

THE German Shepherd Dog

QUARTERLY NATIONAL REVIEW



The official magazine of the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc.

Spring 2017

INSIDE

- Living the Dream....
Alexa & Bear Herding in Germany
 - Dr Candy Baker discusses Cardiac Arrhythmias –
abnormal heart rhythms
 - Flying Dogs – whats involved?
 - The Wonderful World of Tracking Dogs
 - Puppy Socialisation
 - Club Spotlight on W.A.
 - Dog Learning Theory
 - Hip and Elbow Award Winners
 - WUSV Harmonisation Plan - SGM outcomes
 - ZAP Puppy Test
 - National Breed Commission reports
- Plus much more.....



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EVENT calendar

GSDCA Events

Date

10th – 11th February 2018

27th - 29th April 2018

21st – 22nd July 2018

Event

GSDCA Annual General Meeting

46th National Show & Trial

GSDCA National Breed Commission meeting

Location

Sydney

Adelaide

Melbourne

Member Club Shows

Date

17-September-2017

23-September-2017

24-September-2017

30-September-2017

1-October-2017

14-October-2017

29-October-2017

4-November-2017

5-November-2017

16-December-2017

4-February-2018

18-February-2018

18-February-2018

10-March-2018

Event

GSDCQ SBE

GSDCTas Championship Show

GSDCTas Championship Show

ACTGSDC Championship Show

ACTGSDC Championship Show

GSDL Championship Show

GSDAWA WCC

WDC/GSDCV Championship Shows

GSDCV/WDC Championship Shows

GSDL Open Show

Ballarat Dog Club

GSDCTas Championship Show PM

GSDCTas Championship Show AM

GSDCV Championship Show

Location

Brisbane

Tasmania

Tasmania

Canberra

Canberra

Sydney

Perth

Melbourne

Melbourne

Sydney

Ballarat, Victoria

Tasmania

Tasmania

Melbourne

Judge

Greg Green (Vic)

Sharon Ballantyne (Qld)

Melanie Groth (NSW)

Jens Becker-Olsen (Spain)

Araque Hugo Vergara (Ecuador)

Karen Hedberg (NSW)

John Lijffijt (Netherlands)

Robyn Knuckey (WA)

John Lijffijt (Netherlands)

Robert Zammit (NSW)

Ian Urie (Vic)

Salvatore Pittelli (SA)

Greg Green (Vic)

Malcolm Griffith (UK)

Quarterly National Review Closing dates

Close dates for content submission and advertising in future magazine editions

Edition

Closing date

Delivery to Members

Summer 2018

5th November 2017

Early December

Autumn 2018

5th February 2018

Early March



www.facebook.com/GSDCA



www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org



<http://database.gsdcouncilaustralia.org>



www.wusv.org



Aus Respekt zum Hund.
www.schaeferhunde.de

CONTENTS & contacts

Contents

<i>President's Report</i>	2
<i>Editorial</i>	2
<i>From your Obedience Chair</i>	3
<i>Herding in Germany</i>	4
<i>Veterinary Chat</i>	6
<i>Travel Chat</i>	9
<i>Tracking tales</i>	10
<i>Puppy Socialisation</i>	13
<i>Club Spotlight</i>	16
<i>News from or Member Clubs</i>	18
<i>Training Notes</i>	22
<i>Judges News</i>	24
<i>Hip and Elbow Awards</i>	25
<i>Youth Notes</i>	26
<i>GSDCA - WUSV Harmonisation</i>	27
<i>ZAP Puppy Test</i>	31
<i>Member News</i>	34
<i>National Breed Commission Report</i>	36
<i>Other Matters</i>	45

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PRESIDENT'S report



Well, a little like the winter weather most of us have experienced in the last few months, there has been a whirlwind of activity with regard to the WUSV Harmonisation and the matter of whether or not the GSDCA would approach the ANKC with a submission

that would support the introduction of the FCI IPO (International Working Dog title). What has transpired over this time has seen passion overspill, and in some cases quite irrational thought applied to the questions at hand and in some cases blatant ignorance fueling vitriol aimed at individual's for just expressing their opinion.

I was indeed pleased that the matters brought before the membership in fact saw a record turnout at Member club meetings - one only hopes that the 'bus loads' will continue to attend all club meetings as it is only through member participation in the decision making process that will see ignorance fade and decisions owned by all of us.

I am also pleased to report that the GSDCA SGM as held on 28th July, as one of the most important meetings the Council ever held was most amicable and the Member Clubs directed the path forward.

The submission regarding the 23 Schedules as agreed by the WUSV Board and put to us by the WUSV CDO and the subsequent decisions as made by the Council, have been forwarded to Professor Messler, President, WUSV & the WUSV Board for their due consideration and decision on whether or not the GSDCA will remain a member of the WUSV. This submission has been published in this edition.

What has become evident is that all the pre meeting angst has abated? It has, as I predicted at the 2016 GSDCA AGM, taken a definitive and forthright question to be put to us by the WUSV Board for our organisation to finally seriously consider a question that has been asked of us on a number of occasions over the last 30+ years: this time it could not be avoided! That question was that "The GSDCA approach the ANKC and have Schutzhund/IPO accepted as an ANKC sanctioned activity".

The Judges Committee and the NBC meetings were held after the SGM and I am again happy to report that both meetings were conducted according to the findings of the 2016 GSDCA Breed Survey Forum: the focus was less on rule changes and more actually discussing the GSD! It is expected that future meetings will further enhance the opportunity that sees a fair number of our Breed Surveyors/Judges meet annually at their own expense to pursue their passion for the GSD.

I would like to acknowledge two highly respected GSDCA Breed Surveyors who after a 'lifetime' of dedication to the breed, their Clubs, the GSDCA and its membership have decided to retire as Breed Surveyors:

Mr Barry O'Rourke: Barry's passion and work for the GSD is noteworthy and as a member of the GSDAWA was a founding and driving force within that Club that saw discrimination against our breed lifted and ideals set to ensure the betterment of the GSD was assured. His sustained ongoing work as a member of the Council Executive and his own Clubs committee has been acknowledged and noted on many occasions. Two major initiatives that Barry was responsible for was the introduction of State Breed Exhibitions and the GSD Single Breed Championship Show judges license, that saw GSD breeders outside of the ALL Breeds scene based on their achievements in the GSD specialty ring eligible to sit for their judges license.

Mrs Fran Farley: Fran also has a proud history of fighting for the breed in the early days and along with many others saw the import ban lifted for the GSD. Her excellent communication skills saw her quickly accepted as a breed authority and gained her much respect across Australia and New Zealand. Fran has held a number of GSDCA Executive positions and throughout the time I have known her she has always had one or more GSD's at home. Fran enjoys her showing, trialing and her voluntary care work with her dogs. Her sustained long time service to the breed, her club, the Council and her ability to mentor novice and expert alike have and will continue to be appreciated by all of us.

I wish both Fran and Barry, true 'icons' of our fraternity well in their retirement, but also note that they both will still be active and are more than willing to offer advice and assistance to any member.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Vince Santaro

President
0402145184

EDITORIAL

There is no doubt the world moves quickly. No sooner had we just enjoyed the National Show and Trial and we were then thrust into the WUSV Harmonisation discussions. In short, clubs did their utmost to discuss and inform their members of the background to the WUSV proposals. However the use of social media, which we know can be useful in so many aspects, did create an environment that was not conducive to members interacting and discussing the issues. It can only be hoped that in future our members come together and work collectively as we move forward with a variety of changes planned.

There will be plenty of information provided in the future as to our plans and implementation of the activities approved. You will find in this edition a condensed summary of each of the proposed WUSV Harmonisation schedules, and the outcomes of each motion as voted on at the GSDCA SGM in Adelaide on July 28th 2017. Don't forget that 'between magazines' you can keep up to date with all happenings by visiting our website and also our GSDCA facebook page. We will endeavour to ensure as much information is provided as possible to all members.

www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org and www.facebook.com/GSDCA

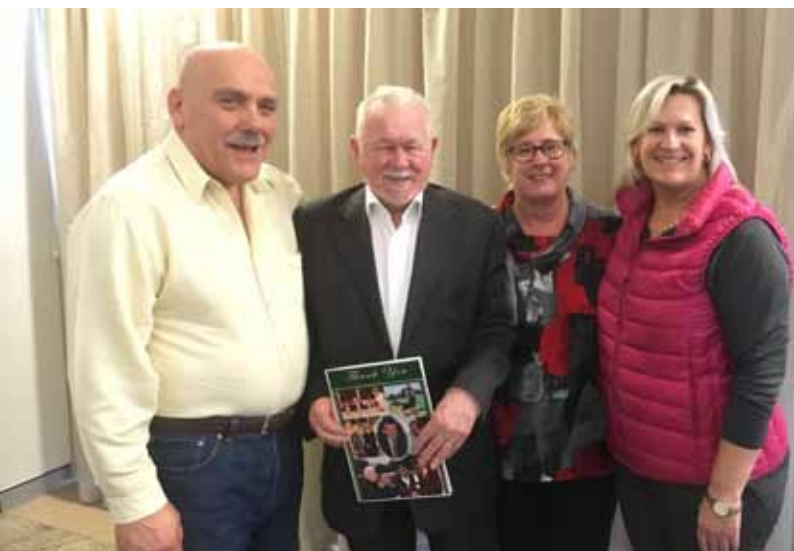
Having attended the recent NBC meeting in Adelaide, the education presentations scheduled for the Sunday were well and truly worth hearing. As a new initiative for the NBC weekend, I can only encourage interested breeders and exhibitors to attend future meetings where possible. Judges and surveyors might like learning, but it's worth the rest of us joining in too 😊

This edition we welcome Andrew O’Laughlin as the GSDCA Youth Officer, and he will be working hard to encourage and help teach the youth in our fraternity about our breed. We all need to consider pathways to encourage our younger members to be and remain involved, not only in show class handling but in training and other activities. Each edition of the magazine comes and goes, but I am heartened by the many members amongst us who are willing to write and contribute articles when approached. This time round I thank Alexa McGuaran, Les Hersant and Dawn Howard, along with our resident vet expert Dr Candy Baker. All are busy with their own lives, but have taken the time to share their expertise and experience across a range of subjects. I know you will enjoy their articles and they will provide an interesting read amongst the more formal content.

Enjoy your reading !

Cheers

Jacinta



The GSDCA NBC Executive, Melanie Groth, Robyn Knuckey and Vince Tantaro with retiring Breed Surveyor Barry O’Rourke.



GSDCA Judges Chair Robyn Knuckey presents new GSDCA Breed Specialist Judge Sharon Ballantyne with her judge’s pin

From your Obedience Chair

It has been a rather busy time since taking on this position earlier in the year. With the introduction of the WUSV harmonisation programme now voted on by the members, I am very much looking forward to an exciting future for our breed and our organisation and its members.

With the Character and Working Assessment already in place as a voluntary scheme, it is pleasing to note that two states have actively participated by making this test available to their members. To date, the GSDAWA has held three C&WA’s, with a total of 10 animals participating. The GSDCV have held one C&WA, with a total of 8 animals participating.

Given that the ZAP1 Puppy Test will be introduced from 30th Dec 2019, it would be advantageous for clubs who have not held a C&WA yet, to do so. This would allow clubs the experience of running this type of event before ZAP1 is introduced, as well as getting members used to participating in something that is ‘not the norm’. I ask that all clubs give this serious consideration. If any advice is needed, please give me a call or email, I am more than happy to assist where I can.

Following on from this, Clubs which conduct show training classes should also consider adding some sight/sound stimuli to their training, if not already done.

Instructors can make puppy show classes more interesting for both dog and handler by adding forms of various sight and sound stimuli. This will give all puppies the opportunity to experience something different other than regular show training. Even the very young ones, who are not able to partake in formal class, can join in here. Young pups have a limited concentration span, along with a limited ability to perform too much physical activity at one time. Therefore, we should break up the show ring work with other activities.

This can be done easily by arranging as many items as possible within the precinct of the training area, that puppies can be encouraged to explore.

These can be almost anything that pups may not have had access to before.

Things that move (baby’s pram, bicycle or radio-controlled toys etc.), things that look odd (large stuffed toys, an open umbrella on the ground, a plastic tarp secured to the ground etc., things that can make a bit of noise (a plastic shopping bag containing empty drink cans, a wind-up alarm clock, wind-up toys etc. This is only limited to imagination and common sense. The last thing we want to do is scare a young pup. So, with this in mind, the objects used should not be able to physically cause the pups any harm, and should be introduced carefully, in a way that they are encouraged to explore, and not forced to engage anything that they may show apprehension of. Food treats are a great way to help pups overcome any apprehension they may feel. Instructors should monitor this activity carefully, and advise handlers to encourage the pups, without using any force.

Until next time, love your dogs and your training.

Julie Urie

GSDCA Obedience Chairperson

HERDING in Germany

LIVING THE DREAM

Alexa McGauran and Followtrek USS Enterprise ie Bear (Grylls)



If you could travel to Germany with your GSD to herd sheep, would you???

Back in February of this year, Alexa and her dog Bear flew to Germany to spend time learning and living as true sheep herders do. Alexa and Bear have come a long way on their journey, and Alexa tells a marvellous tale about their adventures. You can follow her blog, which has some amazing

pictures and videos of Bear's daily life as a herding dog included. <http://herdingingermany.blogspot.com.au/>

More than 2 and a half years ago (2015) I had a crazy idea.

"I am going to Germany for up to a year with my dog. We are going to do what we both love doing together in Germany."

"We are going to herd together with a Wandering German Shepherd."

A crazy idea is not unusual for me, nor is it for many other people.

But this time I did something about it.

I decided I would follow through. I set a date (2017), and started to take the steps that would bring me to where I am today. And as I took each of those steps, although I did not fully trust that it would come about, I always acted as if it would. And miraculously I met no major setbacks. In fact I can genuinely say that I have had a dream run. And many times now I look around and ask myself "is this really true?"

When I was leaving Australia many people asked me what I expected to achieve, how would I handle it if things did not go well. I replied genuinely "When Bear and I get on that plane, the trip is a success. Just going is the success." Contrary to what you might expect I did not go to either compete or achieve a concrete, measurable success with the dog. My purpose was to experience the lifestyle that was responsible for the development of our dog and his wonderful physical and mental attributes. The truth is that I brought Bear along for the ride. He was my cover for hanging out with the sheep for months! Just as my nieces and nephews were once my cover for going to the circus!

I strongly believe that the distinctive characteristics needed for the German style of sheep management have created the special abilities of the GSD that enable his high level contribution in so many activities and work/domestic situations and I wanted to experience it for myself. Shepherding is an old fashioned method and like all rural and stock styles it is being changed and modified in this fast paced, technological world. Just look at the demise of horsemanship in our rural sector. It is almost impossible to resist the "charms" of a 4 wheel motor bike.

And so it is happening here in Germany. The traditional method is long hours, 7 days a week – always. In the modern world that is becoming an impossibility. Younger Shepherds are looking at ways to fit the way they work into a modern context.

The traditional German method is unlike any other. It requires a set of skills tied to the nature of Germany's countryside.

- Individual plots of land are not large
- They are unfenced
- They are cropped
- The Shepherd moves his sheep through pastures. He does not keep them on pastures
- He may have to move his sheep along narrow country roads, or even at times through part of a village.



HERDING in Germany

- He may have to move his sheep through narrow tracks taking special care not to damage a crop.
- (All of the above I have experienced)
- Man, dog and sheep work together all day, every day. They all know each other and have a close working relationship.
- The dogs work at a regular pace, hence the importance of the gait.
- The dogs work consistently, hence the need for stamina.
- The dogs work freely away from the shepherd without many commands, hence the need for understanding, insight and decision making.
- The sheep are meat sheep. They are usually bigger than the dog. (Georg's females are over 80kg), hence the need for strength
- "Domesticated" sheep are tricky and artful and quite able to call a dog to account, hence the need for a strong character
- And so on.....



When I arrived in March I spent some time, minus Bear, in Herr Krieg's barn near his home. But mid-April Bear and I moved up into the Alb to be near the sheep when they arrived. Most days we are no more than 10 mins from them and for a week or two every couple of months we walk just "up the road" to them.

It has been the adventure of our lives. We now work 6 days a week 4-5 hours (Herr Krieg works 8-9), regardless of weather. We have worked in snow, thunderstorms and 30 degrees heat. We have worked on open ground, on the sides of steep hills and close alongside the forest. We move the sheep 3-4 times a day and pen them at a different location most nights.

With 500 sheep this is all very taxing on the shepherd. He has to manage sheep and dogs, the environment (including roadside and traffic, unfenced proximity to a farmer's crop, houses on the edge of a village) and he has to manage the grazing patterns of his sheep. He can never be passive. If he slackens even for a short time during the long day he can end up with animal "chaos". This more than anything has surprised me. How much attention you have to pay to the sheep as well as the dogs and how aware you have to be of the pitfalls of the environment. We have magic, bucolic days where you just have to bless your good fortune but at the same time you have to remain on the job, aware of traffic, aware of sheep wandering into the forest, aware of animals becoming restless, alert to the need to change the grazing area etc.

I have been amazingly fortunate to have come under the care of generous, giving people in a particularly fascinating environment where every day is wonderful experience and where every day I work with my dog in a challenging job that "speaks" to his instincts and natural talents. Watching Bear bloom has been more than I hoped for.

I would like to continue in the next edition with a more detailed explanation of the skills Bear and I have been learning.

Cheers,

Alexa McGauran



So I knew exactly what I wanted to do. I wanted to "experience" the life. On different days, in different weather, in different seasons. (I did decide to give a snow bound winter a miss.) I did not want to go to a teaching establishment. I wanted to BE in that world. A big ask.

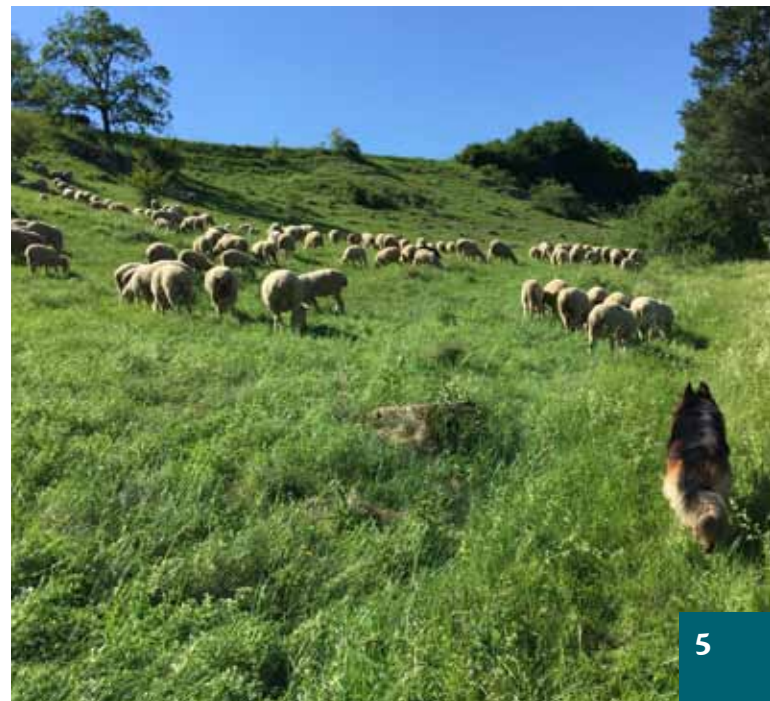
But I had an Ace up my sleeve which gave me confidence. Through the gracious support of Jane Humphrey I had an excellent introduction – as I now realise, the best possible introduction – to a Meisterschafer, Herr Georg Krieg.

Herr Georg Krieg is both an experienced shepherd of the old school and a brilliant dog handler. Herr Krieg has participated for decades in the sheep and dog competitions at local, state and national levels. Winning and placing consistently for decades, including at the national competition, the BLH, the Bundesleistungshuten. His scores have reached 99 but never the magic 100!!

In 30 years he has bred 26 litters A-Z, always keeping one or two dogs to work.

Herr Krieg currently has 8 dogs, 6 of whom he brings to work on a rotating basis. He generally brings 2-3 with him.

Herr Krieg spends April to December in the Swabian Alps, a particularly complex and varied environment which challenges the dogs daily. In his younger days like all shepherds of that period he lived with the sheep. Nowadays, Herr Krieg travels daily to his sheep, just under an hour each way.



Cardiac Arrhythmias

Abnormal Heart Rhythms

Dr Candice Baker

BSc BVMS MANZCVS

GSDCA Breed Health and Welfare Chair

It's possible that you may have experienced a situation when you've taken one of your beloved GSDs to the vet and been told – "Your dog has an abnormal heart beat..." In some instances, there may have been a sense of urgency to treat or diagnose it. Other times, it may have just been mentioned as an incidental finding, and therefore, no cause for concern. An abnormal rhythm of heart beats is called an arrhythmia. There are many different types of arrhythmias which can affect our breed. In comparison, an abnormal heart sound is called a murmur, which instead of the normal crisp 'lub-dub' sound heard with a stethoscope, a murmur sounds more like a 'whoosh' sound.

A normal heart rate in a German Shepherd should be between 80 – 120 beats per minute. In times of stress the heart rate may be as high as 128 – 160 beats per minute, but should return to normal as that stress passes (exercise, fear, pain). Similarly, a heart rate as low as 60 beats per minute can also be normal when they are asleep or very relaxed at home. The heart beat can be felt on either side of the chest just behind the elbow, the pulse is easiest to feel at the inside of the upper thigh (femoral artery).

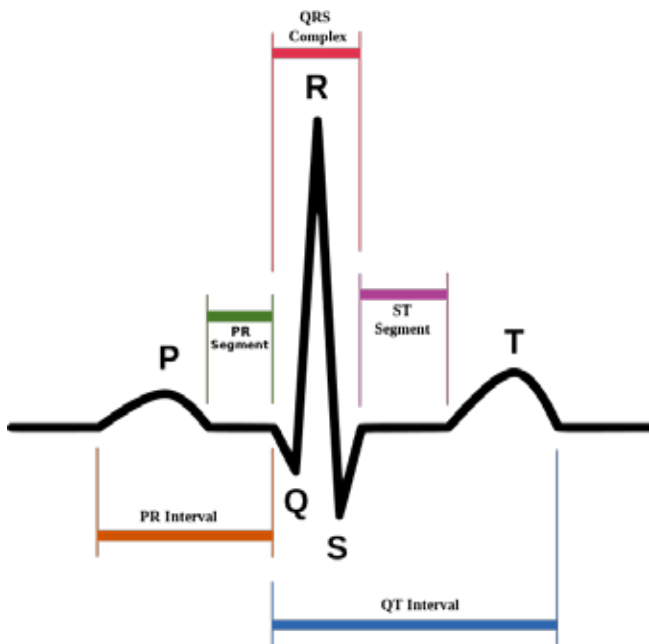
Some things to look for with regards to concerning arrhythmias are a lack of willingness to exercise, collapse or even wobbliness of their legs – either for no reason, during exercise or after exercise. Sometimes this can be difficult to interpret when they are panting a lot to cool down after exercise. Signs can also be as mild as being a bit quiet and withdrawn at home. In some dogs, their gums may appear paler than normal when severe arrhythmias are present.

An excessively high heart rate or pulse rate is also something to look out for. Anything that is greater than 120 beats per minute could be abnormal, but this assessment is often made based on their excitement and exercise levels at the time of examination. A fast heart rate or a very slow heart rate will usually go hand in hand with pulse rates. However, we can have heart beats that don't match up to pulses, these differences between pulse rate and heart rate are called pulse deficits and are a very concerning sign of arrhythmias.

Abnormal heart beats or arrhythmias should always be assessed together with the whole physical examination of the dog. They can occur as a primary issue associated with the heart itself (structural heart disease) or as a secondary problem from conditions such as a tumour of the spleen. The type of arrhythmia can only be diagnosed via an electrocardiogram (ECG) trace.



Photographs: left shows palpation of heart behind the elbow, right shows palpation of femoral artery or femoral pulse



Picture of normal sinus rhythm ECG showing standard waves, segments and intervals. The P wave is the electrical activity which causes the atria (top chambers of the heart) to contract. The QRS complex causes the ventricles (bottom chambers of the heart) to contract, the T waves is the electrical activity of the heart resetting back to baseline.

What types of arrhythmias are there? And why do they occur?

Sinus arrhythmia

This is when the heart beats speed up on breathing in and slows down when they breathe out. It is a normal finding in dogs and is caused by increased effects on the vagus nerve on the heart. So, if your vet mentions that they heard a sinus arrhythmia, don't panic.

Atrioventricular (AV) heart block

This is when the electrical impulse travels through the heart too slowly.

First degree AV block – is the delay or slower than normal gap between the P wave and the QRS complex on the ECG trace. It usually occurs because of high vagal tone, as such, fit dogs can have this arrhythmia, they often have slow heart rates. It is often an incidental finding when you are monitoring the ECG for another reason, for example under general anaesthesia. However, it can occur secondary to abnormalities in blood electrolytes (salts) or toxin exposure.

Second degree AV block – is the occasional or intermittent disturbance between the P wave and the QRS complex on the ECG trace, or the time between the P wave and QRS wave is progressively longer over a series of heart beats. If a QRS complex is missed then this can be heard with a stethoscope however an ECG is required to help determine the cause.

It can be caused by something as simple as vomiting, during this the dog may go pale in the gums and collapse. It can also be as complex as a complete lack of electrical conduction through the heart muscle. The more serious forms of second degree AV block are a greater concern for collapse.

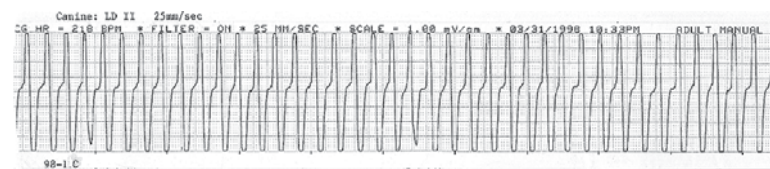
Third degree AV block – this is when there is a complete lack of association between the P waves and QRS complexes. This is rare and quite serious when it occurs and the heart beat is normally very slow.

Second and Third degree AV blocks will generally require some basic blood tests to be checked with attention paid to high or low potassium levels, changes in white blood cell counts and sometimes blood digoxin levels (if the patient is receiving this heart medication). Not all causes of AV block will require treatment and the decision to investigate further and potentially treat or not is best guided by your veterinarian.

Premature Ventricular Complexes (PVC's)

These are "wide and bizarre" QRS complexes seen on the ECG trace, they are intermittent and irregular when the heart is listened to with a stethoscope. There will often be a drop out of the pulse at the time of a louder heartbeat. PVC's occur because the heart muscle is damaged secondary to things such as:

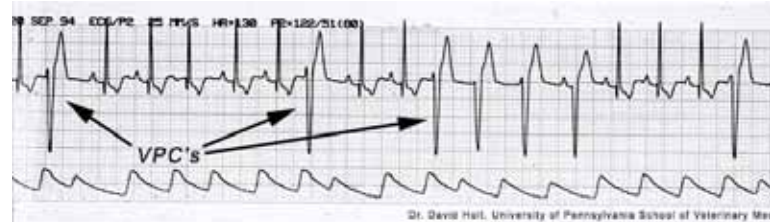
- Infections in the blood
- Toxins
- Clots that lodge in the heart muscle
- Decreased blood circulation due to shock or bleeding/haemorrhage
- Gastric dilation volvulus (bloat)
- Tumours on the spleen
- Heart base tumours
- Cancers (often anywhere in the body)
- Severe gastroenteritis
- Structural heart disease such as Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM), and
- Trauma



Source: UPenn Vet

Ventricular Tachycardia

This is when only the ventricles (the bottom chambers of the heart) are injured, inflamed or diseased and they are generating their own electrical impulse which is increasing the rate. The ventricles are contracting so that they are doing more work and working too fast. The dog will have an extremely high heart rate and they are at risk of dying. They will nearly always need emergency treatment to slow the heart down and assessment of the heart with ultrasound. Usually (but not always) it is secondary to serious heart disease, such as – Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM). Similar to PVC's it could also be due to severe systemic illnesses such as cancers, internal haemorrhage, GDV's, diseases of the spleen and chest trauma.

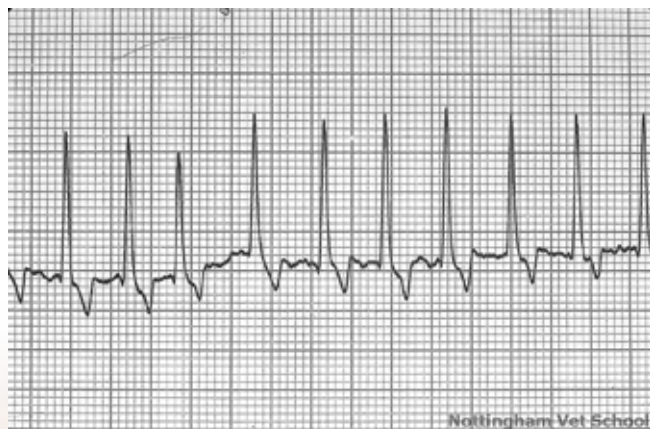


Source: UPenn Vet

Atrial fibrillation or Supra Ventricular Tachyarrhythmias

This arrhythmia is a common one with our GSDs when they have structural heart disease, such as DCM. The atria (top chambers of the heart) are enlarged and diseased and this causes an increase in the electrical activity of the atria and secondary to this the dog will have a very high heart rate that sounds irregular; vets will often describe it as sounding like “joggers in the drier”. This condition needs to be treated with a sense of urgency, however it takes longer to get under control than ventricular tachycardia. If your dog appeared to drop dead in front of you at home and you know it has this type of arrhythmia you could perform a precordial thump to try to temporarily reset the rhythm.

Precordial thump – this is delivering a blow to the left side of the chest when the dog is collapsed on it's right side. This can be considered as a treatment option at home, the ONLY time it should ever be considered is if you have a young dog who suddenly collapses and is non-responsive and appears to be dead. Usually they will have a previously diagnosed arrhythmia. This can be a lifesaving treatment but carries some dire consequences, such as rib fractures, worsening arrhythmias, death and so on. If a precordial thump is ever required and your dog recovers, you should immediately have your dog seen by a vet to perform an ECG and find out what life-threatening arrhythmia is present.



Source: Nottingham Vet School

Toxins that cause arrhythmias

Chocolate and caffeine can cause arrhythmias (fast rates, PVC's, ventricular tachycardias), Cane Toads can also cause both fast and slow arrhythmias and in severe cases can cause ultimately cause death. Some toxic plants may contain cardiac glycosides such as Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and oleander which, similarly to cane toads, will cause fast and slow arrhythmias. We can see complications of arrhythmias secondary to snake bites, snail pellets, organophosphate (common agricultural herbicides & insecticides) toxicity and Ivermectin toxicity, just as a few examples.

Well, that's enough on the lup-dups, boom-booms and bud-umps. Ultimately, a thorough physical examination, an ECG trace, an ultrasound of the heart and possibly some blood work are all part of cardiac arrhythmia investigation.

Additional confusing veterinary arrhythmia terms

Bradycardia : an excessively slow heart beat

Tachycardia : an excessively fast heart beat

Supraventricular tachycardia : the problem causing the fast heart rate is associated with the top chambers of the heart

Sinus tachycardia : the heart is appropriately working faster than normal in response to stress, fear, pain, shock, severe illness or trauma. The heart rate will normally decrease if the cause is appropriately treated.

Ventricular tachycardia : the problem causing the fast heart rate is associated with the bottom chambers of the heart

Asystole : no heartbeat, associated with cardiac arrest

Ventricular fibrillation : the only rhythm for which defibrillation is indicated, associated with cardiac arrest.

Pulseless electrical activity : a rhythm on the ECG but the heart is not contracting, associated with cardiac arrest

Complexes : a term used to describe the “squiggles” on the ECG trace

Special thanks to Dr Katrin Swindells BVSc MANZCVS
DiplomateACVECC for reviewing this article.

Flying Dogs

Have you ever thought about flying your dog somewhere, and wondered what's involved?

Many members fly dogs interstate to shows and trials, fly a bitch interstate for a mating with a stud dog, or even just moving house. We asked Les Hersant, who lives in Brisbane and regularly attends interstate shows with his dogs, to fill us in.

Read on to learn of the complicated logistics Les, Brenda and Peter encounter to arrive at shows. No doubt it's similar for everyone who sends their dog on a plane, but it makes for interesting reading and a greater appreciation of seeing those interstate flyers in the ring next time!



Flying dogs has its ups and downs. The pun is well intended. The current policies make life difficult at times. Neither airline wishes to carry dogs as excess baggage on weekends and not all planes are capable of carrying large dogs. Freight is the only alternative on weekends.

Travelling to shows is OK if you are able to fly on a week day. As our fraternity is quite aged, many enthusiasts find Friday and Monday travel possible. Three night's accommodation has to be found and paid for. A hire vehicle has to be hired for three days and possible airport parking has to be included in the expenses. The cheapest form of travel is to have the dogs travel excess baggage, one dog per person.

We are fortunate because our son Peter is able to apply for leave to attend shows. Brenda and Peter fly Virgin with two dogs and I fly with Qantas with one when travelling to Sydney or Melbourne. The beauty of Sydney and Melbourne is the number of direct flights and coordinated flights that Virgin and Qantas offer. We never fly dogs to Canberra or Newcastle as we have encountered too many problems.

Adelaide is a special case. We have had great difficulty trying to coordinate flights so our last option is to book two dogs with Virgin as excess baggage and book a third dog as freight. We travelled to Adelaide this year and only had one complaint. We arrived at freight 2 hours before the flight and had to wait 30 minutes until staff arrived and processed our dogs. Monday was a public holiday. We missed breakfast but made our flight.

Virgin has a new policy regarding the dogs. They have to be booked via the phone and paid for when we book our flights. DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHT UNTIL YOU HAVE CHECKED AVAILABLE SPACE

ON THE PLANE FOR YOUR DOGS. There is a cancellation policy. A month's notice is required. We enter five dogs in the show and take three. Why you may ask? The reason is simple. Dogs lose coat and the females come into season. If we are lucky, we get to take our best dogs in the best condition. Murphy's law often applies and we get to take our best out of coat or our last choice because she is in coat and not in season. I have heard people say, "Why did they bring her when she is so out of coat?" or "Why did they bring her and not their best?" The reason is obvious. We paid for the freight 6 months ago. Why waste \$300 to \$400?

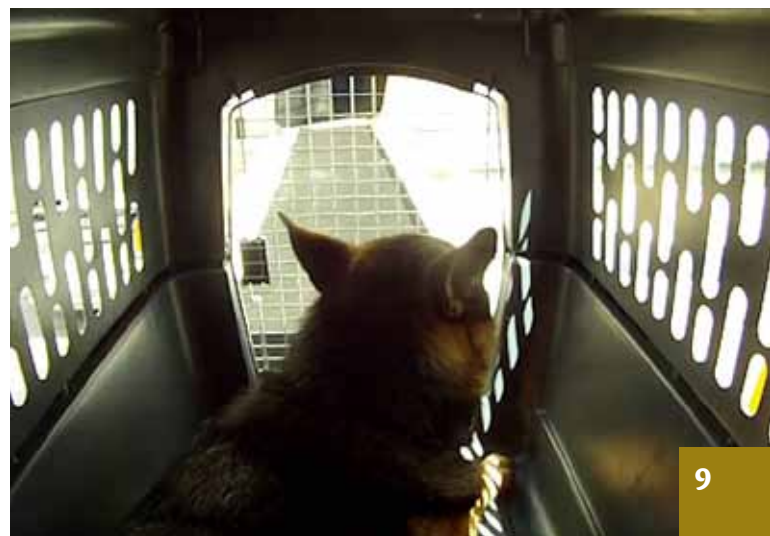


Qantas is different again. I book my flight generally 6 months ahead of the show with no idea if space will be available for my dog. There is a \$33 non-refundable booking fee if booked over the phone. There is no cost to book on line. I am not sure of the current policy because it changes periodically. The last time I booked Qantas I had to apply for allocation around 120 days before the flight. Xaro cost around \$550 to fly from Brisbane to Melbourne and return.

A BIT OF HISTORY. When we first started flying dogs, we used collapsible wire crates and the dogs went through the airport terminal. They cost about \$20 excess baggage and the numbers were not restricted. The flights for us were quite expensive when compared with today's cheap fares. We would turn up in the front of the departure section with a dog trailer carrying our dogs and a number of collapsible crates in the back of the Hilux. We would assemble the crates in the terminal and walk our dogs in. I would take the car and trailer to a parking facility and get a lift back to the terminal. When we arrived back to Brisbane, I would collect the car and trailer and collect the dogs followed by the crates at the terminal. The general public enjoyed the spectacle. Change is a constant. The airlines decided that plastic crates were required. We purchased a number of Vari crates for around \$400+ each. They also had to be assembled at the airport. A time consuming operation. The crates had to be secured by nuts and bolts to be allowed on the plane.

Flying females in season. That is a different story.

Les Hersant



TRACKING tales

Welcome to the wonderful world of Dogs, (TRACKING DOGS)

Dawn Howard

ANKC Tracking, Track and Search Dog, Obedience and Rally Judge

Last time I had the privilege to write an article for the National Review, it was about Track and Search. Started at the top end. Now I am starting at the beginning. The most important bit. When we get into tracking, we just have to let the dogs take over.

Tracking by smell is what humans can't do very well, our olfactory senses are not nearly as developed as dogs. Almost any breed of dog can excel in tracking. Dogs have a million times more hope of smelling things than humans do. Certainly, more than they need to follow ANKC tracks. All we can do is teach the dog which scent we want them to follow. They do the rest. Very different from Conformation, Obedience, Agility, Herding etc. **In tracking, we have to permit the dog to go do its own thing.** That can be a very difficult concept for some handlers, especially experienced Obedience handlers who are used to being in control.

Tracking is the closest dog sport we can do with our four-legged friends that resembles a dog's natural life in the wild. A wild dog must be able to track to survive.

Every dog can track, they have an inbuilt instinct, which is developed from birth. Anyone who has been present at a naturally whelped litter, will marvel at the way a tiny baby puppy can make its way to the milk bar. From day one a puppy develops this instinct, helped by its mother, who later teaches it to sniff its way around its world.

The difference is that some dogs are better at tracking than others. The popular image is the stereotype of the German Shepherd Dog being a model tracking dog. They certainly do make excellent tracking dogs. However, they are not on the top of the list for scenting ability. Some of the Gundogs have better scenting ability and definitely some of the hounds which have been selected mainly for scent work. Where the German Shepherd comes into its own is by being adaptable and having an insatiable desire to please his owner once that bond is formed. I know I am biased but I firmly believe that the German Shepherd is the best all round working dog. Tracking is only one of the skills where the German Shepherd excels. In addition to breed traits, there will be differences in the abilities of individual dogs. Some dogs find it easier than others to find particular scents. Just like humans, even siblings will differ remarkably in talent in certain areas. Heredity does have a huge effect. Working breeds which have been selected for their ability to perform a task are more likely to have the working traits that they were bred for. Hence the all-round working ability of the German Shepherd Dog is the product of careful selection of the forebears of our dogs who worked well at guarding and protecting their flock and performing other tasks according to their owners' needs.

While the German Shepherd is not necessarily the best tracking dog, he has been selected for thousands of years from stock bred for all round skills, which include tracking. He certainly has more than enough tracking ability to find human scent, sometimes in difficult



circumstances. Hence his use by service bodies the world over. From tracking criminals to finding lost people to searching for explosives and drugs. The German Shepherd is up there with the best in the world.

The history of tracking in Australia started back in the 1960/70s.

Originally in Australia, competition tracking was very connected to obedience. In the very early stages of obedience, to gain the Utility Dog title, you had to pass the obedience tests plus gain a Tracking dog title. Very early in the tracking scene, before a dog could enter a tracking trial, a prerequisite was that the dog had to qualify in the Utility Obedience class. A subsequent rule change required the dog to pass the UD seek back and scent discrimination.

Later rule changes required the dog to have a Novice obedience title and later again one pass towards a Novice title. Finally, common sense prevailed, and obedience and tracking were officially separated.

Today, because there are no Obedience-based prerequisites, tracking dogs is very attractive to some handlers, who choose not to do traditional obedience. Many conformation people look at Tracking as a pathway to achieving a Dual Champion.

The German Shepherd Clubs in each state were very influential in the sport, and in some states still are. In Victoria, Ted Van Bael started a tracking training group at the Police Paddocks. Ern Paxman, Matt McKerchar and some others started tracking trials in Victoria. They were in fact very simple affairs. Held at the Police Paddocks in Victoria, two tracks were required, both could be attempted on the same day. Formal tracking trials evolved, but were very different from those we see now.

In NSW, the Tracking and Rescue Club was in there about the same time. South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia were involved a bit later. All were led at that stage, largely by German Shepherd devotees. Given that the German Shepherd Clubs around Australia were at the forefront of Obedience, it is not surprising that they were very active in the development of Tracking Trials.



This is the world of dogs.

One of the most influential people and knowledgeable trainers, I have had the pleasure to meet, is Tom Middlemas, a tracking and Search and Rescue expert from Scotland. He is also an expert in animal behaviour. He came to Australia to train a group for Search and Rescue. Luckily for us he was able to give some lectures to the tracking fraternity. The information he gave us, is impossible to discuss in a few lines, but it was extremely valuable. The people he took on the intensive course were full of praise for the knowledge and skills which Tom was able to give. He obviously has a gift for imparting knowledge. He gave a brief discussion on how search dogs and handlers are chosen in Scotland. The handlers are selected from experienced mountain rescue volunteers. Not much use if the rescuers get lost. The handlers have to be adept at navigation, communications, first aid and also have to be fit enough to handle rough country areas where the going may be very tough.

The normal training period for the dogs and handlers is 2 years. The dogs come from an assortment of breeds. He did mention two lists of preferred breeds which had been identified in a European study. There



The one thing that is for certain, is that any dog at any age can track. It is far easier to teach a baby puppy than an older dog. But it is still possible to teach an older one, it just takes more time. Also, some individual dogs find it easier than others.

Hence, we have to train the dog to follow the scent we want them to follow, ignoring other often more interesting scents, along the way. Individual dogs vary considerably in their ability to follow a particular scent. Handlers are the biggest issue. A question I ask many times is, that if you know the dog is better than a human at sniffing, why do handlers often try to decide which way a track goes. They are mostly wrong. Trust your dog.

Before we go any further about describing the requirements for tracking in Australia, I must issue a warning. **TRACKING IS ADDICTIVE.** Nothing nicer than to follow your mate while it is hot on the trail. Great feeling.

In order to enter Tracking Trials, ANKC rules require the dog to be a minimum of 6 months old. No other Obedience prerequisites apply.

The equipment is simple. A comfortable harness and a line that is a minimum of 10 metres long.

It must be stressed that there are no short cuts in any dog sport as we all should know. Tracking requires a lot of effort. What we are training our dogs for, is to follow the scents we need them to, ignore other scents, including wildlife and stock. They also need to learn to indicate articles.

Straight from the ANKC rule book: All articles used must be articles of clothing, must belong to the Tracklayer, must not be larger than a work sock, must be inconspicuous in colour and acceptable to the Judge.

The dog must positively indicate the articles by either sitting, standing, downing, picking up or at least pausing (i.e. stationary) to the satisfaction of the judge to obtain a Pass.

That means the dog has to STOP at the article, with all four paws steady.

Article indication must be trained for. I like to do that away from the track for early training and frequent refreshers. Making the whole thing heaps of fun. Training to keep on the track is another exercise. I must stress that there is no substitute for the old saying, "have to put kilometres under the paws". You never know what the conditions will be, so you go out and train in all weather conditions. Make sure you

were listed by quickness to learn and willingness to work. Number one on the list was the Border Collie followed by the Standard Poodle and the German Shepherd Dog. Quickness to learn is not the only criterion and does not necessarily mean that these breeds make the best search dogs. Individuals within breeds differ as well. The dogs have to be fit and strong as they have to cover a huge amount of ground very quickly and sometimes have to work for extended periods of time. Currently he is using bloodhounds to pick up the line of the search with the other dogs working from that line outwards.

He stressed the point that bonding between the handler and the dog is of utmost importance and an essential beginning for any type of training. He likes to train every other day for whatever discipline he is working towards, and the dog should be put away in its own space for at least two hours after a training session. For search and for tracking he likes to get his vehicle as close to the start as possible to enable the dog to stay focused for the job in hand. After training he puts the dog away to contemplate the session. He believes that dogs are great visualisers and can remember the lessons learnt if they are not distracted before or after the session. Training sessions should be carefully planned with a purpose in mind for every session. The sessions are concentrated and focused so that the dog does not have an opportunity to get bored.

TRACKING tales

change locations and surfaces to keep the dog interested. For most of us it is hard to find paddocks with stock in them. Be creative. Some outer suburban areas have reserves that border farms. There is no end to the opportunities once you put your mind to it.

To get started, it is a lot quicker and easier to find an established group, either at your local club, or by making enquiries. There are some Facebook groups that can put you in touch with other like-minded people.

Training methods vary enormously. If you can join a group, you are advised to use the method they use. It's the end result that counts.

The most important message is not to rush the training. Please do not enter your dog in a trial until he is ready – meaning he can easily complete all the tests up to Test 5 at least. If your dog fails to complete an exercise in Obedience, you can just take him out of the ring, ignore

the problem and keep everything positive. In tracking we have a different story. If the dog loses the scent and can't find it again, it can lose confidence. This scenario could put your training back for months. Better to hold back until your dog and you are tracksure.

Hopefully this article has given you an insight into the world of the tracking dog.

*The rules for Tracking can be found on the ANKC website.
www.ankc.org.au*

*Happy to answer any questions you may have from
killarakennels@gmail.com*

In the meantime,

Happy Tracking and I don't apologise for leading you into addiction.

The tests are as follows:

Test no.	Length	Tracklayer	No. of articles	Changes of direction	Diversion tracks	Time lapse
One	400	Known Tracklayer	One, does not have to be indicated to pass	Two	N/A	20 to 45 minutes.
Two	800	Known Tracklayer	Two, one must be indicated	Minimum two	N/A	30 to 60 minutes
Three	800	Unknown Tracklayer	Two, one must be indicated	Minimum two	N/A	30 to 60 minutes
Four	1000	Unknown Tracklayer	Three, two must be indicated	Minimum four	N/A	60 to 120 minutes
Five	1000	Unknown Tracklayer	Three, two must be indicated	Minimum four	Two	60 to 120 minutes
Six	1200	Unknown Tracklayer	Three, two must be indicated	Minimum five, one acute	Two	60 to 180 minutes
Seven	1200	Unknown Tracklayer Blind start	Three, two must be indicated	Minimum six, two acute	Two	90 to 180 minutes
Eight	1200	Unknown Tracklayer Blind start	Three, two must be indicated	Minimum six, two acute	Two	90 to 180 minutes



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What Is Puppy Socialisation Anyway?

When people talk about puppy socialisation they are generally referring to the first 16 weeks of a dog's life. This is the window of time in our puppy's lives that determines who they will become as adult dogs.

The temperament, character and behaviour habits of your puppy are developed during this socialisation period - and will last a lifetime. It affects how your puppy will relate to his family, strangers, animals and the environment in which he lives.

Puppy socialisation stimulates the five senses of your young dog. It is the introduction, exposure and desensitisation to the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and touch of everyday life. The socialisation period conditions your puppy to the many different situations he needs to be familiar with and comfortable around. It also prepares him to deal with the new experiences and challenges which inevitably arise throughout life in an appropriate manner.

Puppy socialisation is the crucial stage where you begin to build the close bond you share with your dog, one that will last forever. It's up to you – any puppy can become a well-adjusted and trusted member of society through proper socialisation.

We owe it to our puppies to provide them with thorough socialisation and training – all dogs need to be socialised regardless of breed type, where you bought the puppy from or anything else you may think of.

There are two main types of puppy socialisation:

Active - Things we purposely introduce to our dogs like obedience training, visiting new people and rides in the car.

Passive - What your puppy comes across in her own time like exploring the plants in the back yard.

Why Is It So Important To Socialise Our Puppies?

- The puppy socialisation period (especially the first 16 weeks) is the most critical time for shaping your dog's future temperament, character and behaviour habits. If you miss out on socialising your puppy during this period you cannot simply go back and fix the problems later.
- Preventing problem behaviours through proper socialisation is a much more attractive alternative than trying to correct the undesirable behaviour (barking, object guarding, chewing, separation anxiety, dog to dog aggression etc.) that arises from a lack of socialisation.
- Puppy socialisation is an essential ingredient in building and strengthening the bond you will share with your dog throughout his life. The time you put in now will be well rewarded.

Unsocialised Puppies Take A Very Different Path In Life Than A Dog Who Is Properly Socialised

- Socialising your puppy has an even bigger influence over her behaviour than the breed of dog she is - it's that important.
- A socialised puppy is well placed to think, learn and problem solve (including obedience training), whereas a fearful stressed dog (unsocialised) is severely restricted in this area.
- A well socialised dog will happily accept change, new people, challenges and will interact appropriately with other animals.
- Puppy socialisation prepares your puppy for the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Things like the vacuum cleaner, dishwasher, lawn mower, cats, TV and whatever else life throws at him.
- Puppy socialisation educates your dog about appropriate social interaction and how to inhibit aggression towards people and other animals.
- Socialisation feeds all of the senses and safely, positively promotes emotional and mental stimulation.

What Happens If You Don't Properly Socialise Your Puppy?

- An unfortunate but undeniable fact is that a key reason why dogs end up being rehomed (or worse) is through a lack of socialisation (from the associated problems that arise). The sad part is that socialising your puppy isn't really that difficult.
- If you miss the crucial puppy socialisation period it's not something you can catch up on later - you have deadlines you must meet!
- You end up with a dog that is an outcast to society, one that doesn't fit in and can't be trusted. Sadly there are many dogs in this very situation living out their days permanently confined to the back yard.
- Dogs who miss the critical socialisation period often exhibit shyness, aggression, timidity, fear towards people, dogs and other animals. They are also often inept at relating with other dogs.
- If your puppy is deprived of early social stimulation the result is her physical and emotional health can be irreversibly compromised.
- Unexpected events and new experiences are not well received by unsocialised dogs. What we strive for in our dogs is a happy balance between them being cautious and having the confidence to accept and explore new things.

When Does The Puppy Socialisation Period Begin?

Pretty much the moment your puppy comes into this world the socialisation and habituation window is open.

1. The mother of your pup begins the socialisation process through massaging your puppy with her tongue to control his elimination, also through sound, smell and body language. She is also responsible for giving your puppy his first lesson in discipline.
2. Litter mates (siblings) learn from each other through play time and social interaction. They discover many aspects of being a dog including how to inhibit their bite and also the language of dominance and submission.
3. The breeder plays a crucial role in the first 7-8 weeks of your puppy's life. He/she should handle the puppies during this critical period, getting them used to human scent and touch. A good breeder will also begin to get your puppy accustomed to proper household etiquette, noises and basic training.

PUPPY socialisation

How Do I Socialise My Puppy?

First impressions matter

Puppies are always learning. What puppies learn in the early days has an enormous influence on the dogs that they become, because it is what they learn first. Puppies certainly don't start off as blank slates—genetics play an important role. Nevertheless, their first experiences with new stimuli shape how dogs respond to those stimuli later on in life. If a pup's first experience with a cat is terrifying, that pup is more likely to be afraid of cats later on in life. Luckily, pups are pups, and tend to brush off most bad experiences! Perhaps it is their playful curiosity? As they get older, they tend to become more wary, so it pays to take advantage of the first three months.

Ideally, aim to expose a pup to all the things that he or she may be exposed to later in life, and try to ensure that these exposures are positive experiences. It's worthwhile to go out of your way in the early months, but don't become obsessive. **The aim is to have enough positive experiences that new experiences can be taken in stride at any stage of life.**

So how do you make sure these experiences are beneficial and positive?

Conditioning tools

Dogs learn in two ways—they learn by association (classical conditioning) and they learn by consequence (operant conditioning). Classical conditioning occurs when a stimulus is paired with something that elicits what behaviourists call an “unconditioned response.” When you are socialising a puppy, pairing something in the environment with something the dog already enjoys is classical conditioning. For example, a food treat might often follow when a pup meets children, thereby pairing something good (food) with something in the environment (children). Operant conditioning occurs when a pup learns to do something to get something he wants. An example could be discovering that a food treat often follows when the pup sits and allows children to pet him. Here, food is given as a consequence of sitting and allowing children to pet.

Both types of learning may occur at the same time. A pup can learn both an internal, emotional response and an external, behavioural response to the same stimulus. In order to make a positive association, a pup doesn't have to “earn” food treats, but if the opportunity to reinforce behaviours you like presents itself, take advantage of it!

Food, toys, and games can all be used in both classical and operant conditioning procedures; what's important is that the choice should be something the pup will work for, or something you already know the pup enjoys because he has worked for it in the past. Food is usually the most convenient tool to use, but as you become more familiar with your new pup you might find certain toys or games that the pup particularly likes, too.

It should be noted that dogs will also work to avoid situations that they don't enjoy. For the unwary, the trap here is that you can often reinforce fearful or aggressive behaviours inadvertently, simply by allowing the behaviours to work in a pup's favour. (Certainly this is not to suggest or support forcing a pup to endure situations that he doesn't enjoy in order to avoid reinforcing those behaviours.)

The best advice is to seek professional help from knowledgeable trainers if you notice fearful or aggressive behaviour. There is always a path around these situations, a path that doesn't involve reinforcing unwanted behaviours or forcing a pup to deal with situations that he finds stressful (risking irreparable psychological damage).

Emphasising the positive

Ideally at about the 8 week mark your puppy will arrive at your home, which will be his home for life. Your responsibility to provide him proper socialisation starts immediately, you're in control, it's in your hands. This is the beginning of the primary socialisation window - make the most of it!

Note: Avoid any situations during this first couple of weeks at home that will scare your puppy (often called the fear impact period). Any major scare (like an aggressive dog approaching) can emotionally damage your pup forever.

When setting up new socialisation experiences for a pup, try to set up situations that you have some control over and that are likely to lead to a positive outcome. For example, if you are introducing a pup to an older dog, choose an older dog that you are familiar with and that will not frighten the pup. Choose a safe area so that both animals can play off-leash for a while.

Another good way to introduce a pup to older dogs is to visit an obedience class. Have the pup on-leash and watch from the sidelines. This trip will give the pup the opportunity to see lots of different dogs, all on-leash and working. And, the visit will be a new and different experience for the pup, because he must learn to be around other dogs without being allowed to play.

In situations like the ones above, take steps to ensure that the encounter will be positive, non-threatening, and beneficial. The pup will learn important social skills, and the risks of something going wrong or the pup learning something you don't want him to learn are minimised. It would be inadvisable to go to a dog park where lots of unknown dogs might be playing off-leash, for example. Most of these dogs might be fine, but a bad experience can have lasting effects.

So how about those experiences? Try this!

- Puppy house training, crate training and chew toy training should commence as soon as your new housemate arrives. This is all part of the puppy socialisation process, it establishes proper household etiquette, reinforces desirable behaviour and prevents bad habits from forming.
- Pick your puppy up, stroke her belly, touch her all over (ears, feet, tail etc) while gently talking to her. Also invite other people to do the same.
- For your dog's safety and to establish a close bond it's important to begin some obedience training right away. Teach some basic commands such as sit, down, stay and the recall.
- Involve your new puppy in everything you can (isn't this why you got your puppy in the first place?), always under close supervision. Just get her familiar and comfortable with all of the daily routines and happenings of her new household. This is her environment now, we want her to be relaxed and comfortable around things like the vacuum cleaner, dishwasher, TV, lawnmower and noisy children.
- It's essential that your puppy meets as many people as possible before he reaches 12 weeks of age. Always make visits a fun, non-threatening experience for your little pup. Encourage play, treats and touch between your visitors and your puppy. If you're game you can also visit some friends with immunised and trustworthy cats or dogs.
- Groom your dog, bathe her and clip her nails.
- Allow your puppy to explore your home, inside and out. Continue to supervise him but allow him to check things (pot plants, lawn mower, toys etc.) out for himself.
-

PUPPY socialisation

- Take your puppy for a boat ride, in an elevator, to the coffee shop or to the Vet. Anywhere you expect he may need to go as an adult you should expose him to it now - in a safe, non threatening and controlled fashion.
- Give your puppy some new toys and play some games with him. Anything that stimulates his mind and makes him problem solve is brilliant for his development. You can play games of hide and seek or build some obstacle courses for him to navigate his way through.
- Take your puppy with you on short car trips. Visit some friends or sit at the train station and watch some trains roll by. Don't visit off leash dog parks as it's hard to know which dogs are vaccinated and of sound temperament. As mentioned earlier a bad experience during the socialisation period can scar your puppy for life.
- It is a great idea to get along to a good puppy class/kindergarten. Take care until vaccinations are completed. Your puppy will continue to develop her social skills (bite inhibition) in a friendly and safe environment.
- As soon as the final vaccinations are completed you can start to get out and about even more. Take your puppy on walks to meet with other dogs, cats and other animals. Also encourage people to come up and pet your puppy while on walks. I still like to avoid off leash dog parks - they're too risky!

Other situations most pups should encounter at an early age include:

- Places - car, vet, beach, park, school, shops, friends' houses, crate, public transport, groomer, cafe, obedience club, stairs, hard floors, carpet, gravel, other unusual surfaces (walking over a tarpaulin or a grate)
- People - friends, neighbours, family, children, elderly people, men with deep voices, men with beards, people in hats, people with wheelchairs or walkers, people who ignore dogs, people who are affectionate toward dogs
- Animals - other puppies, other dogs, individual dogs, groups of dogs, working dogs, playing dogs, cats, poultry, horses, livestock

Of course, these are just suggestions. Sit down and think about situations your own pup is likely to encounter during his life, and think about ways to introduce the pup to those situations in a positive and beneficial manner. Be prepared - take some food treats, a favourite toy, leash and maybe even a crate or mat in some cases. Another good choice is to invite along a friend with a stable, friendly dog. It is amazing what pups can learn from older dogs, without pet owners ever having to do a thing!

Other winning strategies

If your pup is afraid of something, stay calm. Most of the time curiosity will overcome fear. Keep things positive and don't push the pup. Do use gentle encouragement if you think the encounter will end on a positive note.

Sit down and think about situations your own pup is likely to encounter during his life.

Keep a pup's brain engaged by asking him to perform a simple trick away from something that scared him. Targeting can be very helpful here, too, especially when introducing a pup to new places or surfaces. Very young pups usually pick up targeting very quickly.

Welcoming a puppy into your home is an exciting time of transition. Careful, early exposures and socialisation experiences may take a good amount of thought and time, but it's a worthwhile effort to make for a new puppy. A well-planned socialisation strategy helps to make your future family life together both positive and rewarding.

Apart from all of the puppy socialisation tips listed above it's important to remember to always have fun. Puppy socialisation is a fun time, you'll get great pleasure out of watching your pup experience new things for the first time. Enjoy it.

References:

<https://clickertraining.com/node/2184?SSAID=179604>

<http://www.dog-obedience-training-review.com/puppy-socialisation.html>

Try these with your puppy !

PEOPLE	SITUATIONS	SURFACES	SOUNDS	PLACES	ANIMALS
Children	Restraint	Grass	Mechanical Loud	Pet store	Small Dogs
Coats (bulky or long)	Temperature	Concrete	Hairdryers	Grocery Store	White Dogs
Hats	Taking	Bark	Coffee grinders	Local shops	Friendly Dogs
Umbrellas	Picking Up	Loud	Vacuums	Playground	Playful Dogs
Running	Massaging	Sand	Traffic	School	Friendly Cats
Bicycling	On Back	Shallow water	Shopping trolleys	Hiking	Unfriendly Cats
Skateboarding	Windy	Stairs	Screaming kids	Parks	Birds
Crowds	Raining	Tile	Loud Music	Beach	Horses
Wheelchairs	Lifts	Gravel	Beeping	Shopping Centres	Livestock
Prams	Automatic Doors	Carpet	Babies		
Shopping trolleys	Wheelbarrows	Astroturf	Lawn Mowers		
	Tables		Garage Door		
	Low agility equipment				

CLUB spotlight

Spotlighting the G.S.D.A. of W.A.



Last year saw the W.A. club celebrate 40 years since the lifting of the ban here and I am sure people do not realise the work and effort which was required to change people's opinions of our breed.

We are blessed and eternally grateful to have had such pioneers with excellent foresight to purchase the 7 acres in Southern River that we now call our headquarters, it is surrounded by the kennel zone. HQ is not just our training ground or the home for our shows and trials, it allows our members to have access to a fantastic and secure area where they can do their own training or run their dogs off lead when it is non-training times. John Glenney is our head trainer at Headquarters. We also have a ground north of the River at the beautiful Otago Park, Craigie under the watchful eye of Honey.



The tyranny of distance was always problem for many with the cost to travel to exhibit our dogs prohibitive. I believe our standards have always been set very high and that has been reflected by our winning ways nationally.

Our West Coast Challenge was the chance for those who could not travel to National Shows & Trials to show off their best to a German Judge. The Show Committee now run 3 Championships shows – in addition to the West Coast Challenge we added the Walter Martin

Memorial and the Rick Richardson Memorial shows and these make for a terrific double header weekend in August. Also our hard-working trials committee run trials for Obedience, Agility and Rally O.

The State Breed Exhibition was established here to give our members an opportunity to replicate the conditions of the Main Breed Show where the dogs and progeny are judged in a different way to the run of the mill show. The unique Critique Only class revealed many a quality show dog. For many years the West Coast Challenge was our only dual and then it became a triple event championship show, obedience and agility trials. The Triple Crown was then incorporated into our State Breed Exhibitions.

We have been fortunate to have dedicated leaders and trainers over the years. I am sure their enthusiasm struggles on those cold, wintry days when their mettle is tested but they keep on going. Many of our members current and former have been involved in the establishment or running of such groups as TrackWest, Advanced Tracking Club and Search Dogs Australia, All Breed Obedience and Agility clubs.

We have been extremely lucky to have amazing relationships with our sponsors Mars Pet Care (Advance) who donate to all disciplines of the association, Scarboro Toyota for the continued support for our activities and ground upgrades, Animal Health for the funding of areas such as

the supply of goods and sponsoring this year's Children's Christmas Party, Canning Vale Fish and Chips for the support of our youth handlers and Armadale Mower World who service all of our maintenance equipment.

Communications with the general public is paying off, we send out detailed information when we have enquiries for puppies or membership, including the 4 week free training certificates. This has seen our membership steadily increase and currently sits at 596 - 554 ordinary members and 42 life members. This past year has seen 160 new members join our association.

We are very proud of the generosity of our members. Our fundraising efforts have raised thousands for outside organizations - the response has been exceptional for our twice yearly BBQ breakfasts and raffles for the McGrath and EJ Whitten Foundations. Our Christmas drive to thank our military personnel and their dogs - the response was spectacular and resulted in almost 80 boxes being transported to our troops on the front line. Members donated items and some gave money to buy what was needed. Items which could not be packaged were taken to the Pearce Air Base for the R.A.A.F. dogs.

Our public relations side is always the ultimate to ensure the general public sees the very best of our dogs - their strength and soundness in mind and body are so very important. The Perth Royal Show and the local Dog's Days Out always attract a crowd. We are thankful to the number of demonstrations and displays given by members who excel in their craft.

One of our most popular and favourite times are the end of the year Fun Day when we all get to act a little silly with our human agility, fastest eater competitions, games and lucky draws.

We have a tradition for our youngsters (who often are dragged to training and shows throughout the year). At Christmas time we hold a fabulous afternoon, ice creams, snacks, drinks and lots of activities for the young people such as face painting, farm animals, bouncy castle and games topped off with a visit from the jolly fat man, Santa with gifts aplenty.

During our summer months our training is conducted in the evenings only on Wednesdays, at our HQ, for the South, and Thursdays at Otago Park in the North. These evenings are always really well attended and many non-training members come for the socialisation aspect.

I noted in our A.G.M. Booklet that we have so many dedicated office bearers, committee members, registrars and officers of this association working hard without any form of compensation or benefit - just the reward of doing something good for others.

I hope right around the country we can continue working together in a positive manner and rejecting negativity to enable us to move forward into the future.

Margaret Adams.



CLUB spotlight



NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



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The mild Queensland winter weather was the perfect backdrop to our annual Championship Shows and Obedience Trial held on the 15th & 16th July this year. Ian Urie judged on the Saturday and Carol O'Rourke on the Sunday. Entries as expected were down a bit due to the recent National, but it didn't dampen the spirits of the exhibitors and spectators who all had a great weekend. The results and critiques are on the Club website if you want to check them out. Our resident and oh so fabulous photographer Gail Donald was kept busy taking social photos of everyone so our friends who couldn't make it this year could enjoy being a part of the events from afar. Gail also got the results up super-fast on the Club Facebook page. Go girl!

The Obedience Trial judged by Jodie Brown pulled a great entry this year and Best in Show & Trial went to *Sensen Mann Yokon aED owned by Henderson/Knuckey/Bobbin. Sincere thanks to our interstate friends who made the trek once again to support the Queensland July weekend. Much appreciated. The large Vari crate donated by Aussie Pet & Animal Travel was won by Karl & Sarah Maresh from Mackay who no doubt will make good use of it. Thanks to those who supported the raffle - just on \$400 was raised on the day. Club members were out at Bunnings Bethania on the 23rd July once again raising funds for the members - \$1300 was deposited into the club coffers. Zone 2 are also working at Bunnings in Mackay North on the 1st October. Hopefully a few local members will help once again.

By the time you read this, the Zone 2 annual Members Competition/Breed Survey judged by Louis Donald in Bundaberg will be over. Check out the results on the website. Carol O'Rourke was the second Surveyor. In September Victorian Judge Greg Green will

be judging our State Breed Exhibition, Val Bonney will be judging the Obedience Trial and Lance Wright is doing the Open Show. The SBE is being judged under the new rules and regulations so we hope you are out there training for your 'off lead' gaiting. Going to be lots of fun. Let's hope we see some folk from across the border.

Voting on the WUSV Harmonisation program has been completed and results from each State are in. Once all members are advised of the changes by the GSDCA it will then be up to each of us to decide if/how we can make it happen. Remember what brought us all together in the first place. Our one common love - the German Shepherd Dog and your best mate.



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News from the West

I'm back!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Feeling refreshed from holidaying in the U.K. and Dubai.



The beginning of July saw our Members' Competition and Open Show double header with Natalie Humphries and Heather Jones adjudicating. The weather was kind and the great sportsmanship was to be commended.

Graduations were held at Headquarters and Otago Park - winners were gridders. The following week was our 2nd Character and Working Assessment - our members have embraced this activity and are to be congratulated. Last weekend we ran our double trial and from all accounts it was a successful day.

The Harmonisation Programme discussions resulted in an EXCELLENT turnout for good, frank and informative discussion. The outcome was taken to the Special General Meeting and W.A. was represented by Natalie Humphries (Breed Affairs Chair and Judge) and John Fenner (Judge and Breed Surveyor). A lengthy and detailed report was given to the members at our A.G.M. We were pleased to hear that at the N.B.C. meeting Natalie was accepted as an aspiring Breed Surveyor. It is unfortunate we have lost Bruce Knight as a judge and surveyor for W.A. - enjoy your travels Bruce - you know where we are if you want to return - you will be welcomed back.

Yesterday we held our 2017 A.G.M. - we had a fantastic attendance, the new seating was well received and we may have to think about booking seats. All Management Committee positions and office bearers were elected unopposed - we must be doing something right??? Mid-year we have had a couple of retirees - our Show & Obedience Chairs - we say thank you and the incoming chairs will take on the jobs with their usual efficient manner. It was a great meeting full of positive input and conducted in a jovial, friendly manner which makes it a pleasure to attend. The BBQ Sausage Sizzle was prepared by Yvonne and Liz and was much appreciated by all.

As we race towards the end of the year - we will run a couple more Breed Surveys and another Character & Working Test. On the show side we have the Rick Richardson & Walter Martin Memorial Championship shows to be adjudicated by Robyn Knuckey and Alastair Henderson. On the Obedience side the Graduations at both grounds and E.T. and the V.I.M.S. and Montemelia trials. And before you know it we will be running our fun days and parties. Where did 2017 go?

All the very best to all - and good luck to everyone in whatever discipline you love to do with this fabulous breed.

Margaret Adams G.S.D.A. of W.A.

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



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The biggest happening in Victoria recently, like in all states, was the meetings to discuss the WUSV Harmonisation program and vote. Our meetings went well, were conducted with open and fair discussion and had approximately 170 members come along to the SGM to vote. Its been a while since we had such involvement, and it was great to see so many show an interest in the future of our dogs.

The GSDCV has sadly said farewell to Fran Farley as she retires as a GSDCA breed surveyor. Fran was one of the inaugural five GSDCA Breed Surveyors back in 1977. Fran has given the GSDCV and the fraternity 40 years of service as a surveyor. We wish her well as she now focusses on her own dogs, Zoomba and Drum training, showing and also spending more time in the Story Dog Program with Vino, putting back into the community. Fran will continue to judge, so look out for her 😊. Thanks Fran, from us all.

Competition is never far from our minds if you are that way inclined in Victoria. We have heaps of events that you can participate in. In July we held an Open Rally Obedience Trial that had 52 entries and was held in great weather. It was great to see all breeds participate, and even better when 19 GSD's competed and 14 received passes, especially those in the novice class. Very cool guys, well done.

A big shout out to Urs Rhyn too, who as of July has two Triple Champions achieved over 3 disciplines – show, tracking and obedience, but with titles in tracking, track and search, endurance and herding too. If nothing else, it's a lot of training and attending events, and a really great achievement for both man and dogs. Well done to Urs and his dogs Ricky (Tri Ch. (Neut) (T) (RO) TS Grand Ch. Awatea

Loven Missy UD RAE HT ET) and Xena (*Tri Ch. (T) (RO) Neut. Ch. TS Grand Ch. Killara



Volcanic Lava AZ CDX RAE ET)

We congratulate Andrew Jones on his endorsement as an aspiring GSDCA Breed Surveyor, along with Sharon Ballantyne (Qld) and Nat Humphries (WA). We know Andrew will make a great contribution here in Victoria and look forward to his increased involvement.

Around the branches it's been busy too. Skye held their trivia night – of course the Earwigs were again successful (how many in a row is that?) but they had hot competition. Western branch held their Police Dog Squad evening, with over 80 people attending. One of the most popular seminars for the year always, and very interesting and informative too. Up at Wodonga they held a structural assessment with surveyor Greg Green giving 8 of their dogs once over. A great program for our general members to have their dogs 'critiqued'. Geelong welcomed Santa at their Christmas in July day too. Winter is great for the odd Bunnings sausage sizzle and we've seen a few of those for sure! Eastern branch are busy planning for their 30th anniversary and Ballarat their 40th anniversary parties, both to be held later this year.

The annual sieger show exodus is upon us, but for those remaining, we've had the Lillydale and GSD exhibition shows, and the Royal Melbourne Show to come. October and November loom large for our show and triallers. We have the Open Track and Search Dog trial in October, along with our Double Open Obedience trials. These lead into the famous 'Working Dog weekend' over Melbourne Cup weekend for our Champ shows and trial. These will be held at KCC Park this year, and are no longer at Sunbury. Then it's the wind down to the open show and breed survey before Christmas break ups. Where did the year go???

My Shepherd, My Friend, My Responsibility



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The club has been busy the last few months with Shows, breed surveys, meetings and publicity events.

We started off with the "Dogs on Show" run by Dogs NSW. We had a stand there, as we have done in the past, and were able to meet members of the public and assist them with enquiries and information about the breed. The day went well, with many visitors to the stand.

This was followed by our June Members comp with Sharon Ballantyne Judging (QLD) and was a very pleasing day.

In July the State Breed assessment was held with Karen Hedberg & Melanie Groth judging.

On the first weekend in August we are participating in the very big "Dog Lovers Show" at Moore Park. This event has become enormous, and we are pleased to have a team of 7-8 people with 5 dogs attending on both days. It should be a great weekend, and again, gives us the opportunity to share knowledge about the breed and give people the chance to see, pat, photograph and cuddle our dogs and put to rest the myth that the German shepherd is an "aggressive" breed.

Also on this weekend is the North Coast branch members comp at Coffs Harbour. This is their inaugural event, and should be an amazing weekend, so try and get along and support it. All the details are up on the website.

Our next show will be in October. A championship Show with Karen Hedberg judging conformation and Obedience will be judged by Pauline Hartwell. As this is a 2 day show, we will be running a members competition in conjunction with it and the judge will be Fran Farley. Details will be on the website as it becomes available.

The Leagues new website is up and running. We still have all the information available in its new format so come and have a look around.

Until next time,
GSDL

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



NEWCASTLE & HUNTER REGION GSDC

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We are pleased to say that things at the club are continuing to go from strength to strength. Membership is steadily growing and with the warmer weather not far away we are expecting the usual increase in numbers at the Tuesday night training for Obedience.

The members recently held their annual weekend at Riverwood Downs Resort in the Barrington Tops National Park. By all reports this was a fantastic weekend with both humans and dogs having a blast.

On the 29th and 30th of August the club held its now double champ show weekend. This new DOUBLE Champ Show concept proved hugely successful. It seemed that everyone in attendance was in favour of the new double show concept and the Saturday night free BBQ and entertainment was greatly appreciated by everyone. This double Champ Show weekend will now be the norm for Newcastle and the club will continue to provide the exhibitor BBQ and entertainment for the Saturday evening. Something else that was new for this show was the awarding of a trophy for the best placed Australian male in the open SC class. This was done to recognise those breeders and exhibitors that are breeding lovely dogs here in Australia. Again the exhibitors gave this move a huge tick of approval.

The Club held its AGM ON 8/8/17. I am happy to report that the club showed a small profit this year, mainly in the area of membership, training and the show. This is a very pleasing result compared to last year. Only a couple of changes in the committee but I would like to thank Peta Belic who took up the position of secretary at a very trying time so thank you.

The 2017/2018 committee is

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We wish the new executive all the best for the next year.



ACT GSDA

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Well it's that time of year again folks! We are on the countdown to our annual dual championship show weekend! This year the ACTGSDA Annual October Championship Shows will be held on Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1 October. Entries are now open so don't forget to get them in early. It is set to be another great weekend again this year!

What a quarter it has been for the ACTGSDA! On Saturday June 17, the Club exhibited at 'A Pooch Affair' - a local ACT event dedicated to all things dogs - for the third year running. The event was an all day, all things canine dedicated event, that saw hundreds of locals piling through the doors. The event was again a huge success for our club, giving us the opportunity to promote our breed, our training school and our association. Thank you to the Committee and members who worked on our stand to chat to members of the public about what we do. We had numerous dogs on the stand throughout the day, all of which received numerous compliments from event organisers, other exhibitors and members of the public about how well behaved they were with other dogs, people and young

children. What a credit to our beloved GSDs!

Vic G and Uhlmsdorf Black Label (Jaxon) continued on their winning ways with Jaxon gaining his CD Title with two first places. Ian Davies and Uhlmsdorf Pink Diamond (Ruby) kick started their trial journey with a first place in CCD. It has been pleasing to see an increase in the number of GSD's entered in Trials recently.

Following a busy few weeks in the trial ring, some of our members headed up to Sydney in June to show under Sharon Ballantyne at the GSDL. A big congratulations to all members who entered the show on their fantastic results – Lozani Clara 6th SC Minor Puppy Bitch, Uhlmsdorf Coco Chanel 10th SC Minor Puppy Bitch & Uhlmsdorf Coco Black 11th SC Minor Puppy Bitch, *Astasia Neena AZ 7th SC Open Bitch, Uhlmsdorf Jack Black 1st SC Junior Dog, Uhlmsdorf Black Dimond 2nd SC Junior Dog, Uhlmsdorf Black Label 3rd SC Junior Dog and *Ch Uhlmsdorf Black Douglas AZ 4th Open Dog.

Lastly we would like to extend a huge congratulations to our members that travelled to, and who's dogs competed in, the recent Newcastle & Hunter Region German Shepherd Dog Club Dual Championship Shows in July. The ACT members had some absolutely fantastic results. On the Saturday we celebrated Uhlmsdorf Coco Chanel 2nd SC Puppy Bitch, Uhlmsdorf Black Diamond taking out 1st SC Junior dog and Uhlmsdorf Jack Black 2nd SC Junior dog and finally *Ch Uhlmsdorf Black Douglas AZ taking out 1st SC Open Dog, Challenge Dog, Best in Show and the new addition award by the NHRGSDC, Best Australian Bred Dog in Open. On the Sunday, Uhlmsdorf Coco Chanel again saw 2nd SC Puppy Bitch and Uhlmsdorf Jack Black 1st SC Junior Dog. A big congratulations to the dogs, their owners and Uhlmsdorf Kennels!



NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



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Water in my ears!



TRAINING notes

Dog Learning Theory

Learning theory is not new. In fact, if anyone remembers Ivan Pavlov the Russian Physiologist and his dogs you will have already come across learning theory whether you were aware of it or not. If you haven't heard of Pavlov and his dogs – head to google!

Learning theory can be a very widely used term, however it is only important that you understand how Classical Conditioning (changes an emotional response) and Operant Conditioning (changes a behaviour) apply to you and your ability to train an animal.

'Learning' is about how an animal's potential for a behaviour changes with experience.

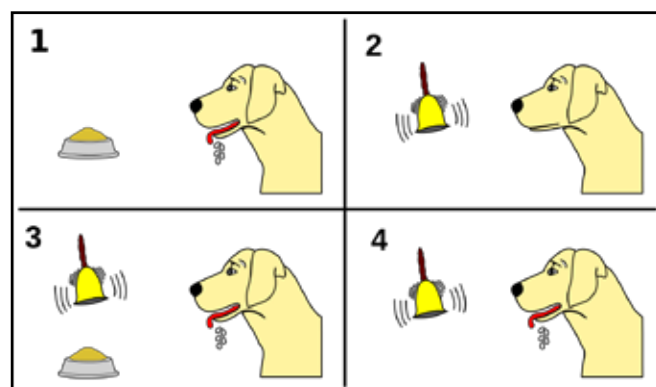
'Training' describes the techniques used to ensure that learning comes about in a predictable way in response to human intervention.

Classical conditioning

This is often known as Pavlovian Learning – this is learning that involves one event that predicts another that causes an instinctive or emotional response. This is what happens when you condition a clicker – the noise initially means nothing to the animal, however when paired repeatedly with food, the clicker pretty soon causes the same emotional response as the presentation of food. This is called a conditioned stimulus.

Classical Conditioning focuses on the 'Antecedent' that is, the stimulus that triggers the behaviour. Classical conditioning forms an association between two stimuli and is focused on the relationship between an Antecedent and the Behaviour.

Pavlov's Experiments			
Food presented	Dog Salivates	Dog gets fed	An unconditioned stimulus results in an unconditioned response. Dogs will do this naturally with no training.
Bell Rings Food is Presented	Dog Salivates	Dog gets fed	Focus on the Antecedent to introduce the conditioned stimulus (association)
Bell Rings	Dog Salivates	Dog gets fed	Conditioned stimulus resulting in the classically conditioned behaviour response



Operant conditioning

This is often known as associative learning and involves learning as a result of one's actions. The animal learns to associate its behaviour with a particular outcome.

Learning theory states, behaviours that are rewarded (reinforced with food, attention, play) are more likely to recur, and those that are ignored (a form of punishment) are less likely to recur in similar situations.

Consider the 4 quadrants of Operant conditioning.

Positive Reinforcement

Is achieved by adding something to increase the likelihood of the desired behaviour recurring in similar circumstances. This is usually a treat.

Negative Reinforcement

Is achieved by taking something away to increase the likelihood of the desired behaviour recurring in similar circumstances. This is usually something unpleasant, such as pressure from check chain is released when dog is in desired position.

Positive Punishment

Is achieved when something is added to decrease the likelihood of undesired behaviour recurring in similar circumstances. This is usually something unpleasant such as a loud noise or pressure on a check chain.

Negative Punishment

Is achieved by taking something away to decrease the likelihood of the undesired behaviour recurring in similar circumstances. This will usually be something pleasant, such as stopping a game, or removing attention when a puppy mouths you.

	Reinforcement behaviour increases	Punishment behaviour decreases
Positive (add something)	Positive Reinforcement: R+ Something appetitive added increases behaviour in frequency and or intensity	Positive Punishment: P+ Something aversive added decreases behaviour
Negative (remove something)	Negative Reinforcement: R- Something aversive removed increases behaviour	Negative Punishment: P- Something appetitive removed decreases behaviour

In Operant conditioning, "positive" and "negative" do not have their popular meanings, instead positive refers to addition of something, and negative refers to the removal of something.

In Operant conditioning, "Reinforcement" is something that will make the behaviour occur more frequently, and "punishment" is something that will decrease the occurrence of the behaviour. Operant conditioning forms an association between a Behaviour and a Consequence. It is also called response-stimulus because it forms an association between the animal's response (behaviour) and the stimulus that follows (consequence)

Reinforcers used in positive reinforcement can be divided into Primary reinforcers and Secondary Reinforcers.

A primary reinforcer is anything that the animal finds naturally rewarding, ie food.

A secondary reinforcer is anything an animal has to learn is rewarding. ie a Clicker.

The clicker is a device which marks a behaviour very precisely – just like taking a photograph. The clicker is more precise than verbal (Good dog), or physical markers. The clicker acts as a 'bridge' between the desired behaviour and the reward.

Reinforcement Theory

A schedule of reinforcement determines how often a behaviour is going to result in a reward. There are five kinds: **fixed interval, variable interval, fixed ratio, variable ratio, and random.**

A **fixed interval** means that a reward will occur after a fixed amount of time. For example, every two minutes.

A **variable interval** schedule means that reinforcers will occur after a varying amount of time. Sometimes it will be five minutes, sometimes two, sometimes one, sometimes six.

A **fixed ratio** is when a behaviour is performed X number of times, and there will be one reinforcement on the Xth performance. For a fixed ratio of 1:4, every fourth behaviour will be rewarded. This type of ratio can lead to reduced performance, as the dog learns the first three performances will not be rewarded, and the fourth one will be no matter what. A fixed ratio of 1:1 means that every correct performance of a behaviour will be rewarded.

A **variable ratio** and schedule means that reinforcers are distributed based on the average number of correct behaviours. A variable ratio of 1:3 means that on average, one out of every three behaviours will be rewarded. It might be the first. It might be the third. It might even be the fourth, as long as it averages out to one in three.

A **random schedule** means there is no correlation between the animal's behaviour and the consequence.

Extinction Theory

If reinforcement fails to occur after a behaviour that has been reinforced in the past, the behaviour might cease. This process is called **extinction**. Dogs do what works for them. They only persist with behaviours that have beneficial consequences.

A **variable ratio and schedule of reinforcement** makes the behaviour less vulnerable to extinction. If your dog is not expecting to gain a reward every time they demonstrate a behaviour, they are not likely to stop the first few times their action fails to generate the desired consequence. Many desirable behaviours, can be maintained using intermittent rewards, sometimes with very intermittent rewards. But reduce the rewards too much, or altogether, and your good behaviour WILL die out. It may take a while, but it will happen.

Happy training !

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The three D's of dog training - why you need to know about them

*The three D's of dog training are known as **Distraction, Distance and Duration**. They come into play in every context and all training exercises.*

Distractions are part of life, especially for dogs. Let's face it, a dog can be distracted by just about anything from the high value food reward to the wind blowing leaves. Distractions are part of dog training no matter what, so we might as well begin to work with them and take them into account.

Always start with the lowest amount of distraction and build on it as your dog does better with the training.

For example, if you are working on down stays, get the dog rock solid in the house and the back yard before attempting the down stays at the barbecue at your neighbour's house.

Distractions are often the reason for the dog breaking the stay, or tuning out or becoming frustrated.

Sometimes distractions are environmental sounds or sights. Other times we are doing distracting things, placing hands in treat pouches or pockets, walking too far away during stay training, or perhaps the dog is too close (distance) to the door or gate for a sit and wait?

Being aware of distractions and doing your best to set the dog up for success by lowering them will help your training immensely. In fact I would say the number one reason why dogs are unsuccessful in training is some form of distraction.

Distance can help or hinder your dog's training. In the case of the reactive dog you want as much distance as needed when you begin to desensitize and counter condition the dog to what makes it reactive. Far too many owners detail attempts at reducing their dog's reactivity only to find it is too difficult as they are too close to the distracting stimuli and usually for too long. (Duration)

Conversely you want a short distance from your dog when building duration for a stay so you can keep a high rate of reinforcement. Many people walk away too far during stay training increasing distance, thus lowering their rate of reinforcement.

Distance can also be factored into your Recall as well as that of sit and wait at doors. I see many people work on Recalls at a distance that is either too close so it's too easy or too far making it more difficult than it should be at the outset of training.

I find a good distance for beginning Recall practice is somewhere between 6 – 10 metres. Depending on the dog and their history of Recall try building by increasing 3 metre distances as your dog gets better.

Another way to help your dog decrease distance and come over to you without using your emergency recall word is to teach "Touch". This helps you get your dog over to you in many circumstances.

Place your hand out, palm facing the dog, with fingers pointing to the left or right away from your body depending on the hand you use. When your dog touches your palm with their nose say YES & Treat.

Once your dog is doing this without any hesitation, then start adding the word "Touch", say the cue first and then place your hand out as the target.

Touch is also a great way to get your dog out of play or when you need to get them in from the backyard so you do not spoil the all important Recall. Start the "touch" training at a short distance of 1 – 2 metres then build on it.

Duration is also a very big deterrent for many dogs to either hold stays or deal with frustration and reactivity. I suggest you always consider duration in training, especially when working with reactive dogs. You want to start with a short duration so the dog stays under threshold.

When working on stays of any kind also start with a duration that's easy so the dogs gets the training, then build as necessary, this is really true in the case of sit & wait at doors. I've seen far too many people keep the door open too long (duration) and too wide (distraction), thus the dog keeps breaking the stay.

I find that when this happens, you can ask the dog for a sit & wait about 1-2 metres from the door and as soon as you go to the door and crack it ever so slightly, you can then release the dog right away. This usually accounts for a 2 – 3 second wait. Build on it from there.

Adding and subtracting the Three D's

These three D's are what I consider the mathematics of dog training. It is suggested that you only increase one of these at a time to really maximize the dogs training. However dogs and people are individuals and depending on the respective reward and consequence history of each dog you may be able to increase these D's simultaneously. Hint - the lower the distractions the easier it is to increase duration and distance.

If you have been noticing your dog breaking stays, not coming when called, reacting at some dogs and not others or perhaps door dashing during sit & wait at doors, you may want to reconsider one or all of these three D's in your training protocol.

For instance, are you too close to the door with it open too wide for the dog to hold the stay? The open door is distracting and the duration may be too long.

Are you calling your dog from a far distance while at the beach, park or other area where distractions are really high? Consider doing some shorter distance Recalls in the back yard or in an area that is not too distracting.

Is your dog going over threshold due to dogs being too close, for too long causing too much of a distraction during training to reduce reactivity? Try bringing your dog to a large car park at a park where dogs frequent. Park way away and make sure no dogs can approach from behind or suddenly from the sides. Usually these scenarios provide for short durations as dogs are coming and going not hanging around so much. In addition you can use your car as a time out place, a visual blocker or even drive off if things get too hectic.

When we start focusing on the three D's we usually see where training is falling apart or succeeding. I've yet to find any type of training where the Three D's do not come into play and may need adjusting.

Have fun training and I hope this helps!

Drayton Michaels

<http://www.dogstardaily.com/blogs/three-d%E2%80%99s-dog-training-and-why-you-need-know-about-them%20>

Judges Chair Report

We had a new format for the NBC weekend, with both meetings being held on the Saturday, with a workshop format on the Sunday covering a number of topics. It was really well received by all in attendance and the interactive sessions were a credit to Mel Groth as NBC Chair. Well done Mel with bringing this new format to fruition during such a busy commencement to your tenure as NBC Chair.

I would like to put forward some items that were presented to the GSDCA Judges' Committee Meeting held on the 29th July 2017.

- From the Judges Meeting, Jo Cathie was announced as a GSDCA Specialist Judge, now her acknowledgement by the ANKC as a GSD judge was finalised. Congratulations Jo, you are now officially a NSW Judge rather than from the UK. Looking forward to having more involvement from you as a part of the Specialist Judges.
- Sharon Ballantyne was formally given her GSDCA Specialist Judge's pin at the meeting in front of her peers. It was a pleasure to be see the excitement this created for Sharon.
- In the past year both Russell Wenham and Bruce Knight have chosen not to continue as GSDCA Specialist Judges, in Bruce's case, he has not renewed his ANKC Judges licence.
- As Judges Chair, I will produce an information package, to be sent to aspirants in the Extension Course, to provide them with information about judging, education pack, gradings etc. to ensure the first few shows are as seamless as possible.
- We have three participants in the GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course, with Salvatore Pittelli who will hopefully be finished in February, Jenny DeLucia who is commencing her second phase with examinations and Jess Kada who just commenced this year in the first stage of assessments.
- A discussion item presented to the meeting and fully supported by the Judges present, is for the animals to be presented for measuring and critiques in a natural stance and not to be excessively manipulated by the handler. This will be strongly discouraged. The animal for the gaiting exercises and up and back is also presented naturally and not pulling too hard into the lead. This will help present the animal at its best.
- There were several items that will go forward to the GSDCA AGM in 2018, and the membership will have the opportunity to vote on via their clubs.
- Congratulations to Sharon Ballantyne, Andrew Jones and Natalie Humphries on their acceptance as Aspiring Breed Surveyors. It is great to see the younger members of our fraternity taking the next step to support our breed into the future.

All the best to all exhibitors in the shows for the rest of 2017, it is a very busy period in our show calendar.

Please feel free to contact me on judgescommittee@gsdcouncilaustralia.org or 0435 789 442 if anyone would like to discuss judging or the process. I am only too happy to help.

Robyn Knuckey

HIP & ELBOW awards

GSDCA Hip and Elbow Achievement Awards 2016

Kennels that have bred animals successfully gained the 'A' or 'Z' stamp in the GSDCA HDED Control Scheme to date. Awards have been forwarded to clubs for presentation at state level.

Award	Bronze	Silver	Gold	GSDCA Plaque
No. of dogs	10-24	25-49	50 -99	100+

Thirty-five kennels across Australia qualified for awards during the 2016 year. A total of 43 medallions were awarded to 35 Kennels in 2016, 11 Bronze for Hips & 10 for Elbows, 6 Silver for Hips and 10 Silver for elbows, 4 Gold for Hips and 2 Gold for Elbows.

In addition 4 Plaques for 100 dogs passing the schemes were awarded to 3 Kennels

Congratulations to all Kennels!

Newcastle & Hunter Region

Fremont S & J Lynch 'A' Gold

GSDL NSW

Ambala	F. Stokes & R & P Berechree	'A' GSDCA Plaque
Barkein	G & E Passfield	'A' Gold
Takimbre	C & M Ford	'Z' Silver
Khayem	K McGregor	'A' & 'Z' Silver
Tannalane	J Wilks	'A' & 'Z' Silver
Bernloch	K Griffis	'A' & 'Z' Bronze
Brigenti	G Mansfield	'A' & 'Z' Bronze
Skysfuhre	G De Vries	'A' & 'Z' Bronze
Cossavane	J Thompson	'Z' Bronze
Tyrilebee	C Morrison	'Z' Bronze
Larmada	J Earl	'A' & 'Z' Bronze

Queensland

Kantenna	D and S Ballantyne	'A' GSDCA Plaque
Edlenblut	N Jones & M Groth	'A' Gold
Crossfire	J Hayton	'Z' Silver
Kieserhund	S Robertson	'A' & 'Z' Silver
Voitlander	R Wehnam	'A' Bronze

South Australia

Leberhine	H Garvican R & D Evans	'Z' Silver
Vomkogelberg	J Seidl	'A' Bronze
Burshune	L Burston	'Z' Bronze

Tasmania

Karraine K & P Eaves-Tennant 'A' & 'Z' GSDCA Plaque

Victoria

Awatea	F Grigons	'Z' Gold
Vanharley	D Colson	'A' & 'Z' Gold
Willmaurs	W & M Goodwin	'Z' Silver
Zandrac	A & R Jones	'A' Silver
Jayshell	N McDermott	'A' & 'Z' Silver
Kooryonya	C Gayton-Newson	'A' & 'Z' Silver
Karastro	D Berghofer	'A' Bronze
Hasenway	J Haase	'Z' Bronze
Misteishah	P Vincent	'A' Bronze
Vonisar	V Dobson	'A' & 'Z' Bronze
Vonforell	K Kotsopoulos	'Z' Bronze

Western Australia

Hausosin	K Harris	'Z' Silver
Volscaro	T Roberts & L Pearson	'A' Bronze
Vonaachen	D & C Gallacher	'A' Bronze



Following the 2017 National Show & Trial, Andrew O'Laughlin has taken on the role of GSDCA Youth Officer. We welcome Andrew to the team, knowing that his experiences gained coming through the younger ranks himself will ensure he has much to offer those young 'uns amongst our fraternity.

This is the first article during my position as Youth Officer for the GSDCA and as such I thought it would be best to give a summary of goals and aims to begin with. But firstly, I would like to acknowledge all the hard work Jess Lynch has done while in the position of Youth Officer. Without her hard work and enthusiasm to involve, educate and promote the youth we would not be where we are today. There are a number of things that have started happening over the past few years, and I think these would be advantageous to continue. My aim while in this position is to help educate, involve and encourage the Youth across Australia in as many ways as possible.

The Youth Masterclass on the Thursday of the National Show and Trial is a really excellent chance for the Youth to learn from top handlers, and really does need the encouragement and involvement of everyone that can possibly help or support it to keep this wonderful event continuing into the foreseeable future. Perhaps this may also be able to be expanded to include obedience handling, which could open the doors to a number of new ideas!

Some changes will hopefully be made to the Youth section of the GSDCA website (<http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/australias-youth-2/>) over the next few months. The website has the potential to be interactive, educational, and so much more. If anyone has any ideas on what could be included, I would love to hear them!

Education was another aspect Jess started to introduce, and one that I am very keen to continue too. This leads to the finish of the article, and I would like to do so by asking a few questions.

What are we doing when we set up a dog?

What are we trying to display?

Are we trying to hide anything by doing a particular action?

I would implore all Youth, or anyone learning, to watch a number of handlers set up different dogs. Watch what they do to set the front, each hind leg, and what they do after they've finished moving legs. Watch where they stand. Watch what they do with the lead. Watch how they do it. Then ask yourself "why?"

To start the thinking off, I give you the following image, and ask you this:

why do we set the German Shepherd Dog up with one hind leg back, and one under the hip area? Why don't we set a German Shepherd Dog up with both hind legs in the same location (or foursquare)?

Andrew



Congratulations

At the GSDCA Judges Meeting held on Sunday July 30th, at the annual National Breed Commission meeting, three new aspirant Breed Surveyors were endorsed.

***Congratulations to
Andrew Jones (Vic),
Sharon Ballantyne (Qld) and
Natalie Humphries (WA) as our
aspiring GSDCA Breed Surveyors.***



WANTED

Do you have a good story or a tale to tell?

Or a great photo of your dog???

We'd love to hear about it.

Send it to us at

revieweditor@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA - WUSV harmonisation

GSDCA SGM Outcomes

WUSV Harmonisation Program

The following is a summary of the final outcomes of the GSDCA Special General Meeting where all member clubs voted on the schedules presented for the WUSV Harmonisation program. Following is the submission sent to the WUSV for their consideration.

Dear Professor Messler and the Members of the WUSV Board.

Re: GSDCA- WUSV Special Meeting 3rd June 2017

We have provided you with minutes of the GSDCA Special Meetings held on 3 & 4th June 2017, and note the Member Club Presidents considered the Schedules as put to them by the WUSV CDO but in some instances agreed to amend them based on what is applicable to our situation in Australia. It is important to note that our Member Clubs considered the matters as put to them most seriously and had high numbers of members attend their meetings to decide on the matters to be put to the GSDCA Special General Meeting (SGM) as held on 28th July 2017.

An important decision made at this meeting saw us rescind our policy with regard to Schutzhund.

(1989) - With regard to Schutzhund in Australia the Council takes the official view that whilst Schutzhund training is clearly of great benefit to the dog and has equally great sport and social benefits, the potential political problems associated with Schutzhund in Australia are such that the Council cannot give support to this activity."



We now ask you please consider the attached document **"The GSDCA- WUSV Harmonisation Program: Summary of decisions as made at the GSDCA Special General Meeting 28th July 2017".**

As you are aware the GSDCA has had a long association with the WUSV. Our work has seen us follow the model as set many years ago and we have achieved much in promoting and ensuring the welfare of the GSD in Australia.

We now look to the future and can only trust the WUSV Board will continue to fully support our organisation and work for the GSD.

Yours Sincerely

Vince Tantara
President
GSDCA

The GSDCA - WUSV Harmonisation Program

Summary of decisions as made at the GSDCA Special General Meeting 28th July 2017

Schedule	Breed Harmonisation Item	GSDCA Motions to SGM	Carried/ Lost	Comment
1.	Working Test ZAP (Part 1 – Puppy Test)	<p>"That the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) will introduce the Working Test ZAP (Part I Puppy Test), effective 30 December 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All dogs born after 30 December 2019 may participate in the ZAP (Part 1 Puppy Test). The minimum age to participate in ZAP shall be 9 months and the maximum is 13 months. The German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) shall develop a WUSV compliant procedure manual, certificate, judges training and licensing program for ZAP that shall be effective 30 December 2019. Dogs that pass the ZAP Part 1 test will be issued with a German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) certificate and a pass shall be recorded on the Breed Survey certificate. If a dog fails, providing it is under 13 months of age it can re-present one more time. If a dog fails again it can still proceed to undertake the BH. 	Carried	<p>Ms Elke Effler, a respected German interpreter and a member is currently in the process of translating the German manual.</p> <p>Once completed we will forward this to you for distribution to other WUSV English speaking members</p>

GSDCA - WUSV harmonisation

Schedule	Breed Harmonisation Item	GSDCA Motions to SGM	Carried/ Lost	Comment
2.	Working Test ZAP plus BH	<p>"That the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) will introduce the BH Test as a prerequisite for Breed Survey, effective 30 December 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All dogs born after 30th December 2019 shall be required to pass BH Test in order to be eligible to participate in Breed Survey. The German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) shall develop a WUSV compliant procedure manual, certificate, judges training and licensing program for BH that shall be in place by 30 December 2020. The minimum age to participate shall be 15 months. Dogs that pass will be issued with a German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) certificate. This will constitute part of the mandatory paperwork in the Breed Survey application procedure and recorded on the Breed Survey certificate. 	Carried	
3.	Working Test ZAP plus BH plus AD	<p>"That the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) will introduce the BH test and AD, as prerequisites for Breed Survey effective 30 December 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All dogs born after 30 July 2020 shall be required to pass BH and AD tests in order to be eligible to participate in Breed Survey. The German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) shall develop a WUSV compliant procedure manual, certificate, judges training and licensing program for AD that shall be in place by 30 December 2021. Dogs that pass will be issued with a German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) certificate. This will constitute part of the mandatory paperwork in the Breed Survey application procedure and recorded on the Breed Survey certificate and dog's pedigree. 	Carried	
4.	Microchip / Tattooing	The ANKC and government require all dogs to be microchipped. It is a prerequisite that all animals must be microchipped in order to participate in all German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) Breed Improvement Schemes.	No Vote	
5.	DNA National DNA Identification scheme and procedure.	"That the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) investigates the ramifications of introducing the WUSV DNA Scheme and what will soon be announced as an ANKC initiative that will introduce its own DNA testing regime and report to 2018 German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) Annual General Meeting (AGM).	Carried	
6.	Minimum breeding age males – 18 months	"That the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) Code of Ethics is amended to read: The minimum breeding age for a dog will be 24 months at the time of mating".	Lost	Currently the GSDCA Code of Ethics states animals under the age of 18 months age cannot be bred with and is aligned with the ANKC regulation.
7.	Minimum breeding age females – 18 months.	"That the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) Code of Ethics is amended to read: The minimum breeding age for a female will be 20 months, at the time of mating".	Lost	Currently the GSDCA Code of Ethics states animals under the age of 18 months age cannot be bred with and is aligned with the ANKC regulation.

GSDCA - WUSV harmonisation

Schedule	Breed Harmonisation Item	GSDCA Motions to SGM	Carried/ Lost	Comment
8.	Maximum number of studs per year – 90 studs	"That the following is included in the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) Code of Ethics: The maximum number of studs any one dog may have will be limited to 90 per calendar year".	Carried	
9.	Maximum number of litters females – 3 litters max during 24 months.	(a) "That the following be included in the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) Code of Ethics: The maximum number of litters any one bitch may have, be limited to 3 per 24 month period. It is noted where the Canine Control regulation is tougher then that will apply". (b) "That the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) makes submission to the ANKC proposing a change to the current regulations that will see them amended to apply nationally for GSD: The maximum number of litters any one bitch may have be limited to 3 per 24 month period".	Carried Lost	
10.	Re X-ray HD after 30 studs.	"That effective 1 st December 2020, the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) implements a procedure that ensures all GSDCA Breed Surveyed male dogs, after 30 litters, must be re-x-rayed for HD/ED.	Lost	
11.	AI – allowed	Artificial Insemination (AI) Currently allowed and covered by ANKC & GSDCA Regulations.	No Change	
12.	In breeding limits – Minimum inbreeding 1/1,2/1, 2/3, 3/2	"That the current regulation regarding inbreeding is amended to read: "Animals born after 1 July 2018 to be classified at breed survey must not have any line-breeding closer than (3-3)". Animals born prior to 1 July 2018 must not have any linebreeding closer than (3-2) or (2-3). "That the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) makes submission to the ANKC proposing a change to the current regulation with regard to line breeding as it applies to GSD to not having linebreeding any closer than 3-3".	Carried Carried	
13.	HD scheme and X-rays	German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) has a HD Scheme in place that has been in operation since 1984, and is of the firm opinion that the scheme as administered is most credible and therefore will remain in place	No Vote	
14.	ED scheme and X-rays.	German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) has an ED Scheme in place that has been in operation since 1991, and is of the firm opinion that the scheme as administered is most credible and therefore will remain in place.	No Vote	
15.	HD/ED Procedure.	"That the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) continues with its own HD/ED Scheme, with consideration being given to having its readers accredited by the WUSV and the possible sharing of HD/ED Data".	Carried	The German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) is happy to provide resumes and contact details of our 3 radiologists that are our readers, and for them to liaise directly with Dr Tellheim, University Clinic of Geissen.
16.	Minimum Show Grading – Good.	"That effective 1 st July 2018, as a pre-requisite for Breed Survey, a dog must have gained a minimum of a "Good" grading at a specialist show prior to application for Breed Survey. The grading certificate must be provided with other documentation at Breed Survey.	Carried	
17.	Breed Survey – other than amendments to reflect breeding matrix.	"That effective 1 st December 2020, the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) will initiate that the first Breed Survey classification shall be for two years, at the end of which, the <u>males</u> shall be represented for life classification".	Lost	

GSDCA - WUSV harmonisation

Schedule	Breed Harmonisation Item	GSDCA Motions to SGM	Carried/ Lost	Comment
18	Pedigrees as per ANKC	Currently the ANKC registers all pure bred dogs in Australia and issues pedigrees.	No Vote	
19	ANKC submission	GSDCA Motion: - Schedule 19(a) "That the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) shall put a submission to the ANKC that any of its club affiliated members who wish to participate in the sport of IPO, may do so providing it is done with full compliance of state or territory law".	Carried	The GSDCA Dogsport Working Group (GDWP) has been formed as per advice sent 1 st August. The GSDCA submission will be made on or before 1 st November 2017.
20.	SV Working Dog Judges	Held in abeyance until process with ANKC re Schedule 19 (a) has been determined.	Status Quo remains	It must be noted that whilst the GSDCA has rescinded its policy with regard to Schutzhund, the GSDCA and its Member Clubs are subject to the ANKC policy with regard to attack training.
21	WUSV World IPO Championships – Australian representative	Held in abeyance until process with ANKC re Schedule 19 (a) has been determined.	Status Quo remains	
22	Grading of Excellent/ Vorzuglich	"That the gun test will be introduced and conducted forthwith the exception being for shows where the ANKC schedule has been approved and will apply to all animals exhibited in the Open Classes at all Member Club and or sponsored shows where the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) Excellent grading may be awarded".	Carried	
23	Grading of Excellent Select/ Vorzuglich Auslese		No Vote	The GSDCA currently does not conduct a National Breed Show where Excellent Select can be awarded.



The GSDCA will soon begin to implement the ZAP1 Puppy Test as part of the WUSV Harmonisation program that member clubs have approved. Below is an extract from the SV (German) website regarding the introduction of the character assessment in Germany.

A question of character – ZAP Puppy Test

Breeding pedigree dogs is essential for meeting society's needs for service dogs, working dogs, sporting dogs or simply a four-legged family companion. Pedigree dogs are branded goods that are characterised by their unmistakable "breed-specific" features.

The character or nature is a feature set out in the German Shepherd standard, which is used to characterise the product as "typical" while taking many other factors into consideration. The assertions and requirements covered by the character judgment are principally designed to prove the dogs are environmentally sound and socially friendly. But they are also drawn upon as an additional examination for our working dog requirements. The character judgment includes determining a dog's behavioural traits that manifest themselves on the basis of hereditary assets subject to the available breeding, development and posture qualities.

The character judgment within the SV

At the 2017 Federal Convention, there will be an application for character judgments to be introduced. The core team behind the concept, consisting of Udo Wolters, Jens-Peter Flügge, Helmut König, Joachim Stiegler, Marco Ossmann, Heinz Gerdes, Egon Gutknecht, Egon Baumgart, Hartmut Setecki and Lothar Quoll, would like to take this opportunity to outline the most important points of the evaluation.

Questions about character judgments

Why do we need a character judgment?



Society as a whole is being increasingly critical and applying significant pressure on dog breeders, handlers and pedigree dog breeding societies. Bans on dangerous dogs, and unscrupulous dog breeders and trainers are being more and more widely discussed. And the discussion always returns to devastating bite incidents involving dogs. The fear, which is largely the trigger and cause of these discussions and requirements that is at the heart of this issue must be taken seriously. Meaningful measures need to be taken to show that we are taking

the situation seriously, and want to find solutions and foster a feeling of good will.

Even-tempered dogs who have strong nerves yet are not excessively aggressive are in demand nowadays. The dogs must be able to adequately deal with the constantly changing demands of their social environment. By introducing the concept behind the character judgment, the society is implementing its wish to place our dogs' nature

and its fundamental importance at the forefront, and to make it possible to assess its influencing factors.

And this is therefore important to later align canine efforts and work, to understand the reasons behind unwanted behaviour traits and disorders – also known as character deficiencies – and to help prevent these emerging further in the world of dog ownership in a way that is appropriate both for the animal and for society as a whole. We are responsible for using the knowledge arising from biological behavioural research on the nature of dogs available to us presently and for considering the knowledge gleaned from cynology.

The key guiding principles are therefore using knowledge gained from biological behavioural research to better understand the dog, its behaviour and its behaviour development. In doing so, it is important to consider the interplay between inherited and acquired behaviour control traits, and between fear and aggression. There is no doubt today that a dog's nature is not predominantly determined by genetics. Instead, it is the combined result of countless interactions between hereditary dispositions and natural, social and civilizing environmental conditions. Therefore, only the foundations of nature are inherited. Nature itself is not inherited, but rather it develops as a result of environmental conditions on the basis of genetic dispositions. Hereditary dispositions are not based on specific nature or behaviour genes, but rather on genes that when combined have an effect on the organism's development and behaviour foundations. This means that one and the same gene influences the inheritance of physical and behavioural traits.

What does this mean for nature?

Even if you discount necessary environmental influences as part of this consideration for ease – nature cannot be bred by itself. Our dogs have innate regulation mechanisms. They have an innate ability to learn.

Using the different innate strategies for gaining experience, it is possible for the dog to complement its behaviour to the conditions within its "personal" environment. Learning is therefore not something distorting or overlapping, but rather fulfils the innate drive for openness and incompleteness. Learning – particularly formative and character-like learning – therefore allows a dog's nature to develop. A dog's nature is the result of a dynamic development process between genetics and environment. Unfavourable environmental deficiencies cannot be compensated for through breeding. Dogs who are unable to fulfil their innate drive for learning an open behaviour program naturally develop behaviour that is more or less distorted.

In future, the society will not only support its members to teach a dog to perform to BH/IPO standards. By introducing the character judgments, we want to encourage dog owners to ensure that a dog is not deprived of anything that they need for their behaviour and nature to develop healthily (Kaspar Hauser effect). Furthermore, we must not expect anything unnatural from the dog, which may harm the development of their nature. Deprivation or excessive demands result in fear or aggressive behaviour.

The way dogs live alongside humans has changed and our dogs must be introduced to these changing conditions. A puppy's willingness for social



ZAP puppy test



convergence or confrontation with the environment crucially depends on their past experiences during rearing, and on the coping strategies they have learned and acquired until this point, as well as meeting their natural social needs. Without the right rearing and developmental conditions, our dogs cannot themselves show which genes they are really carrying, which is why humans must bear this responsibility to demonstrate what the dogs cannot achieve.

What happens in a character judgement?

As part of a character judgment, a dog's behaviour and its flexibility is recorded by confronting them with different stimuli that may trigger or provoke a particular behaviour. A conclusion can be drawn on the dog's nature based on their behaviour throughout the entire assessment, with the aim of checking the dog's suitability for living with humans in today's world as objectively as possible.



The dog should not be handled in obedience. Commands must be kept to the very minimum. For this reason, performance examinations (BH, IPO, etc.) that predominantly test learned and conditioned behaviour are no substitute for character judgments. Character judgments are split into the following categories:

Impartiality: The dog should allow their handler and an unknown person, e.g. the judge, to touch them at different points on the body.

Social behaviour: Interaction with people, individuals, groups

Noise sensitivity: In this section, the dog is subjected to different acoustic stimuli, e.g. rattling, engine noise and blanks being fired as the loudest stimulus.

Certainty of movement: Sensitivity to heights (e.g. assessed by looking at a dog's movement behaviour across tables) as well as a dog's movement on flat ground.

Play and predatory instinct/behaviour under stress: The assessment is based on how the dog plays with their owner (teamwork) and with an unknown person (representative). Furthermore, the intensity towards

obstructed prey (willingness to find) and their willingness to play under increased demands (moving table) are also assessed. Only a dog that feels comfortable in its environment and can cope with the situation is able to play.

Basic nature: Behaviour in isolation and when meeting an unknown person.



What happens during the assessment?

The dog is assessed in two ways: based on the specific evaluation of each behaviour trait (descriptive) and based on reliability ratings. Not only are the dog's reactions crucial here, but also how the dog manages the individual situations and using which coping strategies. If the dog becomes visibly overstressed, the assessment is stopped so that the dog is not harmed indefinitely.

General grounds for exclusion include character deficiencies that are also stipulated in our breed standard. This affects dogs that are very anxious, aggressive dogs that show increased aggression in peaceful situations, as well as dogs that are sensitive to shots being fired. The description makes it easier for the dog owner and other persons involved to follow the results of the character judgment. By awarding reliability ratings, it is possible to add more weighting to more significant behavioural situations. Furthermore, the reliability ratings make it possible to gather statistics and monitor the character judgments more closely.



What are the implementation provisions?

Dogs aged between 9 and 13 months (inclusive) are permitted for entry.

While the assessment is being taken voluntarily (until BV May 2017), dogs that do not fit in this time window can also be entered. For cases where a dog has not been entered for a character judgment at the right age with good reason, it is planned that they can subsequently be entered for a character judgment, regardless of age (re-entrant). This also applies to dogs bred abroad or dogs acquired when they are older who are then destined to be used for breeding in Germany. In both cases, a five-month waiting period automatically comes into force between

ZAP puppy test



passing the character judgment and the work element of the ZAP (similar to initially entering breeding programs aged between 13 and 18 months).

Once the character judgment and ZAP have been passed, the dog must pass the breeding survey before they can be used for breeding without restriction. In the event of a negative result, the character judgment can be repeated once. It will be noted in the assessment documentation if a dog is repeating the assessment. A report will be drawn up for each assessed dog, which will then be given to the owner. The data sheet lists information about the age of the subject, gender, condition, husbandry conditions and future intended use. The character judgment is listed on the pedigree and the dog's owner receives a certificate and completed assessment sheets. The assessments achieved are published in SV-DOxS. As with the breeding program, the society has made the "SV character judgment" program available to event organizers.

How will the character judgment be supported?

After the SV BV unanimously decided in May 2014 to introduce the SV's character judgment, the core team worked on procedure and content of the character judgment. Since then, the VDH has required its pedigree dog breeding societies to carry out random behaviour tests. There are many parallels between the VDH procedure and our concept, whereby attention is also paid to the individual breeds' coping strategies in assessment situations, as well as breed-specific characteristics as part of the assessment.



In 2015, several pilot events were held in the SV and the experience gained during these events was then evaluated by the core team, implemented accordingly and the assessment sheets were modified as necessary. The pilot events were open to the public, meaning members had the opportunity to learn more about the assessment. At the same time, the core team also paid great attention to training judges as character judges so that there are now a total of 38 character judges (WBU) throughout Germany who have passed the training and are available to carry out the assessments. The core team determined that the character judgment is a main society event in the public eye – similar to a breeding survey.



On the occasion of the SV BV in May 2016, the character judgment was first introduced on a voluntary basis. At the same time, the core team were tasked with developing the work element of the breeding examinations (ZAP). The concept was presented in several countries around the world and was very well received. So much so, the WUSV decided to use the character judgment as a basis for harmonizing the global implementation of standardized breeding and training for German Shepherds in line with the SV's applicable constitutions and regulations (Agenda 2025).

What does ZAP stand for ?

Zuchtanlageprüfung (ZAP) – Rating of mental and physical breeding disposition

Source: <https://www.schaeferhunde.de/en/the-german-shepherd/character-judgment/>

Images sourced from SV ZAP Puppy Test Video titled:

Educational film for the examination of the German Shepherd Dog Association (SV) e.V. which can be viewed here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Z8mEQ_qqs&feature=youtu.be



**Verein für
Deutsche Schäferhunde
(SV) e.V.**



**Weltunion
der Vereine für
Deutsche Schäferhunde**

Looking at things from the other side.

A letter from Val Bonney.

Recently I had the honour and pleasure of being presented a SERVICE AWARD from the G.S.D.C.A in recognition of SERVICE to the German Shepherd Dog. I was surprised, excited and humbled to receive such an Award.

What I would like to do here is to write about the other side and what owning a German Shepherd did for me and my family which deserves my giving the German Shepherd a huge SERVICE AWARD

Nearly 40 years ago, my son brought home a German Shepherd bitch, about 11 months old, which he took from a man who was badly beating her. It took about 3 months to heal the wounds. The only Shepherd I have ever had to muzzle, but I grew to love her, and she loved me and my family.

The kids had always had dogs, but they were always just family pets, and were never taken for training of any description, but I felt this young Shepherd needed both the socializing and training she would get from attending an Obedience School.

By the way, her name on her collar was 'Bonnie'. Do you think that was an omen?

I asked my son who had rescued her to take her to training, but he was too busy. He was 18 years of age at the time, and I guess training the dog was the last thing on his mind, so I decided I would take her, which I did.

Working with a dog and learning about dogs was the last thing on my mind. At this time I was working with The Qld. Red Cross in the Appeals and Fund Raising Dept, and had been for several years. Loved what I was doing.

I was for many years before that a Travelling Cosmetic Consultant and had over 20 years in the industry, so why would I want to become involved with a dog industry? I didn't. Had never given it any thought. I knew nothing about it. It was foreign territory to me.

HOWEVER; for the last almost 40 years, dogs and the German Shepherd in particular have been my life. My love for "Bonnie" became an unsought passion. She became my catalyst.

I studied all I could, did courses with the Canberra University, read, attended seminars, talked to and worked with experienced trainers and took up volunteer training with a man known by many, Keith Kirkpatrick (R.I.P. Keith), and also Roger Hayden (Corrective Services) (R.I.P. Roger) and Bob Close (Corrective Services.), who on retirement, became one of my trainers.

Owning that first German Shepherd has seen me with many more of this wonderful Breed over the years and from each one of them I have learnt. They were all different in so many ways, and if we are open to them they have so much to teach us.

Competing in Obedience at all levels, Judging, running my own Training School (Bonnies Dog Obedience & Care Centre), becoming a certified Behavioural Consultant, working with the Queensland University in their Tesol Programmes, working with and attending the Colleges in Japan, and Training the many hundreds of Japanese Students who come every year to the University of Qld. to further their education. This has been happening now for 16 years, & 2017 will be 17th year "Bonnies" have worked with these students who are here to learn about training dogs of all breeds and their owners, and I and my trainers are proud to be working with them.

Owning that 1st German Shepherd has seen me working for 20 years, each and every year, in Japan with a man named Johnny Kobayashi in Obedience Schools he has started from scratch. He now has over 2000 members throughout 3 different cities. Obedience training was not really heard of in Japan before he started all those years ago. He also had a German Shepherd, bought here in Brisbane as a puppy. His wife said he could only get a small dog, so he took her to see it as a 7 week old puppy. She said "Okay that's a good size". She was first shocked as it grew, but she loved it. It did get to be a large Shep. It has passed on and he can't bear to replace it. He certainly has been instrumental in promoting the breed in Japan. It has been my pleasure to be his mentor over these years.

In 1996 I was privileged to be able to work with a fabulous trainer of Police dogs in West Virginia America for 6 weeks. I learnt so much. Tracking, Bite Work, Drug Work, Scent work, Obedience, & Agility. I took one of my female trainers Chanelle with me. We were so proud to cover so much work with the German Shepherds we had to train. They were raw and frankly, so were we. But we learnt and so did they. They were sold to Sheriffs before we left. The men we worked with even wanted to teach us how to use a gun. Frightening. I thought I would shoot myself in the foot, and Chanelle worried she would shoot me. It took 2 men to get me into the Bite Suit and 3 to get me out. Fun all the way. I did become the only lay person to ever become a member of the West Virginian Canine Police Asscn.

In 2008, before the Olympic games, saw me working in China with the police dog squad. They had some problems with a couple of their German Shepherds, and I was invited to spend a month with them. All problems solved thank goodness, and a plan of our police dog kennels at Oxley here in Brisbane, was sent to China on my return. The Chinese wasted no time in erecting the new kennels for their working dogs. They didn't have good facilities while I was there. A real eye opener actually. Upset me, hence the sending the plans of the new police kennels here in Brisbane. Hurrah!

The German Shepherd has seen me lecturing in 12 cities and towns in Kuala Lumpur, working in Singapore and Hong Kong, attending and giving seminars in Honolulu and Maui with 93 other trainers from all over the world, giving a seminar in Tahiti and meeting some wonderful people at Crufts in England.

This total change of direction in my life all those years ago now sees me currently still doing Training, Judging, Seminars, Radio Talk back with Spain and the U.K. every 3 weeks, doing a "BITE FREE COURSE" with Councils, and a "5 UNIT CORRESPONDENCE COURSE" (covering all aspects of working with canines) which other trainers and Vet Nurses and anyone else who wants to learn more about working with the canine can do.

The three books and 2 dvd's in the "Who's the Boss" series would never have been written if it had not been for that first German Shepherd "Bonnie" coming into our home and my life. These books and dvd's have proved to be a great Educational package for owners of all breeds of dogs and a great asset to Breeders who give them to their puppy buyers.

My Husband, and family have all been affected in some way from the owning and working with "Bonnie", our beautiful first German Shepherd.

The last 40 years could have and I believe would have been totally different. I don't know what I would have been doing. It certainly would not have been working for and with dogs. Thanks Bonnie.

Both my husband, Bruce and I love what we do. I sometimes have to wonder if we would still be working if we were not working with dogs. In our training classes we have many German Shepherds along with

almost all other breeds working away in an orderly, friendly manner with their loving owners. Some have problems, but they are usually solved before their training course is finished. Hopefully we are giving all the dogs and owners who attend, the companion they want and need. This gives us joy. We feel we have only been successful when we see this. We have never regretted taking the direction we were given all those years ago.

Many other events have happened over the years. I think I have listed the main ones that would never have occurred except for Bonnie and the other G.S.D's I have had over all these years.

Most of you reading this I am sure, if you give it thought, can attribute what you are doing to a canine that was the catalyst in directing you in some form or other.

I would like to conclude here by repeating what I have already said.

SERVICE AWARD.

I, VAL BONNEY hereby give a SERVICE AWARD to "Bonnie" for her love, companionship and for the life changing values that me and my family have experienced.

Val Bonney

(Canine Behaviourist/International Trainer/Author/Judge)

ACTION ITEM – GSDCNT Withdrawal from GSDCA

The below action was from the 2017 GSDCA AGM.

Action: The Secretary to write to the GSDCNT accepting their resignation from this Organisation and include thanks to current and past members of this Club that were instrumental in seeing it survive for so long. This letter will then be published in the QNR.

20th February 2017

Mrs. M. Adams,
GSDC of the NT President,

Dear Margaret,

In response to your letter dated 26th January 2017, in which you advised the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) that after consultation with the members of the German Shepherd Dog Club of the Northern Territory it was no longer possible to maintain its affiliation and withdrew its membership as a member of the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia.

Please be advised that your letter was tabled at the recent GSDCA Annual General Meeting held 11th & 12th February 2017, in which the GSDCA Executive and Member Clubs have reluctantly accepted the membership withdrawal of the GSDC NT.

We express our sincere appreciation to the many members that during its history as a Member Club of the GSDCA has worked tirelessly to ensure that the German Shepherd Dog at all times is sound in body and mind and respected as an excellent ambassador of the breed.

We specifically make mention of the following:

Inaugural Members

Riley Wing MBE, Mr. Wolf Meffert, Mr. & Mrs. Bickerton, Mr. & Mrs. Hand.

Life Members

Riley Wing MBE, Ms. Veronica Fairbairn, Mr. Wolf Meffert, Mrs. Jenny Kenworthy, Ms. Gail Schultz, Mrs. Shirley Wright, Mrs. Karen Veneman, Mr. Steve Jones, Ms. Mary Ryng.

Patron

Hon. Ted Egan AO (2006),

President's of the Club

Mr. Riley Wing, Mr. Wolf Meffert, Mr. Bobby Haworth, Mr. Ross Marlborough, Mrs. Karen Veneman, Mr. Steve Jones, Mrs. Mary Ryng, Mrs. Sandy Baker, Mrs. Margaret Adams.

We also thank the many members that helped the Club throughout its history, i.e. Ms. Jenny Grahl, Bobby & Carla Hayworth, Jan & Joe Vicelie, and Mrs. Margaret Francis, plus many more over the years.

We suggest that any GSDC NT members who would like to remain a member of a Member Club as part of the GSDCA, contact the appropriate Club to discuss and arrange possible membership.

We thank the current GSDCNT Committee and members for their continued support of the GSDCA and wish you all well for the future.

Yours Sincerely,

Val Moody

Honorary Secretary
German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc.

NATIONAL breed commission report

The annual GSDCA National Breed Commission meeting was held in Adelaide over the weekend of July 29-30, 2017. The following is a summary report from NBC Chair Mel Groth, and also the full report from each office holder under the National Breed commission portfolio, as presented at the NBC Meeting.

Post Meeting Overview – National Breed Commission

The 2017 National Breed Commission meeting hosted by the GSDCSA was highly successful in bringing the delegates, surveyors and judges together for a weekend of collaboration, discussion and decision making. Acting on recommendations from the Breed Survey Forum held twelve months prior we embarked on a format designed around education, purposeful discussion with administration and reports being kept to the minimum. Information disseminated prior to the meeting was overviewed so our time was maximised for collaboration and education.

The event was ably supported by Secretary, Val Moody and Minute secretary, Barbara Blythe. Between the two they captured every detail. Barbara fighting a debilitating chest infection soldiered on getting through three days of intense work and concentration. We owe her a great debt of thanks for the contribution she brings to the Executive team for our meetings.

The minutes to be circulated to clubs will capture the recommendations to be put to clubs between now and the AGM. The Sunday was dedicated solely to education. Highly regarded and credentialed keynote speaker Dr Kirsten Hailstone gave a detailed and informative presentation on dentition, faults, malocclusions, diagnosis and treatment. This information will be made available to members through the magazine at a later date. Robyn Knuckey, Judges Chair presented us with a workshop 'Talking Heads' where we unpacked the standard and zoomed in on the structure of heads, ears, eyes, jaws etc. Groups worked together to provide collaborative critiquing of dogs presented. An insightful workshop covering the evolving construction of the GSD spanning a century was presented by Louis Donald, Continental Director. Louis presented many illustrations from his latest article on the hindquarter and the group worked together to discuss how the curvature of the spine that exists in our current show dogs, has impacted on the angle of the croup and the depth of the hindquarter. We ran short of time and look forward to Louis presenting the next chapter that will detail how all of this impacts on the function and movement of the GSD.

Alastair Henderson, State Coordinator Victoria, provided us with some innovations that the Breed Survey team in Victoria have been trialling and recommendations for how we can improve survey for the members were discussed. Frank Moody led the group through various ways to access information from the database and input surveys. This was highly informative and well received by the group. Jane Pike and Louis Donald gave an overview of the teeth check at the National. This overview covered the dentition aspect, the handling of the dogs for the teeth check and the response from the SV judges as to what they considered were issues.

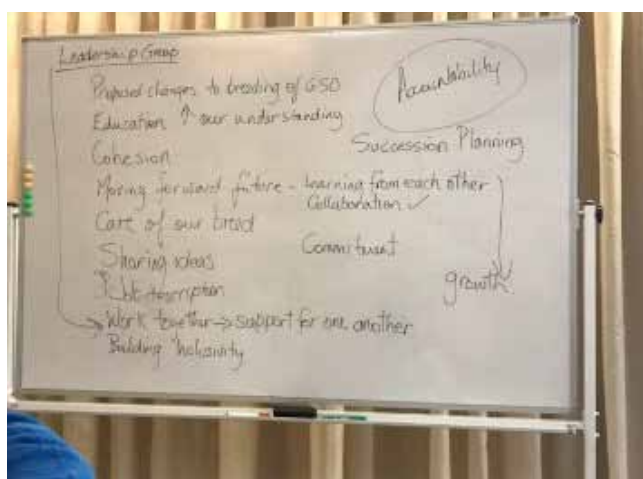
It is to be hoped that the surveyors, judges and delegates in attendance will disseminate this information at club level to further enlighten the membership. We will endeavour to present information in the review at a later date, however publication of this material needs to be formatted for the magazine.

The group acknowledged the retirement of three of our Breed Surveyors, Fran Farley, Barry O'Rourke and Bruce Knight and thanked them for their contribution. Barry will see out the Breed Survey year (40 years of the National Breed Commission) and will hang up his survey boots on December 31.

It is acknowledged we have much work to do and we look forward to an even greater attendance of surveyors and judges in Melbourne next year. We have a Breed survey manual to adapt and a working party has been set up to get this underway and there are plans in motion to extend and expand our education efforts over the next twelve months. Thank you to all who helped put the meeting together and make it a success, in particular the presenters and Val Moody who makes the magic happen.

Melanie Groth

National Breed Commission Chair



NATIONAL breed commission report

NBC Chair Report

I present my first report as the National Breed Commission Chair. I could not have envisaged a more busy entrance into the role than 2017 has presented. I wish to thank the outgoing Chair Joylene Neddermeyer for her support and guidance in assisting me to problem solve and navigate the variety of issues that are presented on sometimes a weekly basis. The current executive has helped me to settle in to the role and I wish to thank them publicly for their support. Thank you to Robyn Knuckey and Vince Tantaró for providing advice and assistance in making decisions regarding all NBC matters. Val and Frank Moody have been on hand to support and guide and point me in the right direction when needed. Jane Pike and Jacinta Poole have been invaluable providing technical support and providing excellent assistance for the National Sires Progeny statistics and subsequent report. Julie Urie and I commenced our portfolios together and she has been terrific in providing advice and support over this past 6 months. The executive works as a collective and in particular decisions made by the NBC (President, Judges and NBC Chairs) are discussed and agreed upon as a collective.

It has been a steep learning curve and I would like to thank the registrars, state coordinators, the club presidents and secretaries and executive for their patience. It's a role one never seems to be on top of. Since commencing the role I am in receipt of over 2800 emails! Most of the executive would have similar numbers if not more, so as a voluntary position it is not one for the faint hearted.

The registrars who work within this portfolio have presented written reports on the business conducted over the past 12 months. Thank you to Doug West HDED; Adam Toretto, Identification; Candy Baker

Hereditary Diseases and Frank Moody Database. None of them were new to their positions so they have maintained their workstreams without too much interference from me. Their reports are presented here with some comments from the chair.

HIP & ELBOW DYSPLASIA REPORT

Madam Chairperson, Mr. President, Club Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Once again, I'm pleased to present my report to the NBC Meeting 2017 covering activity on the GSDCA Hip & Elbow Control Scheme. The Council's Database now has 10,510 animals recorded as at 16/6/2017, comprising of 3,094 males (29.45%) and 7,416 bitches (70.55%).

Again this year the statistics have been extracted from the GSDCA database and is an increase on the 10,115 in 2016. There have been 395 animals entered into Council's Database during the 2016/17 year, and this represents 34 years of records on file. Eighteen years of records are entered on the current Database and a further 16 years that originated from the database I constructed and maintained prior to its introduction.

The following report is comprised of data extracted from the entire GSDCA Database and covers the period 1st July 2016 to 16th June 2017 (last 12 months). However the entire data base is also reported on to give the complete picture in regards to Hip & Elbow Dysplasia in this country.

Table: 1 2017 Entire Database to 16/06/2017

Club	Submitted		'A'		'Z'	
ACT	184	1.75%	154	1.47%	179	1.70%
BH	35	0.33%	28	0.27%	34	0.32%
NHR	451	4.29%	408	3.88%	444	4.22%
NSW	2550	24.26%	2245	21.36%	2504	23.82%
NT	87	0.83%	63	0.60%	83	0.79%
NZ	642	6.11%	506	4.81%	593	5.64%
QLD	1644	15.64%	1360	12.94%	1585	15.08%
SA	1208	11.49%	1060	10.09%	1164	11.08%
TAS	355	3.38%	301	2.87%	338	3.22%
VIC	2038	19.39%	1773	16.87%	1965	18.70%
WA	1316	12.52%	1149	10.93%	1283	12.21%
Year 2017:	10,510	100.00%	9,047	86.08%	10,172	96.78%
Year 2016:	10,115	100.00%	8,681	85.82%	9,831	97.19%
Year 2015:	9,582	100.00%	8,222	85.81%	9,320	97.27%
Year 2014:	9,430	100.00%	8,084	85.73%	9,171	97.25%

Table 1 shows the entire database as at 16/06/2017. A total of 10,510 animals have been submitted to the scheme since records have been recorded electronically. 9,047 animals have gained the "A" stamp giving an 86.08% pass rate, this is an increase on last year's 8,681 a 366 increase demonstrating +0.26% increase in the pass rate. With elbows 10,171 gaining the 'Z' stamp resulting in a pass rate of 96.78% this is an increase on last year's (2016) total which saw 9,831 animals submitted for Elbows, an increase of 340 on the previous year or 3.46% increase.

Table 1 also shows a breakdown and trends of the various Clubs' participation for the last four years, and each State's results.

The State of NSW has the most animals submitted with 2,550 (to 16/06/2017) 24.26% of the total database. Of those 2,245 (21.36%) of those that gained the 'A' the pass rate on Hips for NSW was 88.04% and 2,504 (21.36% of the total Database) gained the 'Z' giving a pass rate for NSW of 98.20% on Elbows.

NATIONAL breed commission report

New Zealand has had 642 animals participate in the scheme. Only three animals have been submitted for 2017 to date. The decreasing trend has continued over the past four years - 15 in 2016, 21 in 2015 and 26 in 2014. In the late 90's early 2000's participation for NZ was around 50 animals per year.

Overall, an improvement in the pass rate for Hips of 0.35% from 2014 – 2017 from 85.73% in 2014 to 86.08% in 2017. Elbows have recorded a slight decline in pass rate of -0.48% from 97.25% in 2014 to 96.77 in 2017.

Table 1A Entire Data Base 2017: Elbows

Club	BORDERLINE		NORMAL ELB		NEAR NORMAL		GR1 ELB		GR2 ELB		GR3 ELB		UAP	
ACT	0	0.00%	128	1.22%	0	0.00%	35	0.33%	16	0.15%	3	0.03%	0	0.00%
BH	0	0.00%	25	0.24%	0	0.00%	7	0.07%	3	0.03%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
NHR	0	0.00%	356	3.39%	1	0.01%	72	0.69%	17	0.16%	3	0.03%	2	0.02%
NSW	0	0.00%	2,009	19.12%	4	0.04%	361	3.43%	142	1.35%	18	0.17%	13	0.12%
NT	0	0.00%	66	0.63%	0	0.00%	11	0.10%	6	0.06%	3	0.03%	1	0.01%
NZ	1	0.01%	404	3.84%	0	0.00%	145	1.38%	51	0.49%	5	0.05%	14	0.13%
QLD	2	0.02%	1212	11.53%	1	0.01%	279	2.65%	102	0.97%	22	0.21%	24	0.23%
SA	0	0.00%	913	8.69%	1	0.01%	189	1.80%	71	0.68%	12	0.11%	20	0.19%
TAS	0	0.00%	266	2.53%	0	0.00%	51	0.49%	24	0.23%	5	0.05%	5	0.05%
VIC	1	0.01%	1,519	14.45%	0	0.00%	346	3.29%	113	1.08%	18	0.17%	29	0.28%
WA	2	0.02%	906	8.62%	0	0.00%	224	2.13%	157	1.49%	14	0.13%	6	0.06%
Year 2017	6	0.06%	7804	74.25%	7	0.07%	1720	16.37%	702	6.68%	103	0.98%	114	1.08%
Year 2016	5	0.05%	7445	73.60%	13	0.13%	1708	16.89%	728	7.20%	123	1.22%	110	1.09%
Year 2015	5	0.05%	7,008	73.13%	5	0.05%	1,643	17.14%	712	7.43%	117	1.22%	102	1.06%
Year 2014	5	0.05%	6,880	72.96%	0	0.00%	1,621	17.19%	709	7.52%	118	1.25%	100	1.06%

Table 1A above, shows State participation for the entire database for Elbows. A breakdown of Elbows is shown including UAP. This table gives an overall picture of where each state is in relation to the scheme. A comparison is also provided between the past 4 years at the bottom.

The data in Table 1A demonstrates an overall decreasing trend in the incidence of Elbow gradings presented from 2014-2017, with the exception of UAP which rose by 0.02%

It also shows for 2016 that a total number of 6 animals has received Borderline (0.06%), 7,804 has received a Normal Elbow (74.25%), 7 received Near Normal (0.07%), 1,720 received Grade 1 (16.37%), 702 received Grade 2 (6.68%), 103 received Grade 3 (0.98%), 114 (1.08%) having UAP.

Table 2 shows the consolidated figures for the entire data base. 10,510 animals have been presented, 9,047 have gained the 'A' stamp giving a pass rate 86.08% for hips.

Table 2 Entire Data Base 2017

Total Data Base	10,510	100%
Dr Lavelle	5,473	52.07%
Dr Wyburn	4,637	44.12%
Dr Richardson	400	3.81%
Females	7,415	70.55%
Males	3,095	29.45%
Hips:		
Total Hip Pass	9,047	86.08%
Total Hip Fail	1,396	13.28%
Hip N/S=	67	0.64%

Readers

Figures for adjudication are as follows

- Dr Lavelle 5473 = 52.07%
- Dr Wyburn 4,637 = 44.12%
- Dr Richardson 400 = 3.81%

The feminine influence with 7,415 (70.55%) continues to be much stronger than the males with 3,095 (29.45%). Hips to date have 9,047 gaining the 'A' resulting in a Pass rate of 86.08% for Hips.

Elbow Summary

The Elbow summary shows 10,171 with 'Z' stamp pass rate of 96.77%. The total number of animals with Normal classification is 7,805 (74.26%), Near Normal 7 0.07%, Grade 1 =1,720 16.37%, Grade 2 702 =6.68%, Grade 3 =103 0.98%, total number of Elbow Fail is 157 =1.49%. Total number affected with UAP is 114 & this represents 1.08% of the total 10,510 in the database. There have been 68 that were not submitted for hips 0.65%.

Total "Z"	10,171	97 %
Total "N"	7,805	74 %
Total "N/N"	7	1 %
Total Gr1	1,720	16 %
Total G2	702	7 %
Total G3	103	1 %
Total Elbow Fail	157	1 %
Total "UAP"	114	1
Elbow N/S	68	1 %

NATIONAL breed commission report

Table 3 shows the number of H&E certificates issued yearly, for the first 6 months of 2017 there has been 173 issued, comprising of 157 Hips (90.75%), and 165 (95.38%) for Elbows. Normal Elbows 156 (90.17%), Gr1 =11, 6.36%, Gr2 =4, 2.31%, Gr3 =3, 1.73% and UAP =2, 1.16%.

The number of certificates issued over the past four years has averaged at 463 per year.

Since 2014 the number issued has dropped from 482 in 2014 to 448 in 2016 a 7.59% drop in 3 years.

Table 3 "Certificates Issued" Annually. Chart below is for 2017 year 1st Jan to 16/06/2017.

Club	Submitted	%	A	Z	"N" ELB	N/N ELB	GR1 ELB	GR2 ELB	GR3 ELB	UAP	UAP %
ACT:	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
BH:	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
NCHR:	8	4.62%	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
NSW:	38	21.97%	33	36	35	0	1	1	0	0	0.00%
NT:	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
NZ:	3	1.73%	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
QLD	26	15.03%	23	26	23	0	3	0	0	0	0.25%
SA:	16	9.25%	15	15	15	0	0	0	0	1	0.58%
TAS:	8	4.62%	7	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
VIC:	42	24.28%	39	39	35	0	4	3	0	0	0.99%
WA:	32	18.50%	29	31	29	0	2	11	0	1	0.58%
YTD 2017:	173	100%	157	165	156	0	11	4	3	2	1.16%
Year 2016:	448	100%	405	422	368	2	34	11	2	5	1.12%
Year 2015:	443	100%	380	427	362	4	61	6	1	7	1.58%
Year 2014:	482	100%	420	464	374	1	82	9	13	6	1.24%
Year 2013:	478	100%	438	466	356	0	106	10	5	5	1.05%



NATIONAL breed commission report

Table 4 is a consolidation of the past 12 months 1/7/2015 to 16/6/2016, plus the years 2015, 2014, 2013 & 2012.

Dr. Wyburn for many years used to receive the lions share, however since his passing, Dr. Lavelle now receives the greater share with 339 (80%) compared to last year's figures of 407. Dr Richardson 85 (20%) last year=42. The number of members using Dr Richardson has doubled in 2016 year. The total number of 'A's was 385 giving a 91% pass rate

for 2016 for Hips, compared to previous year 2015 with 85.75% pass rate. 324 bitches presented in 2016 giving 76% of the 424 presented, compared to Males 100 or 24%.

The total number of 'Z' stamps was 401 with 95% pass rate for elbows for 2016 compared to 96.88% pass rate for 2015. The average pass rate over the past 5 years is 96%. A total of 12 animals (3%) failed elbows, 5 of those (1.18%) had UAP.

Table 4 Yearly Figures	2016	2016%	2015	2014	2013	2012
Total Submitted	424	100%	449	472	426	387
Dr Lavelle	339	80%	407	446	384	331
Dr Wyburn	0	0%	0	0	0	0
Dr Richardson	85	20%	42	25	42	55
Total "A"	385	91%	385	409	389	338
Total Hip Fail	38	9%	64	62	37	9
Hip N/S	1	0.24%	0	0	0	0
Females	324	76%	341	365	325	268
Males	100	24%	108	106	100	118
Total "Z"	401	95%	435	450	416	370
Total "N"	367	87%	373	370	313	292
Total N/N	1	0.24%	3	3	0	0
Total Gr1	33	8%	59	76	99	69
Total G2	9	2%	8	5	10	17
Total G3	2	0.5%	2	0	0	1
Total Elbow Fail	12	3%	10	11	4	9
Total "UAP Right"	2	0.5%	3	6	3	7
Total "UAP Left"	3	1%	3	6	2	2
Total "UAP Both"	0	0%	2	6	0	2
Total "UAP"	5	1.18%	3	8	5	7
Elbow N/S	1	0.24%	0	2	1	0

Awards

Gaining a Council's Awards is not easy to achieve, and it can take several years to receive the Bronze medal, which is for having 10 or more animals from a Kennel prefix successfully gaining the "A" or a "Z" stamp. Silver is for achieving 25 and Gold is for 50, and there is a special Plaque awarded to those kennels achieving 100. See the full list of awards on page 27

Congratulations to the 35 Kennels on their respective achievements that qualified for GSDCA Hip & Elbow Awards during the 2016 Year. There has been an attempt to amalgamate the award however that has been postponed until the medallion stock numbers are depleted.

A total of 43 Medallions were awarded to 35 Kennels in 2016, 11 Bronze for Hips & 10 for Elbows, 6 Silver for Hips and 10 Silver for elbows, 4 Gold for Hips and 2 Gold for Elbows.

In addition 4 Plaques were awarded to 3 Kennels. The following charts highlight kennels by state that have been recognised for these awards. The hip and elbow awards have been forwarded to the various states so they can be presented to the recipient at a significant club event.

Microchips and X-rays - important information for registrars to convey to members

With all dogs now being microchipped the Hip/Elbow Application Form has a place on it to record the animal's microchip number. If the chip can't be located at the time of X-Ray a new chip is to be implanted by the Vet conducting the X-Ray. There is a place for the Vet to record the new microchip number on the Hip/Elbow Application Form under Labelling. State registrars should ensure that this information is readily available for members purchasing a contract.

Purchasing of a Hip & Elbow Control Scheme Application Form must be done prior to the animal being x-rayed, the animal must be 12 Months of age or older. The Application Form & State Contract numbers are not to be given out over the phone by the Registrar and forms are not transferable between animals.

Members please ensure your Vet reads all the instructions on the Hip & Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme Application Form before x-raying your animal, and saves any digital discs in the DICOM Image (ie. .dcm extension). Also some x-rays received have had no copy of the Registration Papers, & some no self stamp addressed envelope enclosed, a copy of your pedigree is a requirement. Please ensure that all the

NATIONAL breed commission report

correct information is supplied as per the information & notes contained within the H&E Dysplasia Control Scheme Application Form, as this will get your results back to you much quicker from our readers. Also ensure your vet fills out their details in the greyed out area at the bottom left on the form, and completes the "Veterinarian Declaration" at the bottom right by signing it, if this is not completed the form will be returned. Some x-rays have been received and the required details have not been radiographically identified, this will result in your animal having to be x-rayed again to get the positive identification embedded into the x-rays. No one wants to put their animal through general anaesthesia unless it's necessary, and then have the extra wait to get your results.

A big thank you to all the members & breeders who have continued to support the Hip & Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme over the years. We have been successful in reducing the number of animals affected by these crippling diseases. The pass rate is at an all-time high. We need to continue to monitor this so we can be proactive if and when needed.

I would like to thank the various State Registrars around Australia and New Zealand for their input and Joylene Neddermeyer the previous NBC Chairperson for her assistance and co-operation over the years we have worked together. I look forward to working with Melanie Groth. Thank you to Frank Moody the Database Coordinator for his assistance & co-operation with problems as they have arisen.

Thank you,

Doug West.

NBC Chair Comment – As in the past there are still animals being presented to survey and or for hip and elbow x-ray that have incorrect microchips. This is despite the checking systems in place at breeder, veterinary, HDED, Database and survey registrar levels. Generally these anomalies are discovered at Breed survey and the owners are then disgruntled because they have paid their money and want their animal surveyed.

Please be diligent in checking the paperwork and ensuring that the microchip in the animal is correct against the registration, the HDED Certificate and the breed survey worksheet. It is a 15-digit number. When entering the breed survey into the database surveyors should do a double check that the hip score and elbow grading match up with the certificate and what is in the database as there have been some that have been incorrect.

State HDED registrars should have a process that is followed when distributing contracts.

There have been instances where dogs have been x-rayed prior to the contract being issued and this has been missed at the veterinary surgery and again a problem because the contract number is not on the x-ray.

Recommendation:

That we formalise a consistent process across Australia for HDED registrars to follow.

National Identification Registrar – Mr Adam Toretto

It is my pleasure to submit my final report to the GSDCA NBC meeting 2017.

Tattooing

As of the 1st of July the GSDCA Tattoo Scheme has officially ended.

I'd like to thank those that supported me during holding this position former NBC Chair, GSDCA Exec, Frank Moody, member clubs and those I call for advice 😊

Over the coming months the Database will be updated and each State ID Registrar can upload the final tattoos. I'll be presenting my final report and numbers at the GSDCA AGM in February.

I'm yet to receive TS4 forms from some clubs for this past year and previous years. It has been quite disappointing and frustrating to have no responses and nothing sent through what so ever from certain clubs time and time again. After the next upload I'll be asking the NBC Chair Ms Mel Groth to contact clubs that I have specifically had issues with receiving information from over the past years for all the GSDCA Tattoo TS4 forms past and present to be returned both completed or left over stock.

October 1st 2016 through to 31st March 2017

Clubs	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	TAS	ACT	WA
Litters Tattooed	23	2	10	10	-	1	-
Puppies Tattooed	139	14	53	59	-	9	-
Litters Total	83	56	47	49	6	1	32
Puppies Total	436	359	270	339	39	9	190

****Please note numbers may vary as some state registrars are yet to update database. ****

Microchipping

Microchipping is now the only form of identification for the GSDCA Breed Improvement Scheme from the 1st July 2017.

Could breeders please keep ensure the correct details are registered.

- Breeders need to verify the microchip number with the Name/Registration Number of the puppy when it is sold.
- Breeders need to check the Microchip numbers recorded on the ANKC Registration papers.
- Microchips have 15 numbers. I cannot stress enough, that Breeders can avoid most of our future issues by: checking the Registration papers when they get them back, to ensure there has not been a data entry error at the Canine Control, and also checking that the puppy goes with the correct microchip that matches its pedigree papers. It would also be desirable if owners had the microchip scanned just before coming to survey, and noting where the microchip is found (as we hear regularly of chips moving).

I would like to wish the GSDCA and all member clubs the best of luck in the future, as you are the guardians of our beloved German Shepherd Dog.

Cheers,

Adam Toretto

NATIONAL breed commission report

NBC Chair comment – The cessation of the GSDCA Tattoo scheme has been met with disappointment with some of our long standing club members. The tattoo scheme has stood us in good stead since its inception; however the increasing demands of Animal Rights groups and numbers of animals being tattooed have been in decline since 2012. In 2011 58% of GSD registrations were being tattooed. In 2012 it dropped to 32% and in 2017 to date only 17% of registrations have been tattooed. Therefore, the viability of the scheme was in question as were our procedures around training and welfare. This has led to the scheme being abolished, however animals tattooed prior to first of July 2017 will still require registrars to upload the information into the database.

GSDCA Database Report – Coordinator Frank Moody

It is my pleasure to submit this GSDCA Database progress report to the 2017 NBC Meeting.

As previously advised we completed the program changes to allow access to Breed Surveyors to enter their own Breed Survey data directly into the Database, as from Sept 2016.

1. Programming Changes

The Database program underwent urgent upgrade which was completed in January 2017.

This was an extremely time consuming process which delayed other development/changes whilst this was in progress.

Since then we have provided search functions for Sire and Dam in the HD/ED and Breed Survey sections of the database, to the Member access – as approved at the 2016 AGM.

At the time of writing this report, we are finalising changes to the Breed Survey section to accommodate the "one classification", and the changes to the Breed Survey worksheet which were approved at the 2016 AGM. These will all be available for Breed Surveys from the 1st July 2017.

It has not been a simple task to incorporate these changes, as it has been done in a way that will allow any future changes (which I am sure there will be) more easily.

2. Data Update

Dog Database

Registrations are currently up to 11th May 2017 – being 295,000+ dogs.

Tattoo/Microchip Database

There are now almost 48,000 records in the database.

Even though Tattooing ceased as of 1st July 2017 we still need the Club Registrars to enter all tattoos prior to that date into the database. These will be needed to process HD/ED Certificates and Breed Survey certificates for those animals born prior to 1st July 2017. If this data is not entered it will hold up the issuing of those certificates.

HD/ED Database

There are now over 10,500 results in the database.

Breed Survey Database

There are now over 1,280 results in the database. Past Breed Surveys back to 2011 have been entered into the database. Previous years will continue to be entered as time permits.

Haemophilia Database

There are now 1,064 results in the database.

Thank you to Daryl Bourke (the programmer), Melanie Groth, Doug West, Candy Baker and Adam Toretto for their time, and assistance in ongoing data entry and maintenance of the Database.

Frank Moody

GSDCA Database Coordinator

NBC Chair comment – Surveyors have taken to the process of entering surveys and that saves an enormous amount of time. There are still some surveyors who need a little practice at using the database, consequently we have included a session at the NBC Meeting on using the database and getting the most out of it in terms of assisting with information for surveyors. I thank Frank for his hard work in maintaining the database. He is absolutely diligent about what he does and we are indeed fortunate to have him in this position. The BS7 Worksheet has been amended to capture the AGM approved changes and the one classification. All breed survey registrars and state coordinators now have a word pdf version of the new worksheet. At the time of writing the database programmer is putting the final touches on compatibility for the one classification and this will be operational in August.

Breed Health and Welfare Committee Chairman – Dr Candy Baker

Dr Candice Baker

BSc BVMS MANZCVS (ECC)

Degenerative Myelopathy

Progressive neurodegenerative disease in dogs, similar to ALS in humans, which typically affects older/geriatric dogs (>8 years). It is slow to progress (months to years) and non painful. Due to a variety of other spinal cord lesions, definitive diagnosis is made on post mortem examination of the spinal cord. The DNA/genetic identification of an animal homozygous for the A allele of SOD1 missense mutation, SOD1:c.118G> A, which predicts a p.E40K amino acid substitution in superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1) was confirmed with post mortem examination. However, there have been eight confirmed cases of heterozygous SOD1 on post mortem examination (Zeng, Coates et al, 2014).

- Voluntary DNA testing for breeders should continue to be considered, although it is difficult to give breeding advice that is appropriate for the gene pool in Australia
- Current research Project – 2017 ANKC grant. Dr Jayne McGhie University of QLD.
- They (Jayne & Co at UQ) have developed their own screening test for a number of known diseases. Jayne's focus is the police dogs/ working dogs at the moment because they are a small almost isolated breeding group, may look at comparing results with general GSD population, possibly 18 months away. Jayne may be looking at more grant money to do this.
- Distribution of genetic mutations associated with degenerative myelopathy

NATIONAL breed commission report

- German Shepherd and related Shepherd breeds have a high incidence of DM. The current project aims to test non clinical working shepherd dogs and associated breeding shepherd populations (including any pups) to: (a) estimate the frequency of the deleterious mutation for DM, together with a selection of other known diagnostic markers of disease in these breeds, and (b) inform future breeding strategies to reduce the incidence of this disease in the population. In collaboration with the Queensland Police Force, we will use state-of-the-art genetic testing equipment (Sequenom) and expertise within the University of Queensland to genotype a random sample of 150-200 working dogs, breeders or pups. Expected outcomes beyond the aims above include development of a testing capability for disease diagnosis and preventative medicine that can be applied across a range of breeds in Australia, longitudinal study of the health and well-being of these working animals, and creation of a genomic biobank of DNA for German Shepherds for future research purposes.

DNA profiling

Options:

- SV – Go-Card blood sample
- FTA cards through Prof. Clare Wade at Sydney University – Animal Genetics

Lumbosacral vertebrae / Transitional Vertebrae, Cauda Equina / L-S stenosis and their associated diseases

- Still raises concerns, as this is a painful disease compared to DM. No new information or research found at this stage
- Other areas of the spine to consider – thoraco-lumbar junction, lumbar spine
- Consideration should be given to the type of animal we are breeding in particular the physical and mechanical forces applied to the conformation of the back

Gastric Dilation Volvulus (Bloat)

- Dr Claire Sharpe Murdoch University, will look at inviting her to the next NBC meeting to talk on latest research

Haemangiosarcoma

- CRF 2016 grant Dr Caroline O'Leary University of QLD looking at DNA markers, no further information available as yet.

Atopy and other immune related diseases in the GSD

- An example of the poor immune system / immunocompromised genetics in the Australian bred GSD.

** two cases of recent in Australia, I have received a post mortem report on a case from South Australia. There is also one other I know of in another state.

Paecilomyces variotti – This is a saprophytic fungus, much like *Aspergillus terreus*, that causes invasive/disseminated fungal infection.

- One diagnosed on post mortem, another on fine needle biopsy culture from the spleen.

I plan to do a more informative talk on disseminated fungal diseases at the next AGM or NBC meeting.

I am glad when people contact me about this information, whilst they aren't completing the arduous health profile form, at least they are contacting me, which means I can compile a report and group diseases together.

I have been contacted, in general, about the following diseases:

- Juvenile seizures
- Renal dysplasia
- Elbow disease
- Aspergillosis/Disseminated *Aspergillus terreus* infection
- Perianal Fisutulas/Anal furunculosis
- Gastric Dilation Volvulus
- Atopy/Dermatitis/Skin diseases

Haemophilia Testing

Since my last report the following dogs have been presented and have normal Factor VIII levels

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Brigenti Ice Fire | • Iso du Rhinland |
| • Hasenway Major Tom | • Kyoara Ghandi |
| • Conbhairean Karlos | • Monsimbee Mynnchen |
| • Monsimbee Wolfman | • Conbhairean Freddie |
| • Djambo vom Fichtenschlag | • Babenberg Ollie |

Jason Stayt's recommendations were to perform DNA test rather than check FVIII levels. We could look at doing both a DNA test and Factor VIII levels, the reliability of the test available at Orivet is questionable. I plan to liaise further with veterinary pathologists further on this topic to plan for future testing. DNA testing may mean the amelioration of testing our sons of imported females, and only testing the females as being carriers or not.

Early De-sexing

** some focus needs to be continued on education of puppy buyers to not de-sex their pups too prematurely

- I recently was contacted by our club (GSDA of WA) puppy listing officer
- I was able to provide information to help make an informed decision
- Unfortunately, the information out there isn't black and white, understanding of the information available is extrapolated through retrospective data and an opinion is formed from this
- However, a breed club statement and recommendation could be considered

Updates

Although I haven't created much of a work load, I feel this position could have the potential to have a much larger work load. It is a challenge to work in a voluntary position where emphasis on time spent within this position has to be given less of a priority over my employment, continued study, family and my own dogs.

I will continue to try and do as much as I can to help the breed and its future from a health perspective

I will look at liaising Dr Zammit with his hip dysplasia DNA data collection and research

GSDCA Breed Surveyor Retirements

Three of our surveyors have decided to retire from surveying this year. Fran Farley, Barry O'Rourke and Bruce Knight. These three people between them have all held executive positions on the Council at various times throughout their long involvement. Fran commenced surveying in 1977, Barry in 1981 and Bruce in 2011. Fran as Vice President, Judges Chair and National Breed Commission Chair and Barry as NBC Chair and Judges Chair, Bruce as Treasurer and President. We thank them for their contribution and it is the Council's intention to ensure they are recognised for their service.

NATIONAL breed commission report

Breed Survey Agreement

All surveyors with the exception of Bruce Knight signed the Breed Surveyors agreement that is in place from July 1 2017. Bruce decided to retire as he is residing in the Philippines. It is pleasing to see that everyone agreed to uphold the values of being a GSDCA Breed Surveyor. I maintain this is a choice not a right and we must remember that the breed surveyor agreement emanated from a sound mandate from the membership across Australia that above all ethics and consistency were a high priority in maintaining the integrity of the Breed Survey Scheme. Thank you to the work of the Working Group 1 who produced the agreement to the satisfaction of the Clubs at the AGM in 2017.

GSDCA Aspirant Breed Surveyor Applications

Applications to join the aspirant scheme have been received with endorsements from their clubs and these have been considered by the NBC Executive and approved to go forward.

They are:

- Natalie Humphries, GSDCWA
- Sharon Ballantyne, GSDCQ
- Andrew Jones, GSDCV

Their applications will be discussed at the Closed Breed Surveyors Meeting this weekend. (*postscript: all three were endorsed as aspirant Breed Surveyors.)

GSDCA Tooth Certificates

Two GSDCA certificates have been issued this year.

GSDCA Title Verifications

Joylene Neddermeyer will continue to process applications for Title Verifications and translations. The form has been updated by Jane Pike and is now an interactive PDF located on the website. Verifications and translations continue to be processed smoothly. Joylene is now sending the pedigrees to Frank so that they can be uploaded into the Database in a timely manner.

Sires Progeny at 2017 GSDCA National Show and Trial in Queensland

The report can be found in the Quarterly Review. The number of sires represented was affected by the lower than normal entry this year in Queensland. Fifteen groups were eligible and twelve were represented. For the first time a Long Stock Coat group was presented and it was of considerable quality. The remaining eleven groups were from Stock Coat sires. Only two sires carry the Mutz Peltziefarm line and the remainder come from Quanto Wienerau bloodline. Groups that impressed the most were Eroica Catch Me If You Can, Gerry vom Schacher and Juwika Destroyer. The full report can be found in the Quarterly Review National Edition.

Breed Survey Forum – Working Groups

The Breed Survey forum held on the weekend of the NBC meeting in 2016 provided considerable data for the improvement of the Breed Survey Scheme. The forum consisted of workshops to analyse and synthesise the information gathered from the National E-survey and the focus groups held at each state club. Surveyors and delegates took part in some professional learning around managing perception v reality and discussing concepts that will help us improve the culture of breed surveys and members' attitudes towards them. Robust conversations took place and three working groups formed to address the recommendations that led from examining the evidence in the data. The findings were in the form of improving the following:

Integrity, ethics and consistency – Working Group 1 – this group worked through email in the latter half of 2016 to form the basis of the Breed Surveyor Agreement and Appeals process. These were fine-tuned at the 2017 AGM and endorsed by the Member Clubs and came into effect on July 1 2017. This group was led by Vince Tantaró.

Education of the general membership – Working Group 2 – This group has done some work on pulling together the code of ethics of the member clubs to come up with some education packages that clubs can use at club level and for breeders to use as information for puppy buyers. This group is led by Ian Urie. He may have more to add at the meeting this weekend.

Continuing education of the breed surveyors – Working Group 3 – This group heads up the work for the NBC workshops and the intention is to provide packages for the State Coordinators to use at Club level. The first workshops will run this weekend. There are plans to unpack the anatomy using some of Lou Donald's work and that of other enthusiasts and also to gather information from the surveyors about what their educational needs are and that will happen at this meeting. This group is led by Melanie Groth.

One Classification – Breed Survey

At this year's AGM the membership voted to adopt the one classification system for survey. That has come into effect July 1 2017. The BS 7 form has been adjusted to accommodate this change and the changes that were put forward by this group in 2016 and passed at the AGM. Minor changes of formatting to create extra room on the worksheet have been done and now include tail in the structural evaluation section. Early feedback is that the form works well. NBC executive with the assistance of Jenny Yuen also produced the document, Guidelines for Breed Survey Classification. This was produced as a handy guide for surveyors to use in managing the transition to the one classification.

Photographs for Breed Survey

This continues to be an issue and requires follow up by the registrars as there is a backlog of surveys that have been processed, but remain pending until such time as the owners supply a photograph. Instructions for photos at survey need to be more clear and will be addressed in the forms during the rewriting of the Breed Survey manual.

Update of the Breed Survey Manual

Will require a working party and will be addressed at this meeting

Concluding remarks

I look forward to working with you in the duration of my tenure. Thank you for your support. It is my intention to utilise the breed survey team to be proactive in the ongoing development of our skills and encourage collaboration as we work together towards a common purpose. At this point in time we really need to work together embrace change in our efforts to make the German Shepherd Dog the very best it can be.

Melanie Groth

NBC Chairman

Advertising Info for Members of Affiliated Clubs

We welcome the opportunity to work with members to advertise and promote their animals or business. Ad design is included in the costing. Multiple edition packages are available by negotiation. For information or to discuss, please contact the editor.

Front Cover

\$225.00 (Non - Advertising)

Full Page

\$360.00

Half Page/Quarter Page

\$180/\$100

Annual advertising package: For the same copy in 4 editions for Full, Half or Quarter pages a discount of 10% will apply. Other advertising spaces available on request. Non-Members and/or Commercial Rates available upon request.

Back Cover

\$200.00 (Non - Advertising)

Double Spread

\$700.00



Magazine and Website Package

Each full page stud dog advertisement printed in the QNR will have the option to be replicated on a dedicated Stud Dog page on the GSDCA website for a period of 3 months following the publication of the QNR edition in which it appears. Optional extra, available at no extra charge to the QNR advertisement fee.

The "Magazine and Website Package" has been established in an effort to encourage members who own stud dogs to advertise in the Quarterly National Review magazine and to provide an opportunity to receive national exposure on the website and advertise to a more diverse range of people. This is an available for owners who place full page ads in the QNR,

Please make Cheque/Bank draft or Money Order payable to: German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc. and forward to: The Treasurer, GSDCA QNR, 20 Conrad Road, Longwood SA 5153

Notes:

All advertisers must forward FULL PAYMENT at the time of placing their advertisement. Advertisers are advised that where an animal is over 18 months of age it must have been successfully Breed Surveyed. Any imported animals with an overseas breed survey Classification will be permitted to be advertised for 6 months following their date of release from Australian Quarantine, after this time they must have obtained an Australian Breed Survey Classification.

If you require return of photos and a receipt, please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The Trade practices Act 1974 came into force on 1st October 1974 and certain provisions of the Act relating to consumer protection place a heavy burden on advertisers, advertising agents and publishers of advertisements. In view of the difficulty of ensuring that advertisements submitted for publication comply with the Act, advertisers and advertising agents must ensure that the provisions of the Act are strictly complied with. In case of doubts advertisers are advised to seek legal advice.

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