

THE German Shepherd Dog

QUARTERLY NATIONAL REVIEW



Joylene Neddermeyer
1953 - 2018

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

Spring 2018

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www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org

EVENT calendar

GSDCA Events

Date

9th – 10th February 2019
5th, 6th & 7th April

Event

GSDCA Annual General Meeting
47th National Show & Trial

Location

Adelaide
Melbourne

Member Club Shows

Date

8/09/2018
15/09/2018
21/09/2018
29/09/2018
29/09/2018
30/09/2018
30/09/2018
13/10/2018
14/10/2018
21/10/2018
28/10/2018
4/11/2018
4/11/2018
12/12/2018

Judge

Adamson Melissa
Yuen Jenny
Tjerksra Pieter
Hedberg Karen
Serrano Edward Carlos
Cox Stephen
Flynn Peter
Kada Jessica
Urie Ian
Butterfield Jean
Hassgall Wolfgang
Hassgall Wolfgang
Jones Andrew
Cathie Jo

SA
VIC
QLD
NSW
Colombia
UK
SA
NSW
VIC
SA
Germany
Germany
VIC
NSW

Location

GSDCSA
GSDCQ
NSW
GSDCTas
ACTGSDC
ACTGSDC
GSDCTas
GSDL
GSDL
GSDCSA
GSDAWA
GSDCV
GSDCV
GSDL

Event

Championship Show
SBE
Coffs Harbour
Championship Show
Championship Show
Championship Show
Championship Show
Members Competition
Open Show
GSDC of SA
WCC
GSDCV/WDC Champ Show
WDC/GSDCV Championship Show
Members Competition

International Shows

Date

6 – 9th September 2018

Event

German Sieger Show

Location

Nurnberg, Germany

Quarterly National Review Closing dates

Close dates for content submission and advertising in future magazine editions

Edition	Closing date	Delivery to Members
Summer 2019	5th November 2018	Early December
Autumn 2019	5th February 2019	Early March



www.facebook.com/GSDCA



www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org



<http://database.gsdcouncilaustralia.org>



www.wusv.org



www.schaeferhunde.de

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A Tribute Joylene Margaret Neddermeyer

18th May 1953 - 30th July 2018

Dear Martin, Geoff, Lyle Strahan and your family and friends, it is an honour to be with you all here today to celebrate the life of Joylene Neddermeyer.

We are all deeply saddened by the sudden and unexpected passing of our dear friend and colleague, whose life long dedication to the German Shepherd Dog is well recognised and applauded, both within our and the wider canine affairs community.

Joylene was interested in dogs at an early age, her parents bred and she showed their Shetland Sheep Dogs. She joined the GSDC of South Australia in 1976 and her transformation to being a lover of GSD's came about as she worked as a kennel hand and handled dogs for Adelora Kennels.

Joylene became totally fascinated by the quickly evolving GSD scene. These were exciting times, the ban on importing GSD's was lifted and how dogs were shown and assessed was completely different to the rest of the canine world that modelled itself on the Kennel Club of England.

She also had as a mentor, a most respected pillar of the German Shepherd Dog Council, the late Juergen Neddermeyer, who unbeknown at that time she was to marry many years later. Juergen's idealism no doubt played a huge influence on Joylene's mindset. She became totally committed to the betterment of the GSD breed, its health and welfare.

Joylene's enthusiasm, thirst for knowledge and drive saw her take on a number National Council roles in addition to her other work for the GSDC of South Australia and the no longer Broken Hill GSDC:

- GSDCA NBC Registrar from 1980-86 & 2001-16
- Editor Breed Survey book 1985-90
- HD Registrar 1989-96
- Hereditary Disease Officer for 2 years
- Rules and Regulations Officer 1999- 2010
- GSDCA Official Interpreter 2008-18
- GSDCA Title Verification Officer 2001-2018

She was very involved at a time where much change and innovation was put to and accepted by the GSD fraternity. Her work contributed much to what was achieved by the GSDCA Executive of that time. She was awarded the GSDCA Council Service Award in 1988 and GSDCSA Life Membership in 1998.

My first recollection of Joylene was seeing her handling, we are of the same generation. She was very competitive and opinionated. Upon marrying Juergen, she along with Martin, Lyle and the late Jan Strahan shared his kennel name Adelora. She loved showing and breeding, all of which lead naturally to her becoming an ANKC Group 5 Judge, GSDCA judge and she gained GSDCA Breed Surveyor status in 1981.

I was most pleased when Joylene as newly elected NBC Chairperson joined the Executive in 2001. What immediately was evident to me as President at that time was this position was made for her! Her work for the Council spanning some 20 years at the time, made her the ideal

person to take over the role. She was a most valued member of the Executive during my terms as President. Her unwavering idealism, in depth breed knowledge, willingness to educate and mentor and be on call to members 24/7 contributed positively to the work of Council.

Joylene decided in 2016 that she would not contest the coming election and as a result saw her step down from 16 years as NBC Chairperson. A year later she also stepped down as a GSDCA Breed Surveyor after 36 years of service. These decisions did not come easily for her and were more about her feeling lost in what was now an atmosphere of mistrust in our fraternity that saw self-interest and promotion smothering the idealism she held so close. She no longer respected or trusted some of the peers she once held in high esteem.

Her new found freedom was now shared with her partner Geoff and she definitely focussed on enjoying non doggie activities. We kept in touch and it was still evident that things upset her about how the whole GSD scene was evolving, but was adamant she had no intention of making a comeback anytime soon!

An opportunity did present itself - we needed a German interpreter for one of our 2018 National judges: Bingo, I thought, ideal job for Joylene! It was great to see her involved again doing her stuff - like all of us who are control freaks she lost none of her zeal and commanded the ring in which she assisted. She truly enjoyed catching up with everyone and being part of this event as hosted by her Club.

Like many of you, I will miss our chats about ideals, the breed and its politics, her booming voice whilst translating or giving critiques, her 'Joylism's' - the unique phrasings given during her emotive outbursts at meetings, her real friendship and her 'Aw well', a phrase she would end her conversation with to indicate whatever will be, will be.



Joylene was a friend to many of us, a unique individual who dedicated much of her life to the GSD, her Club and to National Council. She was a most respected pillar of our organisation.

She will be missed but definitely never forgotten.

Rest in Peace.

Thank you,

Vince Santaro

8 August 2018

PRESIDENT'S report



Like everyone that knew Joylene Neddermeyer and one whose friendship and knowledge was held in high esteem, I was shocked and deeply saddened to be told of her unexpected passing on 30th June.

This magazine is dedicated to her lifelong dedication to our breed, her club and the GSDCA.

My last report started with reporting how cold Melbourne was - guess what nothing has changed! It definitely has been a very long, cold and dry winter that has impacted across the country with a disastrous drought hitting most on inland Southeast Australia. I was pleased to read that the GSDAWA gave a notable donation to drought aid - no doubt other clubs will have followed suit by the time this report is read by you all.

I was fortunate enough to be able to represent the Council at the official opening of the Service Dog Memorial as installed at Dogs Victoria HQ at KCC Park. Dogs Victoria & Merlyn Syme must be congratulated on supporting and seeing this initiative finally realised. I was also able to represent the Council at the GSDC of Tasmania SBE weekend. Whilst the entry was low the enthusiasm and welcome shown by the members was heartening. Having judged the open classes at the GSDC Victoria SBE, I must again question the relevance of such shows on our show calendar - as the numbers exhibited cannot be used to give breed direction.

I also was able to attend the July GSDC of Queensland Show weekend. It was indeed pleasing to see an excellent entry from Victoria and others from south of the Queensland border make the long trip north to escape winter. The entry was very good, the judging was of a very high standard and the show was very well organised and run. What was telling though was the small number of volunteers running this event. I can only urge all members to step up and assist those that run club events on your behalf - it's not just about entering - please give a hand!

The National Breed Commission Meeting and Judges Committee meeting were held in July in Melbourne. The meetings saw delegates bar one club, and a majority of judges and surveyors attend. Both meetings had a number of discussion items that were purposefully listed in order to stimulate debate. The minutes and outcomes of these meetings can be found on our website. A matter that is always up for debate is the question of size. This despite my succinct reporting on this matter in the QNR edition continues to cause angst amongst the fraternity. We have, as an organisation, accepted that bitches may be up to 62cm and dogs up to 67 cm ad can be awarded an excellent in the show ring. The meetings reaffirmed that all judges and surveyors will insist that animals when measured will be standing naturally, without any stretching of the forehand and or hindquarter, and be free from handler manipulation by ensuring handlers do not kneel and stand free from the animal.

With regard to Breed Survey, it is again important to reiterate the rule that allows classification of oversize animals ONLY applies if the animal

in question is of **high anatomical construction**. If such animals are classified, it is strongly recommended they are not shown as they may be penalised heavily. They should be properly utilised with due regard to their likelihood to throw size in one's breeding program.

I can only again raise the matter of utilising the **GSD Health Profile Report form**, which can be found at <http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/gsd-health-profile-report/>. We ask you please utilise the form on the passing of your dear companion and or if your dog suffers from any chronic health issue that requires surgery, constant medication and or treatment. The data as collected by Dr Candy Baker, Chair GSDCA Health & Welfare Committee will better inform us all as to the current health status of the breed. The other issue regarding breed health is the fact that GSDCA HD ED application forms as purchased are not presented. The whole purpose of the GSDCA HD ED Schemes is to better inform all breeders. The non presentation of x-rays after they have been taken for an official result serves no purpose.

It was great to see two younger members attain the status of GSDCA Breed Surveyor. On behalf of the Member Clubs and executive I congratulate Sharon Ballantyne and Natalie Humphries on the successful completion of their training. I would also congratulate Jenny De Lucia who now has GSDCA Judges status and Joanne Cathie who has attained SV National Breed Judge status. It must be noted that the inclusion of the 'next' generation as members of the peer group is most welcomed and I for one look forward to their enthusiasm and drive to add to the outcomes of the National Breed Commission.

There is no doubt that the backbone of any club depends on committed members who take on major roles and give long service to the breed, their club and this Council.

- Vince Ebejer stepped down in March as President GSDCV after 7 years of notable service. As a much younger member he has contributed most positively to the betterment of the GSD, his club and this Council. I sincerely thank and congratulate him for his sustained proactive work which he still continues today as Club Secretary. It was indeed pleasing to see another younger member, Tony Merceica elected as President.
- Ian Marr recently stepped down as President, GSDAWA after another long period of service in that role. His coming back as President has seen his club stabilise. Ian's approach has been always one that is proactive and well considered. He has demonstrated over many years he is a tireless worker for the breed, his club and this Council. I wish both Dorothy and Ian well for the future. I welcome and look forward to working with Brain Lubbock, who was recently elected President.

I am happy to be contacted on any matter, phone 0402145184

Vince Tantara

President

EDITORIAL

Many people recently have said, and we've all been reminded, to 'live everyday like it's your last'. The sudden passing of Joylene Neddermeyer has made us all realise our loss. For our fraternity, we've lost a true ambassador for the GSD. As much for her strong personality as for her unwavering belief in the betterment of the GSD, her thorough knowledge of bloodlines and dogs, and for her dedicated efforts over many years for the GSDCA. Joylene led from the front, always with the best interest of the dogs at heart. Joylene's history, her knowledge and her passion gone is our loss, which can't be replaced. RIP Joylene.

This issue brings to you several very useful and important articles. Our Veterinary article on skin allergies and itching will be of interest to all. We're also reminded of the importance of our breed within society, first with the service dog memorial in Victoria, and also the WA Club's role in helping disabled fans. Both ends of the spectrum highlighted for our breed.

Thankyou to Jo Cathie for her article and tips on presenting dogs teeth for examination at shows, but techniques which can be used in any

scenario by a pet owner. Having dogs calm and trained to show their teeth and mouths will be rewarded when it's most required.

Included is an update on the WUSV Harmonisation Program for the GSDCA. The details of the ZAP Puppy Test for our young dogs as part of temperament testing is included, so its worth reading the test steps and what's required. Every puppy will benefit, not just those in the show ring.

Finally all the reports from the recent National Breed Commission meeting are available. It's worth a quick read of where we are heading and to check how our breed is being managed.

Time flies and 2019 is fast approaching, which brings the 47th National into focus. The GSDCV are on the front foot with advertising already, well done!

Enjoy!

Jacinta

Tent Bookings

Bookings for ringside corporate tents will open on Monday October 29th 2018 at 12 noon AEST
Cost: \$275 per 3m x 3m tent
Book and pay online
www.gsdcv.org.au/shop
(limited tents, get in early)

Schedule

The full schedule will be printed in the December Quarterly National Review

Stay tuned !!

Saturday Night LIVE

Live Skits Return!!

Clubs are invited to 'put on a show'

At the grounds in the 'Party Marquee' starting straight after the conclusion of judging.

'Get Your Act Together & Don't Go Home, Go LIVE'

Great band, food, entertainment, dancing and FUN

Be There !



**5th, 6th & 7th April 2019
KCC Park Skye, Vic**

Everything you need to know

www.gsdcv.org.au/2019national

Welcome to our new Breed Surveyors

Sharon Ballantyne and Natalie Humphries

At the NBC Meeting on Sunday 22 July 2018 both Sharon Ballantyne (Queensland) and Natalie Humphries (Western Australia) were unanimously supported by their peers to be elevated to be GSDCA Breed Surveyors. The smiles from both of them on the day were proud and excited.

Both ladies have spent the previous 12 months acting as Aspiring Breed Surveyors at their clubs. Participating at three separate breed surveys, completing worksheets on animals presented, with a different surveyor on each occasion. The completed worksheets were presented to their mentor surveyor and information discussed on each occasion, with feedback provided on strengths and opportunities in their worksheets. The assessor surveyor then provided a report to the NBC Executive on the suitability and competence of the aspirant on each occasion. Sharon and Natalie received very good feedback from their assessor surveyors.

What's involved in becoming a Breed Surveyor?

The regulations require the aspirant to apply to the NBC Executive by the close of Agenda items for the NBC Meeting. The NBC Executive then review the applications, along with a letter of support from their club of domicile. To be able to commence as Aspiring Breed Surveyors, they need to have been owning, exhibiting and breeding GSDs for 10 years, be a GSDCA Specialist Judge, have bred a minimum of 10 litters, with at least 10 animals that have passed GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes and bred at least 5 excellent graded animals. These are quite significant achievements to be able to take this major step.

The most pleasing thing about both of these ladies, is they continue to be actively involved as breeders, exhibitors and hold executive positions with their own clubs. This provides a grass roots understanding of the issues faced by our fraternity with the highs and lows of breeding, exhibiting and owning German Shepherd Dogs.

Sharon breeds under the Kantenna prefix and is currently the President of the GSDCQ. She was the head of a small but extremely active group that hosted the extremely successful 2017 GSDCA National in Queensland. Sharon is passionate and idealistic in promoting the GSD to members of the GSDCQ and the public in general, as well as promoting the ideals of the GSDCA.

Natalie breeds under the Friedental prefix and is currently the Breed Affairs Chair for the GSDAWA. Natalie's background as a Veterinary Nurse fuels her passion in promoting breed health for the GSD, organising breed lectures by veterinary experts in various aspects of breed health, including bloat and autoimmune diseases.

Sharon and Natalie are both very welcome additions to their state breed survey panels and we are sure the members of their clubs will embrace them with support and opportunities to further develop this next phase of their involvement in the German Shepherd Dog.

Good luck to you both from the Executive, Clubs and membership of the GSDCA.

Robyn Knuckey

GSDCA Judges Committee Chair

Congratulations to our new SV National Breed Judge

Jo Cathie

In January 2018, the GSDCA supported Ms Jo Cathie's continued participation in the renewed judging scheme for the WUSV/SV. Jo previously had been an accredited WUSV Judge. That level of qualification has now been retired by the SV. Jo's previous successful completion of the Judges' Seminar for the SV was recognised, but she needed to be endorsed by the GSDCA for her to continue to complete her next examination to qualify as an SV National Breed Judge. The aspirant needs to apply to the SV for each examination.

To pursue this aim, Jo completed her first examination under an SV Examiner Judge Herr Wolfgang Lauber in June in New Zealand. To achieve this, Jo needed to provide call out orders for each class, and provide a rationale for these. The critique each animal presented in the show. Once these were completed, they were sent to Herr Lauber for his review. He then forwards to the SV Board for consideration, along with his recommendation. Jo provided feedback at the recent GSDCA Judges Committee Meeting to all present on what is involved and the required processes, to help her peers understand what is required.

The GSDCA received a letter from the SV informing us that Jo was successful in her first examination and is now recognised as a SV Breed Judge, dated 18 July 2018.

Jo is the first for us in Australia and Jo joins an elite group to achieve this worldwide.

Jo wishes to continue on the judging pathway to achieve the status of SV International Breed Judge. To achieve this, she needs to continue to complete an additional 3 examinations as approved by the SV.

Jo has been in Australia for under 3 years, and in that time has made a significant impact. Her enthusiasm and commitment to the breed is infectious. She has supported groups in several states to give training methods, and a significant number of people have participated in her 'boot camps'. She breeds under the Cinderhof prefix, who had a class winner and another placegetter at the 2018 National. Jo is another of our younger fraternity that is truly enthusiastic for the German Shepherd Dog and involved at all levels, including on the Management Committee for the GSDL. Jo has also recently agreed to head up the Education Group for the GSDCA.

Congratulations to Jo from the GSDCA Executive, clubs and general membership.

SUPREME champion!



SUPREME CHAMPION AVAHLEE GIRLS KEEP SECRETS AZ BSCL 1 ET CCD RN HT

Sire: *Calle vom Fiemereck (Imp Gmy) a ED

Dam: *Freevale Secret Girl Stuff AZ



We would like to introduce you to Australia's first, and at this stage only, SUPREME CHAMPION Long Stock Coat German Shepherd. This record will obviously be broken at some stage; but she will always be the first one to be awarded this prestigious title.

Kinta has certainly become our 'Queen of

Hearts' since she was purchased at 2 ½ years of age from Danni Mayne. This was certainly the best decision we have ever made – a huge thank you to Danni for allowing Kinta to call Queensland home.

Kinta has excelled in what we expected to get from her as we wanted a show dog. But not only has she certainly proved her worth in the show ring, but also in the obedience ring, endurance, rally, herding, and as a comforter in the nursing homes.

When Kinta went to the nursing home we were always there for a lot longer than expected as we had to take her from one ward to another. We remember one time going without her and the staff asked where she was. When told that she wasn't clean enough to come to the hospital, they told us that they don't care about that because all the patients loved to see her and it brightened their day and they always asked the staff when we were coming back !! One particular patient who couldn't speak anymore was making some terrible noises from her room when we were there, and the nurse came out and asked if we could take Kinta in to her. It settled this patient down and Kinta was always so gentle with them all.



Kinta and Virginia



Kinta being sociable at the nursing home

She was also the very reason that Jonathan got the incentive to come back into the show scene after being out of it for a number of years. Many times we thought we had lost Kinta, trying to work out how she could get out, only to discover her in Jonathan's area of the property getting trained as well as very spoilt!

Jonathan got her ready for survey in February 2015 and it was never our intention to go to the National. Her surveyor Russell Wenham told us 'you have to take her to the National'. We debated about it for a while but when the National was only five weeks away Jonathan said, 'OK, let's give it a go'. So the decision was made to train her and get her fit for the National held in Melbourne in May 2015.

Jonathan took her under his wing, as initially she had no intention of going out on the end of the lead. In this short time he trained her to perfection, which was evident when she received the Gold Medal and Challenge Bitch under Herr Lothar Quoll.



Kinta receives her first Gold medal under Herr Lothar Quoll

Unfortunately Jonathan passed away in November of that year, so the following year in Sydney Matt Morris guided her to another Gold Medal (with Jonathan helping from above) and Challenge Bitch, this time under Herr Richard Brauch. The following year home in Queensland, Kinta received the Silver Medal under Herr Frank Goldlust. Kinta attended 2 x SBE's and received State Siegerin with an Excellent Merit grading on both occasions.



Kinta received Gold under Herr Richard Brauch

SUPREME champion!



Dual State Siegerin

Kinta has also achieved her Endurance Title (20klms), her CCD title (working on CD), her Rally Novice Title (working on Rally Advance) and her Herding Title.



Kinta at Endurance with Jonathan



Kinta is now semi-retired from the show ring and will only come out to shows under selected judges. Kinta has received 16 x Best Exhibit in Group, 6 x Best Exhibit in Show (3 under specialist judges), 4 x Runner Up Exhibit in Show (1 under specialist judge) as well as numerous classes in show/group.



Kinta now dabbles in obedience and rally, but her favourite exercise is sleeping on Judith's bed as she certainly believes that she deserves that type of luxury !!



Kinta receiving one of her Best Exhibit in Shows under specialist judge Sue Bruno



Why is my dog itchy and what can I do?

**Dr Meng Siak BVSc, BVMS, MANZCVS, FANZCVS
(Veterinary Dermatology)**

Registered specialist in Veterinary Dermatology

**Western Australian Veterinary Emergency and
Specialty (WAVES) Dermatology**

Highlights

Most common causes of itching in the dog

- Allergies
 - Atopic dermatitis (environmental allergy)
 - Food allergy
 - Flea bite allergy
 - Contact allergy
- Ectoparasites
 - Demodicosis (Demodectic mange)
 - Scabies (Sarcoptic mange)
- Infections
 - Bacterial
 - Yeast (*Malassezia*)
 - Dermatophytes ("ringworm")

Introduction

Itch is defined as an unpleasant sensation that evokes the desire to scratch. Many of the common causes of itching can be managed successfully in primary care veterinary clinics. For others, they may benefit from specialist care to achieve the best outcome.

We will review the possible causes for itch in your pet and help you understand why your vets recommend some of these diagnostics for your pet.

Ectoparasites

1. Demodicosis

Demodex mites are commensal organisms that are found in hair follicles and sebaceous glands of healthy dogs. They are passed from the dam to the puppies during birth. In healthy dogs, they do not cause disease.

Demodex mites may over proliferate and cause localised or generalised demodicosis. In young dogs, they most commonly cause localised demodicosis and self resolve without treatment within 6 to 8 weeks. Generalised demodicosis in young dogs develop due to a mite specific immune defect and would require treatment using miticide. In older dogs, generalised demodicosis is more common than localised and develop secondary to underlying immunosuppression. A thorough work up is recommended to investigate for the cause of immunosuppression including endocrine disease, long-term immunomodulatory therapy or neoplastic diseases.

Clinical signs

Dog with demodicosis often develop areas of hairloss followed by papular to pustular then crusting lesions. The itch level is often low but with development of secondary infections, can be severe. Demodectic mange is not zoonotic.

Diagnostic procedures

Demodicosis can be readily diagnosed by skin scrapings performed in house. For areas that are difficult to scrape, hair plucks or cytology may be used to find the mites. In dogs that have severely inflamed, infected and fibrosed skin, a tissue biopsy for histopathology may be required.

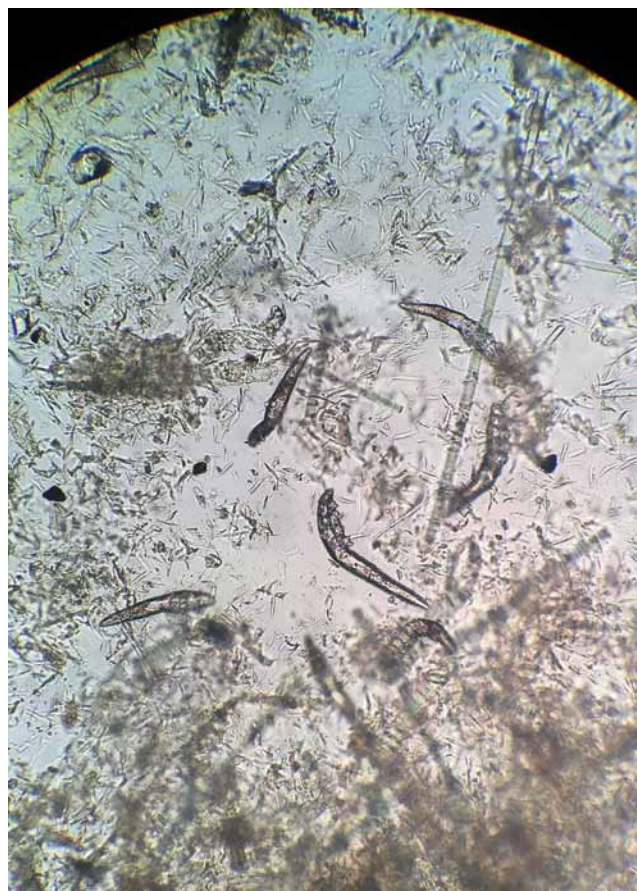


Figure 1: Demodex mites as seen under the microscope

Treatment

There are many effective treatment options including oral Simparica®, Nexgard® and Bravecto®. Most of these treatment options are off label but are safe in collies breeds. The prognosis is good but treatment should be continued until your vet has achieved two consecutive skin scrapes monthly apart, because the dog will look clinically better before the scrapes are negative.

2. Sarcoptic mange

Unlike demodex mites, dogs are infested with sarcoptic mites through contact with wildlife such as foxes, wallabies and wombats!

Clinical signs

Dog with scabies are intensely itchy, especially around their ears, face and distal limbs. They cause severe papular to crusting lesions. Scabies are zoonotic to humans.

Diagnostic procedures

The clinical suspicion is supported by rubbing the ear margins and eliciting the pinna-pedal reflex. Definitive diagnosis of scabies can be obtained via skin scrapes and cytology of the skin. Biopsies are not reliable to diagnose scabies.

Treatment

There are many effective treatment options including topical Revolution® and Advocate®, oral Simparica®, Nexgard® and Bravecto®. Most of these treatment options are off label. The prognosis is good.

Allergies

Allergies are common causes of itching in the dog. Some dogs can have multiple allergies contributing to the overall itch level. A full clinical history and thorough physical examination can help identify these allergies.

1. Flea bite allergy

Traditionally, fleas are the most common allergies seen in dogs. However, with the advent of excellent flea products in recent years, dogs are less likely to be presented with flea infestation.

Clinical signs

Dogs with flea allergy can have disproportionate itch to just a few fleas. The typical distribution is the caudodorsal lumbar, inguinal and medial thigh regions. Flea allergy does not typically cause itchy feet so if your pet has itchy feet, then flea allergy is unlikely to be the only cause.

Diagnostic procedures

Adult fleas and/or flea dirt can be easily identified through the use of a flea comb.



Figure 2: Flea "dirt" turns a reddish brown discolouration on contact with water due to blood in faeces

Treatment

There are many effective topical and oral treatment options. The aim is to use a product that kills both adult fleas and juvenile life stages. Environmental treatment may be required for severe infestation. All in contact pets (dogs and cats) must be treated.

2. Food allergy

Allergies develop after prior sensitisation so food allergies can develop

even if the diet has not been changed. In a review, the most common food allergens in the dog are beef, chicken, dairy and wheat. Grains are rarely implicated and therefore a grain free diet that contains any offending food allergens will not be effective at controlling food allergy.

Clinical signs

Dogs with food allergy typically present with non-seasonal itchy skin most commonly towards the feet, muzzle, abdomen and ears. They can also present with itchy perineum (scooting) and gastrointestinal signs (e.g. mucoid stools, diarrhoea, flatulence and increased frequency of defecation).

Dogs with food or environmental allergies can present clinically similar. Reviewing the clinical history for any gastrointestinal signs may allow your vet to rank food allergy over environmental. In addition, young dogs <6mths old are more likely to have food allergy.

Diagnostic procedures

An elimination diet using a novel protein and carbohydrate - either home prepared or commercial product (e.g. Prime 100 crocodile and tapioca, kangaroo and pumpkin) or hydrolysate diet (i.e. Royal Canin Anallergenic®, Royal Canin Hypoallergenic® or Hills z/d Ultra Sensitive Skin and Stomach®) for 8 weeks should resolve the itchy skin and gastrointestinal signs. Some dogs may require multiple diets due to the potential for cross reactivity e.g. chicken and crocodile, venison and beef. Unfortunately many of the "hypoallergenic" or "sensitive skin" biscuits sold are unreliable as elimination diets due to presence of potential food allergens (review the ingredient list) and contamination (not listed in ingredient list).

Treatment

If the itching resolves on the elimination diet trial, then confirmation of food allergy can be achieved by a positive flare when original diet is given. Most dogs will flare within 3 days but some may take up to 10 days. Rechallenge with 100% original diet is important not just for confirmation but also to rule out a seasonal environmental allergy. Once a diagnosis of food allergy is made, then attempts can be made to identify offending food allergens so that your pet can be maintained on a complete and balanced diet for longer term feeding.

3. Atopic dermatitis (environment allergy)

Canine atopic dermatitis is a clinical diagnosis made by ruling out other likely causes of itch (through signalment, clinical history and physical examination) and supported by appropriate allergy testing. Like in humans, atopic disease is caused by multiple factors including genetic factors, defective skin barrier and exposure to environmental allergens.

Clinical signs

Dogs with environmental allergy can present with either seasonal or non-seasonal itchy skin most commonly towards the feet, muzzle, abdomen and ears. Some dogs can also have conjunctivitis ("runny eyes") or rhinitis ("runny nose").

Diagnostic procedures

The main differential diagnosis to rule out is food allergy. If there is incomplete or lack of improvement to an elimination diet, then we can make a clinical diagnosis of atopic dermatitis. Allergy testing via intradermal testing and serology testing can be considered to identify offending allergens and to formulate an allergy vaccine to desensitise against these allergens. Avoidance of airborne allergens such as removal of grass around the house is not likely to be successful as most of these airborne allergens can be blown several kilometres away.

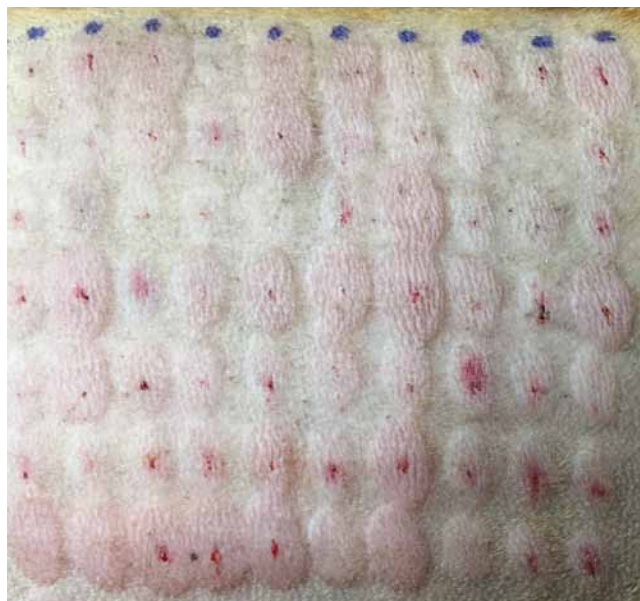


Figure 3: Multiple positive reactions (wheals) on intradermal testing in a dog

Treatment

The treatment options would be dependant on the severity of the itch. For dogs with seasonal and/or mild itching, symptomatic treatment at stopping the itch can be considered. These include oral antihistamines and short courses of oral prednisolone or Apoquel® or Cytopoint® injections. Owners need to remember that these treatments only serve as a “band aid” and the itching will return once the medications are withdrawn.

For non-seasonal or moderate to severe itching, the preferred management would be a combination of symptomatic anti-itch medications for short to medium term control and allergy vaccine for longer-term control. Antihistamines will not be effective. Immediate itch control can be achieved using oral prednisolone or Apoquel®. The use of Atopica® is not appropriate for intense itch due to the lag phase (up to 4-6 weeks) and concurrent prednisolone or Apoquel® during this lag phase should be considered if Atopica® is to be used for medium term control.

Within the next 2 months, an injectable anti-itch medication called Cytopoint® will be available to primary care vets in Australia. This subcutaneous injection can provide itch relief for up to 4 weeks and provide another alternative to oral medications. However, owners need to remember that ongoing injections would be required to control the itching.

The allergy vaccine is a good option for atopic pets for long-term management. The vaccine is formulated based on the positive results identified on allergy testing and is the only treatment option that can modify the underlying allergic disease and has the potential to reduce the severity of the itch and reduce the amount of anti-itch medications required. Similar to that in human medicine, the allergy vaccine takes time (up to 6-9 months to take effect) and we have a success rate of about 70% (defined by at least 50% reduction in the overall itch level and/or reduction of anti-itch medications by at least 50%). Again, similarly to that in human medicine, in successful pets, we recommend continuing the allergy vaccine for at least 3 years to increase the likelihood of long-term protective effect.

Other concurrent treatment options for atopic dogs include topical therapies to improve the skin barrier e.g. shampoos, conditioners, spot-ons and dietary modification.

4. Contact allergy

Contact allergy is traditionally considered to be due to a delayed allergic

reaction (~24hrs after exposure) and most commonly occurs after contact with chemicals. Some recent interesting reports have revealed that dogs can develop immediate type allergic reactions to plants and plant sap from plant family Commelinaceae.

Clinical signs

Dogs with contact allergy typically present with inflammation and papules affecting the glabrous regions of the skin that has been in direct contact with the offending allergen. Therefore, the typical distribution is the axillary, ventral chest, abdomen, groin and medial hindlimbs. The muzzle can be affected.

Diagnostic procedures

A suspicion is made from the clinical history i.e. contact with potential allergen and distribution of affected skin. Avoiding the suspect allergen(s) is a cheap and easy way to determine if your pet could have contact allergy. Skin prick or patch testing can then be performed to identify the exact offending allergen. In a dog that does not have a clinical history suspicion for contact allergy, these tests should not be performed because they are not standardised and false positives and negatives are common.

Treatment

Contact allergy can be successfully managed by avoiding offending allergens.

Infections

Secondary bacterial and yeast skin and ear infections are common in itchy dogs. These organisms are normally found in low numbers on the skin and ears and do not cause disease. When there is any damage to the skin (i.e. any of the above mentioned diseases) or underlying immunosuppressive diseases, these organisms will overgrow and cause disease. Skin and ear infections significantly contribute to the overall itch level.

Clinical signs

Bacterial skin infections commonly cause papules, pustules and crusting lesions. Yeast infections commonly cause greasy skin and thickening of the skin (lichenification). Both organisms can cause ear infections resulting in excessive ear exudate.

Diagnostic procedures

Secondary bacterial and yeast skin and ear infections can be readily identified by in house cytology. With the recent increase in antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections, your vet may recommend a swab of the skin and/or ears for bacterial culture and antibiotic susceptibility testing. This would guide selection of appropriate oral antibiotics.

Treatment

Secondary bacterial and yeast skin and ear infections initially readily respond to topical with or without concurrent oral antimicrobials. However, if the underlying causes are not managed appropriately, these infections will return. With repeated courses of oral antibiotics, there is the increased risk of developing antibiotic-resistant infections. It is recommended that if your pet develops recurring skin and/or ear infections, that they undergo investigations with your vet into identifying and management of any underlying causes.

Other diseases

There are many other less common to rare diseases causing itching in the dog. These include immune mediated diseases, hair cycling diseases, hormonal diseases and neoplastic diseases. These diseases are preferably managed by a veterinary dermatologist mainly because early diagnosis is important (e.g. immune mediated and neoplastic diseases) to allow the pet to receive immediate treatment or that some of these diseases are uncommon to rare and specific tests may be required to make a definitive diagnosis.

Illness in German Shepherd Dogs – Can you help with breed health feedback?

Has your GSD been recently diagnosed with illness, or perhaps unfortunately passed away?

Your dog's information and health details could help future GSD's. The GSDCA has a Breed Health Form, designed to collect information that can be collated to assess for diseases and illnesses affecting our dogs. Even if your data is several years old, submission will help.

All data remains confidential and is submitted directly to our Breed Health Veterinarian Dr Candy Baker. Please consider helping our data collection by submitting a form, no matter how old your information – it will all help.



German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc Breed Health & Welfare Committee

GSD Health Profile Report

Please complete and lodge this form electronically using the SUBMIT option at the end. If you do not have access to EMAIL, you can save the form to your computer to complete or print a copy of the form and hand write. Hard copies can be posted to Dr K Hedberg, Chair Breed Health & Welfare Committee, 36 Bells Line of Road, NORTH RICHMOND NSW 2754

DATA COLLECTION NOTICE: The German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia collects data regarding animals, bloodlines and health conditions. The data collected will only be used when numbers are statistically viable on the condition that has been reported. The individual animal will not be named, however the data collected will be analysed and if significant numbers are identified with close bloodline ties, the bloodlines in common may be named as lines not to double up on, that is, used as general breeding advice.

Animal and Owner Information

If the dog is yet to be registered with the Canine Control please insert KENNEL PREFIX followed by UNNAMED PUPPY in the Registered Name of Dog field.

Registered Name of Dog: Sex: ☐ M ☐ F ☐

Registration No: (if not yet registered please show 000): Date of Birth:

Microchip No: Tattoo No:

Pedigree Information

Sire:

Data collection on breed health issues is very important for us, in Australia, to assess for diseases and disorders that are causing illness or frequent veterinarian visits and deaths. Even though our data collection is breed specific and will provide no direct comparison to other breeds, it will help educate and watch for common disorders in this country.

Please fill out our online GSDCA Health Profile Form when something happens with one of your adults or puppies. It will help create a good data collection base to go on with into the future of improving the health of our breed.



Visit www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org and click this button on the home page to go direct to the form, which can be downloaded or submitted online direct to Candy.

Or here is the link: <http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/gsdcacontent/uploads/2015/03/GSDCA-Health-Profile-Form-August-2016.pdf>

You can contact Dr Candy Baker via email: gsdhealth@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Many thanks!

Candy

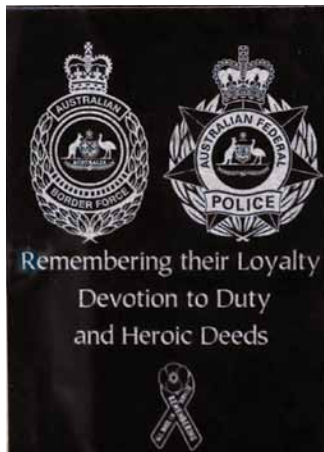
SERVICE dog memorial

Service Dogs Memorial

On Sunday July 8th, Dogs Victoria unveiled a memorial monument to Service Dogs. Over the last few years, the German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria has sold 'Purple Poppies' to support the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) Organisation and to raise funds for Dogs Victoria's Service Dogs Memorial Committee to build the memorial at KCC Park.

The memorial is a tribute to all defence and service dogs that have died while serving in the protection of Australia and its citizens. More than a million dogs have served the country with the Australian Defence Force since WWI. The Last Post was performed at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Chief Executive of Dogs Victoria Dr Tim Adams said "This memorial provides the community with a permanent tribute dedicated to the courage and sacrifice of our canine companions. Since World War I dogs have played a crucial role in the Australian Defence Force. The monument will allow members of the community to visit and pay their respects."



Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation President Nigel Allsopp said the memorial was a great opportunity to recognise the outstanding contribution of Australia's war and service dogs. Nigel Allsopp worked as a Queensland police dog handler for the past 26 years. He said assistance dogs were also helping returned soldiers recover from PTSD. "They're working for us even after war which is great." Well done to Dogs Victoria, particularly Marilyn Syme OAM (founder) who worked tirelessly to see this come to fruition.

The memorial is a great dedication to all dogs, and well worth a visit if and when you are at KCC Park. The GSDCA was represented by President Vince Tantaró and the GSDCV by President Tony Mercieca. With handler Greg Bobbin, Ch. Sensen Mann Yokon CCD ET (Imp Deu) represented all GSD's and wore the Purple Poppy coat.



Yokon in his Purple Poppy coat

The event, was officiated by the patron of Dogs Victoria, Peter Hitchener OAM. Service Dogs Memorial Committee founder Marilyn Syme OAM said the memorial provided a permanent tribute dedicated to the courage and sacrifice of canines.

SERVICE dog memorial



Merylyn Syme, Peter Hitchener, Yokon, Greg Bobbin



Nigel Allsopp and Royal Australian Air Force Sgt Melissa Reibel with retired service dog, Zephir

Local media coverage: (Star News Cranbourne)



Retired military working dogs Zephir and Yokon. Picture: TIM CARRAFA

HONOURING FOUR-LEGGED HEROES

HERO dogs were honoured at a special service dogs' memorial in Skye on Saturday.

The event celebrated defence and service dogs that have died serving their country.

Wreathes were laid for more than a million dogs who have given their lives since

World War I. "Dogs Victoria is proud to be part of this memorial dedicated to all defence and service dogs, past and present, who have served to protect Australia and its citizens," chief executive of Dogs Victoria Dr Tim Adams said.

"This memorial provides the community with a

permanent tribute dedicated to the courage and sacrifice of our canine companions.

"Since World War I dogs have played a crucial role in the Australian Defence Force."

The monument will allow members of the community to visit and pay their respects to our courageous canines.

Presentation of Dentition for Specialist GSD Exhibition Some Points to Consider

by Jo Cathie, GSDCA Specialist Judge

Most judges have likes and dislikes.

Most judges have pet hates and things that make them happy.

Most judges differ immensely.

But almost all judges, speciality or all breeds will agree on one thing.... The frustration of poor presentation.

Country to country handlers differ. Their techniques, their abilities and their little presentation tricks. In some countries it's quite the art form, in others unfortunately, it's a bit of an afterthought.

Australia is blessed with some very talented handlers, able to present a German Shepherd to its best advantage, which of course should be the aim, but the one recurring issue appears to be correct presentation of dentition for checking by the judge. Much time is wasted with judges struggling to see...anything.

It should be pretty straightforward. Bite, side view judges 'side, side view offside.

Easy.

But no.

There's escapees, canine acrobatics, too much wriggling to focus the eyes, and particularly entertaining for the judge... 'a view of the top of my head' or the 'fingers-in-the-way-flash'.

It goes without saying that good training from a young age in German Shepherds helps judges and handlers no end, so owners take note. But some of the responsibility also falls to the handlers to help both the dog (at any age) and the judge.

When asked to write a helpful article on good presentation of German Shepherd dentition for the show ring, I'm inclined to agree with my good friend who suggested making a video and publishing the link would be far easier than trying to put this into words - however, assisted by a dog, a buddy and a decent camera I have endeavoured to do my best.

First the basic don'ts!

Don't forget to settle the dog.

That might sound like a given but we have all seen handlers make a grab for a spinning dog or have a go when the dog is trying to get away. The result? At worst the dog heading off across the ring with handler and judge left with just a lead and collar between them, and at best a display of canine acrobatics and little or no chance of even the most eagle eyed of judges seeing anything.

It is AMAZING what simply stroking the dogs face and reassuring them can do for handler to dog communication. Likewise the old chest tickle and a reassuring word.

So number one, **don't forget to settle the dog.**

(note – when getting puppies used to showing teeth – a gentle look with a tired or resting puppy in order to get them used to this kind of handling will go a long way to familiarising them with tooth presentation come 'training' time proper)

Don't be afraid to take a second to sort your position and balance.

Another given right? But the well placed handler with a dog planted with four feet (or even better a backside) on the ground will start off much better than a handler leaning and twisting over a wriggling dog.

But here's the thing... if the dog doesn't know how to sit (or isn't the type to sit still) – trying to force it to sit to show its teeth will unsettle it before you even start and is the fastest road to ineffective presentation. So perhaps work out if the dog is inclined to sit, and like the best of the handlers, get it sitting sooner rather than later, before the judge's approach. If it's not the type to sit – no worries, forget that idea and follow the rest of the advice anyway.

Don't forget to look where the judge is.

Most judges will bend and move to look in a dog's mouth but still be aware of the judge's line of vision.... and keep the back of your head out of there! It's the judge who has to see, not you.

(You have already been clever enough to have a look before this point to make sure your charge has all its teeth.)

And so to the basic do's.

Do be firm but gentle.

Yanking, grabbing, squeezing, poking, scratching etc. are not going to help persuade the dog to comply with your request. Firm, reassuring, but careful placement of the hands and movement of the lips will give the best results.

And from a training point of view, repetition is the way to go. Always the same thing, always the same way. Reassuring and familiar.

Do be aware of what the judge has actually seen.

Give the judge time to assess the bite/teeth. Most will give a signal that they have seen it and you can move on. Moving on before the judge has finished will result in you and the dog required to present again – and as we have established – this isn't always easy.

And so to technique.

Again it's a don't which springs first to mind.

Don't put your fingers on the forelip at the front of the muzzle and pull it up into a grimace. This technique even looks unpleasant and alien so it's GOT to be uncomfortable and alien to the dog! Its one of my own pet hates. Who has taught this handler to show teeth this way?

Place your thumb and index finger gently across the dogs muzzle like a bridge and use these fingers to lift the upper lips away from the bite - while supporting the lower jaw in the palm of the other hand and using the thumb and index finger of this hand to ease the lower lip downward to expose the bite at the same time. (Figure 1)

The mouth has to be closed to assess the scissor bite.

The judge is looking at the alignment as well as for gaps or faults.



Figure 1 – one hand in a bridge over the muzzle and the other hand supporting the lower jaw

(Here's a little hint... if the dog's tongue is stuck out between the teeth the judge can't assess the bite. Give a quick blow of air in that direction and the tongue should disappear – don't release your (reassuring) grip on the dog to poke the tongue in – and shaking its head around won't do it either. Encouraging the dog to bite down on its own tongue is not to be encouraged as best practice.)

When looking at the sides... the judge is looking for a full view, but of course those pesky little first premolars are the tricky ones to see. So many handlers stick a finger in there as part of the hold, or as leverage to open the dog's mouth! Why open the dog's mouth? This can be done in a much simpler way!

You can almost get a 'hallelujah' from a judge by presenting these visibly with no fuss, leaving at most just a quick lift of the top lip and the full check is done.

Personally I don't change the position of my hands (or the dog) to switch from bite presentation to side presentation – so still in the 'bridge across the nose' hold, expose the side view with the thumbs using the fingers to move more of the lip and it's all done in good time and professional fashion. (Figure 2)

Master that quickly for both sides and trust me... life is easier for judge, handler and dog.

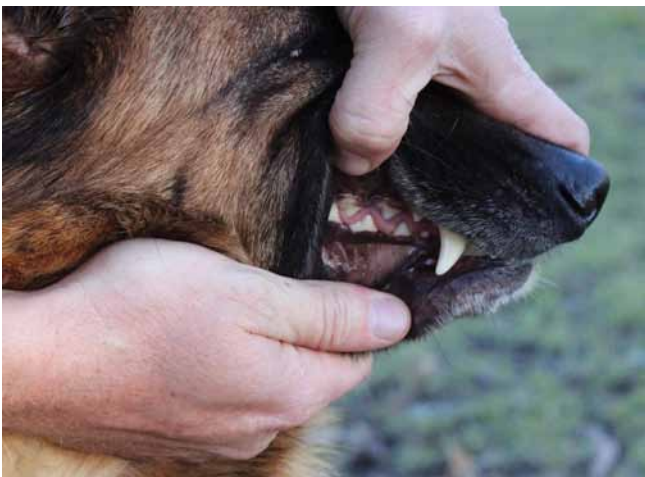


Figure 2 – one hand in a bridge over the muzzle and the other still supporting the lower jaw

Here's another hint, and this one is worth its weight in gold.

Hold the collar! Yeah – that simple!

Don't be getting your legs, arms or anything else tied up with a German Shepherd lead in front of the judge and your fellow showgoers, and don't leave yourself 'hands free' because when the acrobat takes off you aren't going to be able to stop it.

Just hold the collar.

I prefer to use the hand which supports the bottom jaw to hold the collar slightly forward (the dog can feel it at the back of their neck then - which restricts the head movement) and show the teeth collar in hand.

Whatever the collar choice, incorporate it in the movement. (Figure 3, Figure 4)



Figure 3



Figure 4

Put your body in the dog's way.

As simple as holding the dog's body close into your legs to limit its escape route or more technical like using a foot behind its rump to reinforce the 'sit'... give the dog a bit of support. (Figure 5)



Figure 5

Supported positioning - The dog is fully sitting, with the handlers foot and lower leg reinforcing the position. She is held against the handler, and is further restricted by the handlers' hold of her collar. The view of the muzzle is not impeded.

And that's about that.

Start 'training' or at the very least desensitising the puppy at a very young age and build to actual tooth checking, reinforced by praise.

There are of course little variations in the how to, but the basic principles remain the same and the hints and techniques described here are tried and tested and should be of help if applied.

The German Shepherd naturally aims to please – but without a little instruction they can go off track. Teaching the dog to show its teeth and praising them for doing so is just another little 'can-do' it can add to its repertoire, and considering how often a show dog is required to present its dentition, it is truly important and only fair that we make it a stress free and simple request.

And listen carefully. On a busy day of many dogs, done right, you may even hear a judges 'hallelujah'!

Youth in Review

While it is important to think forwards, sometimes it is just as important to look back and reflect on where we have come. Focusing on the youth aspect of the German Shepherd Dog fraternity, I'd like to take this time to reflect on the work that has happened to build up the great number of youth handlers we currently have. I offer you the following extract written by one of our now young adult members, Jes Mase in 2012:

"My first experience handling in the ring was so exciting and hard because you're so nervous. I eventually came from the bottom group to 6th and that was the final placing for the puppy... To any kids that want to handle, I encourage them and to the G.S.D. people, can you please encourage kids and we'll probably get more kids handling after all the youth is the future. Kids from 10 upwards should be allowed to handle open animals because it's not how strong the dog is – it's how strong the connection from the handler to the animal is when in the ring."

I think it is great to note that since this was published a lot of youth handlers are now handling more and more animals in their classes – right up to and including Open Dog and Bitch. It is so important for new handlers to learn on experienced animals who know how to work – not on young puppies that are trying to play.

It is also important to note that in less than 10 years, Youth Members now know we have:

- gained a representative on a National Level
- started receiving state handler competition awards at the National Show
- a dedicated Youth page on the GSDCA website
- National Handler competition with high quality trophies

I'd like to take this time to remind our members that the youth are our future. This cannot be said enough! If we do not encourage the next generation, then there will be no future for the German Shepherd Dog.

We have passionate young members that need nurturing and growth in this hobby, which can only come from mentoring from experienced, passionate adults such as our judges and breed surveyors.

Let's keep building on what Jess Lynch started building up for the youth, and make the future of our youth and the German Shepherd Dog a bright one.

Andrew O'Loughlin

GSDCA Youth Officer



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

Public Relations – German Shepherd Dog Club of WA

In January this year I was contacted by Corinne, a Manager from Nulsen Disability Services who house and provide care for disabled people. Corinne asked if we could arrange a meeting with our German Shepherds and two of their residents, Steven and Lisa, both of whom are in wheel chairs.

It was to be a surprise for Steven's 50th birthday. Steven loves GSD's as he owned one when he was young.

We arranged for them to meet us at the club grounds on 1st February. We had 11 dogs and owners, albeit 1 is a funny looking GSD, Dusty the Cattle Dog. He lives with 3 Shepherds and thinks he's one so we let him think it. It was huge success and judging by Steven's smiled he was thrilled.

The success of this meeting led to a second meeting on the 22nd March.

All the dogs were so well behaved and gentle with them. Both meetings were enjoyable for all of us.

It's planned that these meetings will continue possibly every 2-3months with their residents.

Thank you to all the club members who helped me put these meetings together:

Kerrie Pearce with Anya & Tabitha

Iain McIntosh with Leo & Kruizer

Ian and Dorothy Marr with Romeo

Rachael Laubsch with Indy

John Glenly with Charro & Sarita

Kym Glenly with Hondo, Jett, Duke & Dusty

Karen Westmacott – taking photos

Kym Glenly

Public Relations Officer

GSDA of WA



Creating an Engaged Canine Partner

By Carissa Kuehn

Engagement. What is it? How can we be sure we really have it? Do we really need it?

Yes, we need it! Engagement is one of the most important things we can cultivate in our dogs, because without it, we don't have an involved, willing, or focused canine partner. Engagement is defined in several ways, but there are two descriptions that best fit what we require of our dogs:

1. The process of establishing a meaningful contact or connection with
2. The process of participating or becoming involved in

With engagement, we are asking our dogs to have a meaningful connection with us, and to be fully involved in the activity we are doing. But in order to have full participation and truly meaningful connection, it must be voluntary! The dog must CHOOSE to engage. We want him to strongly desire that opportunity for engagement and seek it whenever possible, even when other distractions are present.

An engaged dog is more than just a dog that is looking at us directly. With an engaged dog, we not only have their eyes, but we also have their mind. As anyone who has heeled their dog around a distraction knows, we can very well have the appearance of focus, yet the dog's mind is clearly elsewhere. With true engagement, we have both eyes and mind.

Engagement is a crucial component of training and trialling. However, we must be sure that we have the right type of engagement.

Types of Engagement

Reactive engagement

In reactive engagement, the handler is doing all the work, and the dog is reacting to the handler's attempts at initiating the connection. This is where engagement starts, but too many handlers stay in this stage. The responsibility is never fully shifted to the dog, and instead of creating true engagement, the handler creates a dog that only engages when it suits him, and only reacts to the handler rather than push for work.

Here's an example of reactive engagement: The dog may be sniffing and checking out the environment with his handler; the handler then calls the dog's name, whips out food or a toy, and starts attracting the dog's attention. The dog may show some interest, so the handler ratchets up the enthusiasm. The handler becomes even more persistent in trying to get the dog's attention, whipping ball or tug from side to side erratically, causing 'misses' to build up "drive", and trying to use their own energy to overcome the dog's curiosity about the environment. With this type of engagement, the burden is always on the handler to initiate. In some cases, if food or toy aren't visible, the dog may look up or come over, but then quickly disengage again. Sometimes the handler is practically begging the dog to engage and get to work!

Reactive engagement is exhausting for the handler, and ineffective for cultivating lasting engagement. The dog only reacts, and when the handler's stimulation falls below the level of interest, the dog's interest

wanes. Even worse, the dog may become annoyed at the handler's interference! In a trial where there are no toys, no food, and no handler help, this can equate to a lacklustre and distracted performance.

Active engagement

In active engagement, the dog pushes the handler to work. The dog takes responsibility for starting the game, and has a role in maintaining focus. This dog may push into, stare at, bark at, jump on, jump around, or otherwise actively push the handler to start working, regardless of whether there is food or toy visible. As Denise Fenzi and Deb Jones describe it in their excellent book 'Dog Sports Skills Book 4: Focus and Engage!' the dog who is engaged is **"a dog who will enthusiastically seek training opportunities regardless of location, stressors, or the presence (or lack thereof) of visible classic motivators like food and toys"**. This is the lofty goal we desire for our dogs!

Here's an example of active engagement: The dog is sniffing around and checking out the environment with his handler; of his own volition, the dog turns toward and sits in front of the handler, offering direct eye contact. If the handler moves away, the dog enthusiastically follows and even pushes the handler to engage, offering direct eye contact and asking to work. Now the handler rewards the dog, and then when the reward is gone, the dog immediately pushes the handler to work again, and training can begin. This is what we want for trialling: the animated, enthusiastic, pushy attitude! So how do we get it?

Creating Engagement

When creating engagement, we use rewards like toy and food to reinforce the engagement, but ideally these are not the sole focus. We should also be using voice, personal interaction, and play. Outside of the very beginning step, reinforcers like food or toy will be hidden on you, and the dog must choose to engage even without seeing them!

Below are the levels of engagement, which Fenzi and Jones call "Stages of Engagement" in their book 'Dog Sports Skills, Book Four: Focus and Engage!' This is my summary of the different levels; see their book for their discussion and elaboration on their Stages of Engagement (I highly recommend it!).

1. **You engage the dog with food or toy.** This beginning level should only be used long enough to teach the dog that you have good stuff and that it's fun to be with you! Food is often easiest to use here to encourage the dog to walk with you, move forward into you, look at you, etc. Once this is established, you move to the next step.
2. **The dog engages you.** The responsibility is shifted to the dog for engagement. He can't see that you have food or toys, but as soon as he makes eye contact, you respond enthusiastically and engage/reward for a short period of time. Then you break, and repeat this process several times if the dog continues to engage you, then call it quits. End when the dog is still excited and enthusiastic.
3. **The dog pushes for sustained engagement.** We move from short eye contact to sustained eye contact and movement toward you. We want the dog to get pushy about engaging the handler, and he's going to get rewarded for it. You might decide what 'pushy' behaviours you find acceptable, as working dogs are already notoriously pushy and enthusiastic. This is the stage where you slowly add more energy into the mix, to create even more enthusiasm in your dog. Take your time here to build up that energy

and sustained engagement.

4. **The dog pushes for engagement and work.** Now we begin to add a little work into the mix, once the dog has sustained engagement. When the dog starts pushing for engagement and we start moving, we ask for a little work before rewarding the dog. It could be something as simple as moving backward while the dog pushes toward you, then turning so he is now in heel position and walking in that heel position. Then we reward and engage. Or we ask for a simple obedience behaviour like a sit, and reward that immediately, then engage. Training becomes an interplay of engagement, work, and rewards, linked in short spurts.
5. **We create engagement for competition.** This involves creating a cue for engagement that we use prior to setting foot on the field. It also involves adding in more work before rewarding, taking engagement into different environments to generalise the behaviours, fading the reinforcers and shifting more to personal engagement, and eventually removing the reinforcers off your person. This is the highest and most challenging level to achieve for many of us, but is necessary for competition.

Keep in mind this entire process will take time to accomplish; it's not going to happen in one or two training sessions. It takes time to build lasting active engagement, and to then move this into the work for competition. This is something to start with a puppy or young dog, and it will continue throughout the dog's entire career. Take your time to do it right.



Rules of Engagement

Don't we all want that dog that pushes us to work, and remains enthusiastic, spirited, focused, and engaged on the trial field even when classic rewards aren't present? There are different types and levels of engagement, but that active, sustained engagement is what we eventually want. Taking the time to cultivate this active engagement is incredibly beneficial to both the relationship and the trial picture. But before we start training it, we need to know the rules!

Yes, good engagement has rules, and if you've trained for any length of time, you'll realise that sometimes it's hard to follow them, because we may have been doing - or been told to do - the exact opposite!

12 Rules of Engagement

1. Start with focus. Never try to train an unfocused dog! Focus is a large part of training, and is closely linked with engagement. Doing focus work and focus games help lay the foundation for the stages of engagement. In focus work, the dog learns that turning his attention to you is highly rewarding and enjoyable. Then, when it comes to engagement, we will be cultivating focused movement and not just stationary focus. It is important to use natural, voluntary focus and not commanded focus (i.e. "Look", or "Watch" cues).
2. Work engagement separately from anything else (at first). If engagement is what you want to work on, then train it separately, and not during other work. That is, not yet! You will add work into engagement at the higher levels, and engagement exercises will eventually become part of your pre-trial warm up routine. But for now, work on it separately.
3. Be fully engaged with your dog. Now is not the time to be distracted by club members asking you questions or wanting to talk with you while you train. We expect our dogs to be fully engaged, so we must do the same.
4. Choose the right training environment for your dog. Environment is the number one reason dogs fail to engage. There's no use in trying to work on engagement in the exciting club environment when your dog can't even do it at home! Select the least stimulating environment for your particular dog, and go from there. Later, you will add distractions and move to busier places, but do your best to set your dog up for success, rather than overwhelm him with distractions. Repeated failure usually indicates a problem with your environment selection. Remember that age can be a factor here, too, if you have a puppy or teenager!
5. Give your dog a chance to look around and acclimate. You won't get true engagement if your dog feels stressed, curious, or nervous about his environment, so give him a chance to look around. This may take a few minutes to even ten minutes or more, depending on the dog. You don't have to let him go see EVERYTHING in his environment, but let him sniff, look around, potty, and sniff some more.

This is huge for many young dogs, and for excitable or slightly edgy trial dogs. They need a chance to look around. We cannot just take them

TRAINING chat

from crate to field and expect excellent work, especially if we are in a new location. The dogs that can do this are indeed rare, and are a product of genetics, maturity, experience, and overwhelming drive for toy or handler that overrides interest in the environment. This does not describe most dogs. So give your dog a chance to acclimate, then make a distinction between acclimation and training time, such as putting the dog in a down or a sit for a few moments. When the dog starts offering eye contact, then move into engagement. Eventually, this will become part of your warm-up for competition.

6. Match your dog's energy. If your dog's energy level is only so-so, and you start trying to pump him up by wildly whipping around the toy, running backwards, etc., you may overwhelm your dog and create a reactive form of engagement, or just toy-based "engagement" instead of handler-focused engagement. Instead, match his energy, and then as you progress through the engagement process, slowly increase your energy and enthusiasm to encourage the dog to increase his.

7. Don't correct for lack of engagement! You will experience failure, and this is NOT an opportunity to physically correct the dog to make him re-engage. During all engagement work, you do NOT correct the dog. We are teaching him to willingly, happily, and enthusiastically engage with us; corrections diminish this picture, and can create reactive or even forced engagement. Corrections may also force the dog to give a false picture of engagement to avoid the correction, even if they would rather leave if they could. Remember that engagement is about the dog voluntarily participating and forming meaningful connection with us, which means he has the option of saying "no". Corrections for engagement are the equivalent of saying "You WILL be with me, and you WILL like it, or else."

If your dog is on leash and you find yourself tempted to correct the dog for losing focus and disengaging, then either attach the leash around your waist to keep your hands free, or find a place where you can safely have your dog off-leash without fear of distractions. And if your dog is repeatedly failing to engage, then stop and evaluate your situation. Too distracting of an environment? Not enough acclimation time? Dog nervous or anxious or overstimulated? Attempting to go too far too fast? Back up and find the last place of success, then go from there.

8. When failure happens, don't prompt the dog to re-engage. This is THE HARDEST THING for handlers to do: let their dogs fail at engagement. This is especially true when we are out there on the field and our dog's attention wanders while other people watch. We are told to re-engage the dog, get his attention, or correct him. So we kiss at him, call his name, wave the toy or tug around and make him miss it a few times, or give a pop on the collar, and when he re-engages we try to work again... until he disengages again. Then the cycle repeats itself.

In the first stage or with very young dogs, handler encouragement may be fine for a little while. But then shift the responsibility to the dog. If

he disengages, stand still and wait. If he re-engages, continue moving and reward! If he disengages more than two or three times, end the training session and put him away. If he's not wanting to engage, then he doesn't get to work. Then evaluate what happened before you try again later. Did he not get enough time to acclimate? Was the environment too distracting? Were you too overpowering? Were you asking for too much? Were club members attempting to be "helpful" by providing distraction for your dog, before he's actually ready for it?

9. Move when the dog is engaged, stop when he is not. Movement is crucial to engagement. When the dog is engaged, you are constantly moving with the dog, such as drawing the dog toward you while you move backwards, walking together, etc. Standing still becomes a signal for the dog to start engagement, which will be beneficial in the trial setting since every obedience exercise starts with a stationary basic position!

10. Don't always have the reinforcers visible. We must teach the dog that focus is rewarded even when we don't have food or toys on us. How many of us have heard - or perhaps said ourselves - that the dog won't focus on the field once they don't see the ball? To prevent this, we start hiding reinforcers in that second level of engagement, where the dog begins to offer eye contact for engagement. Hide the toys and food on your body, so he's not looking for them and then offering engagement only when he spots them. We want the dog to offer focus and engagement even if he can't see or smell reinforcers on us! This one is tough, because one of our first impulses is to show toy or food to the dog to start the game! Again, shift the responsibility to the dog.

11. Keep sessions short! This should only be 60 seconds or less at first, especially if working with young dogs and puppies. Initially, it might only be five seconds long! You can do several different sessions over the course of the day, but keep them short and successful. Always stop before the dog loses interest and experiences failure. Remember that we have to work on the dog's timetable, not ours.

12. Keep it personal. Engagement is all about relationship, connection, and interest in you! So develop that personal connection. Use your voice and facial expressions, tone and body language to communicate enthusiasm and enjoyment to your dog. It's not just about the toy or food you have; it's also about you and your interaction with each other. Have fun!

These 12 rules set the proper structure for creating active engagement. As handlers, we must set the dog up for success. We also must remain flexible, and work with what the dog gives us.

The dog's attitude, demeanour, and engagement can vary from day to day, environment to environment. Sometimes this requires us to change our plan, even though we set aside time to train and have a game plan in our minds. Be persistent, be patient, be consistent. You'll get there!



NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



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Show training has been consistent throughout the colder months with obedience training growing each month with new recruitments. The club is feeling the loss of the late Tiki Friezer who worked with the obedience dogs and handlers with Rally O and Tracking. She will be fondly remembered for her love of the German Shepherd and willingness to help the many handlers.

Our June Show was a great success, lovely atmosphere with 99 entries in the Sanction Show judged by Mrs Jenny Delucia (SA). It was a pleasure to have Jenny visit our club to assess the dogs. Her Best in Show was SC *Ch Vablo vom Osterbergerland a ED (Deu) and R/Up in Show was LSC *Siobahn Great Impact (AI) AZ. We also had our biggest Open Show entry of 52 entries judged by Mr Kurt Morton (NSW). His Best in Show was SC *Fremont Watson AZ and R/Up in Show was LSC *Eroica Duchess of York AZ.

A Breed Survey was held on the 19th May with 1 male and 3 females all classified with 4 surveyors present. Then on the 14th July 2 females were classified with 3 surveyors present. Our next survey is on 22nd September.

On the 16th June we had a tent at Dogs on Show run by Dogs NSW and sponsored by Royal Canin. We were one of 6 stands that the public had to visit to collect a sticker for the \$250 Draw. Thanks to Terry and Pam for helping on the stand. Thanks to Les, Marilyn, Tony, Rodney and Di for bringing their dogs out to socialise and to Teresa, Wayne and Deb for visiting the stand with their dogs. Enquiries were about joining the club and wanting to come to training for those who had just purchased a puppy and general questions on owning and purchasing the breed.



The main promotional event of the year was Sydney Dog Lovers held at Moore Park on the 4th and 5th August. At this event Graeme Stevenson gave a 15-minute session at Ask the Breeder about the breed on both days and Kathie Minton talked about obedience training on the Saturday and Yvonne Spek spoke and answered questions on the Sunday.



It was a great team effort over the two days and with setting up and packing away enabling all to be out of the venue just after 6pm. All dogs were great ambassadors of the breed mixing with the public and many other breeds.



We had 4 half hour sessions throughout the weekend at Pat-a-Pooch where a German Shepherd was in with other breeds on a bed to be patted and cuddled. Thankyou to T&S Pet

Supplies for donating comfy dog beds for our stall making it more welcoming to the public to be up close and personal with the dogs. Thank you to Kathie Minton, Pam and Terry Jarvis for helping Graeme and I on the stall on Saturday with LSC Sundaneka Rio Grande and SC *Sundaneka Baileys On Ice AZ. And on the Sunday Tony Darcy with SC Conkasha Black Spirit (Maverick), Yvonne Spek with SC Conkasha Montana Diva (Tana), Rod and Di Coppini with LSC Sundaneka Huggy Bear AZ and again baby LSC Sundaneka Rio Grande. Many comments about the friendly nature of all the dogs. The GSD stand was very busy at all times.



The next promotional event is on 16th September at Dogs in the Park at Penrith. We were one of 10 breeds accepted at this event

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs

and it is the first time we have attended. Looks great with lots going on and expecting a big crowd.

Goodluck to all in the upcoming shows, surveys and trials.

Karen Stevenson



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The GSDCV were saddened by recent the passing of Joylene Neddermeyer. She was respected and admired by the GSD fraternity for her lifelong commitment to the breed. Her knowledge and passion for our breed will be sadly missed, and not replaced. Our condolences to her son Martin and family. Vale Joylene.

Members were also very sorry to hear of the more recent passing of Karen Ballantyne from Denargun Kennels. Our thoughts are with Blackie, family and friends at this sad time. Denargun produced some top dogs that excelled at National shows. Karen was a well respected breeder and exhibitor within the GSD fraternity, who will be sadly missed. RIP Karen.

What's exciting for our showies is our big plans for our 100th 'Centenary' Championship Show coming up on November 3rd. Wolfgang Hassgall (SV) has the honour of judging SC Bitches and Andrew Jones (Vic) SC Dogs and all LSC's. This is our big double show weekend with the Working Dog Club show. We hope to see lots of interstate exhibitors, its always a highlight of our show year and rounds out the Terry Shaw Trophy too!

The big moment finally came for *Australian Grand Champion Schaeferhund Balleena AZ ET RN CD when Michelle and Bella achieved their 1000pts for their Gr. Ch title. Bella is an allrounder (Speciality and All-breeds shows, Endurance, Obedience and Rally) so she's a great ambassador! Well done to Michelle and Bella for persevering too 😊

Plans for the 2019 National are about to come to fruition. It's nearly time for us to begin promotion and information release for this great event. Everything you need to know can be found on our website, most specifically at gsdcv.org.au/2019national. If you have not yet booked, get onto it. Time is flying by and April 2019 is but a glimpse away!! We want to see YOU here in Melbourne, showcasing your dogs! In 2019 there will be a Rally Obedience trial held in addition to Obedience, so if you're inclined, start working towards some rally trial action and begin training. It's a great and fun way to work with your dog – and compete at a National.



Dogs Victoria has a fantastic memorial to all War and Service Dogs at KCC Park, which was unveiled in July. Local 'star' Yokon was our furry representative. Drop in and see the memorial if you are at KCC Park.

Around our training branches it's always busy in winter. Our Western branch held a talk by Corrections Victoria - Security and Emergency Services Group. Prison K9's – they provide high-level support to all areas of Corrections Victoria (CV). The SESG was established in 1980 as the Victorian Prison Dog Squad. It was a great night, well attended and all were impressed with the dogs and the demo searches they performed on the night. These nights are a great way to build our relations with local service organisations, and the SESG guys were just as happy to note the work we do in training our dogs and what they could learn from us. As we know, dog training is always evolving and you can always pick up something new!

Our branches continue the excellent grass roots training our club is renowned for. Come rain, hail or shine every cold winter weekend, over 400 GSD's and their owners are out and about learning basic obedience, socialisation, manners and control – for both humans and dogs 😊 For many dogs it's the highlight of their week, going to training and seeing their furry friends. Thankyou to our 11 branch committees and instructors – all volunteers who do it for the love of the dog. And for our pet owners wanting to do the best for their

dog – keep turning up at training, we love to see you!

The next few months sees a busy schedule with our Track and Search Dog Trial, double Obedience Trial, The Royal Melbourne Show and our Champ Shows. No rest for anyone! Good Luck to everyone competing.

My Shepherd, My Friend, My Responsibility



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News from the West

As I write this report it is the eve of our 2018 Annual General Meeting. There will be a number of changes on the Management Committee. We will be losing our "leader" Ian Marr after many years at the helm – I am confident that Ian will continue to support the Management Committee and as always a hands-on trainer and mentor to all members. Also taking a break are Anna Mitchell (Secretary) John Crace (Vice President) and Andy Crace (Show Chair). We wish you all a happy "retirement" and are positive that they will support the incoming committee members.

We all need to work together and put a positive foot forward – this is necessary for our association to survive. Let's support new enthusiasm and direction – sometimes others have great ideas which can benefit us all.

Winter has well and truly arrived this year and we are constantly drying dogs and wiping up muddy footprints. July brought us Café in July (courtesy of Rob Pritchard our webmaster and talented Barista extraordinaire) and renovations in the ladies toilets (courtesy of Stephen Adams) Thanks gents. We held successful Obedience and Rally-O trials at the end of July – well done to the Trials Committee.

In August we have a breed survey – looking forward to welcoming our new Breed Surveyor, Natalie Humphries – congratulations from the

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs

members. Our Championship double – Rick Richardson Memorial Show judged by Natalie Humphries and the Walter Martin Memorial show – sadly Joylene passed away suddenly and will not be visiting W.A. – many were looking forward to renewing old friendships. Deepest sympathies have been sent to Martin and the family. Rest well Joylene.

August will be our designated Men's Health month – supporting charities such as the Ed Whitten Foundation and October will be designated Women's Health month supporting our long time charity the McGrath Foundation. Dig Deep folks and fill up our Lucky Number board's a.s.a.p.

We have been asking our members to support the Stop Puppy Farming initiative here in Western Australia. It is a battle which some appear to take too far and often the object of submissions are clouded with matters that do not apply – such as pet shops being used by rescue groups, mandatory sterilisation in the early months of life etc. Let us hope that sanity prevails.

News just in from the A.G.M.

Our new Management Committee is Brian Lubbock – President, Bronson Pereira - Vice President, Joan McMulklin – Treasurer, Lucy Lubbock – Secretary, Natalie Humphries - Breed Affairs Chair, Tracy Roberts - Show Chair and our dear Honey Gross-Richardson as Obedience Chair.

Well that is a rap from W.A.

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." – Josh Billings

Margaret Adams Editor G.S.D.A. of W.A. (Inc.)



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Winter in Tasmania has obviously been cold and wet but with the warmer season approaching dogs activities will once again be on everyone's agendas.

In coming months we will time table some of the harmonisation and character assessment activities, we will let you know what we have in mind after consulting with members and committee. We also hope to implement some boot camp training for those people interested in some fun motivational training.

In February this year we reinstituted our back to back shows, albeit two shows on one day rather than our old model of Saturday and Sunday shows. This was very successful, taking advantage of the warmer weather and helping our members, including me, to keep motivated with our pooches in training mode. We will hold the AM/PM Shows again in February 2019, and look forward to our mainland competitors again travelling south to enjoy the shows and Tasmanian hospitality.

It was great to see the GSDCA National attendance and results, Tasmanian dogs certainly held their own. A number of us are heading off overseas and we look forward to reporting back to members on the German and Italian Sieger show, along with our many fellow Australians who will be there this year.

As this edition goes to print our Annual General Meeting will have been held. Thank you to all the former committee members and office bearers and welcome to the newly elected ones, we look forward to working productively with you all.

It was very sad to hear of the passing of Joylene Neddermeyer, and as a club we acknowledge her diligent work for the breed over many years, both at a club and National level. RIP Joylene.

Jurgen Haase President GSDCT



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Hello all from beautiful one day perfect the next... we have been busy since last

report – the Working Dog Club of Qld 2018 Championship Show had Pieter Tjerckstra judging, though the numbers were low the quality certainly wasn't with Castastar Gemeka being awarded Challenge Bitch, Kantenna Alejandro AZ Challenge Dog & Best Of Breed – special congratulations to Debbie O'Keefe whose Puppy Bitch Debban Hermoine went on through General Specials to be awarded Puppy in Show under NZ Judge Mrs S Chaytor.

In June, Breed survey was held in Brisbane with 5 animals being presented and all successfully classified, congratulations to the owners & breeders of:-

Karalcin Katana

Astasia Darya

Kelinpark Malteser

Vondarcor Jaguar

Kaygar Afina

Photographs are on our FB page

The Survey was followed by our Brisbane Members Competition with Jo Cathie judging- Congratulations to all winners (full results on our web site)

Our hard working Zone 2 Reps Karl & Sarah Maresh put together a wonderful weekend in Sarina (Northern Qld) with Survey on Saturday, 4 Animals were presented & classified at the Breed Survey, congratulations to their Breeders & Owners. The Survey was followed by the first of 2 Members Competitions, the second held on Sunday - Congratulations to all winners – full results on our website

You may remember that recently we congratulated (& bragged a little) about one of our members, Nicole Hammond & her young bitch "Karham Know It All" with her achievements that included :- 6 x Best In Show, 2 x R/Up Best In Show, 13 x Best In Group, 2017 Brisbane Royal Puppy In Show Winner and numerous class in show awards. Kiah is shown in the Specialty, All Breeds and Herding rings, proving her versatility – well, they haven't been idle, we now would like to offer more congratulations as "Kiah" has now made breed history by becoming Australia's youngest GSD SUPREME CHAMPION at the tender age of 21 months! From here on in she will be known as *Supreme Champion Kharham Know It All HT AZ !!

Congratulations to breeders, owners & handlers of this lovely young girl - Nicole & Michelle Hammond & for the dedication given to her training & nurturing, allowing her to continually be a superb ambassador for the German Shepherd Dog

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



July saw our "Double header Champ Show" weekend where the rings belonged to two lovely ladies, Heather MacDonald UK & Melanie Groth NSW now but as we see it, "came home" to judge... The weather was perfect, the dogs were stunning, the atmosphere friendly & happy & great sportsmanship was the icing on the cake. We were happy to see many interstate visitors & exhibitors where a couple of our "Southern visitors" battled it out on both days, taking turns as it turned out, over the In Show awards, with *Sensen Mann Yokon being Best In Show on Saturday, *Jayshell Kenzie Runner up and the reverse on Sunday!

Full results photos etc on our website – just a quick mention & congratulations to Shaun Schembri & Caz (*Bodecka Casanova AZ) who gained the balance of points needed to qualify for "their" Australian Champion title at the Sunday show.

Our next events are our September Breed Survey, Open Show & State Breed Exhibition all to be held on Saturday Sept 15 & then a first for us, a Restricted Group 5 Obedience Trial on Sunday Sept 16th, wish us luck, stay tuned for results & as always, remember what brought us all together in the first place.

Our one common love – the German Shepherd Dog



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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.

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\$225.00 (Non - Advertising)

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\$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.

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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 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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The Treasurer, GSDCA QNR, 20 Conrad Road, Longwood SA 5153

SEPARATION anxiety in dogs

Separation Anxiety in Dogs

Separation anxiety is one of the most common, yet most undiagnosed behavioural problems in dogs. The symptoms of excessive barking, whining, self-mutilation, urination and defecation can take a big toll on both dogs and owners. It can also result in many dogs being labelled as “naughty”, with the real cause of the condition going undetected. Luckily separation anxiety is now widely understood by veterinarians and there are many management options that can decrease and even eradicate the condition completely.

What is Separation Anxiety?

Separation anxiety is your dog's reaction to being away from you. As dogs are pack animals, it's normal for a puppy to become attached to their litter and then subsequently to the human that becomes their master. It's also normal for a dog to get bored when his/ her owner leaves the house or to occasionally whine, bark and act destructively. What distinguishes separation anxiety from day-to-day mischievousness is that in separation anxiety the behaviours occur only in the owner's absence.

Symptoms

Some owners notice the signs of separation anxiety by what goes on when they are away – a dug-up garden, a torn-up house or neighbours reporting loud barking. Other people notice it as they prepare to leave the house - the dog notices cues that his/ her owner is leaving (like picking up keys, putting on shoes or applying make-up) and begins to bark, scratch or become hyperactive. Signs of separation anxiety can also include the following:

- Pacing
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhoea or vomiting
- Hyperactivity

Treatment

As the causal nature of the condition is over-dependence or strong attachment, the key to effective treatment is teaching your dog to feel safe in your absence. There are a number of different techniques that can assist with this and a few you should avoid.

What Works

- **Use Command-Response-Reward** interaction, which provides reward-based positive reinforcement for good behaviour. Ignore all attention seeking behaviour such as whining, barking, pawing or licking for 3-4 weeks (or longer if you are not seeing improvement). Only initiate interactions with your dog when it is calm and not seeking attention; this will help shift the association of reward from attention-seeking behaviour.
- **Train your dog** to do a reliable down-stay using reward-based techniques:

- Start by training a down and rewarding the dog.
- Gradually increase the time he/ she must stay before the reward is given.
- Once the dog can remain in a down-stay for several minutes, return to frequent rewards but this time take a step back from the dog before giving them.
- Continue increasing the distance gradually and the length of reward time gradually.
- Incorporate this exercise into your daily routine, e.g. when you are having breakfast, working at your desk or relaxing at night. Use it to prevent your dog following you around.

- **Encourage independence** by allowing your dog to have positive associations in your absence. For example, leave a Kong®, rawhide chew or bone in another room and allow your dog to find it.
- **Ignore** your dog for 20 minutes before you leave the house and then again for as long as it takes for him/ her to become settled when you return home. This will help to reduce your dog's arousal levels and the sudden experience of separation when you leave.
- **Give your dog a long-lasting chew item** 5 minutes before you leave the house and with minimal interaction (as mentioned above, 20 minutes of ignoring your dog is optimum). Interactive toys such as Kongs®, Buster Cubes® and other food dispensing toys are useful to use at these times.
- **Walk your dog** at least twice a day for a minimum of 15-30 minutes each time. Exercise is known to decrease anxiety and to be important for socialisation and mental stimulation.
- **Break associations** that cue to your dog you are about to leave the house. For example, pick up your keys, put on your shoes and put on make-up without going outside. You can also mix up departure cues by performing them in a different order; put on your shoes and coat before having breakfast or drive the car out of the garage and shut the door, come back in the house and leave later in the day.
- **Anti-anxiety medication** can assist to reduce a dog's anxiety. However, as the underlying cause is relationship-based, it's important to treat the dependency issues at the same time (using techniques above). Before commencing medication it is important to take your dog to see your vet, get a full physical examination and, if appropriate, consider pathology tests (blood work) to ensure liver and kidney function are normal and there are no underlying diseases.

What Doesn't Work

- **Getting another dog for companionship.** As the dependent bond is between you and your dog, even when a new dog is introduced, the dog will still feel panicked when you leave the house.
- **Punishment.** Unlike humans, dogs are not able to associate past behaviours with subsequent punishment. As such, punishment does not work. The 'guilty' look that owners sometimes report dogs having is usually the dog's learned response to the owner's reaction. Reward-based approaches for good behaviour are most effective.
- **Deterring chewing** by tying the dog to chewed objects or painting them with a deterrent (e.g. Tabasco sauce), may stop the dog from chewing that object, but he/ she will then find another outlet for their anxiety.

SEPARATION anxiety in dogs

Other Things to Consider

Confinement can often increase anxiety. While it may be necessary to prevent self-injury or damage to the house, try to reduce confinement as much as possible. If necessary, stacked baby gates in a room are preferable to a crate. Systematic desensitisation to departures can also be effective, but can be a time-consuming process and require significant commitment from the owner.

Separation anxiety often manifests or worsens in winter. With the reduced daylight hours and cold weather, dogs may be walked less often. Where possible, owners need to keep up the same routines and exercise regimes in winter as they do in summer.

<https://www.vetwest.com.au/pet-library/separation-anxiety-in-dogs>

Preventing Separation Anxiety in 10 Steps

The most important ingredient in a successful separation anxiety prevention program is to set your dog up for success. When you bring a new dog or puppy home, implement a program to help him be comfortable with being alone for gradually increasing periods. This will help to assure him that it's not necessary to panic: you haven't abandoned him; you always come back. Be sure to exercise him well before you practice; a tired dog is a much better candidate for relaxation than one who's "full of it."

Here are the 10 steps of a two-day program to create a dog who is comfortable being left alone. Note that if you are modifying an already existing distress or anxiety condition you will need to work through the steps of the program much more slowly.

1. Bring your dog home at a time when someone can spend a few days with him to ease the stress of the transition.
2. Prepare a quiet, safe space in advance such as a playpen or puppy pen, or a dog-proofed room such as a laundry room.
3. When you bring your dog home, give him a chance to relieve himself outdoors, and spend 10 to 15 minutes with him in the house under close supervision. Then put him in his pen and stay in the room with him.
4. Stay close at first. Read a book. If he fusses, ignore him. When he's quiet, greet him calmly, take one step away, and then return before he has a chance to get upset. Speak to him calmly, then go back to reading. You're teaching him that if you leave, you will return. Other family members should make themselves scarce during this time: your dog needs to learn to be alone.
5. Continue to occasionally step away, gradually increasing the distance and varying the length of time that you stay away, so that eventually you can wander around the room without upsetting your dog. Each time you return, greet him calmly. Every once in a while say "Yes!" in a calm but cheerful voice before you return to him, then walk back to the pen and feed him a treat.
6. After an hour or so, give him a break. Take him outside to potty and play. Hang out for a while. Then go back inside and resume his pen exercises.
7. Begin again, staying near the pen until he settles. More quickly this time, move along steps 4 and 5 until you can wander around the room without generating alarm. Now step into another room very briefly, and return before your dog has time to get upset. Gradually increase the length of time you stay out of the room, interspersing it with wandering around the room, sitting near him reading a book, and sitting across the room reading a book. If he starts to fuss, wait until he stops fussing to move back toward him. Teach him that calm behaviour makes you

return, fussing keeps you away.

8. Occasionally, step outside of the house. Your goal for the first day is to get your dog comfortable with you being away from him for 15 to 20 minutes; it's usually the first 20 minutes of separation that are most difficult. Vary the times so he doesn't start anticipating your return. Remember to give him plenty of potty and play breaks: every hour for a young pup, every one to two hours for an older dog.

9. On the second day, quickly repeat the warm-up steps, until you can step outside for 15 to 20 minutes at a time, interspersed with shorter separations. On one of your outdoor excursions, hop into your car and drive around the block. Return in 5 to 10 minutes, and calmly re-enter the house just as you have been during the rest of the exercises. Hang out for a while, then go outside and drive away again, for a half-hour this time.

10. Now it's time for Sunday brunch. Be sure your dog gets a thorough potty break and playtime, then give him 15 minutes to relax after the stimulation of play. Put a Kong stuffed with tasty treats into his pen, round up the family, and calmly exit the house for an outing of a couple of hours' duration. When you arrive home to a calm and happy dog, drink an orange juice toast to your graduation from separation anxiety prevention school !.

Time Alone for Dogs: There is a Limit

It's unfair to ask a young dog to stay home alone for 5 to 10 hours; he needs to get out to relieve himself midway through the day. If you force him to soil in the home, at worst you can cause stress-related behaviours, at best you may create house-training problems. Options may include taking him to work with you, having family members come home on their lunch hour, arranging for stay-at-home neighbours to take him out, hiring a pet walker to walk him and play with him.

If you set up a routine to help your dog succeed, he'll someday earn his Master's Degree in Home Alone, and be trusted with full house freedom. It may be too late for some dog owners to say they've never had a dog with separation anxiety, but it's never too late to say "never again!"

Dogs with Separation Anxiety: Overview

1. Take steps to prevent separation anxiety in your new dog by conditioning him to accept being left alone.
2. Assess your dog's anxious behaviours (destructive behaviour, vocalization, and inappropriate elimination) to determine if the behaviours might have a cause other than separation anxiety.
3. Understand that your dog's difficult behaviour is not deliberate, and that punishment is ineffective, inappropriate, and will only exacerbate the behaviour.

Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA

ZAP puppy test

ZAP – Let's Get Started!

ZAP1 PUPPY TEST (Zuchtanlageprüfung)

WUSV Harmonisation Schedule 1: Working Test ZAP (Part 1 – Puppy Test)

"The German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) will introduce the Working Test ZAP (Part 1 Puppy Test), effective 30 December 2019.

- 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 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 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.

Currently work is being undertaken to scope verification, the training of assessors and educating our fraternity on the requirements for the ZAP Puppy Test.

Where to Start?

With the introduction of the WUSV ZAP test imminent, now is the time to start getting into the swing of things with our puppies. As can be seen by the description of the test below, it is not onerous, but will require some preparation in order that your puppy will show off the required qualities at their best.

The ZAP test is based on elements that all puppies should display. Confidence and calmness in differing situations, a strong bond to the handler and a strong desire to engage with a tug toy.

Most of the preparation required, such as socialisation to strange places, noises, people and dogs is already being undertaken by the conscientious owner. Now you need to consider each element of the test, and add the things that may be missing from your puppies' repertoire. For instance, some of us may not teach our dogs to remain calm while they are left tied up, or we may not be getting them used to the measuring stick, the microchip scanner or walking/standing on a raised/unstable surface.

Your pup will also be required to demonstrate a willingness to engage in a game of tug, both with you and an unknown person. Puppies should be very keen to play tug with you and find their tug toy when hidden from their sight. At 8 weeks of age, puppies will eagerly participate, but care should be taken once the puppy begins teething, as their mouths will be sore at this time.

Owners should begin familiarising their puppies to all aspects of the test as early as possible and most of what you need to do is actually done outside of the Club training environment. With a bit of imagination, it's not too hard to find everyday items at home, which will be more than adequate for the purpose. Most of us have an outdoor table, start by

popping your pup up there, get him to stand calmly for a few seconds, reward and remove. If you don't have a bread crate, use a bucket to hide his tug toy under. Play 'hide the tug toy' inside the house, hide it in various places, puppies love this game. Let your imagination run wild with various ways to use household items to our advantage, always being mindful that the puppy will not be harmed in any way. We can also make use of items we may come across while out on a walk. Things such as bridges, open staircases, ramps etc. Remember, all of this should be fun for the puppy. Puppies should be encouraged and rewarded, not forced. Take your time and have fun together.

Clubs should now be thinking about procuring the required equipment, so that training days can be offered at Club level. If you have any questions on how to get started with your puppy, please contact your Club ZAP co-ordinator, or feel free to contact me. (Email: obedience@gsdcaustralia.org.au)

Julie Urie

GSDCA Obedience Chair

What Happens in the ZAP Test?

The following information was compiled after viewing videos of the Zap1 test as conducted in Germany and viewing the test in person at Nurnberg in 2016.

1) Identification check with microchip scanner

Tooth Check. Measuring – Height and Chest Depth

2) Recall off lead (Willingness to return to owner, Social Behaviour)

Dog is taken by its owner approximately 20-25 metres away from an assembled crowd of minimum 8-10 people. Owner removes lead and a helper holds dog, while owner walks back toward and through to the other side of the crowd. The owner then calls the dog, which is released by the helper. The dog is required to return directly to the owner, by running through the crowd. After the dog returns to the owner and with the dog still off lead, the owner then walks among the crowd and encourages the dog to follow.

3) Dog to dog test (Social Behaviour)

With the dog on lead, the owner walks toward another dog, which is approaching from the opposite direction. The approaching dog is also on lead. Dogs are required to pass each other at approximately 2-3 metres, without showing signs of fear or aggression. It is important that a completely neutral dog is chosen, to act as the extra dog.

4) Chainsaw Test (Noise sensitivity)

With the dog on lead, the owner stands still. A helper circles the dog at approximately 2-3 metres, while operating a chain saw (no blade) or similar noisy tool.

5) Chain Drop (Noise sensitivity)

A length of metal chain is suspended from a post/tree. On the ground below the chain is a metal plate/dish. With the dog on lead, the owner stands approximately 4metres from the chain/dish, while a helper releases the chain and lets it drop onto the metal plate/dish.

6) Gun Test (Noise sensitivity)

With the dog on lead, the owner stands still while 2 shots are fired from approximately 12 metres away.

7) Stand and play on a wobbly board. (Confidence on shifting surface, Prey drive)

For this test, a standard sized wooden pallet is used. Top surface where dog stands must be covered to exclude gaps. A round wooden pole/ polycarbonate pipe (3-inch diameter) is fixed to the underside of the pallet, across the centre. This will allow the pallet to rock back and forth when the dog stands on top of it. The dog is encouraged to walk onto the pallet and to move around, so the pallet rocks under the dog. While the dog is standing on the pallet, the owner encourages the dog to play tug. If necessary, the owner may stand on the pallet as well, to engage with the dog.



8) Walk on trestle tables (Height sensitivity)

For this test, 5 trestle tables are required. The tables should be aligned, so that they form an "L" shape. On the short side, the tables are butted up against each other, with no gaps in between. On the long side, two of the tables should have a gap of approximately 8-10 inches between them. A suitable ramp is also required, for the dog to walk up onto the tables. With the dog on lead, the owner encourages the dog to walk up the ramp and onto the trestle tables. The dog should walk the entire length of the tables, turning the corner of the "L" and continuing over the gap in the tables. Once at the end, the dog is turned around and returns along the same path, exiting via the ramp where it commenced.



9) Play with owner and stranger (Prey drive, Bond with Handler)

With the dog off lead, the owner commences to play a game of tug with the dog. Once an assessment has been made of how the dog plays with the owner, the owner then tosses the toy to a helper, who is standing approximately 5-6metres away. The dog is expected to follow its toy and engage in a game of tug with the helper. The dog's willingness to engage with a stranger is then assessed.

10) Dog retrieves hidden toy (Prey Drive and Tenacity)

A helper holds the dog on lead, with the owner making an obvious display of the toy, while proceeding to move away and place the toy under an upturned bread crate (approximately 5- 6metres away). The owner then returns to the dog, removes the lead and sends the dog to find its toy. The dog is expected to go to the bread crate and work out how to gain its toy from underneath the crate.

11) Inside the Clubhouse (Different environment, slippery floor, sound sensitivity)

The room should be set up as normal, with tables, chairs and other items normally found inside. The dog is brought inside on lead, then the lead is removed. Owner moves around the room, among the furniture, while the dog is allowed to explore. A metal bowl/dish will be dropped to the floor by a helper, on the opposite side to whichever table the dog is next to at the time.

12) Inside the Clubhouse (Different environment, prey drive, scenting ability, tenacity)

Owner plays tug with dog, then tosses the toy across the room. Dog goes after toy and returns to owner. With the owner holding the dog, a helper then takes the toy, and making it obvious to the dog that he has it, moves away and hides the toy from the dog's vision. The dog is then sent to find the toy. It is important that the toy be hidden from the dog's vision, but not placed anywhere that is not easily reached, once the dog has located with its nose.

13) Dog is tied up and owner goes out of sight (Handler dependence, Social behaviour)

Dog is tied securely to a tree/fence post by the owner, who then leaves the dog and goes out of sight. A helper will then walk toward and straight past the dog. Once several meters past the dog, the helper will then turn around and return past the dog from the opposite direction. On both occasions, the helper should pass within touching distance of the dog.

Equipment required:

- Starting Pistol
- Measuring Stick
- Microchip Scanner
- Chainsaw (blade removed) or similar sounding power tool.
- Length of metal chain (2metres) and a metal plate/dish to drop the chain into.
- Wobble board – standard sized pallet (modified as per description in pt. 7)
- Trestle tables – 5 standard trestle tables, plus a ramp leading up to the tables. To be covered in non-slip surface.
- Bread delivery crate.
- Clubhouse.
- Helpers for various tasks, as listed in component descriptions.

The equipment needed is fairly basic and should not pose a problem for clubs to procure, nor should it be overly expensive.

The GSDCA - WUSV Harmonisation Program

An Update of Decisions from the GSDCA Special General Meeting 28th July 2017

Updated 21 June 2018

Schedule	GSDCA Motions to SGM	Update and Comment
1. Carried	<p>Working Test ZAP (Part 1 – Puppy Test)</p> <p>“That the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) will introduce the Working Test ZAP (Part 1 Puppy Test), effective 30 December 2019. 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 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 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.</p>	<p>To be implemented.</p> <p>Currently work is being undertaken to scope verification, training of assessors and educating fraternity on requirements.</p>
2. Carried	<p>Working Test ZAP, plus BH</p> <p>“That the GSDCA will introduce the BH Test as a prerequisite for Breed Survey, effective 30 December 2020. 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 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 GSDCA certificate. This will constitute part of the mandatory paperwork in the Breed Survey application procedure and recorded on the Breed Survey certificate.</p>	<p>To be implemented.</p> <p>Conducting a review that may see, due to lack of capacity and capability, utilising ANKC CCD obedience title due to BH not being recognised by ANKC. Submission to ANKC to have BH recognised. Consideration of Breed Surveyors conducting the BH character test on same day as Breed Survey.</p>
3. Carried	<p>Working Test ZAP, plus BH, plus AD</p> <p>“That the GSDCA will introduce the BH test and AD, as prerequisites for Breed Survey effective 30 December 2021. 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 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 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.</p>	<p>To be implemented.</p> <p>Noting AD is not ANKC recognised, we can utilise ANKC ET title.</p>
4. No Vote	<p>Microchip / Tattooing</p> <p>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 GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes.</p>	Microchipping.
5. Carried	<p>DNA National DNA Identification scheme and procedure</p> <p>“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 GSDCA AGM.</p>	<p>GSDCA has decided that they are obliged to and support the ANKC DNA Parentage Test that will be put in place by 1st January 2019. The test will be a prerequisite for Breed Survey</p>
6. Lost	<p>Minimum breeding age males – 18 months</p> <p>“That the GSDCA Code of Ethics is amended to read: The minimum breeding age for a dog will be 24 months at the time of mating”.</p>	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. Lost	<p>Minimum breeding age females – 18 months</p> <p>“That the GSDCA Code of Ethics is amended to read: The minimum breeding age for a female will be 20 months, at the time of mating”.</p>	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.
8.. Carried	<p>Maximum number of studs per year – 90 studs</p> <p>“That the following is included in the GSDCA Code of Ethics: The maximum number of studs any one dog may have will be limited to 90 per calendar year”.</p>	Added to the GSDCA Code of Ethics
9. Carried Lost	<p>Maximum number of litters females – 3 litters max during 24 months</p> <p>“That the following be included in the 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 than that will apply”.</p> <p>“That the 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”.</p>	<p>Added to the GSDCA Code of Ethics</p> <p>Currently in process.</p> <p>Not seen as applicable in our case.</p>

10. Lost	Re X-ray HD after 30 studs "That effective 1st December 2020, the GSDCA implements a procedure that ensures all GSDCA Breed Surveyed male dogs, after 30 litters, must be re-x-rayed for HD/ED."	Not seen as applicable in our case.
11. No Change	AI – allowed Artificial Insemination (AI) Currently allowed and covered by ANKC & GSDCA Regulations.	Covered by ANKC & GSDCA Regulations No Change
12. Carried	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 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".	GSDCA has made a submission and awaiting decision by ANKC to apply to all GSD mating's: inbreeding no closer than (3-3). This is as off 1st July 2018 and is a GSDCA Breed Survey Requirement.
13. No Vote	HD scheme and X-rays 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	Status Quo Remains.
14. No Vote	ED scheme and X-rays 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.	Status Quo Remains.
15. Carried	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".	Resumes for all three readers has been sent to the WUSV dated 27th July 2018.
16. Carried	Minimum Show Grading – Good "That effective 1st 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.	Grading of "Good" will apply as a pre-requisite for Breed Survey effective 1st July 2018.
17. Lost	Breed Survey – other than amendments to reflect breeding matrix "That effective 1st 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".	Not Applicable.
18. No Vote	Pedigrees as per ANKC Currently the ANKC registers all pure bred dogs in Australia and issues pedigrees.	
19. Carried	ANKC submission GSDCA Motion: - Schedule 19(a) "That the 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".	Submission put to the ANKC. Submission rejected by ANKC.
20. Status Quo	SV Working Dog Judges Comment: 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 dogsport training.	The GSDCA understands and accepts that the long practised policy of the SV in allowing SV Working Judges officiate at unsanctioned working trials will continue.
21. Status Quo	WUSV World IPO Championships Australian representative	The GSDCA is unable to nominate a representative and bound by ANKC Policy with regard to Dogsport training.
22. Carried	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 GSDCA Excellent grading may be awarded".	Gun testing will only apply to the Open Classes and not be mandatory but applied by Clubs when allowed by their Canine Control and prescribed local legislation with regard to firearms and their use in public.
23. No Vote	Grading of Excellent Select/ Vorzuglich Auslese	Not Applicable. The GSDCA currently does not conduct a National Breed Show where Excellent Select can be awarded.

National Breed Commission Report

It is with pleasure and thanks that I welcome you all to the 2018 NBC meeting. I must again express our thanks to Melanie Groth, who unfortunately due to work and health issues resigned as NBC Chairperson in May, for her dedication and work done in that role. Like many of you I am indeed heartened that she has taken up the role of NBC Registrar and will continue to contribute as a member of the Breed Survey Improvement Program as initiated by the 2016 GSDCA Breed Survey Forum.

It is important to note that the GSDCA Executive decided not to fill the vacant NBC Chairperson position, as it was felt that the short time frame to the next election process would not be conducive for someone to come in cold and administer the position. Robyn Knuckey and I are administering the portfolio's affairs, with any contentious matter being resolved by the Executive. In wearing this dual hat, I have known for a long time that the NBC portfolio demands much from its Chairperson! I have in the past asked that specific work areas be shared and others are empowered to administer their own roles with oversight by the NBC Chairperson as the only way of ensuring whoever takes the role on is not burnt out or seen as a dictator! With this in mind I do ask the Judges and Breed surveyors to seriously consider stepping up and nominate for election.

I thank all our Registrars and other officers that contribute to the work of the NBC - it is important for the membership to note that you are voluntary workers who give up valuable time to meet the Breed and their needs. I ask you all read the reports as presented and note any recommendation and or information as presented. I must also thank Val Moody, Jane Pike and Jacinta Poole who continue to provide valuable support to the NBC Executive.

I am happy to report that the Breed Survey Improvement Program Working Group 2 & 3 has been combined and now will cover Education & Personal development. I am indeed pleased and will now be led by Jo Cathie. It is unfortunate that matters related to the WUSV Harmonisation have taken our focus away from the principle outcomes of the 2017 Breed Survey Forum. I would like to thank Ian Urie who as Chair of the WG2 decided to resign.

I cannot over emphasise the importance of all of us working together to raise the membership's confidence in our Breed Survey Scheme. Only you can do this! The signing of service agreements was one big step, however it must be noted that whilst we have found in one case the agreements are not watertight - the fact as a GSDCA Surveyor/Judge it is our collective obligation to adhere to the major principle of the agreements, which is rather simple "you cannot preach unto others to do something you do not do yourself". We have a long way to go and again I quote the fact only 40% of GSD breeders do so with 2 breed surveyed animals! There is much work to do if we want to see only

breed surveyed parents be allowed to be bred with and enacted as an ANKC LRL!

Noting the importance to breed matters it must be stated that the impact of introducing the WUSV 23 schedules as agreed had been one that has seen noted opposition after the fact!

You have as members of the Leadership group been privy to the machinations of the WUSV Board questioning our commitment to putting into place key elements of the WUSV Harmonisation, be it in full or as amended by us at the SGM held last year. The fact that we have had push back on Gun

Testing and us fully participating in the SV DNA Scheme again highlights to all our ability to be rather selective despite the Council agreeing to act as one to what each Member Club will support without question!

There is strong language from the WUSV (despite reassurances expressed from WUSV CDO at and during last year's debate that IPO was not essential as long as we presented a case to the ANKC) that I have interpreted as it must be our primary goal to convince all that IPO must be introduced.

Working Test Prerequisite for GSDCA Breed survey: We have found we lack the ability, capacity and or commitment across the majority of our Member Clubs to see Schedules 2 & 3 regarding BH & AD titles put in place as scheduled. The ZAP puppy Test can and will be introduced.

Group these with the partial acceptance of a number of schedules examples such as the application of a Gun test that will only apply to Open Classes and not making the SV DNA identification a prerequisite for Breed Survey continue to divide rather than unite all behind the fact we did accept as an organisation the concept of WUSV Harmonisation with an approach suited to our situation at this moment in time.

This weekend will see some very important discussion around a number of matters that may better serve our future. I do ask that you all comment freely and listen to others. It is only with this approach that we can gain a consensus based on respect for one another. This in turn will produce outcomes that we all own and progress forward.

Thank You

Vince Tantara

President

GSDCA Registrars Reports

National HD/ED Registrar Report – Doug West

Mr. Chairman, Club President's, Club Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. Once again I'm pleased to present my report to the 2018 NBC Meeting covering activity on Hip & Elbows. Councils Data Base now has 10,891 animals recorded as at 13/6/2018, comprising of 3,198 males (29.36%) and 7,693 bitches (70.64%). Again this year the statistics have been extracted from the GSDCA data base and is an increase on the 10,510 in 2017. There have been 381 animals entered into Councils database during the 2017/18 year, and now this gives 35 years of records on

Table: 1 2018 Full Database to 13/06/2018:

Club	Submitted		'A'		'Z'	
ACT:	193	1.77%	162	1.49%	187	1.72%
BH:	35	0.32%	28	0.26%	34	0.31%
NCHR:	460	4.22%	416	3.82%	452	4.15%
NSW:	2647	24.30%	2334	21.43%	2597	23.85%
NT:	87	0.80%	63	0.58%	83	0.76%
NZ:	657	6.03%	520	4.77%	608	5.58%
QLD:	1702	15.63%	1413	12.97%	1439	13.21%
SA:	1274	11.70%	1121	10.29%	1226	11.26%
TAS:	372	3.42%	317	2.91%	353	3.24%
VIC:	2108	19.36%	1833	16.83%	2032	18.66%
WA:	1356	12.45%	1186	10.89%	1320	12.12%
Year 2018:	10,891	100.00%	9,393	86.25%	10,331	94.86%
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 1A Full Database 2018: Elbows

	BORDERLINE		NORMAL ELB		NEAR NORMAL		GR1 ELB		GR2 ELB		GR3 ELB		UAP
Year 2018:	4	0.04%	8109	74.46%	44	0.40%	1745	16.02%	770	7.07%	67	0.62%	123 1.13%
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%

file. Consisting of 19 years of records entered into Councils Data Base and a further 16 years that came from the database I constructed and maintained initially.

The following report comprises of data extracted from the database and covers the period 1st July 2017 to 13th June 2018 last 12 months, however the whole database is also reported on to give the complete picture in regards to Hip & Elbow Dysplasia in this Country over the years.

As can be seen from **Table 1**, the full database as at 13/06/2018, **10,891** animals have been submitted to the scheme since records have been recorded electronically, 9,393 animals have gained the 'A' stamp giving a **86.25% pass rate** on hips, this is an increase on last year's 86.08% of + 0.17% in the hip pass rate. With elbows, there was **10,331** gaining the 'Z' resulting in a **pass rate of 94.86%**, this is a decrease on last year's (2017) **96.78%** of -1.92% drop in the elbow pass rate.

Table 1 above also shows a breakdown of the various Clubs

participation for the last four years, and each States results in Hips & Elbows.

The State of New South Wales has the most animals submitted with 2,647 = 24.30% of the total database, and last year 2016/17 had 2,550 = 24.26% which shows a slight drop this year of 0.04% . Those that gained the 'A', the pass rate on hips for NSW this year 2017/18 was 21.43%, compared to last year's 21.36%, 2,597 gained the 'Z' giving a pass rate for NSW of 23.85% on Elbows.

The pass rate on Hips has increased over the past 5 years from 85.73% in 2014 to 86.25% in 2017, an increase of 0.52%. And a decrease in the Elbows pass rate from 97.25% in 2014 to 94.86% in 2017 a drop of **-2.39%**. This drop is of concern and indicates that we need to be very aware of the animals elbow results that we are going to breed from.

Table 1A above, is broken up into State participation for whole data base 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 given between the past 5 years at the bottom.

Table 1A Also shows for 2018 that a total number of 4 Animals has received Borderline (0.04%), 8,109 has received a Normal Elbow (74.46%), 44 received Near Normal (0.40%), 1,745 received Gr1 (16.02%), 770 received Gr2 (7.07%), 67 received Gr3 (0.62%), 123 (1.13%) having UAP. Disturbing is the increase in UAP from 1.06% in 2014 to 1.13% in 2018.

Table 2 shows the consolidated figures for the whole data base, 10,891 animals have been presented, **9,393** have gained the 'A' stamp giving a pass rate 86.25% for hips.

The feminine influence with **7,693** (70.64%) continues to remain stronger than the males with **3,198** (29.36%).

Hips to date have **9,393** gaining the 'A' resulting in a Pass rate of **86.25%**.

Table 2 Full Database 2018		
Total Data Base	10,891	100%
Dr Lavelle read	5,732	52.63%
Dr Wyburn read	4,636	42.57%
Dr Richardson read	523	4.80%
Females:	7,693	70.64%
Males=	3,198	29.36%
Hips:		
Total Hip Pass	9,393	86.25%
Total Hip Fail	1,431	13.14%
Hip N/S	67	0.62%

Elbow Summary shows **10,331** animals passing the 'Z' giving a pass rate of **94.86%** down on last year's **96.77%**.

Total number of animals with Normal elbows is 8,109 animals 74.46%, Near Normal 8 = 0.07%, Borderline 4 = 0.0367% Grade 1 = 1,744 16.01%, Grade 2. 769 = 7.06%, Grade 3 = 67 = 0.62%, total number of Elbow Fail is 170 = 1.56%. Total number affected with UAP is 123 & this represents 1.13% of the total 10,891 animals in the database. There have been 67 that were not submitted for elbows.

Table 2A. Elbow Summary: Full Database 2018		
Total "Z"	10,331	94.86%
Total "N"	8,109	74.46%
Total "N/N"	8	0.07%
Total "Borderline"	4	0.0367%
Total Gr1	1,744	16.01%
Total G2	769	7.06%
Total G3	67	0.62%
Total Elbow Fail	170	1.56%
Total "UAP Right"	89	0.82%
Total "UAP Left"	75	0.69%
Total "UAP Both"	41	0.38%
Total "UAP"	123	1.13%
Elb Not Submitted	67	0.62%

The Hip & Elbow Certificates that were issued during the period 1st July 2017 to 13th June 2018 the last 12 Months are. NSW received 97 certificates which was 25.46% of the total 381 processed. Victoria had 74 = 19.42%, South Australia 66 = 17.32%, Queensland had 55 = 14.44%. Tasmania had 20 = 5.25% and Newcastle had 10 = 2.62%. New Zealand had 13 = 3.41%.

Since 2014 the number issued has dropped from 482, to 381 in 2017/18 a decrease of 101 in 4 years.

The GSDCA Hip & Elbow Scheme each year recognises the kennels who reach the 4 milestones in the scheme. Gaining Council's awards is not easy to achieve, and it can take a Kennel several years to qualify for, and they are: the Bronze medallion for having 10 or more animals with your Kennel prefix successfully gaining the 'A' or a 'Z' stamp, Silver is for achieving 25, and Gold is for 50, there is a special plaque awarded to those kennels achieving 100 or more to commemorate this milestone.

Congratulations to the 28 Kennels on their respective achievements that have qualified for GSDCA H&E Awards during the 2017/18 Year. A total of 42 Medallions have been awarded to 28 Kennels in 2018. That comprised of: 10 Bronze Medallions for Hips & 9 Bronze Medallions for Elbows, 7 Silver Medallions for Hips and 8 Silver Medallions for elbows, 2 Gold Medallions for Hips and 2 Gold Medallions for Elbows. In addition 4 Plaques were awarded to 2 Kennels. AIMSWAY KENNELS achieved a Plaque for both 'A' & 'Z', congratulations to John & Lee Martens on submitting over 100 animals to the scheme, and to VONRAUTEN KENNELS on receiving a Plaque for the 'A', submitting over 100 animals to the scheme for Hips, Jenny Mitchell has now been awarded both Plaques for 'A' & 'Z'. Those that are breeding and those that have bred, know that it takes a long time to qualify for these awards. To receive the Bronze can take a Kennel several years, but to successfully put over 100 animals through the scheme carrying your Prefix is certainly a milestone that only a few have reached.

There are only 15 Kennels that have been awarded a Plaque for the 'A' stamp, and one of those have had 251 animals pass the 'A' stamp, and that is ICCARA KENNELS in WA, and they have also had 206 pass the 'Z' stamp, what an outstanding achievement by ICCARA KENNELS. There has been 13 Kennels that have been awarded the Plaque for 'Z' stamp.

With all Dogs now being microchipped the H/E Application Form has a place on it to record the animal's microchip number. And if the microchip can't be found at the time of X-Ray a new microchip 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 H/E Application Form under Labelling.

A reminder that the 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 on the day of x-ray, the State Contract numbers are not to be given out over the phone by the State Registrar's, forms are not transferable between animals.

Members are asked to please ensure that your **Vet reads all the instructions on the H&E Dysplasia Control Scheme Application Form before x-raying your animal**, and saves any digital Disc's in the DICOM Image (i.e.: .dcm extension). Also some x-rays received have had **no copy of the Registration Papers, & some had no self stamp addressed envelope enclosed, these two items are a requirement.**

Please ensure that all the 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 also 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 back.

Thank you to all the Members & Breeders who have continued to support the H&E Dysplasia Control Scheme over the years, this has resulted in reducing the number of animals affected by this crippling disease. The pass rate is remaining at a high level, and 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, Melanie Groth the NBC Chairperson for her assistance and co-operation over the period we have worked together. Thank you to Frank Moody the Database Coordinator for his assistance & co- operation with problems as they have arisen and Jacinta Poole for her help.

NBC Registrar Report – Melanie Groth

During my term as NBC Chair, I attended surveys in all states with the exception of Victoria. Whilst there are minor differences between states on the whole it appears that the Breed Surveys are conducted relatively similarly from start to finish. It is of note to remember that not everyone who has their dog surveyed is experienced and a kind word of advice or just setting the scene for a novice can be of great assistance to them and allay their fears which they automatically transfer to their dog. In my opinion surveys should be relaxed without being regimented and it is important that the checks of teeth height weight etc are done in a roped off area so that dogs are not feeling crowded. Assigning roles to the team is an important part of the survey experience.

Breed Surveys 2018 January 1 – June 30

Club	Surveys	Classified	Fails
ACTGSDA	1	5	Nil
GSDL	2	10	Nil
N&HRGSDC	1	2	2
GSDCQ	2	8	Nil
GSDCSA	3	22	Nil
GSDCT	2	9	1
GSDCV	3	14	2
GSDAWA	2	11	1
Total 2018	16	84	7
Total 2017	15	80	7

Surveys are tracking at about the same number as last year for the same period of time.

Reasons for Fails in 2018 to date:

- 4 failed gun test
- 1 insufficiently firm in character and failed gun test
- 1 oversize, soft ear and insufficient attributes
- 1 not of sufficient type to be classified Thanks to the registrars from each of the clubs.

Thanks to the registrars from each of the clubs.

ACTGSDA - Veronica Fairbairn

GSDL - Pam Jarvis

N&HRGSDC - Peter Asquith

GSDCQ - Gail Donald

GSDCSA - Andrew O'Loughlin

GSDCT - Jan Haase

GSDCV - Gill Cafari

GSDAWA - Vicki Beaton

Registrars are relatively prompt in sending their cover sheets for the surveys by email and then the original arrives with the paperwork. This system works well. Paperwork is sometimes slow in getting back from the surveyors to the registrars. I would ask surveyors to please be prompt with surveys. Some surveyors have taken to scanning their worksheets and sending them to me directly which is helpful.

National Database Coordinator Report – Frank Moody

It is my pleasure to submit this GSDCA Database progress report to the 2018 NBC Meeting.

Breed Surveyors will see that some additional options have recently been added to the "drop-down" selections, as requested by Melanie Groth.

Also, I have enhanced the access for Breed Surveyors to also include the Dogs, Microchip, and HD/ED screens.

This will now enable surveyors to work from the one login, and not need to also use their Club Member logins as well.

HD/ED Sire Statistics

The updated HD/ED Sire Statistics as at 30th June 2018 have been prepared using the GSDCA Database.

The following is a list of Sires that are new in this report (because they now have a minimum of 10 progeny through the schemes).

- ASTASIA PACA
- FREMONT HELLS BELLS
- GIOTTO DI FOSSOMBRONE (IMP ITL)
- VABLO VOM OSTERBERGER-LAND (IMP DEU)
- VENEZE LUTZ (IMP UK)

Statistics I have extracted from the Database (since the introduction of LSC)

GSD Registration Statistics

Data is extracted from the GSDCA Database based on DOB.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
GSD						
Male	1863	1838	1865	1769	1814	1681
Female	1874	1798	1780	1831	1805	1413
	3737	3636	3645	3600	3619	3094
GSD (LSC)						
Male	147	218	302	280	345	370
Female	174	224	239	265	319	308
	321	442	541	545	664	678

	Total pups born from 2 LSC parents	LSC pups born from SC parents
Male	197	173
Female	159	149
Total	356	322

GSDCA Breed Survey – 2012 to 2017 (animals passed)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
GSD Stock Coat							
Male	44	43	40	46	22	38	233
Female	121	128	130	128	95	114	716
Total	165	171	170	174	117	152	949
GSD Long Stock Coat							
Male	3	5	5	9	6	8	36
Female	4	6	13	19	13	25	80
Total	7	11	18	28	19	33	116
Grand Total	172	182	188	202	136	185	1065

Imported Semen Verification

With the increasing use of imported semen it is vital that we introduce a Title Verification system for imported semen (similar to imported dogs). The Database has provision for recording Overseas Titles, Hip and Elbow status of overseas dogs. To ensure the integrity of the data within our Database it is vital that only those results that have been verified are added to the Database.

Those imported dogs that do NOT have a Title Verification have the pedigree created with Names of Parents and Grandparents – but NO Titles and Hip and Elbow status. If and when the Title Verification is completed these details will be added to the Database. It is proposed that the same applies for any imported semen.

DATA UPDATE

Dog Database

Registrations are currently up to 31st May 2018 – being 300,000+ dogs.

Tattoo/Microchip Database

Some breeders are still tattooing, and including Tattoo numbers when registering their puppies with the ANKC. As the GSDCA does not have an official Tattoo Scheme effective from 1st July 2017, any dogs with a DOB of 1st July 2017 and beyond will NOT have any tattoo details recorded in the Database – Microchips only.

HD/ED Database

There are now over 10,900 results in the database.

Breed Survey Database

There are now over 1,600 results in the database. Past Breed Surveys back to 2010 have been entered into the database. Survey results prior to that are available from the printed Breed Survey Books.

Haemophilia Database

There are now 1,075 results in the database.

Thank you to Daryl Bourke, Rob Filardo, Melanie Groth, Doug West, and Candy Baker for their time, and assistance in ongoing data entry and maintenance of the Database.

GSDCA Judges Committee Chair Report

The time since the last GSDCA Judges Committee seems to have flown by. I would like to thank my fellow Executive for their support, and also acknowledge the support provided by Mel Groth and the significant contribution she made in her short time on Executive, with the implementation of the Workshops last year and the enhanced format of the Sires Progeny Report as published in the National Review.

All items that went through from this meeting last year to the GSDCA 2018 AGM were carried. Subsequent actions were completed, including the education package for all new aspirants in the GSDCA Specialist Judges. The GSDCA Service Agreement for Specialist Judges was passed at the 2018 GSDCA AGM. At the time of writing this report, there are two Agreements outstanding, but the judges are away. So I will follow up with these people when they return from holidays. We also have 2 judges that are battling significant health issues and will sign the Agreements when they are out of hospital, the NBC Executive have given these judges dispensation to complete later.

Since our last Meeting, we lost another foundation member of our fraternity, Mr James Rodger. We have lost some wonderful supporters of our breed. James has been celebrated in the National Review and with a presentation to Louisa at the National, earlier this year.

Critiques

Following on from the workshops last year, there has been more comprehensive critiques on heads and backlines. It is now a requirement to record the height and depth in all critiques for classes from Junior

to Open. Please ensure it is noted in the critique if the animal is deep. In a number of critiques, the depth can be almost 50/50, and there is no mention that the animal is deep, or there have been some critiques to go on and say well proportioned, when they cannot be where the standard says 45-48% depth to height.

Clubs that have newer judges, please provide them with the opportunity to review their critiques prior to uploading onto websites. A further reminder to all Judges and Clubs that completed critiques are to be forwarded to the GSDCA Judges Committee Chair for distribution via the GSDCA Secretary. Also if Clubs and Judges also keep me informed of shows that have been contracted to judge and also if these have changed later. This allows me to keep the Appointments Database up to date.

2018 GSDCA National

The GSDCA National was held in Adelaide from 27 to 29 April 2018. The GSDCA did an excellent job overall, especially considering they are a small club, with a small band of dedicated workers. It was evident, the Club had worked very hard on details to ensure it was a successful weekend. Well done to John DeLucia, Judy O'Loughlin and the club crew. The National Report, prepared by Ian Urie, as the GSDCA National Liaison Officer, in consultation with the GSDCA is below.

GSDCA National Liaison Officer Report – Ian Urie

46th GSDCA National German Shepherd Dog Show and Trial, West Beach, South Australia, 27th – 29th April 2018

I wish to congratulate the German Shepherd Dog Club of South Australia on their hosting of the 46th National on behalf of the Member Clubs of the GSDCA. As one of the smaller clubs in terms of membership, willing workers are often hard to find, and once again a relatively small committee led by President John Delucia and Show Manager Judy O'Loughlin rose to the occasion and conducted a successful event, with assistance also of volunteer ring officials from other States.

The weather over the weekend was pleasant, however without lighting being available on the ground the show suffered from time constraints, being held after the end of daylight savings, and several classes had to be deferred until the next day. Stewards, ring staff and PA announcers generally worked well together, however I was told it was hard to hear announcements from the top end of the rings. There was some confusion on the first morning due to the judging order for the dog ring as published in the schedule differing from that printed in the catalogue, but exhibitors soon got into the swing and classes proceeded well, with results being posted regularly over the weekend. Unfortunately, as mentioned previously, we ran out of daylight at the end of the first day and Junior Dog class had to be run the next morning. This then had a snowball effect in that the last class on Saturday also had to be deferred until Sunday.

The conformation judges, Herren Schweimer and Mast were well accepted, and the ring set-up worked well. The judges showed interest in all aspects of the event including progeny parade and official presentations, and they also watched the working performance in the ring for the Winner of Winners run-off. The presentation of the Sires Progeny Parade and Breeders Groups ran smoothly with few problems. Youth Handlers Master Class conducted by Craig Rice, Bronson Pereira

and Jess Lynch, and the Junior Showmanship Classes judged by Kurt Morton were well attended by our younger fraternity. Once again, our Patron Dawn Fraser attended the National and appeared to enjoy herself.

Entries were 443 in conformation classes (including 95 LSC – 21% of conformation entries) plus 31 in the obedience trial, with 16 being dual competitors. Congratulations to all the winners, and for the first time since 2012 a locally bred male took the Gold Medal in Stock Coat Open Dog class.

The Obedience Trial judging was well run, and from what I was told the exhibitors appreciated the rings being located in a quieter area away from the show rings. The usual problems were experienced with the Trial presentations, with the need to compete with the show classes continuing in the background, and PA announcements being heard over the Judges speaking. I believe we need to try to raise the profile of this aspect of the National in future.

Canteen, food and coffee tent and bar catering were fabulous, something the South Australian Club always excels at. Officials' luncheons were also managed very well. The social events were not as well attended as in the past, and unfortunately the President's Dinner had to be cancelled due to a lack of booking numbers. I didn't attend personally, but I heard the Saturday night party on the ground was a success. The official opening on Saturday and the after-show presentations on Sunday were conducted with the appropriate ceremony and were very well catered for. This year saw the inauguration of three new Perpetual Trophies in memory of Juerger Neddermeyer, Tom Luxton and James Rodger, and also the introduction of a separate Breeders Trophy for LSC kennels.

The grounds at West Beach were in great condition, and are one of the best venues in Australia for an event of this type, also the ability to drive onto the ground and park close to the rings and tents was an added bonus. Appropriate consultation was made with me regarding the schedule requirements prior to the event, however due to a mix up the schedule printed was the original draft, not the amended version I had suggested. In summary, a very memorable National once again, and well done to the small, hardworking team from the host club GSDCA.

A breakdown of the excellent graded animals is presented as Tail Male charts for both males and females for the 2018 GSDCA National. Thank you again to Stephen Collins for his continued support and assistance in presenting these charts, they have been presented as an attachment to this report and printed in the recent National Quarterly Review. An interesting point of note is the excellent show rate of Long Stock Coats, 102 entered and 97 exhibited. There was a significantly higher scratching rate for Stock Coats, with 343 entered and 271 exhibited.

Another point from the National was the overall poor quality of presentation of dentition to the judges. Few handlers were able to present the animals to the judges appropriately. In light of this, an article with photos has been written by Jo Cathie to educate handlers on the technique of presenting dentition professionally. This can then be used as a guide for training at club level. Thanks Jo for your work in putting this together as an additional resource for our fraternity.

The size recorded for a number of males and females in the show was outside the breed standard and created some consternation for a number of exhibitors, during and after the show. At present, we have

an understanding to penalise animals measuring above 62 and 67cms. This is not the same in Germany. The continued mixed messages creates confusion for exhibitors and dissatisfaction in some quarters. Is this an area we want to address further? Are we enforcing handlers presenting animals in a free stand to be measured? Again, is this an area of poor training where time is not spent teaching our animals to stand easily to be measured so it is an accurate measure?

GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course

In April this year, Jenny DeLucia successfully completed her Extension Course, when judging a Members Competition for the GSDL. Her assessor judge was Karen Hedberg. Karen provided positive feedback on Jenny's performance on the day. Congratulations Jenny on your achievement.

Salvatore Pittelli only has his final examination to complete. He has a judging appointment in Melbourne in August, Vince Tantaró will be his assessor judge. Looking forward to Salvatore's successful completion of this last requirement.

Jess Kada has completed 2 of her phase 1 mentor assessments with Melanie Groth and Karen Hedberg. I will be working with Jess to set up her final mentor assessment, to fit in with her busy work life and her active participation in shows as an exhibitor. So far the critiques I have read from Jess, are well formulated and describe the animals individually. Jess has been well supported with the clubs with appointments throughout Australia and New Zealand.

In addition to these judges, it is with pleasure that I inform the meeting that Sue Bruno has been reinstated as GSDCA Specialist Judge. All clubs and judges have been informed of this and the judges contact list has been updated on the GSDCA website to reflect this. Sue is a valued addition.

We have another four of our fraternity at various stages of progressing through the ANKC Trainee Scheme, Edwina Neale (Vic) and Nicky McDermott (Vic) doing GSDs only and Andrew O'Loughlin (SA) and Kurt Morton (NSW) doing Group 5. I wish them all the very best in their endeavours.

I continue to ask that clubs provide opportunities for ANKC GSD trainee judges to be offered an Open Show to judge, as soon as practicable on entering the ANKC scheme. This enables them to gain some valuable experience. As this may be the only opportunity for our trainee judges in the ANKC scheme, to get some experience in handling of dogs and ring craft, prior to completing their Practical Examination to be a Championship Show Judge. Congratulations to the GSDL and GSDCA for providing opportunities to Kurt Morton and Andrew O'Loughlin this year.

I would like to thank all the GSDCA specialist judges that have supported the participants in the scheme, it is quite a commitment and your support has been greatly appreciated, by me and the participants in the Extension Course.

It is often difficult to get judges to act as mentor/assessor judges, as there is an expectation that they do not exhibit at the show. With this consideration, it is suggested that Mentor/Assessor Judges exhibit no more than 2 animals and the classes these animals are exhibited in are not a part of the assessment. If all standing requirements for the relevant assessment/examination are met, as per the regulations.

Code of Conduct of Judges

I have continued concerns with area of our judges and the wider fraternity. I wish to remind all judges that it is against ANKC and GSDCA Code of Conduct to be critical of judges. It is important that we consider our comments on Social Media and also comments to others.

We may not always agree with a decision, placing or grading. As an exhibitor, we have paid for a decision and we then receive it. You can politely ask for reasons, but please be polite and accept the decision. It is even more important, as judges, we support each other. If you don't like it still, don't enter next time, which is your right as an exhibitor. Abuse is not a right for anyone.

Shows for 2018

We currently have 43 GSDCA Specialist judges able to award GSDCA gradings, of these, two are trainee GSDCA specialist judges. The GSDCA show calendar has 41 specialist shows for 2018, this is 2 more 2017, and 4 less than 2016. These consist of the GSDCA National, 4 SBEs by a various number of judges, from 1 to 2, 24 Championship Shows, 10 Members Competitions and 2 Open Shows. There are an additional 4 shows where Australian GSDCA Judges officiated at shows in New Zealand. This shows that 22 Australian Judges have judged at least once this year.

With this increase in shows available, we had one weekend this year with 4 states holding Specialist Shows, and other occasions of clashes with shows held on the same weekend or consecutive weekends that could decrease desire for exhibitors to travel.

We are also seeing some judges officiating at shows reasonably close together that again could impact on entries. I believe this is an area we need to look at, with the table presented below it shows the changes from 2015 to 2017, by each club. We have a number of Australian Judges that receive very few appointments, and others that receive multiple appointments throughout the year. Please remember to refer to the complete list on the website and give some of our judges that don't judge very often a chance.

The contact list for Specialist Judges is updated at least twice a year, or if an additional judge becomes available as a trainee for GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course.

The breakups of the 41 shows and comparison to the previous 2 years, are as follows

CLUB	INTER JUDGES 2016	INTER JUDGES 2017	INTER JUDGES 2018	AUST JUDGES 2016	AUST JUDGES 2017	AUST JUDGES 2018
ACT GSDA	1	2	2	1	0	0
GSDA WA	2	1	1	6	6	6
GSDCQ	0	National	1	7	4	4
GSDC SA	0	1	Nat + 1	6	4	4
GSDCT	0	0	0	4	4	5
GSDL	National	2	1	4	5	6
GSDCV	1	2	2	5	7	5
NHRGSDC	0	0	0	5	2	2
Totals	4 + National	8 + National	8 + National	38	32	32

WUSV Judging Accreditation – SV National Judge

At the 2016 WUSV Meeting, Herr Messler presented that a new SV judging process for WUSV members will be available. Appropriate judges will need to attend a seminar in Germany, then complete 1 to complete National Judge, then an additional 3 assessments with SV Judges to become an International Judge. There will be levels of this new Judging process, were it may be possible for an examination to occur in Australia, once the Seminar has been attended. For full endorsement with the SV, then an examination/s needs to be completed in Europe also. The next of these Seminars is scheduled to be held 27-29 November 2018 in Augsburg, Germany. The updated criteria for this Accreditation was passed at the 2018 AGM and is listed on the GSDCA website. We have 3 current applicants that were passed a couple of years ago, they were Vince Tantaró, Louis Donald and Robyn Knuckey. This year we have Ian Urie submit his application to complete this process, and is listed on the Agenda for the Closed Judges and Breed Surveyors Meeting. We also have supported Jo Cathie to continue with this as a WUSV Judge in the old scheme. Jo has completed her first show under Herr Dr Lauber in New Zealand. We await her results from the SV. (post meeting note: Jo received her accreditation as an SV International Judge)

In conclusion, we have a lot of information to discuss for the 2018 GSDCA Judges' Meeting. I look forward to fruitful and robust discussion to decide a way forward, with consensus as a group. Please feel free to contact me by email or phone with your input on judgescommittee@gsdcouncilaustralia.org or 0435 789 442.

Robyn Knuckey

GSDCA Judges' Committee Chair

Breed Health & Welfare Chairperson's Report to the NBC Meeting July 2018**Dr Candice Baker BSc BVMS MANZCVS (ECC)****Inter varietal breeding:**

- The current position of LSC exhibiting and breeding is doing well, however, the notion / situation has arisen whereby a health issue has cropped up, raising discussion and concern for the lack of genetic diversity within the LSC variety breeding and it being restricted to LSC type only.
- It is constantly a consideration about narrowing any gene pool for dog breeding, for many reasons (health, character, anatomical quality etc), and should be avoided wherever possible.
- Currently we have many health and welfare concerns for the breed as a whole, by narrowing the long stock coat variety's gene pool you run the risk of creating a bottle neck health problems.
- It would be my professional recommendation to open up inter varietal breeding of long stock coats.

Genetic/DNA testing vs health screening (screening for a defect already present)

- Consider taking up the WUSV DNA go card system already in place.
- Current Australian commercial laboratory that performs health tests, such as Degenerative Myelopathy,

- Haemophilia A, MDR1/ivermectin sensitivity, Pituitary Dwarfism, DNA parentage.
- Do we want to implement any DNA health testing into our schemes for breed improvement?
- Consider a different mechanism for a national DNA database, ie University based.
- Future research for DNA markers may be beneficial.
- Blood sample/DNA for breeding animals only at time of HD/ED screening vs at 6-8 weeks when all
- Puppies are vaccinated.
- Concern with blood sampling at a puppy age is that it can be more time consuming and detrimental to the pup's temperament as opposed to at 12 months when they are sedated/anaesthetized for HD/ED x-rays.

Hip Dysplasia

Dr Zammit's research, would be great to hear from Rob on where things are at. They are still seeking funding for the completion of the data.

Haemophilia testing:

- Haemophilia A or factor VIII deficiency in German Shepherd Dogs is an Autosomal X linked inherited disease.
- It causes life threatening bleeding abnormalities, which may be life threatening and problematic to a normal healthy life for male dogs.
- Since taking on the position of Breed Health and Welfare Chairperson and Haemophilia A, as a problem, has not been a concern for me.
- There have been no reported cases, in Australia that have been brought to my attention.
- Our current scheme requests imported males and sons of imported females or sons of imported semen
- Be Factor VIII level tested.
- The only cases that have come up with abnormally low levels were spurious results due to collection technique or blood handling techniques.
- There is a DNA test available for Factor VIII however we are unsure of the reliability in comparison to a blood test for the factor VIII levels.

Haemophilia negative dogs since the NBC report

- Fremont Watson
- Janeme Abba Dabba Doo
- Freinhaus Hasta Lavista Baby
- Oak vom Haus Iskander (IMP DEU)
- Macho vom Lamorak (IMP DEU)
- Freinhaus Hannibal
- NZ Ch Veneze Ricardo (IMP UK)
- Riddick vom Demina Hof (IMP SRB)
- Roger vom Weiherturken (IMP DEU)
- Hasenway Marcus (IID)
- LaShadas ZZ Top (AI)

JPS concerns

- Juvenile pubic symphysiodesis is a surgical procedure that must be performed prior to closure of the pubic symphysis growth plate. Ideally this is performed by 16 weeks, prior to 20 weeks. The early closure of this growth plate is then altered, therefore creating larger coverage of the coxofemoral joint (deeper hip sockets).
- The concern is that at a 10-12 week old puppy vaccination the vet is discussing this with puppy owners and this is creating a scare tactic for HD.
- However, we cannot predict and confirm entirely if that pup will develop HD due to it being a multifactorial disease process, especially at such a young age.
- PennHIP can be performed as early as 14 weeks, however, also does not necessarily go on to be as predicted.

- There is discussion of approaching the Vet Surgeon's Board (+/- AVA) about "over servicing", however, I believe we need to focus on education of vets and future vets and not dismiss the discussion of that type of surgical technique.
- We need to include an owner declaration consent on HD/ED form to ensure any given animal has not had surgery prior to presentation for radiographs.

Early neutering

- Current thoughts and recommendations are to wait until skeletal maturity for orthopaedic protection.
- Alternative forms of neutering – vasectomies, three quarter spey, pros and cons in every situation.



Sires' Progeny Report Errors

The NBC Executive apologises to the owners of the following dogs, who's placing results at the 2018 National Show & Trial were recorded incorrectly. The corrected detail is below. The full and corrected report is available on the GSDCA website.

GSDCA 46th National Show and Trial - 27-29 April 2018

Quanto Wienerau line

*Gerry vom Schacher (Imp Deu)'a' ED(Gmy)

S.*Arex von der Willhelmswarte 'a'ED (Gmy) x D. Zaskia vom Schacher'a'ED(Gmy)

Linebreeding Karma Oschentor (4-3), Jango Furstenberg (5-5) Ursus Batu (5-4,5)

SV Breed worth 79

Not exhibited

Total entry 10 – males - 5 females – 5 6 different dams

ANKC registration		First registration		Progeny through HD/ED scheme		A stamp		Mean Score		Range		Z stamp		Normal		Near Normal		Grade 1		Breed surveyed					
363		Nov-11		47		46		5.68		0-15		47		89%		0		11%		21					
Place		BPD		BPB		MPD		MPB		PD		PB		JD		JB		ID		IB		OD		OB	
SC		VP3		VP3				VP4										VG9		VG3 VG37		V3 V22		V6 V13	
LSC																				VG1		V8			

Quanto Wienerau line

*Odin delle terre Matildiche (Imp Ita) HD(FCI) ED (FCI)

S.*Furbo degli Achei 'a'ED(Gmy) x D.*Hella delle terre Matildiche 'a'(Ita)

Linebreeding: Ursus Batu (4-4), Kimon dan Alehedy's Hoeve (5-4) Urk Wienerau (5-5)

SV Breed worth: 89

Total entry eligible 7 – males - 4 females – 3 7 different dams

Not exhibited

ANKC registrations		First registration		Progeny through HD/ED scheme		A stamp		Mean Score	Range	Z stamp	Normal	Near Normal	Grade 1	Breed surveyed
256		Nov-15		42		38		7.08	2-52	40	92%	5%	2%	15
Place	BPD	BPB	MPD	MPB	PD	PB	JD	JB	ID	IB	OD	OB		
SC			VP3	VP6	VP1				VG2		V9.10	V9		
LSC														

Quanto Wienerau line

*Ch Calle v Westervenn (Imp Deu) a ED H-Neg (GMY)

S.*Ch Labo v Schollweiher a ED x D.*Zimba v Westervenn a ED

Linebreeding: Nil

SV Breed worth: 73

Exhibited Excellent 13 Open dog SC

Total entry eligible 10 – males - 1 females – 9 10 different dams

ANKC registrations		First registration		Progeny through HD/ED scheme		A stamp	Mean Score	Range	Z stamp	Normal	Near Normal	Grade 1	Breed surveyed
240		Sep-15		16		16	6.56	3-13	16	100%	nil	nil	4
Place	BPD	BPB	MPD	MPB	PD	PB	JD	JB	ID	IB	OD	OB	
SC			VP10			VP4 VP6				VG7 VG13 VG20 VG27		V12 V38	
LSC											V9		

The line breeding for Xaro von der Plassenburg was also incorrect. Below is the corrected information

Mutz Peltzierfarm line

*Xaro von der Plassenburg (Imp Deu) 'a'ED (Gmy)

S.*Remo vom Fichtenschlag 'a'ED (Gmy) x D.*Wendy von der Piste Trophe 'a'ED (Gmy)

Linebreeding Hill Farbenspiel (4,4-4) Yasko Farbenspiel (4-4) Lina Arminius (4-4)

SV Breed worth: 87

Exhibited Excellent 4 Open Dog Class

Total entry – males - 4 females – 21 8 different dams



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