait with very good reach, firm ligaments over the topline, slightly restricted drive at the fast gait.

Adult Dog

Large, strong, substantial dog of very good type and correct proportions. Strong masculine head, expression slightly marred by a slightly light eye. Good withers, firm back, very good length and lay of croup. Good forequarter angulation, maximum depth of chest, very good hindquarter angulation, praiseworthy breadth of thigh. Steps correct front and rear, firm hocks and elbows. During movement shows good ground covering gait, powerful drive, firm ligaments over the topline, however the reach should be more effective at the fast gait.

A very good dog may have a relatively short critique eg.:

Correct medium size, medium strong, harmonious bitch of very good type and correct proportions. Very good head and expression. Very good top and underlines. Very good fore and hindquarter angulation, correct chest development.


Stands and steps correct front and rear. During movement shows balanced far reaching gait transmitted through a firm back.

Written by Dr. Karen Hedberg BVSc - 2003



8 GSDCA Gradings for Judges

National Breed Commission



GSDCA

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA Inc

GSDCA GRADINGS FOR JUDGES

Application of criteria for the awarding of a GSDCA Grading to exhibits at GSDCA approved GSD shows.


Show Grading	Item/Description
Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal must be exhibited in Open Class Faultless, gapless, healthy dentition. May have slightly level bite, but without wear. Double P1's allowed. Must GSDCA Breed Survey Class 1 or 2 or recognised by the GSDCA as successfully breed surveyed. Firm outgoing character Acceptable size limits: Dogs: Max of 67cm & Bitches: Max of 62cm
Very Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not quite correct scissor bite. Missing one only Premolar 1 or Molar 3 or Incisor Slightly level bite Slightly worn teeth, NOT due to age. Firm outgoing character
Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing two only Premolar 1's or one only premolar 2. Missing one only Premolar 1 plus one only Incisor Missing one only Premolar 3 Missing two only Incisors or two only Premolar 2's Missing one only Premolar 2 plus one only Incisor Missing one only Premolar 2 plus one only Premolar 1 Firm outgoing character
Ungraded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing one only Premolar 3 plus one further tooth. Missing one only Canine or one only Premolar 4. Missing one only Molar 1 or 2. Missing three or more teeth altogether Bite is Level, or Undershot 2 mm or more, or Overshot. Character that is not firm and outgoing

GRADING BY CLASS

Class	Age Group	Grading
Baby Puppy	3 months to 6 months	Very Promising, Promising, Ungraded
Minor Puppy	6 months to 9 months	Very Promising, Promising, Ungraded
Puppy	9 months to 12 months	Very Promising, Promising, Ungraded
Junior	9 months to 12 months	Very Promising, Promising, Ungraded
	12 months to 18 months	Very Good, Good, Ungraded
Intermediate	18 months to 36 months	Very Good, Good, Ungraded
Open	Under 24 months/ Over 24 months & not surveyed	Very Good, Good, Ungraded
	Over 24 months & successfully surveyed	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Ungraded
Australian Bred	6 months & over	NO GRADINGS
State Bred	6 months & over	NO GRADINGS
All Neuter Classes	6 months & over	NO GRADINGS

SIZE

Dogs (cm)	Bitches (cm)	English Description	German Description
60-61	55-56	Small	Klein
61-62	56-57	Under medium size	Unter mittlerer Größe
62-63	57-58	Medium size	Mittlerer Größe
63-64	58-59	Above medium size	Über mittlerer Größe
64-65	59-60	Large	Groß
65-66	60-61	Very large	Sehr groß
Above 66	Above 61	Oversize	Übergroß



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National Breed Commission



Criteria for GSDCA Gradings to be awarded at Specialist Shows

On behalf of the NBC Executive, I wish to highlight to all GSDCA Specialist Judges and participants in the GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course, the following regulation from the GSDCA Regulation Manual.

Please be aware that GSDCA Gradings cannot be awarded, in the Junior Classes and above, unless written critiques are completed as a part of the judging process. If you are requested to give gradings without completing critiques, please refer to the follow regulation.

4.1 Conformation Awards

The following GSDCA Conformation Awards may only be awarded at GSDCA Member Club shows, and "sponsored" GSD Specialist Shows, where the Judge is an accredited German SV, SV Foreign list, GSDCA Specialist Judge, Participants in GSDCA Specialist Judge Extension Course, or as approved by the GSDCA, and provides written critiques and gradings.



9 Notice to all GSDCA Specialist Judges and Aspirants

National Breed Commission



Oversize Dogs:

The 2015 GSDCA Judges Committee Meeting discussed the matter of oversize dogs with regard to awarding of GSDCA grading's and it resolved that all GSDCA Specialist Judges and Judges participating in the GSDCA Judges Extension course as a collective will apply the following policy when judging:

- The Policy will apply as on 1st September 2015.
- All females measured over 62cms must not be awarded an Excellent grading in the Open Class, and are to be penalised a grading in Intermediate and Junior Classes.
- All males measured over 67cms must not to be awarded an Excellent grading in the Open Class, and are to be penalised a grading in Intermediate and Junior Classes.
- Animals presented in the show ring with excessive hindquarter and /or instability of the hindquarter, are not to be promoted and highly placed in a class.
- Clear comment as to why the animal has been penalised are to be included in the critique and 'on the pegs' summary.



10 Ring Management and Judging

Prior to the Show

Provide yourself with

1. Set of GSDCA Regulations – refer GSDCA website.
<http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/documents/>
2. Large notepad or call out sheet for each class.
3. Small notepad for your pocket – to jot down initial ‘taking of numbers’ in pre-judgement laps, and to take note of any ‘problems’ (these should then be transferred to your ‘callout’ order notes).
4. Pencils and pens, as a pencil will be more useful in wet weather.
5. Appropriate clothing and wet weather gear/sunscreen if required.

On the day

Check to see you have a measuring stick available – it is a requirement to measure height and depth on all animals from Junior and up and record in the critique.

Explain your personal procedure to your ring steward, and explain your manner and terms to the stenographer. Double check from what class the club requires critiques, as this can vary from club to club.

Make sure you note the names of the people that help you on the day and wish to thank at the end of the day.

It is recommended that you review your critiques prior to them being published. This needs to be clarified with the club prior to the commencement of judging. As in the current times of social media, some clubs are posting critiques on their websites immediately.

It is essential, particularly with large entries, to get the numbers of each class from the Show Secretary PRIOR to the commencement of judging. Then work out an approximate time schedule for the day’s judging. Many judges spend too much time on the younger classes, thereby the older classes are short on time, which are the most important.

If for example you have 20 animals entered in a class (don’t worry about scratchings – this is bonus time). Then allow yourself approximately 3 minutes per dog – therefore one hour should cover a class of 20. Young classes should only take 10 minutes in total for gaiting, older classes – dependent on the number entered, 20 minutes. This, including the breaks needed by the club for lunches etc., can give you an estimate of roughly preconceived starting times for each class.

If you find you spend more on, say juniors, than you allowed, you can smarten up for the next class, in order to allow maximum time for the open classes.

The 3 minute mark is ample for full critiques and individual gaiting and runoffs. To reiterate, a large quality class may require another 10 minutes or so, but by adhering to your approximate time schedule and checking on that schedule, one should be able to get through a large and full day of judging without stress.

If entries are large in a particular class, it is important to give all entries a fair go. Some judges spend too much time sorting out the lesser quality groups and then short change the top groups because they are running short of time – or, we have the animals on the end of the line getting a ‘brief’ look, and feel cheated – a time schedule obviates this occurring.

The system of run offs of last group to first is still the clearest and easiest for both the judge and the exhibitor to follow. For ring control, consider where you start and finish these run offs to minimise the amount of ground you cover as a judge. This can save time and wear and tear on you as the judge. Also consider the travel of sun throughout the day, so you are not looking into the sun to review the class in standing.



Should you have overlooked an animal for any reason, this is your opportunity to methodically find it and move it up through the class. Remember some animals do not do a good individual and settle in the class and present a far better picture, so they should be moved accordingly in the class. In the gaiting exercises, ensure the animals are not pulling too hard or over double handled, as this can also provide a false picture. The animals should be on the end of the lead, but not over gaiting.

A point to remember, particularly with animals of lesser quality, is not to change on stance, as you may get caught out – as they step forward and can lose the artificial outline that can be created by astute handlers. It can be wise, if you wish to change your line up, to move the animals just at a walk, not necessarily even at a trot – establish the type you want, then move them at a trot or gait.

As each class enters the ring, take down a few numbers of the animals which ‘catch your eye’, then recheck this after the initial laps – use this to help double check your call out order. Check and see where these animals are, the ones you noticed originally in those initial laps. More often than not, they will appear in your top group. If not, check why. There may be a valid reason, but you also may have missed a nice animal which has been poorly presented on the individual. Similarly, be careful of the animal which impressed on the individual but which you did not notice on the initial laps – it may well be that left on a loose lead or presented by a less astute handler – is not as good as presented in the individual.

Individual Critiques

Babies – if for any reason you are asked to give written critiques on babies, keep them short. Only comment on the basics, as the rest will change and has a possibility to come back to haunt you. It is enough to give basic information, particular virtues, colour, and comment on angulations. Beware of comments on withers, backlines and croups, be general – and if in doubt, be kind – as an animal matures, then you can highlight areas for improvement. If in doubt with babies, go for type and never criticise looseness over the topline, neither put too much importance on movement. Puppies are often not trained and can sometimes barely put two steps together in a sequence. With your judgment look to promote the pup you believe will make it in the long run, which is not always the best trained one on the day. With checking dentition, it is just a quick check of the bite - be mindful of sore mouths, it can be helpful to do this prior to individuals. With baby males, gently check testes, if you have a baby with a testicle that has not descended at this stage, then quietly let the handler know. It is not necessary to penalise in baby class.

Often for babies, it is a ‘training run’, so get them to set up and then slowly run in a small circle to allow you to ascertain type. Always endeavour to make it a positive experience for the puppy, with the judge and the handler. Call out in order from the first to last. If a large baby class, break up into small groups of 4-5 for a SHORT run, do not be too concerned with overall ligamentation in pups, remember that puppy looseness is normal. The short, high withered, dry puppy can appeal in overall proportions, but can lack lay of shoulder or length of croup as an adult.

Do not be too focused on getting a baby class exactly right, we know puppies change, so do not spend too long trying to sort them out, a general feel for a good pup is what is required, the best at the top of the class – and do not work babies.

Minor puppies, particularly males, are the most difficult to judge. Females are more together at this age, but the risk is still there to work them too much. Even though they are bigger than babies, they are still young, again break them into small groups to sort them out, they should not complete more than 4-5 laps. Again keep critiques to a minimum, as they are going through major growth changes.

From puppy classes we can critique as normal. The animal is to be presented in a normal stance, with minimal interference from the handler. For measuring, ensure the handler is not interfering with the animal. Remember to critique the basics, but bring your own flair to it.



Size, strength, colour and pigment, and try to be descriptive about any feature that makes the animal different from the others. After covering all of the basic structure in the normal format, also try to differentiate between those animals which show capability in movement, and those that do not. Try to develop your own style in critiques which will enable those who read the critiques to differentiate between those animals of quality that you find.

Check teeth/testicles after the warm up laps, have your steward record any notes and pass onto the stenographer. The dogs are usually more cooperative after a few warm up laps.

Check height and depth on a concrete slab or a board if available, have the steward bring the dogs through quickly so that this can be done speedily. Record any notes re size or temperament and pass onto the stenographer, that way when the animal comes in for the individual you only have to walk to the front to see the dog standing, check for eye colour, temperament and expression. This lessens the chance of missing any teeth, testicles or height and depth, saves valuable time and conserves your energy. It also enables handlers to head off to the other ring if required while the owners stand with their dog on the measure or to have their teeth checked. Often checking size on the individual the dog is on its toes and can record a much higher reading than when relaxed with its owner.

Remember to check the fronts in standing, if you think a handler has manipulated the front as you move forward, get them to step the animal a few steps toward you. This will show you the correct front. Also if unsure of rear movement, you can check again as the animal steps away for the gait.

An important point to remember is when you find any animal with a 'problem', make a brief note on your call out order or your pocket note pad. This enables a check to be made as to why that beautiful animal in outline or movement is not at the top end of the class. It is easy to forget in a large class and subsequently move the animal up through the class, when you had a real reason for the low call out order. It maybe dentition, temperament, size, very loose hocks, over angulation. You should have a point in your line up where the grading cut off is set. Know your facts whilst you are moving the class and you are less likely to make a mistake in final placement or subsequent gradings.

With Long Stock Coats, you will need to physically check points on their conformation from time to time. You may need to move the coat to check depth of chest, feel for the length and lay of croup. Also remember to check for undercoat and coat texture. Sometimes with a very 'coaty' Long Stock Coat, you may need to review hocks when the animal is moving towards you, as the full brush of the tail can obscure the hock joints and foot placement.

Remember to speak clearly and steadily, there is no need to yell, it is important you work with your stenographer. Note if they ask you to slow down, then work at the pace they can keep up. They are a vital link as a part of your team.

Call out order

Be clear in your mind as to how to set out your call out order, be organised, set out columns, even with small shows or classes. Particularly with Opens, it is imperative to have Excellent + to Good -, you will find this assists you with your final gradings. It is difficult to make these decisions, as you are putting animals on to the pegs, where your specific gradings start and finish – carry your note book and refer to it to assist with your final decision making.

One further point in your call outs is to ensure the list you hand to your steward is clear and check that you have not repeated a number and if 10 animals in the class you have 10 catalogue numbers listed. It is embarrassing to have missed an animal.

Handling the Handler

There are some handlers that may try to intimidate you as a judge, this can be subtle or quite overt. They may use a well-known animal's name during an individual to ensure you know who it is. It could be staring at you during the movement phases, or could be you say up 2 and they



try up 3. There will be people you know well that handle dogs under you. You are always professional, never refer to the handler by name, it is sir, madam or by their number.

You are the judge not them, it is your ring and your responsibility to place animals as per their merits. If a handler is rude or does not complete the tasks as asked, it is expected that you take control and politely ask for your requests to be done. If a handler repeatedly tries to impose their will on you, penalise them, even if only temporarily. Have confidence in your own ability and eye for a dog.

Critiques on the pegs

When animals are on the pegs, do not just repeat their critiques. Give the reasons why one animal is in front of the other, if the class is of very high quality, if the adjudication between a number of animals was close or that an animal was a clear winner. This is where the exhibitors understand why the placings are so. If an animal has a 'problem' like oversize, dentition or excessive overangulation of the hindquarter, then exhibitors understand why it has been penalised.

If an animal has shown a character issue and then was ok with subsequent testing, still mention it, but say you were satisfied with further testing.

Final pointers

Remember our dogs should be fit, but many handlers are not – be considerate to both. If you are checking firmness of hocks and elbows, don't check too many at once, no more than 5 at a time.

Not many handlers can run at a fast gait for more than 2 laps, be considerate and be aware of dogs stressing, especially in the heat. Stop the class if you notice an animal stressing, handlers maybe unaware of this being a lot closer to the dog. Allow for drinks breaks for both handlers and animals. Especially as we have fewer handlers, some are handling in a lot of classes and we don't want to see people collapsing in the ring.

Be aware if chatting with your steward, that the class does not continue running whilst you are not focused on the class. It is your responsibility to ensure the welfare of the animals presented to you.

Be organised, be aware of all the rules and regulations, be considerate to dogs and handlers, call it as you see it and enjoy your time as the judge on the day.

*Original Article Mrs Fran Farley
Quarterly National Review December 1993
Updated by GSDCA NBC Executive October 2017*



11 Forms

11.1 GSDCA Specialist Judges Application Form

To obtain the application form, please refer to GSDCA website for “Specialist Judges Application Form”: <http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/forms/>



German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc

Affiliate: Australian National Kennel Control (ANKC)
 Member: World Union of German Shepherd Dog Associations (WUSV)
 Patron: Mrs. Dawn Fraser AO MBE

APPLICATION FORM – Specialist Judges Extension Course

Family Name: _____

Given Names: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (Mobile) _____

Please nominate which details you wished to have published on the Judges List.

Member of State of Domicile GSDCA Affiliate Club since: _____

Kennel Prefix *(must be named as an owner)*: _____

Breeder since *(since named on the prefix)*: _____

No of litters: _____	No of Breed Surveyed Animals: _____
No of Excellent Select Animals: _____	No of Excellent animals: _____
No of “A” & “Z” stamps: _____	No of Show Champions: _____
No of Obedience Titles: _____	No of Agility/Jumpers Titles: _____
No of Tracking Titles: _____	<i>Please identify above bred and/or owned, where applicable.</i>

List visits to Main Breed Exhibitions & Nationals

As an Exhibitor: _____

As a Spectator: _____

Visits to Breed Surveys

As an Exhibitor: _____

As a Spectator: _____

List Committee involvements with GSDCA Affiliate Club:

GSDCA: _____

Canine Control Bodies: _____

Other: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



DECLARATION

I, the undersigned have applied to enter the training scheme to be in the GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course and as a judge for foreign countries. I meet the basic requirement for the application, training and activity as a judge. I am already appointed as an ANKC Championship Judge for German Shepherd Dogs and acknowledged by the GSDCA Inc. This is the basis of my activity as a Specialist Breed Judge.

I herewith consent to be trained to become a Specialist Breed judge and to acknowledge and fulfil the Specialist Judges Extension Course requirements, regarding the training and documentation for the various levels as a participant in the course and activity as a judge.

Should my activity as a judge in Australia or New Zealand come to an end, be interrupted or discontinued, I herewith irrevocably agree to the fact that my activity as a GSDCA Specialist Breed Judge be also ended, interrupted or discontinued. For this to become effective, it is sufficient that the GSDCA has acknowledged me as a judge and be formally informed by the GSDCA Judges' Committee and advises me by submitting a copy of this declaration.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



11.2 Aspirant Judges Methodology Report Form

ASPIRANT JUDGES METHODOLOGY REPORT

German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc

Affiliate: Australian National Kennel Control (ANKC)

Member: World Union of German Shepherd Dog

Associations (WUSV)

Patron: Mrs Dawn Fraser AO MBE

Name of Aspirant Judge:

Date of Show:

Affiliate Club conducting/
hosting show:

GSDC of Q Inc

Organisation of the Show:



STOCK COAT CLASSES

Number of animals entered/presented in each class:

CLASS	Dogs Entered	Dogs Exhibited	Bitches Entered	Bitches Exhibited
Baby				
Minor				
Puppy				
Junior				
Intermediate				
Open				
Totals	0	0	0	0

Grading's awarded in each class DOGS:

CLASS	Excellent	VG/VP	G/P	Sufficient
Baby				
Minor				
Puppy				
Junior				
Intermediate				
Open				
Totals	0	0	0	0

Grading's awarded in each class BITCHES:

CLASS	Excellent	VG/VP	G/P	Sufficient
Baby				
Minor				
Puppy				
Junior				
Intermediate				
Open				
Totals	0	0	0	0

If any animals ungraded, please give the reason:



LONG STOCK COAT CLASSES

Number of animals entered/presented in each class:

CLASS	Dogs Entered	Dogs Exhibited	Bitches Entered	Bitches Exhibited
Baby				
Minor				
Puppy				
Junior				
Intermediate				
Open				
Totals	0	0	0	0

Grading's awarded in each class DOGS:

CLASS	Excellent	VG/VP	G/P	Sufficient
Baby				
Minor				
Puppy				
Junior				
Intermediate				
Open				
Totals	0	0	0	0

Grading's awarded in each class BITCHES:

CLASS	Excellent	VG/VP	G/P	Sufficient
Baby				
Minor				
Puppy				
Junior				
Intermediate				
Open				
Totals	0	0	0	0

If any animals ungraded, please give the reason:

Special features or issues with the show:

General virtues and faults:

Signed:

.....
Aspirant Judge

.....
Supervising Judge



11.3 Judging Practical Examination Form

GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course

Judging Practical Examination Form

German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc

Affiliate: Australian National Kennel Control (ANKC)

Member: World Union of German Shepherd Dog

Associations (WUSV)

Patron: Mrs Dawn Fraser AO MBE



Name of Aspirant Judge: _____

Date of Show: _____

Affiliate Club conducting/
hosting show: _____

Examiner Judge: _____

Procedure: Examiner Judge to rate aspirant on 7 areas, with 4 ratings in each area. To be deemed competent, the aspirant must have at least an good rating in all areas to pass the examination. The examiner judge must TICK the appropriate rating and comment on the rating given.

Section 1 - Time and Approach to Decision Making

Unsatisfactory Too slow, wastes times, very indecisive

Poor Takes too long to make decisions, is indecisive

Good Works within a satisfactory time frame, able to make decisions fairly quickly

Very Good Very decisive, thorough in performance

☐ UNSATIS

☐ POOR

☐ GOOD

☐ VERY GOOD

Comment:

Section 2 – Dress

Unsatisfactory Untidy &/or unkempt

Poor Not suitably dressed for judging dogs &/or weather conditions

Good Neat and tidy, suitably dressed for judging and weather conditions

Very Good Smart and professional attire, suitable for job in hand

☐ UNSATIS

☐ POOR

☐ GOOD

☐ VERY GOOD

Comment:



Section 3 – Demeanour and Attitude

Unsatisfactory	Extreme nervousness, off hand manner, arrogance or over friendliness
Poor	Demeanour and attitude leave something to be desired
Good	Appears confident and competent, pleasant manner
Very Good	Has a very confident and professional approach, courteous manner

☐ UNSATIS ☐ POOR ☐ GOOD ☐ VERY GOOD

Comment:

Section 4 – Ring procedure and Judging Method

Unsatisfactory	Ring set out incorrectly, dogs handled poorly, lacks control in ring
Poor	Needs more expertise in examination of dogs, positioning in ring
Good	Handles dogs in a satisfactory manner, makes good use of ring. In control
Very Good	Well in control, methodical in examination, Ring used to best advantage

☐ UNSATIS ☐ POOR ☐ GOOD ☐ VERY GOOD

Comment:

Section 5 – Practical Performance

Unsatisfactory	Makes frequent errors, did not follow GSDCA guidelines with measuring, recording and gradings. Poor call out order.
Poor	Inconsistent performance, below average decisions and call out orders, inconsistent with application of GSDCA guidelines
Good	Generally good decisions, call out orders well-constructed, applies GSDCA guidelines generally
Above Average	Very few errors, demonstrates very good understand and ability to apply knowledge, very good call out orders, good application of GSDCA guidelines

☐ UNSATIS ☐ POOR ☐ GOOD ☐ VERY GOOD

Comment:



Section 6 – Critiques on the Pegs

Unsatisfactory	Makes frequent errors, unable to explain decisions on the pegs, unable to apply the standard to decisions, appeared extremely nervous, comments did not reflect the animals presented.
Poor	Inconsistent performance, was inconsistent with finding positive aspects of animals, did not explain decisions to exhibitors. Focussed on the faults of the animal, comments generally did not reflect gradings.
Good	Generally good microphone manner, was apply to explain decisions most of the time, able to vary descriptions, comments generally reflect gradings
Above Average	Very good microphone manner, demonstrates very good understanding and ability to articulate reasons on the pegs, gave clear reasons for why animals very placed where they were, clear comments reflect gradings and animals presented.

☐ UNSATIS

☐ POOR

☐ GOOD

☐ VERY GOOD

Comment:

Section 7 – Critiques

Unsatisfactory	Critiques incomplete, poor construction, lack detail, do not reflect the dog and placement, do not follow GSDCA guidelines.
Poor	Lacks consistency in format, some incomplete, do not always reflect the grading given, do not always follow GSDCA guidelines
Good	Critiques generally well-constructed, generally reflect grading's and animals presented, follow GSDCA guidelines
Very Good	Critiques very well constructed, very good detail, correctly describe the animal and reflect the gradings given, follow GSDCA guidelines.

☐ UNSATIS

☐ POOR

☐ GOOD

☐ VERY GOOD

Comment:



Section 8 – Additional Comments

a) What are the aspirant's strengths?

b) What are the areas where the aspirant needs development?

c) Is the aspirant, in your opinion

☐ COMPETENT

☐ NOT COMPETENT

Comment:

Examiner Judge Signature:

Aspirant Signature:

Date:/...../.....

Date:/...../.....



Procedure for Practical Examination Prior to the Show

1. Aspirant is to apply to the GSDCA Judges Committee Chairperson at least 8 weeks prior to the appointment, where practicable
2. The GSDCA Judges Committee Chairperson is to contact the Club hosting the show, to discuss the Practical Examination and seek permission for the Examination to occur at the Show.
3. Once the Club has given permission for the Examination to take place at the nominated show, then the GSDCA Judges Committee Chairperson is to contact two GSDCA Specialist Judges from the state where the show is conducted, where practicable, to act as Examiner Judges on the day.
4. GSDCA Judges Committee Chairperson is to forward the relevant documentation to all parties, once the arrangements have been made.

Procedure for Practical Examination on the Day

1. This examination is the final step in the completion of the aspirant's training in the GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course, and is to be completed when the Aspirant is the officiating judge.
2. There are to be two examiner judges, the Aspirant meets with the examiner judges for approximately 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the Show to discuss the procedure and expectations of the day.
3. The Aspirant then commences judging as required by the hosting club.
4. The examiner judges complete the forms, as the judging proceeds, some sections will need to be filled out towards the end of the day to comment on overall performance.
5. The Aspirant is to complete the same assessment form, as a critical reflection of their own performance
 - How well did I do?
 - How do I know?
 - What have I learned?
 - What can I do to improve?
6. At the completion of judging, and the examiner judges have finalised their assessment sheets as well, a short chat to reflect on the day, would help the Aspirant to think on the feedback while the classes are still fresh in their minds.
7. The GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course is not completed, until the Aspirant is deemed competent in this examination process.
8. If unsuccessful, then another Practical Examination will need to be completed at the next judging appointment for the Aspirant.



11.4 Copy of Tick Sheet Form (Sample)

Show: Timbuktu										Date: 25/07/2012										Class: Open Bitch										No of Entries Exhibited: 9													
Exh No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	TOTAL	%	Check										
Dentition																																											
Correct	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																						8	88.9	100.0										
Faulty								Y																							1	11.1											
Record Size																																											
Over Size																															0	0.0	100.0										
Very Large	Y																														1	11.1											
Large		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y																						6	66.7											
Above Medium Size					Y			Y																							2	22.2											
Medium Size																															0	0.0											
Below Medium Size																															0	0.0	100.0										
Undersize																															0	0.0											
Strength																																											
Strong	Y	Y							Y																						3	33.3	100.0										
Medium Strong			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																							6	66.7											
Sex Characteristics																																											
Pronounced	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																						9	100.0	100.0										
Present																															0	0.0											
Type																																											
Excellent		Y																													1	11.1	100.0										
Very Good	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y																						7	77.8											
Good								Y																							1	11.1											
Proportions																																											
Correct	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y																						7	77.8	100.0										
Slightly long						Y		Y																							2	22.2											
Head & Expression																																											
Excellent		Y					Y		Y																						3	33.3	100.0										
Very Good	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y																									5	55.6											
Good								Y																							1	11.1											
Eyes																																											
Dark	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y		Y																						6	66.7	100.0										
Medium			Y	Y				Y																							3	33.3											
Light																															0	0.0											
Withers																																											
High	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y		Y																						6	66.7	100.0										
Level			Y	Y				Y																							3	33.3											
Low																															0	0.0											
Back																																											
Firm		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y																						6	66.7	100.0										
Slight dip	Y		Y						Y																						3	33.3											
Rounded																															0	0.0											
Should be firmer																															0	0.0											
Croup																																											
Very Good		Y																													1	11.1	100.0										
Good	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y		Y																						6	66.7											
Slightly Short & Sleep			Y																												1	11.1											
Slightly Flat								Y																							1	11.1											
Forequarter																																											