

THE German Shepherd Dog

QUARTERLY NATIONAL REVIEW



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

Spring 2019

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EVENT calendar

GSDCA Events

Date

8th – 9th February 2020
15th, 16th & 17th May 2020

Event

GSDCA Annual General Meeting
48th GSDCA National Show & Trial

Location

Melbourne
Sydney

Member Club Shows

Date

14/09/2019
22/09/2019
6/10/2019
6/10/2019
6/10/2019
12/10/2019
13/10/2019
27/10/2019
2/11/2019
3/11/2019
5/11/2019
5/11/2019
14/12/2019

Judge

O'Rourke Carol
Green Greg
Lange Robert
Knuckey Robyn
Henderson Alastair
Green Greg
Humphries Natalie
Caputi Roberto
Caputi Roberto
Urie Ian
Caputi Roberto
Tantaro Vince
Gregory Glenn

QLD
VIC
Germany
WA
VIC
VIC
WA
Ecuador
Ecuador
VIC
Ecuador
VIC
NSW

Location

GSDCQ
GSDAWA
ACTGSDC
GSDAWA
ACTGSDC
G
GSDL
GSDAWA
GSDCV
GSDCV
Sunbury
Sunburyic
GSDL

Event

SBE
Members Competition
Championship Show
Members Competition
Championship Show
Championship Show
Members Competition
West Coast Challenge
GSDCV/WDC weekend
GSDCV/WDC Weekend
Sunbury Canine Melb Cup Day
Sunbury Canine Melb Cup Day
Sanctioned Show

Quarterly National Review Closing dates

Close dates for content submission and advertising in future magazine editions

Edition

Summer 2020
Autumn 2020

Closing date

5th November 2019
5th February 2020

Delivery to Members

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Early March



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www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org



<http://database.gsdcouncilaustralia.org>



www.wusv.org



www.schaeferhunde.de

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Advertising

Siobahn

Contacts

GSDCA EXECUTIVE

President

Vince Tantaró
Ph: +61 402 145 184
e: president@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Editor

Jacinta Poole
Ph: +61 403 455 858
5 Yangoor Court,
Mount Waverley VIC 3149
e: revieweditor@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Secretary

Val Moody
Ph: +61 3 5426 4286
Mobile: +61 419 568 759
PO Box 173, Macedon Vic 3440
e: secretary@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Treasurer

Jane Pike
12 Williams Road Two Wells SA 5501
Mobile: +61 413 347 247
e: treasurer@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

NBC Chairperson

Jenny Yuen
Mobile: +61 419 332 409
e: nbc@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Judges Committee Chairperson

Robyn Knuckey
55 Mary Street, Como, WA 6152
Ph: +61 8 9450 7554
Mobile: +61 435 789 442
e: judgescommittee@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Obedience Chairperson

Julie Urie
Mobile: +61 490 058 214
e: obedience@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA OFFICERS

Breed Health & Welfare Committee Chair

Dr. Candy Baker
Ph: +61 409 168 299
e: gsdhealth@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

HD Registrar

Doug West
Ph: +61 8 8326 5392
e: hded@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA Webmaster

Jacinta Poole
e: website@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA Database Coordinator

Frank Moody
Ph: +61 419 134 718
database@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA Website

www.gsdouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA CONSULTANTS

GSDCA CONSULTANTS

HD
Dr Roger Lavelle
Dr J. L. Richardson

Haemophilia
Dr Bruce Parry

PRESIDENT'S report

Hard to believe the GSDCA National Show was back in April! Where does the time fly?

We have, to the point of writing this report, endured a long, cold winter where it still should have rained more! We did have a few escapes from Melbourne.

I was fortunate to be invited to judge the GSDAWA State Breed Exhibition (SBE), where I was surprised with the quality of the animals presented, and again congratulate the breeders in WA on maintaining a high standard. The SBE has, over recent years, been reviewed almost on an annual basis as to its relevance especially in light of the demise of the Main Breed Exhibition many years ago and a falling entry! The recent Judges Committee Meeting reaffirmed its popularity despite not being conducted in all States/ Territory! I can only encourage members to fully support the event in order that breed direction can be offered at a better standard. I believe one of the reasons why this event is popular is that it offers the highest GSDCA grading we have at the moment: The GSDCA Excellent Merit grading.

To be invited to judge overseas is always an honour! I judged the National GSD Dog Club of Malaysia 9th Speciality Show, where I was enthused by the drive and determination of their membership in promoting the GSD. The conduct of the event and hospitality was second to none! This Club is relatively new and has made great progress since I last judged there in 2016. It reminded me of the need for enthusiastic members whose passion for the breed extends past their own personal interests and or goals. This is essential for any club to progress!

I combined the pleasure of judging with another pleasure, and together with Fran, visited the beautiful North Coast of NSW and the GSDC of Queensland Shows' Double Shows. I was able to assist the club and stewarded for the weekend. The weather unfortunately tried to mirror that of Melbourne! This did not detract from the commitment that saw a small band of club workers put on 2 very good shows. I can only urge the factions within the Club whose membership is spread far and wide across a big State, to please band and work together. In the end we have one common passion: the GSD and that is what should drive us to work together despite personal differences or past angst!

I have over recent shows both as a judge and steward noticed many animals presented that, in reality; have seen little or no training when it comes to showing teeth and or being measured. What is also more noticeable is the separation anxiety animals display when handled by handlers who do not own the dog. This, coupled with over double handling, overstretched presentation in stance, a lack of training or mental fortitude to being handled, does not make for a pretty picture! It must be noted that many GSD judges are quite forgiving, but I can assure you it's not a good look!

I attended the NBC & Judges meetings held late July in sunny Sydney and was pleased to see a very good turnout of the peer group for both meetings. Major work done to date which was long overdue includes a full review of the GSDCA Breed Survey Manual which has taken over a year to complete. The ZAP Character Assessment Manual, as finalised by the Executive, was also presented for review. These documents once

presented for formal acceptance at the AGM, will be placed on our website. The meeting, as is normal practice, also saw a number of presentations given and work-shopped. I would have liked to see more members attend and remind you all that you are most welcome to attend GSDCA meetings as visitors/ observers.

As you may already be aware, I announced at the conclusion of the NBC Meeting, my decision not to seek nomination for re-election at the 2019 GSDCA AGM. I also asked that a member of the younger generation should stand for the position of President. It is my strong belief that holding any position for long periods is detrimental to the health and progress on any organisation: we in fact as an organisation need generational change across the board. Whilst the current Executive has a number of very able persons, I feel that the younger generation, with advice could be a stronger future for all. Perhaps a committed younger fresh face as President, with the support and or advice from our generation, could make a huge difference to progressing the GSDCA forward into the future - after all, it's the younger generation that will own that future and the mission to safeguard and further develop the GSD!

I would like to promote the coming 48th GSDCA National GSD Show & Trial which will be hosted by the GSDL and held in Sydney on 15th, 16th & 17th May 2020. Understanding time/work pressure, family and cost are all big factors in whether or not our members exhibit at interstate shows, I do ask you please make this the "go to" show for 2020! The recently elected Vice President of the SV, Herr Helmut Buss and Herr Joachim Steigler who has replaced Herr Erich Bosl (who had to withdraw due to an unforeseen family event) are our conformation judges. They will be complemented by a very experienced panel of Australian Obedience Judges to adjudicate our Trial.

It is only with universal support from all over Australia (and hopefully New Zealand) that the National will remain the most important GSD show to exhibit at or observe as a breeder/ enthusiast in Oceania.

No doubt by the time this edition is distributed, Spring will well and truly arrive!

We can only hope so!

Vince Santaro

President
0402145184



Editorial

Welcome to the Spring edition. Following our bumper National edition we're back to providing a broad range of articles to cater for all members interests. Don't forget, if you've got an idea, an article to submit or a story you'd like to share, please feel free to contact me.

Our dog's health is always on our minds. Our Breed Health and Welfare Chair Dr Candy Baker has written a useful article on immune diseases. The more we know about our dogs health the better prepared we can be, so check it out.

We welcome Kurt Morton as the GSDCA's new Youth Officer. Kurt has provided some background on his involvement in GSD's as an intro to himself. He also introduces us to Peter Hersant who details his handling career, some of the best dogs he has handled and provides some handy tips too.

WA Member Edel Trembath has written an interesting article on puppy socialisations, a topic we all know to be very important. A great foundation in puppies makes for a happy health adult dog !

Contributions from members are always well received, and Yvonne Brooks has written a lovely story about her dog Delaforce Make My Day and the wonderful life she now leads, and that they have together. A great story that reinforces an article by Vanessa Stocks on finding homes for older show dogs. All dogs deserve the best life to live out their years. The story will make you smile 😊

Jo Cathie as Chair of the GSDCA Education Group has provided a summary overview of the Education seminar hosted by the GSDL back in March. As the education seminars begin to roll out around other states, it's a chance to read about the positive approach being taken and the great work of the Education Group.

There are also some interesting training articles included which can always challenge us to do more with our dogs.

Following the National Breed Commission Meeting in July, we've reproduced the main content of the reports presented. They cover some of our key breed issues, and are worth more than a glance, even if you only have a passing interest. There's also some useful graphical representations of our Hip and Elbow Dysplasia scheme results. Also included is the Judge's Chair report. And did you know how many GSD's were officially registered with the ANKC over the past few years. It might surprise you so check it out.

We can now look forward to the summer season of showing and trialling, and spend some time out in the warm sun with our dogs, training or just enjoying being together. That's what they love, no matter what you are doing, as long as they are with you.

Cheers

Jacinta

IF I DIDN'T HAVE DOGS.....

- I could walk around safely barefoot in the dark.
- My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.
- All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be free of dog hair.
- When the doorbell rang, it wouldn't sound like a kennel.
- When the doorbell rang, I could get to the door without wading through furry dog bodies who beat me there.
- I could sit how I wanted to on the couch without taking into consideration where several little fur bodies would need to fit.
- Actually, I would be able to sit on the couch instead of completely relinquishing it for the dogs;
- There'd be lots more room in the king sized bed.
- I would not have strange presents under the Christmas tree like dog bones, stuffed animals and have to answer to people why I wrap them up.
- I would not be on a first name basis with a vet.
- Most used words in my vocabulary would not be wee-wee, toilet, outside, sit down, come, no, and leave him/ her ALONE.
- My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates.
- My pockets would not contain things like poop bags and dog treats. No would they have holes in them from dogs seeking the smell of an old treat
- I would no longer have to spell the word B-A-L-L and W-A-L-K and T-R-E-A-T.
- I would not buy weird things to stuff into Kongs or have to explain why I'm buying them, or what a 'Kong' is.
- I would not have as many leaves and sticks INSIDE my house as outside.
- I would not look strangely at people who think having their ONE dog ties them down too much.
- I could go on a real holiday instead of staying at home with the 'kids'
- I'd look forward to winter instead of dreading "mud" and "wet dog smell" season.
- I would not have to answer the question why do I have so many dogs from people who will never have the joy in their life of knowing they are loved unconditionally by something as close to an angel as they will ever get.

Who else has a friend who considers you the MOST important thing in the whole wide world all the time??

How empty my life would be if I didn't have dogs...

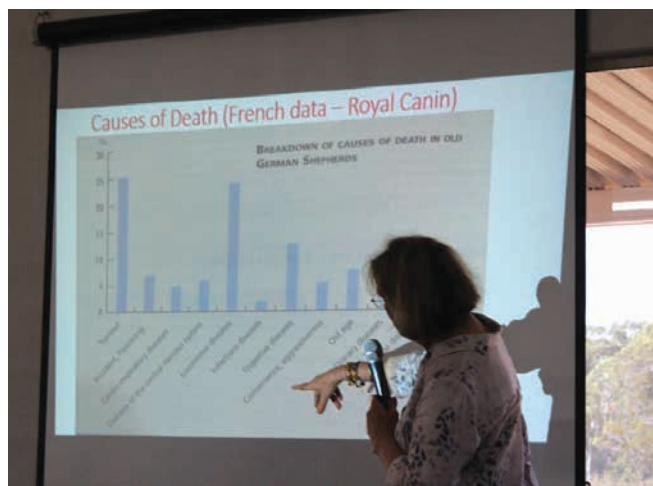
A Dog
The only creature on Earth that
loves you more than himself!

GSDCA educational breed weekend

The GSDCA Educational Breed Weekend

Hosted by the GSDL NSW

The German Shepherd Dog League of NSW very proudly hosted the first 'GSDCA BREED EDUCATION WEEKEND' on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th March 2019. The NSW club are in the enviable position of having two of the GSDCAs education working party among their management committee – this crossover placed the league in a great position to lead the way and set the bar for the education weekend roll out across the states. The League Breed Affairs Chair Jo Cathie, a GSDCA specialist and SV qualified breed judge, and League Vice President Melanie Groth, the GSDCAs National Breed Registrar and breed specialist judge and surveyor, teamed up as the main drivers for the initiative - bringing a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm together among speakers and contributors to ensure valuable educational breed content delivered in an interesting fashion. The weekend numbers were capped at 100 and interest maxed this out after only 2/3 days of advertising. Attendees present came from all corners of NSW, from ACT, from Victoria and from Queensland.



The GSDCA's Education Working Group had identified and highlighted areas for inclusion and the presentations were as follows:

Saturday :

ZAP Test – Introduction to ZAP – How to play with your puppy to

prepare for ZAP – ZAP Test Demo – Attendee Involvement

SANNE PEDERSEN, Sydney Dogsport Club (WGSDCA Club Affiliate)

'Unpacking the Breed Standard to understand the way forward'

MELANIE GROTH, GSDCA Specialist Judge, Breed Surveyor, National Breed Survey Registrar & JO CATHIE GSDCA Specialist Judge and SV Breed Judge

'Presentation of the German Shepherd in the Specialist Ring – Advice for

handlers and owners alike – Handlers perspective / Judges perspective'

KYLIE ZIMMERLE – Queensland / MELANIE GROTH – NSW

Sunday :

'Toward BH for Breed Survey' – BH Presentation – BH Demo – Attendee Involvement

SANNE PEDERSEN, Sydney Dogsport Club (WGSDCA Club Affiliate)

'Breed Killers – Dispelling the Myths on Bloat, *Haemangiosarcoma, Aspergillus and the Like'

DR KAREN HEDBERG BVSc Sydney, NSW

'Fitness and Nutrition – Balanced training and Balancing intake and output for the Healthy German Shepherd Show Dog'

DR KAREN HEDBERG BVSc Sydney, NSW

A lovely quality education booklet was given to all participants, put together by Jo and Mel and printed at Plumpton High School in Sydney.

Sanne had additional materials for sale to those keen to learn more about the BH format. She presented background on her topics first in the clubhouse on both days then headed outside for practical demonstrations and attendee participation. She spent a lot of time helping puppies try the ZAP puppy test obstacles and tests on Saturday and showing attendees training techniques for BH/obedience on Sunday. Her IPO dog Rixie was put through his paces by several keen attendees, showing that a trained dog is able to work with anyone. These presentations dispelled many myths about the ZAP test and the difficulties with training for BH and Sanne's bubbling enthusiasm spread through those listening like wildfire. Many young dogs were brought into a whole new situation to try something new and showed the real keen trainability of the German Shepherd Dog breed.

The presentations on understanding the breed standard and Kylie's show presentation demo were very well received and encouraged plenty of discussion among the groups, hopefully also encouraging a new way of looking at what most of us already do.

The breed standard presentation originally based on the NBC chair Jenny Yuen's presentation for judges and surveyors was adapted by Mel and looked to make breeders and exhibitors actually recognize the faults and attributes of their own dogs and consider these when looking to breed onward. Furthermore, it hoped to highlight where critiques can be subjective and show that variations will exist naturally in opinions among judges to some degree and certain types or styles of GSD will do better under one judge than another.

Kylie was assisted by Melanie and by Jo with GSDs Havoc, Trixx and Tallii, each at different stages of learning in show presentation. This seminar also gave the group a rather rare chance to hear Kylie speak publicly on handling techniques and to ask her questions from the floor.

Sunday's presentations by Dr Hedberg were intended as a 'mythbuster' with some of the lesser discussed breed killers discussed. Her nutrition presentation impacted many of the crowd on the road to our upcoming national and I for one introduced electrolytes to my dogs for training and travel immediately.





Lunch and morning and afternoon tea were provided by the Mid North Coast Branch of the GSDL NSW, as were items for the raffle on the day. The raffle raised \$200 dollars which was given thus - \$100 dollars in thanks to Plumpton High School who had printed the full colour education booklet for the weekend, and \$100 in thanks to the host club the League to be put toward training equipment for the members for ZAP and other disciplines.

The heartening attendance was in keeping with the very positive atmosphere over the whole weekend and the excellent feedback afterward.

The League will look to provide further educational events for the membership at regular intervals including those put forth by the GSDCA as well as those initiated by breed affairs. And ideas for future topics should be directed to the breed affairs chair.

Jo Cathie

ljcathie@outlook.com
Tel - 0423700293

What and Who is the GSDCA Education Working Group ?

The Education Working Group has evolved from the Breed Survey Improvement Scheme Project (BSIP) working party groups that were structured out of the Breed Survey Forum conducted by the GSDCA in July 2016.

Working groups were initially formed to address compliance and accountability of breed surveys and surveyors, education of the membership about breed survey and the integral role in the development of the German Shepherd Dog in Australia, and continuous education and skill development of breed surveyors, judges and trainees.

This followed the results of the online survey of the general membership about their thoughts and needs of the Breed Improvement Schemes and particularly Breed Survey.

The evolution into the GSDCA Education Working Group now takes into consideration breed health and also the ZAP test and its core elements.

The current members of the Group are: Jo Cathie (Chair), Melanie Groth, Alastair Henderson, Janet Haase, Ian Urie, Karen Hedberg, Nicki McDermott and Jane Pike, in consultation with the GSDCA Executive.

Your dog's 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 collects information to collate and assess 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.

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>

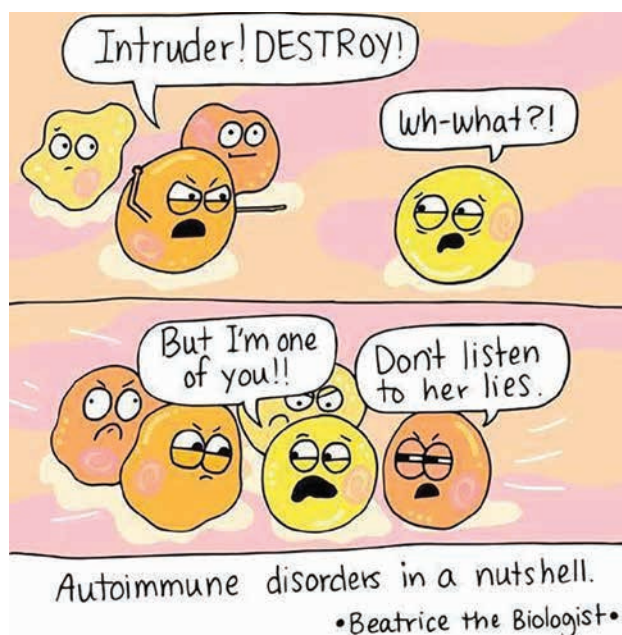
Immune mediated disease in the German Shepherd Dog

by Dr Candice Baker BSc BVMS MANZCVS (ECC)
GSDCA Breed Health & Welfare Chair

The immune system – how does it work?

This is a rather large and complex topic to talk about, but in order to help you understand how the immune system works, I will describe a few basics. It's main features include some of the following:

- Adaptability – recognition of novel antigens, such as emerging viruses never seen before.
- Specificity – recognition of self vs non-self, to avoid auto-immune disease
- Diversity – capacity to produce a large array of antibodies and T cell receptors – gene recombination
- Memory – secondary response to re-exposure - principle of vaccination



Factors that influence the immune system's response depend upon factors such as how much enters the body, how it physically enters the body (skin wound, lungs, bowel etc) and the genetic makeup of that animal.

Let's talk a bit more about auto-immune diseases, these are a set of diseases that are caused by auto-antibodies, these are antibodies to SELF. Non-organ specific diseases include – systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and discoid lupus erythematosus (DLE). Organ specific disease examples include – exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI), Antibiotic Responsive Diarrhoea, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Myasthenia Gravis.

Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI), for example recognizes the pancreas as foreign resulting in pancreatic acinar destruction. In turn

this creates an environment where there is a lack of digestive enzymes released from the pancreas and malabsorption of food occurs. Weight loss, increased appetite, greasy loose faeces are all hall mark findings in a dog with EPI.

Discoid lupus is when the immune system recognizes the DNA of cells as foreign, it can extend from the skin-mucosal junctions to more wide spread areas, turning into SLE. There are ways of dampening down that response with topical (creams) and systemic (tablets) therapies that modify the immune response.



Discoid lupus erythematosus (DLE)

Immunoglobulins

These guys play an important part in the immune system and response to antigens (such as bacteria, viruses, allergens). They act like antibodies and are associated with B cells in the immune system. They can be measured to assess the level of antigen response or presence in the body. There are five different types of immunoglobulins, IgG (makes up 75% of the antibodies in the blood), IgA, IgD, IgE and IgM.

The IgA deficiencies, in humans this is the most common immunodeficiency disorder. This is an immunoglobulin found primarily in the saliva and other body fluids that help guard the entrances to the body. In people, those deficient tend to have allergies or be more susceptible to infections. We extrapolate this to our dogs, those affected by skin allergies and infections, those susceptible to bowel infections or even those susceptible to systemic infections (sepsis).

Sepsis

Systemic infections (infection in the blood) that can act like cancer and carry a very poor prognosis for survival, more commonly seen in our young German Shepherd; Disseminated Aspergillosis (other rare fungus have also been identified and act in a similar fashion). This may start out in a single area, such as an intervertebral disc space as a local infection or a bone infection in the limb, but can quickly spread to multiple organs and cause failure of those organs. We link this back to an IgA deficiency.



Moth eaten appearance of the edges of the bone where they interface – diskospondylitis (infection of the disk space)

IgE deficiencies also cause allergies, they play an important role in processes such as anaphylaxis. Exposure to environmental factors and allergens can cause a “reaction” and repeat exposure can go on to cause an anaphylactic shock. However, repeat exposure to microbes or allergens may influence susceptible individuals to become atopic.

Lets talk about Atopy; this is a big problem in our breed. More common than we would like to admit. Atopy presents itself as skin allergies or “the itches”, dermatitis etc. It can be almost anywhere on the body – ears, feet, flanks, face, bottom, belly and so on. The most common trigger of atopy are seasonal allergens, which is why we often see it occur, it is more than often in Spring or Summer. Household allergens and insect bite hypersensitivities can also trigger atopy. However, skin allergies can also occur when there is a food sensitivity, usually to a particular protein.

In a broad nut shell, there are two types of immune system responses; innate and adaptive. Innate immunity is something they are born with and natural protective barriers such as; skin, gums, gut lining. If the wall is broken, through a cut for example, the skin attempts to heal and provides immune cells to attack bacteria.

Adaptive immunity develops throughout their life, it involves lymphocytes and changes as they are exposed to viruses or vaccinated against diseases.

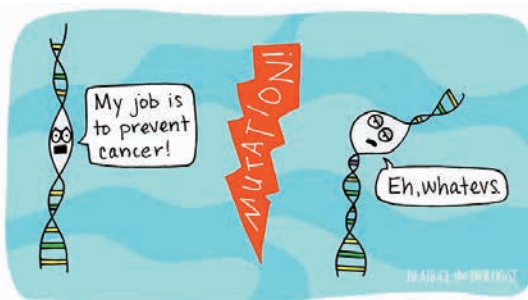
Passive immunity is also something to consider, antibodies passed on by the dam through the placenta or milk, this is temporary and wears off. IgA is passed on by mother to baby and will coat areas such as the intestinal mucosa and provide protection against pathogens.

Those immune cells involved in innate immunity are important in destroying the bacteria and virus’ that present themselves. They are cells such as; neutrophils, natural killer cells, macrophages. Fevers (high temperatures) occur due to upregulation in this system, it is a normal response to an infection. Down regulating this but giving non-steroidal anti-inflammatories is often detrimental. A fever is supposed to occur as a natural response. The concern often is, why? What is triggering the fever and upregulation in the immune response. Is there an underlying infection of some description that needs to be identified and treated. Such as a bacterial or fungal infection.

Similarly steroid based anti-inflammatories alter the immune response, these are designed for inappropriate immune system responses, such as immune mediated diseases or auto-immune diseases, where the immune system is attacking itself. It can be hugely detrimental for them to receive this type of medication if you actually have the situation of an infection that is not being treated.

It has been quite interesting to note that recent studies are supporting the hypothesis that immune genes play a role in altering the gut microbiome and increase the risk of triggering diseases, such as; gastric dilation volvulus (bloat). Which implicates a whole raft of potential diseases that we see in German Shepherd Dogs, similar to those auto-immune diseases listed above.

Due to the complexity of the immune system and its response it can be difficult to predict what may happen to an individual. However, common immune related diseases or failures of immune response should be considered in those breeding dogs. As those defects in the immune system are readily inherited.



The canine gut microbiome is associated with higher risk of gastric dilatation-volvulus and high risk genetic variants of the immune system

Meredith A. J. Hullar, Johanna W. Lampe, Beverly J. Torok-Storb and Michael A. Harkey

Abstract

Background

Large and giant dog breeds have a high risk for gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) which is an acute, life-threatening condition. Previous work by our group identified a strong risk of GDV linked to specific alleles in innate and adaptive immune genes. We hypothesize that variation in the genes of the immune system act through modulation of the gut microbiome, or through autoimmune mechanisms, or both, to predispose dogs to this condition. Here, we investigate whether differences in the canine fecal microbiome are associated with GDV and are linked to previously identified risk alleles.

Methodology/Principle findings

Fecal samples from healthy Great Danes ($n = 38$), and dogs with at least one occurrence of GDV ($n = 37$) were collected and analyzed by paired-end sequencing of the 16S rRNA gene. Dietary intake and temperament were estimated from a study-specific dietary and temperament questionnaire. Dogs with GDV had significantly more diverse fecal microbiomes than healthy control dogs. Alpha diversity was significantly increased in dogs with GDV, as well as dogs with at least one risk allele for DRB1 and TLR5. We found no significant association of dietary intake and GDV. Dogs with GDV showed a significant expansion of the rare lineage Actinobacteria ($p = 0.004$), as well as a significantly greater abundance of Firmicutes ($p = 0.004$) and a significantly lower abundance of Bacteroidetes ($p < 0.004$). There was a significant difference in the abundance of 10 genera but after correction for multiple comparisons, none were significant. Bacterial phyla were significantly different between controls and dogs with GDV and at least one risk allele for DRB1 and TLR5. Actinobacteria were significantly higher in dogs with GDV and with one risk allele for DRB1 and TLR5 but not DLA88 genes. Furthermore, Collinsella was significantly increased in dogs with at least one risk allele for DRB1 and TLR5. Logistic regression showed that a model which included Actinobacteria, at least one risk allele, and temperament, explained 29% of the variation in risk of GDV in Great Danes.

Conclusions

The microbiome in GDV was altered by an expansion of a minor lineage and was associated with specific alleles of both innate and adaptive immunity genes. These associations are consistent with our hypothesis that immune genes may play a role in predisposition to GDV by altering the gut microbiome. Further research will be required to directly test the causal relationships of immune genes, the gut microbiome and GDV.

Read the full article

Source: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0197686>

Puppy Socialisation

by **Edel Trembath BA (Psych), Dip. CBST (Canine Behaviour Science and Technology) – Canine Behaviour Consultant**

Do you have a GSD puppy or are you planning to get one?

If you are then prioritize SOCIALISATION as it is a time-sensitive item. Following a detailed socialisation plan for the development of a well-adjusted dog – one who is less likely to show fear and use aggressive behaviour as an adult, cannot be overemphasized.

Socialisation: What does it mean?

Socialisation means getting familiar with various environmental elements through being exposed to them but ensuring that every new experience is a good experience.

The true "socialisation period" also called "sensitive period" is only from 3 to 12 weeks with some research suggesting now that it may only be up to 8 weeks. What exactly the cut-off age is still unclear.

Why is it important and what should we do?

During this specific period in neural and physiological development the brain is programmed to take in certain information and the puppy is especially receptive with regard to whom and what he is going to accept in his life as a social being.

The big opportunity for socialisation begins when the puppy starts engaging with other beings, at around 3 weeks. Ideally the breeder will start the socializing process by exposing the puppy to noises, people, children, friendly dogs and other environmental elements, remembering that first experiences are very powerful.

Dr Ian Dunbar a pioneering puppy trainer reminds us that "A spoonful of prevention is worth truckloads of cure" and he emphasizes that the puppy meets approximately 100 new people before 12 weeks old.



How can the owner socialize the new pup?

A helpful plan of what to include during the socialisation period includes: Children of all ages both meets and greets and playing/running/making noise. Adult men and adult women: as many ages, races and sizes as possible, wearing sunglasses, big hats/backpacks, joggers and men with beards. It is vital to include people who are nervous of dogs

and act hesitantly around them, so that later on the dog is not too faced by this seemingly "peculiar" behaviour. It is advantageous to introduce the puppy to people in uniforms, such as the postie, fire fighters and police. Ask them to give the puppy treats for sitting.

Initially take the puppy on short fun car rides and gradually longer journeys. Aim to introduce the puppy to as many new inanimate things as possible such as: umbrellas, canes, walkers, wheel chairs, shopping trolleys and black rubbish bags. Introduce puppy to new places, starting with quiet places and gradually busier places with people moving about riding bikes and skateboards. Make sure the puppy walks on different surfaces, rides in an elevator, gets to climb on obstacles, gets to sniff plenty of things when walked and frequents cafés. Whilst the puppy is small and cute there is much more public interest in approaching and interacting with the puppy than when they are older.



Avoid thinking that because you own other dogs your pup will be well socialized. Your pup has to meet dogs that are initially unfamiliar to him and interact with them to learn the rules of polite canine-to-canine meetings.

Of course, when it comes to playmates, the best possible option is playing with other puppies in supervised off-lead puppy play groups as well as visiting dogs who are healthy and well socialized themselves, especially to puppies.

The amount of exposure and good experiences is referred to as "padding." It functions as layers of protection against the unavoidable bad encounters the puppy will experience in her life. If the pup has met and played with many puppies and had a marvellous time, the first time a dog is mean to her, the pup is much less likely to generalize the experience to all dogs.

Health Concerns? Many vets will recommend isolating puppies until either the second or, in some instances, after the third set of vaccinations. Although both infection and lack of socialisation can be problematic, most vets will agree that they euthanize more dogs for isolation-related behaviour problems than they do for infested puppies. To reduce the risk of infection, puppies should be carried into class, should all be healthy and shoes should be changed or left outside

the training area. It is a balancing act that every owner has to handle depending on their circumstances and comfort level.

Puppy Classes can greatly benefit a puppy. Now is the time for the owner to enrol in at least one but preferably two puppy play groups per week due to a massive amount of development taking place in one week. **Please be careful when it comes to selecting a class.** Unfortunately dog training is still unregulated; anyone can conduct puppy classes and do more harm than good for your puppy. It is highly recommended to sit in on a class prior to taking the puppy and to ask questions.

A desirable puppy class should offer the following:

Puppies only: There should be no dogs over the age of 18 weeks. If the class is big, puppies should be divided into nursery age 8-11 weeks and kindergarten age 12-18 weeks.

Supervised play: The puppies play and interact with each other whilst trainer(s) watch for problems. It is important that there are chairs, benches or any other facilities for the shy puppy to hide. Shy puppies should not be coerced out of hiding; instead the more confident puppies should be leashed at some point in order to let the shy puppies come out of hiding off-leash when ready.



It is advisable to set up play sessions so that initially the group is kept to a total of two or three dogs. Gradually the numbers can be increased once it is clear that other dogs have good social skills, are of similar size and temperaments. Graduating some of the gentle larger dogs to the small dog group can help to assure that small dogs get some socialisation with large dogs. Likewise graduating some of the tougher small dogs into the big dog group can help socialize the big dogs with small dogs.

There should be "Consent Tests," if play gets out of hand. The puppy who is "on top" should be removed. If the pup being picked on wants more and rushes back to the one who was pulled off, the play is probably appropriate. The pups can then be allowed to play more after settling down for a very brief moment. But if the pup who was picked on stays away, she should be given the space.

Please be aware that some puppies have a short attention span and a short session is enough.

Positive reinforcement training only: There should be no punishment and the motivation should be only treats, praise, play, toys and happy voices. Leave the class if you are encouraged to buy a collar that chokes or digs pins into your puppy's neck.

Body handling exercises. These are to be gentle and include plenty of treats. Ideally there should be children as well to handle and give the puppies treats. The trainer may lift the pup up on the table and do mock exams. Trainer could hold a puppy whilst the puppy's owner calls his puppy. It practices the recall and accustoms the puppy to be grabbed mid play which may be necessary when doing puppy play consent tests or breaking up a fight later as an adult.



Going at the puppy's pace and comfort level

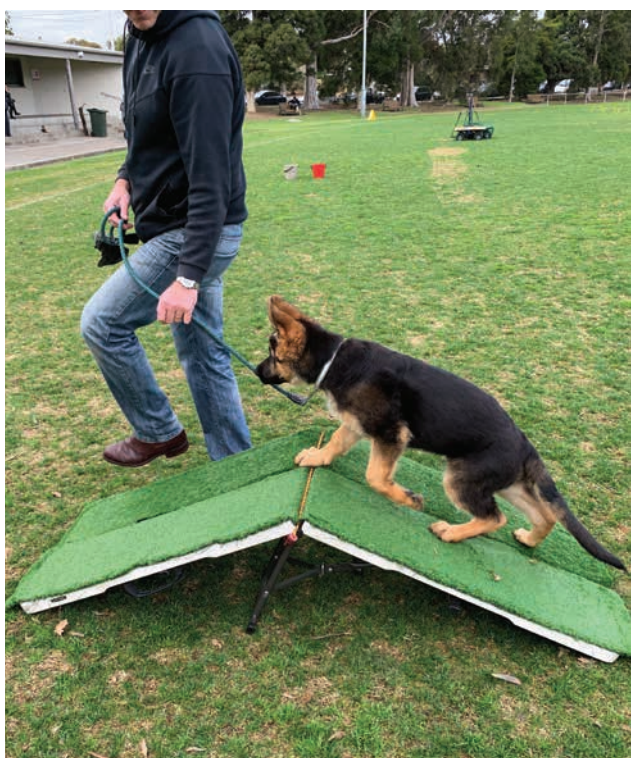
Although undersocialisation is a big issue, a common mistake that new owners make is to socialize the young pup by taking him into an environment that is simply too overwhelming. A puppy can handle only so many new experiences in a given day, even if they are all good ones. Socialisation should be moderate but continuous and steady and the pup should be watched for signs of stress. In the puppy's first day in the new home she should be allowed to simply get used to the new surroundings. After that, the puppy can be **gradually** exposed to new situations. Never force the pup to interact with something he does not want to, let him approach in his own time and give him the choice to move away. Don't make a fuss; simply make approaching the object/person more appealing by pairing the feared thing with fun and treats. At 12-16 weeks she may visit people parks, but not dog parks, because owners bring dogs who are bullies, either not knowing or not caring that their dog may harm other dogs.

PUPPY chat



There is a worrisome trend of selectively socializing puppies so that they are reserved around strangers and that they are less of a nuisance. A dog who does not attempt to greet people may seem polite, but the cost is that the dog is not prosocial and this is indeed a concerning trade-off.

In conclusion, it is utmost important to socialize the pup with dogs and people early in life, ensuring that every new experience is a good one whilst going at the puppy's pace and comfort level. After the "sensitive socialisation period," it is a great idea to continue with socialisation, training and taking her out to enjoyable public places. Learning takes place throughout our best friend's life and allowing her to be an ambassador for this magnificent breed is an additional bonus.



Suggested Watching and Readings

The Great Courses – "Dog Training 101" presented by Jean Donaldson, DVD.

Killion and Herron, Puppy Culture, DVD.

Dunbar, Before and After Getting Your Puppy.

Palika, Albert, Eldredge and Oliver, Your German Shepherd Puppy Month by Month.



Please note: rather than calling the puppy an "it" or using awkward "she/he," I have chosen to alternate between "he" and "she" in the article. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to email me at: ralph.edel@bigpond.com



Supreme Champion Vladimir Just A Flirt

*Kurt, Dianne & Grant from Vladimir
German Shepherds in NSW bred and handle
'JJ', who has amassed some great show wins,
resulting in the awarding of the title of
Supreme Champion.*

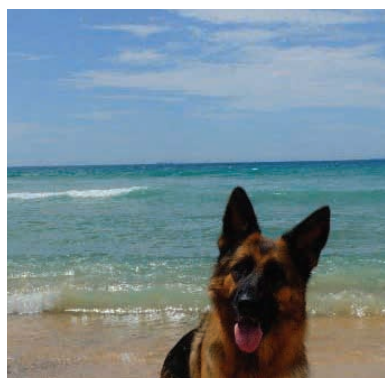
'JJ' is very proudly 6th generation Vladimir. She was destined for success being the daughter of National winner Champion Vladimir Flirtacious and Gold Medal winner Toby vd Plassenburg.

'JJ' is the Granddaughter of Supreme Champion Vladimir Anarchy, 'Annie' who was the first ever Best In Show all breeds and specialty winner to be awarded the title of Supreme Champion. 'Annie' too was a National winner and has been noted in the GSDCA Golden Jubilee as one of the best producing and top show bitches, an incredible feat. 'JJ' has followed in the footsteps of her breeding, being a competitive show bitch in both show arenas.

From a young age, 'JJ' has been a winner and highly competitive on a national level including winning Baby Bitch under Andreas Rudolph SV at her first specialty show, 2nd Junior bitch at the 2016 National under Margit van Dorssen, Challenge Bitch under Melanie Groth and Runner up Best in Show under Robyn Knuckey amongst her wins.

She is also a multi Best in Show and Runner up, Best in Show Winner in the all breeds ring, including notable wins under Sue Bruno and other working dog specialists and breed enthusiasts.

We congratulate 'JJ' and her breeders and owners. A great feat !



Yvonne and Moochie

I have always admired the German Shepherd Dog and in the early 70's I bought two lovely boys – born 6 months apart. The same father and their mothers were sisters. They were as different as chalk and cheese. Rolf became my show dog and Rajah went into obedience. Rolf won a lot of ribbons and rosettes and finally got his Championship in 1975. He was also best Australian Bred working Dog at the Sydney Spring Fair in 1974.

Rajah was very steady and confident at training but decided trialling was not for him and on the occasions left the ring unceremoniously !. I thought that he didn't enjoy it so I didn't push him. Silly decision.

I had my two lovely boys for 14 years and they died six weeks apart.

I then acquired an unwanted maremma 'Tessa' and a mini fox terrier 'Tiny'. Both lovely dogs and we had 11 years together. After a couple of years back in England I came to South Australia and bought a silver girl 'Venus' from a backyard breeder. She had been on a chain for her 14 months of life and was very skinny and dirty and had never been vaccinated. On my way home I went into the local vet and after examination said she was in pup. Three weeks later and lots of good food she had six pups – beautiful and definitely German Shepherds. Three months on I advertised them and five sold quickly and I kept the sixth 'Hannah'.

Venus became my agility dog and we both absolutely loved it. I did obedience with Hannah up to class 4. Venus won a few trophies along the way.

Another young shepherd came from across the road to live with us – 'Shep'. She was 14 months old and had been accused (with her housemate) of killing a sheep. She was permitted to stay in the area as long as she was trained – so I took her on and trained her.

Venus was only with me for nine years, Hannah for 11 years and Shep passed away in April 2018 aged 13 ½ years.

After another holiday in England I was ready to start again so I rang a local breeder to ask if they had an older dog for sale, and that is how my gorgeous 'Moochie' came home with me. She is eight years old – has a super temperament and is very affectionate, cheeky, friendly and mischievous and everything I could ask for. She is with me every move I make and sleeps beside my bed. I remember when a friend of mine was visiting. He took off his hat and in an instant she had taken it back to her bed !. We rescued the hat (undamaged). So she took one of their bags and ran off with that, cheeky thing !.

In July when I got Moochie I was also given a 12 year old Tenterfield Terrier 'Tiny' and they have become great friends. They both have many toys but Moochie delights in taking Tiny's favourites at every opportunity. But as little as he is, he goes after her and gets them back.

Moochie is also very 'helpful' when I'm putting on shoes and socks. She pulls on the socks and laces! She also sits and lays on the legs of my trousers making it very hard to pull them on. When she's lying down and you try and go past her she reaches up with her front legs, just asking for attention – a belly rub or a cuddle. My friends call her my 8 year old puppy. Early on she did chew on a slipper and a trainer. I have to keep the recycling basket up out of her reach, otherwise Moochie takes any

cartons back to her bed to tear up !. A couple of times she has got the basket handle stuck behind her ears and has to ask for help !!!!

You could say that 'Delaforce Make My Day' has certainly made my day. I am really thankful to Marilyn and Ian Cooke for letting me bring this beautiful girl into my life and home.

By Yvonne Brooks

Lewiston SA

Postscript

Out of the blue a kennel dog gets a chance at being a companion dog and to spend her twilight years with someone, one on one. She surpassed all our expectations winning over neighbours, friends, the vet and a little elderly Tenterfield terrier.

Yvonne is in her seventies and religiously walks Moochie every day, always going past our house on her journey home.

Marilyn Cooke

Ed. What a lucky dog is Moochie !



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

“But how could you part with him?”

Poor dog, don't you love him?”

By Vanessa Stocks

(Originally written May 2014)

The idea of rehoming a beloved puppy or dog seems incomprehensible to most people.

We have it drilled into us that a dog is a commitment not to be taken lightly, they're not disposable items and 'A dog is for life, not just Christmas'. However, rehoming dogs is one of the least enjoyable, yet necessary part of being a breeder or show exhibitor.

Does this mean that breeders and exhibitors don't love their dogs? Absolutely not. Puppies retained for the purpose of showing and future breeding are raised with as much love and care as those puppies placed in pet homes. These puppies are usually highly socialised with dogs and people as they are taken to dog club from a young age, are well handled from time spent show training and being exhibited and also well accustomed to travelling. An abundance of time, money and energy is put in to having a litter and much hope is placed on the little puppy that stays as the future of the bloodlines.

At times however, things don't work out as planned. There are limited attributes that you can be sure of in an 8 week old puppy and the vision then does not always equate to what you get in an adult dog. During the earlier stages of puppy hood, disqualifying faults (for both showing and breeding) such as missing teeth and ear issues (soft ears which don't stand, or are not firm enough) can pop up. Hip and elbow x-rays can't be taken until the dog has done the critical part of its growing so are done after 12 months of age.

Our scheme for hips and elbows is very strict and for good reason, we have done much to improve the health of our breed in this area. The majority of the dogs who are x-rayed and scored do pass, but on occasion there are dogs whose scores, whilst not detrimental to the dog in any way, will not be low enough for future breeding. Height is another factor which is largely unknown until the dog is around the 12 month of age mark. It may seem strange that a few centimetres over or under the ideal set out in the breed standard can be so important, but the breed standard is the blueprint for the German Shepherd and what we aim for when breeding.

After being shown through puppyhood, passing x-rays and being breed surveyed, the next step for dogs retained by breeders is producing a litter. In most cases dogs are around 2 years old age when they are bred from. For the most part, this is a straight forward process however dogs can also suffer from issues with fertility, birthing (resulting in caesareans) and at times poor mothering skills which can deem them unsuitable for future breeding. Dogs of around 3 or 4 years old, who have completed their role of producing a litter or two for their breeders, are sometimes rehomed. As German Shepherd dogs are often slow maturing, these dogs are still young at heart and playful with plenty of years of love and companionship to offer to a family. Often breeders breed a litter with the goal of producing a puppy to continue on with as the next generation, and if such a puppy is born in a bitch's first litter, she may not be bred again.

It's also important to acknowledge influences from other sources when the decision is made to rehome a puppy or dog. It could be as simple as the breeder having bred a better quality puppy from the same mother in her next litter. Sometimes despite having a really promising puppy,

external factors such as problems with the bloodlines showing up in littermates or dogs from similar breeding, means that it is no longer wise to continue with that puppy. There are dogs who do not enjoy living in a multi-dog household or the hustle and bustle of travelling and being in the show ring (the same can be true for competition obedience or dog sports) – being forced into activities or a lifestyle that doesn't suit makes for an unhappy dog and owner.

If the decision is made to part with a dog or puppy, it is done so with the dog's best interests in mind. It would be lovely if these dogs that haven't made the grade for whatever reason could all stay with their breeder/owner as a pet, but in reality it's not that simple. Breeders generally have multi dog households consisting of up and coming youngsters, show dogs and breeding dogs and more often than not, a retired and much treasured oldie or two. These dogs are all pet dogs in addition to their other roles in the kennels and a routine of training, fitness, travel etc is planned around them.

A dog who doesn't have a role can often get left behind due to time constraints and the logistics of being able to fit only a limited number of dogs in the house, car, bed! etc. In this situation it's far better for the dog to be placed in a household with its very own family where it can receive more attention and be included. The reality of a dog left at home in a run on its own is a far sadder thought than having to part with them. No one likes saying goodbye to their friend, even breeders who have been doing it for years. It's especially hard when it's a puppy you have raised yourself, who has been yours its entire life. It's not easy. When you have found a home that is just right for the dog, where you know in your heart they will be well cared for and happy, and you know it is in their best interests not your selfish own, you can get through it.

What does the dog think about all this? In this situation it's important to remember that dogs are not furry four footed humans like we sometimes think of them, they are dogs and they are not capable of the same thought processes that we are. They do not think they have been abandoned, or wonder what they have done wrong or think they are unloved. They don't think that way. Dogs live in the moment, and while initially they will be confused about their new surroundings and the new people in their lives, before too long, with kindness, encouragement (and food!) they will adjust and be happy in their new environment.

Remember, our greatest consideration should always be what is best for the puppy/dog!



The world's smallest dog squad

Police Dogs working on the Cook Islands.

During our recent visit to Rarotonga, Cook Islands we visited Muri Beach to our surprise the Police Dog squad turned up. This newly formed dog squad just received its first two dogs and was doing a promotional visit to the beach to take photos and generally do a publicity travel around the island, which by the way doesn't take long as the island has one main road circling the outer rim of the island its about 36klms and takes 40 minutes to circle the entire island.

The dogs were gifted to the Islands from New Zealand Police Force, the older dog being a 5 year old male and a young buck of 2 years similar to the officers of the newly formed dog squad with a senior officer and a young first year officer, even though its newly form you can see the love these police officers have for the dogs.

In recent years we have visited the islands on a yearly basis it was very surprising to see the officers and the dogs but I did ask them how long till you get German Shepherds, I think it may be a long while but you never know what the future holds for most likely the smallest dog squad in the world -- good luck guys.

Sean Lynch



Introducing Kurt Morton, the GSDCA Youth Officer!



Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Mr Andrew O'Loughlin and thank him for his time and effort in the role. It's big shoes to fill and I look forward to the challenge.

I would like formally introduce myself and my role as the GSDCA National Youth Officer. I am an avid breeder and exhibitor of the German Shepherd Dog and breed under the prefix of Vladimir. I have participated in multiple facets of the dog world, including showing, junior showmanship and herding. I am currently an accredited Group 5 Working dog judge, undergoing my GSDCA aspirant extension course.

The opportunities provided by my local club, and more broadly the GSDCA have shaped my pathway and involvement with the German Shepherd Dog. These including opportunities which have helped me develop and build skills in leadership, governance, policy and strategy.

More broadly, in the GSDCA Youth position, I hope have uniformity across the member clubs and provide opportunities for younger members to be involved in their clubs.

If you would like to get in contact with me, please email me at youthofficer@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Kurt Morton



Five Minutes with Peter Hersant

Peter Hersant from Queensland has grown up with German Shepherd Dogs, his family kennel is Astasia. Peter was a youth handler and is now one of Australia's 'best'. Our Youth Officer Kurt Morton interviewed Peter for some tips and suggestions for those starting their handling careers.

How long have you been showing dogs for?

I started training dogs with my parents when I was around 10 and I started handling in shows when I was 12.

How have you maintained motivation for such a long period of time?

I have been very fortunate to grow up with a very successful kennel with my parents, so having the opportunity to handle very good and competitive animals has certainly helped keep me motivated to continue showing the dogs. My parents encouraged me a great deal and took me along to all the shows since I was 11. They also let me handle their dog at shows and did not mind if the dog didn't do as well because I handled them as a young handler. I've also handled a number of very beautiful animals for other kennels which also is a big motivation to continue showing the dogs. Lastly, there is no sport that you do where you share a bond with another animal, like dog showing. The dog loves you no matter what and that's very special.

Who has been your favourite dogs to handle and why?

A few favourite dogs to handle:

1. Astasia Ashanti- bred with my parents. I started to help train her as a youngster and handled her the majority of her show career. She was a very beautiful bitch, and an excellent show dog and I always loved spending time with her. She was a joy to own and show.



2. Xaro von der Plassenburg- imported by Astasia and Zandrac Kennels. The best male dog I have ever, and probably will ever handle. A fantastic show dog that very much enjoyed the work. Had much success showing him around the country with my parents.



3. Astasia Boeing- bred with my parents. Handled him to a National win in 2010. There is nothing quite like the exhilaration you get when you handle a National class winner. He led from start to finish after the call out. And to do it again with my parents was very special.



4. Astasia Darya- bred again with my parents. Handled her to win the Intermediate class at the 2019 National. At one point, I had two German handlers up my backside. Once again, it was very special to reach this achievement with my parents especially with an animal we bred.



What do young dog handlers have to watch from the beginning?

Young handlers need to above all be kind to the dog. They should observe the good handlers at shows. The good handlers are calm and focused at all times on the dog and the task at hand. Talk and interact with the dog. Experienced handlers are calm and focused. They are fully aware of the dog, the judge, the double handlers and the handler and dog in front and behind. They bring the best in the dog and make the dog the centrepiece, so that they are virtually invisible.

Remember also, the idea of the handler is to guide and assist the dog, not hinder the dog, just like a good horse rider. Use the lead to assist and don't hold the dog back from moving. This "feel" develops over time and the more dogs you train and show the better. Every dog is different so they all need to be handled differently. Don't over shadow the handler and dog in front, this actually hinders your dog more so than the dog in front.

Lastly, never shy away from asking for feedback on your handling. I would not be the handler I am today, without the feedback and teaching I received, and still receive, from my father.

Which aspects are part of a good presentation?

A good presentation involves many things and is not an easy question to answer or to put in words. It is easier to say to observe the presentation of a good show dog. For example, have a look at some of the dogs at our recent National such as the Gold Medal winning SC bitch, Charlotte von Tronje. Her presentation was excellent and showed a great connection between the dog and the handler.

Obviously, a well-trained dog is essential to a good presentation, but not all animals are well trained. The dog should also ideally be fit and in good coat. And then it's up to the handler (and double handler/s). You want the dog to show expression at the right time when the judge is looking during stance and on the move, ears up and pulling into the lead. The individual is also super important, particularly at bigger shows. You obviously want the dog to stand well and gait well to show the dog off in the best possible way to the judge. Lastly the handler should really be invisible, the dog is on show, not the handler.

What do you think makes a good handler?

I think I have touched on some of these things already in the previous questions. Additionally, a good handler should be fit, the handler is meant to help the dog and if you are not fit enough, this task can be a very difficult one. As I said previously, a good handler is calm and focused and brings the best out of the dog. You should, in an ideal sense, be at one with the dog.

Which role does the dog handler really play at a show?

At a show, the dog handler can play many roles. Importantly, without the handlers and the exhibitors in general, there would be no show in the first place. For me and a lot of the top handlers, such as Lyn Phillis, Candy Wedge, Kylie Zimmerle and Kurt Morton, we handle in almost every class at specialty shows so a dog handler can be very busy and on their feet, the entire day, going from one ring to the other.

The dog handler helps the dog look its best in the showing, so it can get the best possible place in its class. We also help warm the dog up. We may also toilet the dog and get it hydrated. Having a good team around you is very important also, including the double handlers. Double handling in many respects, is more difficult than handling.

If you could give one piece of advice to anyone else that was just starting out showing German Shepherds, what would it be?

If you want immediate success, do your research and be prepared to spend the money and buy the best dog you can. There are no guarantees when buying a puppy. And the sport is harder than you might think, and success does not come easy

Below: Peter Handling Xaro to a win in 2018!!



Peter handling at the 2019 National



Siobahn

PRESENTS

#1

DAM GSDL 2018

Nina



CH. VLADIMIR GREYT SENSATION A Z BSC
A (2-1) Z (0-0)

CH. SIOBAHN APOLLO A Z BSC X SUP CH. VLADIMIR ANARCHY A Z BSC

#1 DAM - NSW GSDL POINTSCORE
NATIONAL MINOR WINNER & RES CC - HERR BRAUCH
1ST OPEN BITCH - NSW STATE BREED - DR HEDBERG
SPECIALTY BIS WINNER

LOVED AND OWNED BY **YVONNE YUN & KURT MORTON**



NATIONAL MEDALIST

CH. SIOBAHN GREYT IMPACT
A Z BSC
NATIONAL WINNER
RUBIS SPECIALTY WINNER A (1-2) Z (0-0)

LOVED AND OWNED BY **IRIS SELBY**



Apollo

CH. SIOBAHN GREYT TEMPTATION
A Z BSC
NATIONAL WINNER A (2-5) Z (0-0)

LOVED AND OWNED BY **YVONNE YUN & CAROLYN BECKER**



Pepper

CH. SIOBAHN GREYT ENCORE
A Z BSC
RUBIS SPECIALTY WINNER A (2-2) Z (0-0)

LOVED AND OWNED BY **YVONNE YUN & KURT MORTON**



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NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



GSDA of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT

Mr. Brian Lubbock

M: 0419 865 804

E-Mail president@gsdawa.org

SECRETARY

Mrs. Lucy Lubbock M: 0419 865 590

E-Mail secretary@gsdawa.org

Our A.G.M. was held on Sunday 4th August – it was a short one and covered all reports from each portfolio. The Annual Report booklets will be forwarded to all our affiliated clubs for their interest.

Thank you once again to John Glenly for acting as our Returning Officer and to Kerrie and Eric for acting as scrutineers. Only one position was unopposed – the position of Breed Affairs Chair – Natalie Humphries was re-elected for another term.

Congratulations Natalie we all look forward to upcoming talks on relevant topics for our members which have been very well received in the past.

We had only one change to the Management Committee that was the position of Vice President. Bronson Pereira decided to step down this year.

I have been extremely fortunate to have Bronson as a friend and part of our family for 30 years. Thank you my friend, **I appreciate his love of our breed and his calmness when necessary.**

He will continue to support the association with the show entries and support of the membership.

Whilst Bronson stays at the kennels his partner, Rob is our barista and masterchef at Headquarters so I think we are winners. Thank you my friend.

We are pleased to welcome a new face onto the committee Mr Ian Heard – Ian has been for some time working as part of the Ground Committee at HQ. Ian is also involved in the discipline of tracking thus bringing another avenue for discussion and interest to the group. Mr John Crace will take on the role of Ground Manager and I am sure these gentlemen will work well together.

Our Public Relations Officer, Kym Glenly has

decided to step down from this role after many years of organising demonstrations and events to showcase our breed. Readers will remember the efforts with the children and disabled groups that Kym and her team have visited. The Christmas Parties and Fun days have been enjoyed by many members and their children – **we thank you Kym for all your hard work and effort you have put in over the years.** Rob Pritchard will continue as the Webmaster and was proposed for the P.R.O. role which he accepted with a smile. These two roles should combine well.

Whilst our association is no different to any other in Australia in that we all need our volunteers to keep the wheel turning. In W.A.'s case it is even harder as we have our grounds to maintain. This is hard work for a few who put their heart and soul into keeping our Headquarters running. THANK YOU to everyone who does even a little job that takes the strain off those of us who, at times, feel unappreciated and VERY tired.

The Trials Committee ran two successful trials recently – Obedience and Rally O – Congratulations to the winners and thanks to the committee.

April Obedience

UDX - OCH Vonalfstyne Freundrohan UDX H Zakrzewski, 1st place
CCD - Lindenelm French Champagne T McGregor, 1st place

Rally O

Master - TSGCH Madrodish Was Made for Luvin U CDX RAE RM HTHI P Waller, 6th place
Novice - TSCH Adashad ThruToThe Keeper CCD E Ramsden, 1st place
Novice - Joanchell Rocco TD E Ramsden, 3rd place

July Rally O

Master - Sabaranburg Purple Rain CDX RAE RM HTMN D Webb, 2nd place
Master - TSGCH Madrodish Was Made for Luvin U CDX RAE RM HTHI P Waller, 6th place
Novice - TSCH Adashad ThruToThe Keeper CCD E Ramsden, 2nd place
Novice - Hausosin Eliminator G Wellman, 8th place

Obedience

UDX - OCH Vonalfstyne Freundrohan UDX H Zakrzewski, 1st place
UDX - OCH TSGCH Brooksvale Phanta RN HTMS P Waller, 2nd place
Novice - Chiquita H West-Barron, 1st place
Novice - Lindenelm French Champagne CCD T McGregor, 3rd place

We have the Rick Richardson and Walter Martin memorial Championship shows at the end of August. These shows were named

after Rick and Walter as a homage to their contribution to our association. Jane Pike and John Fenner will be adjudicating these shows for 2019.

Our first Z.A.P. demonstration was well received and many members took time to stay after training to watch. Looking forward to the next one to be scheduled soon. There are many little snippets of the exercises on our Facebook page.

Until next time
Margaret Adams
Editor G.S.D.A. of W.A.



GSDC of VICTORIA

PRESIDENT

Mr. Tony Mercieca

M: 0427 763 465

E-Mail president@gsdcv.org.au

SECRETARY

Mr. Vince Ebejer

Ph : (03) 9467 8653 M: 0411 462 358

E-Mail secretary@gsdcv.org.au

Congratulations to our newly qualified full panel ANKC Obedience judge Dearn Jackson. A few years of hard work and training have paid off as she ticked off each class level along the way. We wish Dearn well with her future obedience judging career, you can catch her in the ring!

While we are on obedience, a big Cheer to Alex Cogdell and Vindel Dancing with Mr D CCD RM (Jagger) who competed at the Dogs Victoria 2019 State Obedience Trial on August 3, where Alex and Jagger and placed 1st in both the AM and PM Novice Trials, qualifying them to compete in Winner of Winners. And that's where Alex and Jagger were awarded the 2019 State Obedience Champion!. Some will also know this team as our obedience Bronze medallist at the National in April – so its been

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs

a great year for Alex and Jagger. What a thrill for Alex and Karyn to have bred such a top performing dog. Onwards and upwards for this 2 year old dog and his mate !



Our weekend of shows in early August nearly blew all away – literally. Weather in Melbourne is often not great in winter, but this was a doozy. Freezing cold (11oC) and patchy rain, and just a tad wet underfoot. Even the dogs thought it was going a bit too far and they needed more than their furry double coats to stay warm in the ring. 😊 Kudos to our judges Louis Donald and Sharon Ballantyne-Gordon, along with our exhibitors, handlers and very hardy spectators and helpers. You are all troopers of the highest degree !

Lillydale Champ Show (L Donald)

Challenge Dog SC *AUST. CH FREINHAUF HASTA LAVISTA BABY AZ
Challenge Bitch SC *ICA VON DER ZENTEICHE (IMP DEU)

Best of Breed SC *AUST. CH FREINHAUF HASTA LAVISTA BABY AZ
Challenge Dog LSC *JAYSELL RICKODO AZ
Challenge Bitch LSC MAADRICA ANYA RN
Best of Breed SC *JAYSELL RICKODO AZ

GSD Exhibition (Sharon Ballantyne Gordon)

Open Dog SC *KARABACH NIGHT FORCE A Z *FREINHAUF HASTA LAVISTA BABY AZ
Open Bitch SC *BRONACRE SALTED POPCORN ET AZ
Open Dog LSC *KARABACH NIGHT FORCE A Z
Open Bitch LSC *STOBAR ELOUISE AZ

There were some great successes at our Endurance Test in June, with 10 GSDs attaining their titles. Well done to the very fit owners and dogs !

Structural Assessments are proving very popular with our members, our Geelong

branch having had 15 dogs progress through in June and Northern branch are sure to have as many or more at their September assessment. They are a great opportunity for our general member to have their dogs assessed and learn who they compare with the breed standard. Everyone learns a lot on the day, even the surveyors who assess our 'pet' dogs 😊. So if you get a chance to participate, do so.

Coming up at branches we have a Police Dog Squad talk at our Western branch which is always popular and informative, and Eastern are holding their annual Christmas shopping trip soon ! Which must mean Santa is just around the corner ? How time flies.

Good Luck to everyone competing at our Track & Search Dog Trial in mid September – sniff well !

As always we look forward to our biggest weekend of the year with our Champ Show and Working Dog Club Shows, this year with judges Roberto Caputi (Ecuador) and Ian Urie. The obedience and Rally trial run in conjunction should attract some of our top Group 5 performers and the coveted Dual Performance trophy will be hotly contested. Will be a great weekend and we look forward to seeing lots of our interstate friends. Book your flights now 😊.

Early November will see our Breed Seminar being held based on the model from the GSDCA Education Group. Some great interstate speakers are lined up and we know it will be a big success with the interest already generated. Training your dog, ZAP, play, taking great dog pics and technical breed stuff are all on the agenda, to be conducted over 2 days, Nov 9 & 10 at KCC Park. Stay tuned for all the details.



GSD LEAGUE NSW Inc
PRESIDENT
Mr. Terry Jarvis
M: 0407 271 418
E-Mail tepe@bigpond.net.au
SECRETARY
Mrs. Fay Stokes
Ph: (02) 4777-4241 M: 0401 019 213
E-Mail faystokes@dodo.com

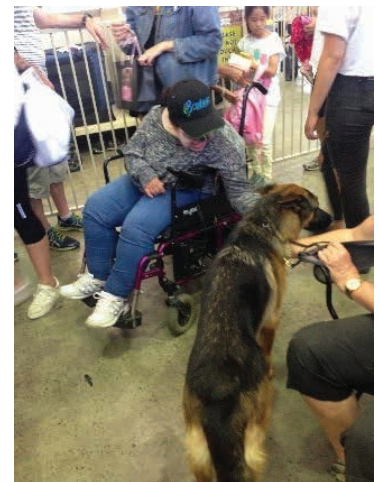


Our June Sanction Show judged by Mrs Mel Adamson (SA) had 85 entries, 45 bitches and 40 dogs. Best LSC Dog was *Conkasha Desert Cobra AZ and Best LSC Bitch was Ch Lindenelm Fancy Tickled Pink AZ . Best SC Dog was *Uhlmsdorf Black Diamond AZ and Best SC Bitch was *Vladimir Me Me Im First AZ. The Open Show judged by Mr Wayne Lewis had 24 entries. Class results can be seen on our website.

At our survey on the 12th May six animals were presented, all being classified. Congratulations!

A huge thank you to Kathie Minton, as a former Obedience Co-ordinator, for all her work with our obedience on Tuesday nights, being so welcoming to new members and keeping all the handlers up to date with events in the club. Kathie carried on with Rally O activities when we unfortunately lost Tiki Friezer and trained for the introduction of Zap testing. During training she would take interested handlers and their dog aside to help polish them up for trialling which was greatly appreciated.

The GSDL had a very popular and busy Breed Stall at the Sydney Royal Easter Show with a queue to pat the dogs. Kathie with Chilli and Jodi with Whiskey came to help on the stall.



We were also out and about in May at Paws in the Park at Camden and the attached photos were taken by The Camden – Narellan

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs

Advertiser and put on their website promoting Paws in the Park. Terry and Pam came to help on the stall as did Di and Rod with Huggy Bear and Les with Fred.



Dogs NSW ran Dogs on Show in June where we had a Breed Stall and our own Mr Kurt Morton was the Group 5 judge. Thanks to Pam and Terry, Rod and Di, Les and Marilyn with Rosco for helping with the stall. Tanya and Pearl, Teresa, Wayne and Djando, Steve and Jet and Rui and Milo dropped into the stall and enjoyed the event.

Sydney Dog Lovers Show



And our major promotion for the year was Sydney Dog Lovers Show in the Dome at Olympic Park at Homebush on the 3rd and 4th August. A very successful weekend to present our breed and answer questions and explain the myths of our breed. It was extremely busy with a genuine love and interest in the dogs. Many cuddles showing the true nature of the German Shepherd. A huge thank you to Kathie Minton with Chilli, Tony Darcy with Maverick, Rod and Di Coppini with Huggy Bear and Graeme and I took out Rio, Gypsy and Quilla. This meant we had 3 or 4 dogs on the stall at all times with LSC and SC. Graeme and Kathie did the Ask -the- Breeder Talks for Dogs NSW on the stage. So very proud of all the dogs we had on the stand as they were such fantastic ambassadors for the breed and admired by the public.



Our next promotional event for the year will be Dogs in the Park at Penrith on the 8th September.

We would like to congratulate Pam and Terry Jarvis who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at the end of June. Quite a milestone to celebrate together.



The 2020 48th National committee under the leadership of Melanie Groth has the organisation well under way and we all look forward to a great show and catch up.

We are now leading into the NSW State Breed Exhibition for 2019 with around 106 entries to be judged by Mrs Fay Stokes (NSW).

Enjoy your dogs and good luck with achieving your goals for the remainder of 2019.

Karen Stevenson

NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



GSDC of QUEENSLAND

PRESIDENT

Ms. Sharon Ballantyne-Gordon

Mobile: 0408 702 766

E-Mail president@gsdcqld.org.au

SECRETARY

Mrs. Annie Tamblyn

Mobile: 0418 709 238

E-Mail secretary@gsdcqld.org.au

Hello to all from "Beautiful one day Perfect the next" (Okay, we admit not so beautiful on one day...)

A few members manned the stand at "Paws On Patrol" on June 16 – an event conducted by Qld Police to raise awareness of the value of our beloved Canines (not just GSD) not only to our home/family lives but in keeping us safe but also their many roles within law enforcement & Military, detecting dangers beyond human capabilities & in general, helping the Community.

The ground was a buzz of dog loving people, lots of whom brought their 4 legged family members along – and dare we say, the GSDCQ stand received THE MOST "Police Presence" as Officers tried to recruit a couple of new members – Vada & Retro Ballantyne-Gordon (see photos) A FANTASTIC PR exercise for our beautiful breed. Thank you to the members who gave their time to this event as well to Razz, Vada & Retro & a couple of other "Kantenna Kids" for putting your best paws forward among the crowds of people coming to meet you.

Our 2019 Championship Shows were held a week earlier than usual this year (beyond our control) & sadly, the usually perfect weather didn't get the memo.. Despite the rain, we still enjoyed a lovely weekend surrounded by not only our local but our much appreciated Interstate friends. A special Thank You AGAIN to our loyal supporters & generous Sponsors AAPT (Aussie Pet & Animal Travel) – they again donated a LARGE Vari Crate & travel Voucher for us to raise funds via raffle over the weekend – Congratulations to this years winner Raimond Wharton

Congratulations to all winners & place getters with huge Congratulations to our Best Exhibit & Runner up to Best Exhibit each day, (think it would have been a happy trip home for the Karabach team.....)

Saturday:- Best Exhibit in Show **KARABACH PERFECT STORM AZ**

Runner Up **KARABACH PINCH OF PEPPER AZ**

Sunday: Best Exhibit in Show **KARABACH PERFECT STORM AZ**

Runner Up ***ASTASIA DARYA AZ**

The Obedience Trial suffered the most being held on Saturday morning when the weather was at its worst..... our dogs are incredible, still performing like superstars despite the conditions – special mention to some pretty amazing scores, resulting in the Grading of Obedience Excellent! What an achievement for dog & handler:

O GR. CH. TRANGOLD DARE TO BE

DIFFRENT 194/200 Debbie Hart

VONDARCOR ALL BLACKS THORN

100/100 Laura Schimke

LEBERHINE UMELI 92/100 Yvonne Cocks

Thank you again to our small team of workers who always seem to manage to put everything together.

All results & critiques are available on our Website.

Up coming events:-

August 24th - Zone 2 hosting – Breed Survey & Members Competition - Mrs Fay Stokes

September 15th 2019 State Breed – Mrs Carol O'Rourke

Obedience Trial – Mr Warren Doyle

October 26/27th Breed Health Lecture –

Dr Karen Hedberg

Introduction to ZAP

Open Show & Members Competition

Details will be publicised on our FB page & Website shortly

Hoping to see many of you at the SBE on the Weekend of Oct 26 & 27th – travel safely & remember why & how we all came together in the first place - Our one common love – the German Shepherd Dog



NEWS FROM OUR member clubs



GSDC of TASMANIA

PRESIDENT Mr David Griffin

M: 0449 719 885

E-Mail dgriffin1@internode.on.net

SECRETARY Ms Jacquie Cullen

M: 0409 186 099

E-Mail amarada1@primus.com.au



GSDC of SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT Mr. John DeLucia

Ph: (08) 8522-1692 M: 0417 811 787

E-Mail jjdelucia@bigpond.com

SECRETARY Mr. Stephen Collins

Ph: (08) 8556-2340 M: 0419 212 749

E-Mail secretary@gsdcsa.org.au



ACT GSDA

PRESIDENT Mr. Wolf Meffert

Ph: (02) 6226-3959 M: 0414 302 456

E-Mail wmeffert@bigpond.net.au

SECRETARY Ms. Veronica Fairbairn

Ph: (02) 6226-3959

E-Mail wmeffert@bigpond.net.au



NEWCASTLE & HUNTER REGION GSDC

PRESIDENT

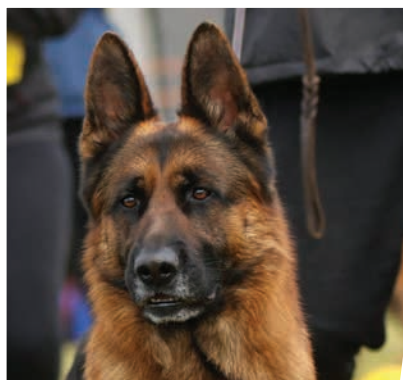
Mr. Sean Lynch M: 0467 798 973

E-Mail slynch@newcastlehino.com.au

SECRETARY Mr. Paul York

E-Mail: babanga5@bigpond.com

You Lookin at Me !



Help Your Dog Learn Self Control

Give your dog the tools to control himself, even in the face of excitement!

We've all seen dogs who exude impulse control – the ones who are calm in the face of excitement, and patient when it comes to getting what they want. Of course, we've all seen those dogs who are lacking impulse control, too – dogs who can't seem to handle excitement and become overexcited, pushy, or reactive. Sometimes that lack of impulse control results in problem behaviours such as chasing cars, barking for balls, and jumping to say hi.

Can dogs who are lacking impulse control learn this important life skill? Absolutely!

I recently had the pleasure of watching an Aussie-mix pup learn about impulse control from another pup. The 14-week-old Aussie started out pouncing and biting a little too hard for his Spaniel-mix playmate. The Spaniel started calmly stopping the play each time the Aussie went over the top, and inviting play when the Aussie calmed down. With each repeated stop and start, the Aussie began to pay attention to his body, his enthusiasm, and his teeth! He began approaching more slowly, pouncing more softly, and keeping his mouth open rather than clamping down. This lovely young Aussie learned about impulse control through a totally fun play session. (And the Spaniel obviously enjoyed the interaction, too!)

These pups clearly demonstrated that the key to learning impulse control is through experiences and actions . . . and the consequences those actions bring. They also showed that impulse control can be learned quickly when the consequences involve fun.

All types of consequences (both positive experiences, such as invitations to play, and negative experiences, such as the play ending) influence the development of impulse control. Fortunately, most dogs can learn this important skill from us as well as through their interactions with other dogs. A very effective way to help your dog learn impulse control is through a variety of enjoyable games and interactions.

Relaxing Is Rewarding

Many dogs who have trouble with impulse control really don't understand that being calm is an option. For these puppies and dogs, learning that they can settle and that calm behaviour is rewarding is the first step. Here are two activities you can incorporate into your daily life to help your dog learn that a calm, relaxed state is always a good option.

First, simply catch your dog in the act of being relaxed, for example, when she has settled on her bed or is sunning on the patio. When you see your dog settled, approach calmly with quiet praise or a gentle touch, and then drop a treat right near her paws or nose.

The first few times you do this, your dog may get up and follow you around to see if more treats might be forthcoming. If she does, simply go back to what you were doing without giving her more attention. After a few repetitions, your dog will learn to settle right back in after being rewarded.

A second activity is to reward your dog for relaxing at your feet. Start with your dog on a short leash so he can't wander off or engage in another activity. Go to a nice quiet place. Stand or sit and wait for your dog to lie down. Please don't cue your dog or otherwise encourage him to lie down. You may have to wait a long time – longer than you'd like

to! – but just keep waiting. (This game is also a good way for people to practice impulse control; it really is best to wait for the dog to offer the behaviour!)

When your dog offers the down, calmly say, "Good dog" and drop a treat between his front legs. You can offer additional treats to help your dog stay relaxed and settled.

Tips: Don't use a clicker or other reward marker for this exercise, as this may encourage excitement instead of calm. If your dog is staring at you, do not treat. Wait until he is no longer thinking about the food before you drop another treat at his feet.

Waiting Is Worth It

Sit and wait is one of the most common impulse-control exercises because it works! Impulse control is in action as the dog learns to hold the sit or stay seated while you move away. Impulse control can be reinforced by generously rewarding when your dog stays sitting, even in the face of increasing distractions.

To make sit and wait fun, try adding "sit for everything" into your daily life. More specifically, ask your dog to sit before he gets anything he finds fun and valuable: Sit before walks. Sit to start tug, fetch, and chase games. Sit for treats and dinner. Sit before snapping off the leash for a romp in the woods. Whatever your dog gets excited about, have him sit and wait before doing it. Your dog will soon associate sitting and being patient with the opportunity to have fun and engage in enjoyable activities.

Tips: At first, simply request a brief sit from your dog before releasing him for fun or food. What if your dog doesn't sit when you ask? Put more distance between your dog and the source of the excitement and try again. Gradually work closer to the excitement and extend the time your dog sits. Be sure to reward your dog when he starts to anticipate the sit and offers it without your asking. This is impulse control at work!

Get High and Settle

An important skill for impulse control is the ability to settle in the face of excitement. My favourite game for helping dogs learn to quickly calm down when they are super "high" is a tug/down/tug game. To play this game, your dog will need to understand a "Drop it" cue, a "Down" cue, and a release such as "Okay" or "Free."

When you first play this game, do so at an intensity level that is low enough to keep your dog calm. Initiate a game of tug with whatever cue you use, such as "Tug!" or "Get it!" After just a few seconds, use your cue for asking your dog to drop the toy. When he drops it, immediately say "Okay" or use your release cue, and then start the game again. Repeat this first step a couple of times until your dog gets the idea that dropping the toy is what keeps the game going.

Next, begin the game of tug, ask for him to "Drop it," and then cue your dog to "Down." As soon as your dog hits the ground, give your release cue and start the tug game again with "Tug" or "Get it!" After a few repetitions of this, ask your dog to drop the toy and then wait for your dog to offer a down. Your dog may experiment or try something else – keep waiting. When your dog finally tries the down, immediately release him and initiate another great game of tug!

When your dog quickly offers the down, you can start to extend the time he stays down before you release him. At first you might just wait two or three seconds, but gradually wait to release him until he shows some sign of calming. For example, I look for my dog's excitement to drop a notch as evidenced by a change in her breathing or eyes softening, and then I resume the tug game.

TRAINING chat

Over time, you can increase the intensity of the game so that your dog learns to listen, play, stop, and settle even in the face of increasing excitement.

Tips: If your dog gets overexcited in this game, play a very calm version of it with just a moment or two of tug. If your dog does not like to tug, try another similar “get excited and settle” game such as running around together with a stop and settle. Or, play with a flirt pole (a toy on the end of a rope, which is fastened to a pole) to get your dog running, and then incorporate the stop and settle.

Leave It Alone

Leave it (sometimes called “Off”) is a very powerful impulse-control exercise. It involves having the dog turn away from something that he is interested in and make eye contact with you instead. My favourite way to jump-start this behaviour is through a “Doggy Zen” exercise. (Doggy Zen: In order to have the treat, you must leave the treat.)

Have a handful of super-exciting treats and one rather boring treat available. Put the boring treat in one hand and the good treats in a pouch or container behind your back. Present the boring treat to your dog in a closed fist (so she can smell it, but can't get to it). Allow your dog to lick and sniff your hand, and try to get to the treat.

The moment your dog backs away from your treat/hand a tiny bit, mark the moment with the “click!” of a clicker or with a verbal marker such as the word “Yes!” and give your dog one of the super-good treats from your other hand. Be very patient; the first try or two can take several minutes before a dog gives up and backs away.

Once your dog understands the game and quickly backs away from the treat in your fist, change it up a little by switching which hand is holding the boring treat. Again, reward with the yummy treat from your other hand.

Once your dog easily backs away from a boring treat in either hand, pause a moment after your dog backs away from the treat (without immediately marking or rewarding the behaviour). Watch your dog carefully; almost always, after a few moments of not getting the expected reward, dogs will look at your face for information, trying to figure out why they haven't been rewarded yet. The moment he offers that eye contact, click (or “Yes!”) and reward him.

When your dog easily backs off a treat and subsequently makes eye contact with you each time, add a verbal cue such as “Leave it.” Present the treat first, and when your dog takes notice, say “Leave it,” and click/“Yes!” and reward when your dog makes eye contact.

Tips: Be patient when waiting for your dog to back off from your fist; let your dog figure out what finally earns him the reward. To take this game to the next level, you can advance from holding the treat in a closed fist to an open hand, to putting the treat on the floor, or using a toy instead of a treat. By gradually increasing the difficulty of the “Leave it” task and rewarding your dog generously, he will learn that leaving something alone is more exciting and interesting than going for it!

Tricks for Tosses

Most dogs love to chase, run, and play. As with the “sit for everything” exercise described earlier, you can ask your dog to do another behaviour before you start any active play-and-chase games.

With this game, instead of having your dog sit and wait, ask your dog to do an active behaviour – something that makes your dog move – before you toss a toy or release him to run with his pals. Some behaviours to ask your dog for include hand-targeting, spins, leg weaves, fall in to heel or go behind to heel, or coming to you from a short distance. By asking

your dog to do something active, he will learn to pay better attention to you when his arousal level is still high. This helps your dog learn to “listen” to you even when he wants to chase, run, or play – a real challenge for some dogs.

Tips: Make it easy for your dog at first and ask for a behaviour he knows very well. Some dogs will love this game from the start and consider the tricks all part of the fun; others may become frustrated by having to do something to make the ball fly. To keep your dog's spirits and interest in the game high, try asking for just one trick and reward with several tosses.

Be Rewarding!

Building impulse control can take time and energy, but it can also be a totally fun way to spend time with your dog. Rather than making it all about self-containment, make sure your dog understands that calm and focused behaviour is the way to keep fun happening, and a great way to keep rewards of all types flowing.

Because impulse control is challenging for some dogs, it's important to make sure all of your impulse-control games and activities are offset with plenty of activities where your dog can let loose and have some uninhibited fun. In fact, to keep a dog enthusiastic about offering impulse control, balance every minute or two of impulse-control activities with several more minutes of fun.

For example, if you are playing the tug/down/tug game, every minute or so, take a quick break and simply toss the toy and let your dog have it, run around, and be goofy. The formula I use with my dog is that for every minute of impulse-control games, I incorporate five minutes or more of active, expressive activity.

Building impulse control can take time. Some dogs pick up the skills quickly, but some need a little more assistance. Just as the Aussie and Spaniel pups showed, experimentation, consequences, and having fun are the keys to successful impulse-control training.

Author/trainer Mardi Richmond



Training Smart: Adding Fun To Your Obedience Training

By Julie Symons

When it comes to dog training, everything we need to train and prepare for trialing can be overwhelming. Skills, precision, ring confidence, OUR confidence, weaning off primary and secondary reinforcers, etc. We all have goals and ambitions and want to do well.

We start that journey by building a strong emotional foundation when training our dogs. First and foremost we want a happy, motivated, secure, and engaged dog!! I don't worry about a lot of precision early on. The key is to prepare your dog by training smart and reinforce improvement on the way to perfection. The path to perfection or as close as we can get is the journey you take with your dog, not something you achieve all at once early in their career.

What does "training smart" mean?

It means being present when training and having a plan. It's not training when you don't feel well or in a bad mood. It means to make what training you can get to count and make a difference toward progressing.

If you don't have a lot of time to train, then make the most of the time you do have to make it productive and effective. Don't rush or get sloppy.

Make it your goal to rehearse correct behaviour and be consistent with criteria as much as you can. And remember, no dog trainer trains perfectly. You constantly have to make quick decisions. To paraphrase Bob Bailey ... you need to make a decision as the next one is right around the corner!

So you have to decide what/when to mark, when to release (ie, to avoid a crooked front), when to ask for more, etc. Don't fret over missed decisions, just get ready for the next one. Make it your goal to grow and expand as a trainer by experimenting and approaching it like an art form!

What To Do When Things Go Wrong

Let's talk about stress!

It's easy to add stress to ourselves and to our dogs. We want something so badly or we can't hide our disappointment if our dog misses a cue or makes a mistake. We often freeze in the ring when things don't go as planned.

Be there for your dog and help them as you would (should) in training. Training is trialing and trialing is training.

When our dogs make mistakes (and they will) and sense our disappointment or feel pressure, the more those exercises become stressful and cause their responses to become inconsistent.

There are certain exercises that are more delicate when it comes to stress.

The ones that stand out to me in obedience are exams, stays, signals,

and scent articles. We must strive to never show disappointment and be aware of what could squash momentum or speed or attitude. I'd rather lose a few points for a more engaged and happy dog, verses adding pressure and risk affecting their future ring performance.

One of my favourite quotes is from Amy Cook "Every time you teach your dog what to do, you are teaching him how to feel!"

Think about that. Really think what that means.

Each Dog And Each Journey Is Unique

Now let's talk about dogs. Some dogs just "have it all" – the biddability, focus, drive, accuracy.

Others may bring you more challenges, or more challenges compared to what you might have worked with before. We also get dogs during different chapters in our lives. The time we may have been able to spend with one dog might not be the same with the next dog. Or now we have more time to devote to our training and goals than we had in the past. This is life. Embrace the ebb and flow of training!! All dogs take us on a different journey!

As we gain experience as a handler, each new dog becomes a little easier. You know what it takes to get to a certain point and what is required. You have the confidence that you will get to that end point and know that disappointment is not part of the equation. You'll find you spend less time (less thought) on some things and have more time (more energy) to try new things or improve in other areas.

Choosing Training Methods

We need to progress and get things done with our skill training!

We need to set goals and not let ALL.THE.WAYS get in our way of reaching our goals. There are so many great ways to train obedience skills. Don't get paralysis with all the methods.

Find one that makes sense to you. Find a trainer that makes sense to you. Blend a bit as you go as there are always nice little gems from everyone!

A key component I have found to improve my relationship and training bond with my dogs is to do a little something fun and short EVERY day.

By adding games, increasing the fun factor, and mixing things up, you'll gain the motivation part needed to support the many years you have a head for training and competing!



GSDCA Dog Database Changes

July 2019

By Frank Moody

GSDCA Database Coordinator

There have been recent changes to the Dog Database to enhance the information available to all members.

The Breed Survey results

Firstly, at the 2019 AGM it was passed that we would no longer hold up issuing the survey certificate whilst waiting on a photo. This has sped up the process of issuing Certificates significantly and enables members to view the results earlier than previously.

Please Note: It is still vitally important that Owners do submit the photos as quickly as possible, to ensure we have a pictorial image of the dogs (not just the written word).

Up to now members have only been able to see those animals that have been successfully classified at breed survey. Those animals that have been classified but are yet to have the results checked and their Breed Survey Certificate finalized have not previously been visible to the members.

It has been pointed out that this creates a problem for show personnel when checking the status of dogs entered in the Open Classes. Also, this has been an issue when stud-dog owners are checking whether the bitch of a proposed mating has been surveyed.

We have now made changes to show all the animals that have recently been presented to Breed Survey and "classified" (once the surveyor has entered the results) and still require checking and issuing of the Breed Survey Certificate – which previously were not visible until "approved".

Please Note: - These animals will be shown as "Certificate pending approval" under the Owner area (as highlighted in blue below).

Until the Breed Survey Certificate is checked and issued you will not be able to VIEW the breed survey results – however if they are listed on this screen they have successfully passed survey.

[Dogs](#) : [Tattoos/Microchips](#) : [HD/ED Results](#) : [Breed Survey Results](#) : [Instructions](#)

Listing Breed Survey Results

Reg. No.

Name

Survey Year

Class

[Clear filter](#)

Sire

Dam

Breed

Sex

<< First | < Previous | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Next > | Last >>
 Found 69 records across 4 pages. Show 10, 20 or 50 records per page.

Actions	Reg. No.	Name	Survey Date	Surveyor	Owner	Class	Sire	Dam
	4100300168	ALBATA REEVA	05/07/2019	-	Certificate pending approval	Classified	DJAMBO VOM FICHTENSCHLAG (IMP DEU)	ALBATA ANGELINA
View	6100106915	ALDERHAUS Z FOR ZAMBO	19/04/2019	Mr. J. Fenner	Miss P I Alder	Classified	JUWIKI DESTROYER (IMP DEN)	ALDERHAUS QUEEN PIXIE VEGAS
View	2100465811	AMBALA SERENDIPITY	14/04/2019	Mr. I. Urie	Miss Karen Glasheen	Classified	BOSSFACE BARACK	AMBALA PLAYBOY BUNNY
View	4100266004	ASTASIA ZIKI	04/04/2019	Mr. A. Henderson	Ms T Stacey & Mr J Booth	Classified	XARO VON DER PLASSENBURG (IMP DEU)	ASTASIA JOSI
View	5100101053	ASTERHUND SUGAR N SPICE	02/06/2019	Mrs. C. Collins	Mr C M & Mrs G P Van Groen	Classified	ASTERHUND OZZIE ANZAC	KAPERVILLE SPICE GIRL

Frank Moody
 GSDCA Database Coordinator
 Email – database@gsdcouncilaustralia.org
 Mobile – 0419 134 718

5 Steps to Train Your Dog to “Go to Place”

What if instead of jumping around like a lunatic when the doorbell rings, your dog waits politely in a down position? Or, instead of circling the dinner table like a shark, your dog lies quietly in the other room? Training a dog to go to a specific place is one of the most useful behaviours. In the following exercise from her bestselling book, *Control Unleashed*, Leslie McDevitt explains how you can teach your dog the command “Go to Place.”

Training Go to Place

1. Get a **mat**, blanket, dog bed, or towel – one that your dog has not seen before – and examine it as if it were the most interesting thing in the world. Then, without saying anything to your dog, put it on the floor near you. The second that your dog shows any interest (by looking at it, sniffing it, putting a paw on it), click or verbally mark the behaviour, and put a treat on the mat.
2. As long as your dog continues to interact with the mat, keep on marking behaviours and putting treats on the mat. A dog that has been shaped before will quickly start offering various behaviours to see what gets rewarded. Any behaviour offered on the mat is worthy. My preference is down, but I also want to reward sits or any other behaviours the dog is offering on the mat. So I use at least two kinds of treats when I train Go to Place. The highest value treat is for downs, the lesser value is for anything else. That way a dog does not learn that any behaviour on the mat is wrong or unrewardable but that a down gets the better reward. It took my last puppy about three minutes to figure out that downs on a mat got cheese-flavoured popcorn while sits on a mat got kibble; it was downs from then on.
3. Once the dog is offering the desired behaviour on the mat, reward him in position, then give your release cue, and encourage him off the mat. You have various options here. You could call him, you could throw food a distance from the mat and tell him to get it, or (if he has become glued to the mat) you could walk him off with the leash.
4. The second the dog leaves the mat, all clicking, praising, and treating ends. Stand quietly and wait. Most dogs at this point will go back to the mat in an effort to restart the game. When they do, throw treats on the mat. Continue to reward everything, giving the highest value treat for a down. Remember that at this point in the game, you are rewarding the dog for thinking about the mat and returning to it. Don't wait for a down or any other particular behaviour. Make sure he understands that it's the behaviour of returning to the mat that is getting rewarded. Each time he returns to the mat, mark it, and treat him on the mat. Each time you release him from the mat, step back a bit farther so he has to take another step or two to get back to the mat to restart the game.
It should not take long for the dog to figure out that no matter what you are doing, he will continue receiving rewards if he stays on the mat until you release him.
5. When the dog is committed to being on the mat, you can start increasing the time between rewards. If he leaves the mat before you give a release cue, pick up the mat for a minute and ignore him, then give him another chance. If he is confidently remaining on the mat until your release cue, you can start taking little steps around him. If you have an excitable dog, start by just bending your knees as if you are about to take a step. After each little movement you make, return and reward the dog if he has remained on the mat. It should

not take long for the dog to figure out that no matter what you are doing, he will continue receiving rewards if he stays on the mat until you release him.

Eventually three things will happen:

1. Your dog will figure out that downs are the most rewarded behaviour on mats.
2. He will be able to move a reasonable distance away from you to the mat.
3. He will be confident remaining on the mat until you release him.

When you reach this point, you can add your cue – Place or whatever you want to call it. The cue “Place” should mean to go to a mat and lie there until released, so you don't want to start using it until all those behaviours are happening reliably.

The potential applications are endless

You can take a mat anywhere. You can use a mat to help generalize or transfer behaviours. You can send your dog to his mat when you let your guests in the door, or send your dog to a mat while you are eating dinner. You can use a mat to practice distance work in your living room or anywhere else. You can use a mat to teach fast downs and then transfer that behaviour to the pause table.

One of the all-time most useful applications of Go to Place is as a management tool when students want to take a break from working, watch a friend's run, or listen to their instructor. Dogs that have the Go to Place behaviour down to a science can lie on their mats quietly next to your chair.

So grab a mat and some treats and start training! Soon your “What if?” dreams will be reality as your quick-learning dog masters the “go to place” behaviour and demonstrates it proudly in many convenient circumstances.

Source: <https://www.clickertraining.com>



10 Ways To Use A Mat In Training

By Laurie Schlossnagle

10 Excellent Reasons to Use a Mat in Dog Training

A mat, or a defined place for a dog to “go to,” is a versatile and useful behaviour to teach a dog. A mat can be many things: a dog bed, a dog mat, a bath mat, a towel, a blanket, a pillow — whatever makes the most sense for the dog and the handler.

1. As A “Place” For The Dog

Useful in emergencies, but also when you can't put your dog in a crate, when you have dropped something, or when you need to vacuum or mop. This gets the dog out of danger quickly or the work space without a hassle.

2. Inviting Guests

A doorbell or knock can be the cue for a dog to go to his mat and wait while you answer the door. This helps to prevent door dashing and impolite greetings.

3. Out From Underfoot In The Kitchen

Instead of being underfoot, the dog is waiting patiently on her mat for you to finish preparing her meal and/or her medications.

4. Keep Visitors Happy

Some people are not terribly fond of dogs and some dogs are not terribly fond of visitors in their home. When a dog is comfortable on his mat, it makes social gatherings so much easier on everyone! The dog can be a part of the party, but at a safe distance for everyone.

5. Teaching Stay

Having a defined space helps some dogs better understand the concept of stay. The mat is a physical cue for them to lie down and be still.

6. Teaching Tricks

A very cute trick where the dog lies down on a blanket or mat, then grabs the corner of it and rolls herself up in the blanket or mat can be taught by starting with a go to the mat exercise.

7. Home Away From Home

While traveling, it is nice for a dog to have a familiar spot to lie down, to sleep, to hang out. A mat can be a great safety blanket for a dog.

8. Therapy Dog Work

There are many times in therapy dog work where dogs need to simply hang out. Using a mat defines this idea for the dogs and gives them a familiar space. Reading programs are a time/place where using a mat is very helpful and comforting to the dog, the handler, and the reader.

9. Working Outside

If the dog participates in outdoor activities in all kinds of weather, a mat will be helpful in giving the dog a clean, dry space to be. The mat also helps to protect the dog from hot or cold surface temperatures.

10. Defined Space

In a multiple dog house, or in a class situation, having a defined space a dog can call his own, without worrying about other dogs infringing on that space, can help the dog to feel more comfortable and more focused.

....and there are heaps more. At the coffee shop, in the garage, in the garden, at friends place for a bbq, at dog training, while the kids do their homework, while you eat dinner and much more.....

Lend me your Ears !!



GSDCA Breed Improvement Scheme Recognition

The following Kennels are recognised by the number of animals successfully presented to the Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Improvement Schemes. The Council recognises their contribution and significant achievement. Medallions and plaques are sent to each state club for special presentation so that breeders can be recognised within their own states. Congratulations to the following Kennels on these milestones in your breeding programs.

Doug West & Jenny Yuen

Kennels that qualified in 2018 (to 30th December 2018) for awards.

Gold 50+

STATE	KENNEL	Owner	Award 2018	Animals passed
ACT	UHLMSDORF	Mrs V Fairbairn & Mr W Meffert	Gold 'Z'	50
NSW	AMBERG	Mrs L Baker	Gold 'A'	50
NSW	CONKASHA	Mr T Devine	Gold 'Z'	50
QLD	DEBBAR	Mrs D A O'Keefe	Gold 'A' Gold & 'Z'	52 52
VIC	STOBAR	Mr H & Mrs C Auwema	Gold 'A' & Gold 'Z'	74 59
W A	LASHADAS	Mr R & Mrs S Hosking	Gold 'Z'	73



Silver 25+

STATE	KENNEL	Owner	Award 2018	Animals passed
N&HR	BABANGA	Mr P R & Mrs K P York	Silver 'Z'	25
S A	GILARISHA	Mrs R Archbold	Silver 'A'	26
S A	SIEGERHEIMS	Mr P R & Mrs K Y Flynn	Silver 'A' & Silver 'Z'	50 25
S A	TONAKER	Anna & Tony Schoemaker	Silver 'Z'	31
VIC	HASENWAY	Mr J Haase	Silver 'A'	38
VIC	VOLSCAIN	Volschain Kennels	Silver 'Z'	25



Bronze 10+

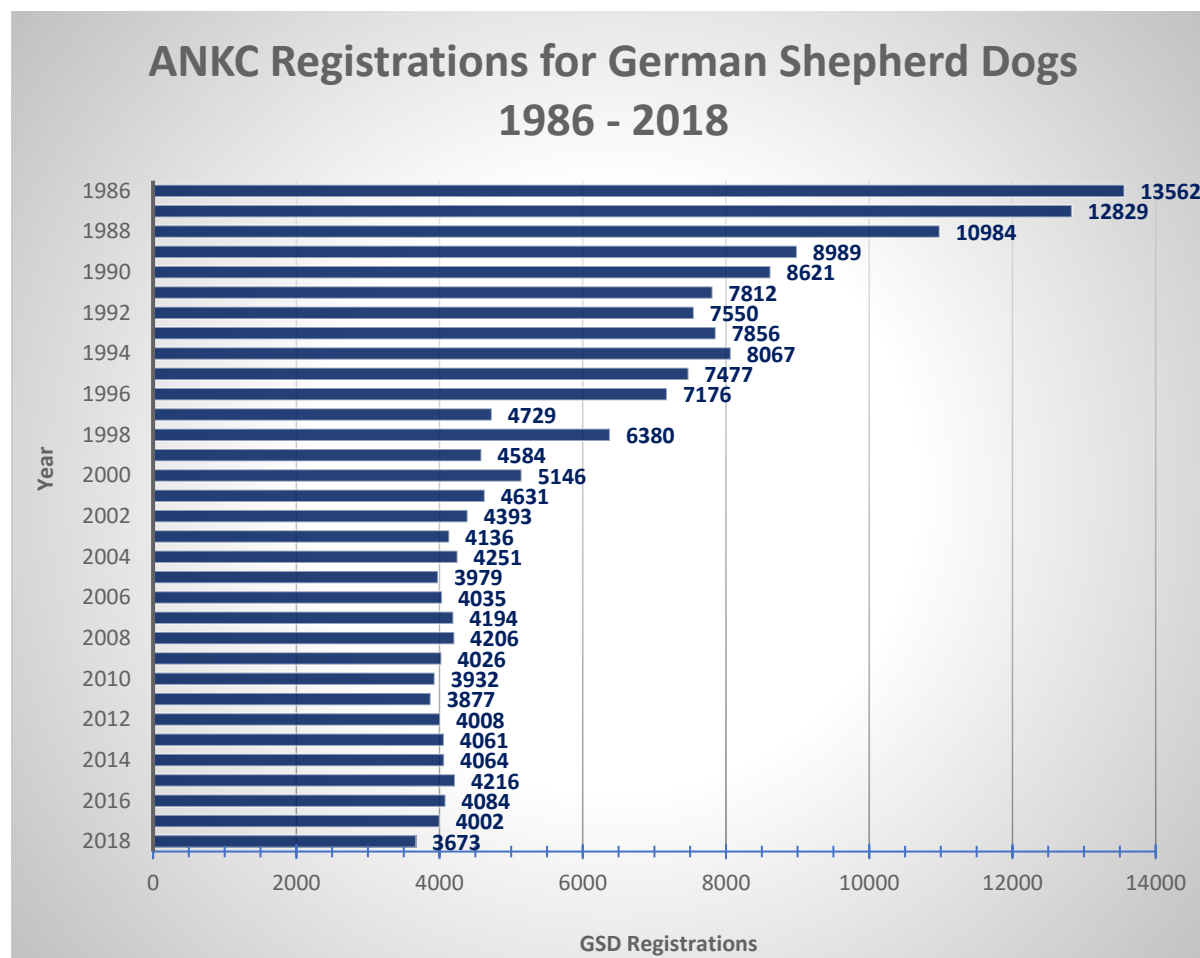
STATE	KENNEL	Owner	Award 2018	Animals passed
NSW	HAUSILLEVON	Mr J Novelli	Bronze 'A' & Bronze 'Z'	11 13
NSW	SHEZNOVA	Mr W & Mrs T Curry	Bronze 'A' & Bronze 'Z'	10 11
QLD	KARALCIN	Ms K A Long	Bronze 'Z'	10
S A	GEWALT	Mr S Crozier	Bronze 'A' & Bronze 'Z'	11 12
Tas	GARSOVA	Ms J Naarding	Bronze 'A' & Bronze 'Z'	10 10
VIC	CAMNUSCH	Mrs T Lewis	Bronze 'A'	11
VIC	KARASTRO	Mrs D Berghofer	Bronze 'Z'	15
WA	BRONBOREO	Mr B J Pereira & Mr R Pritchard	Bronze 'A'	10



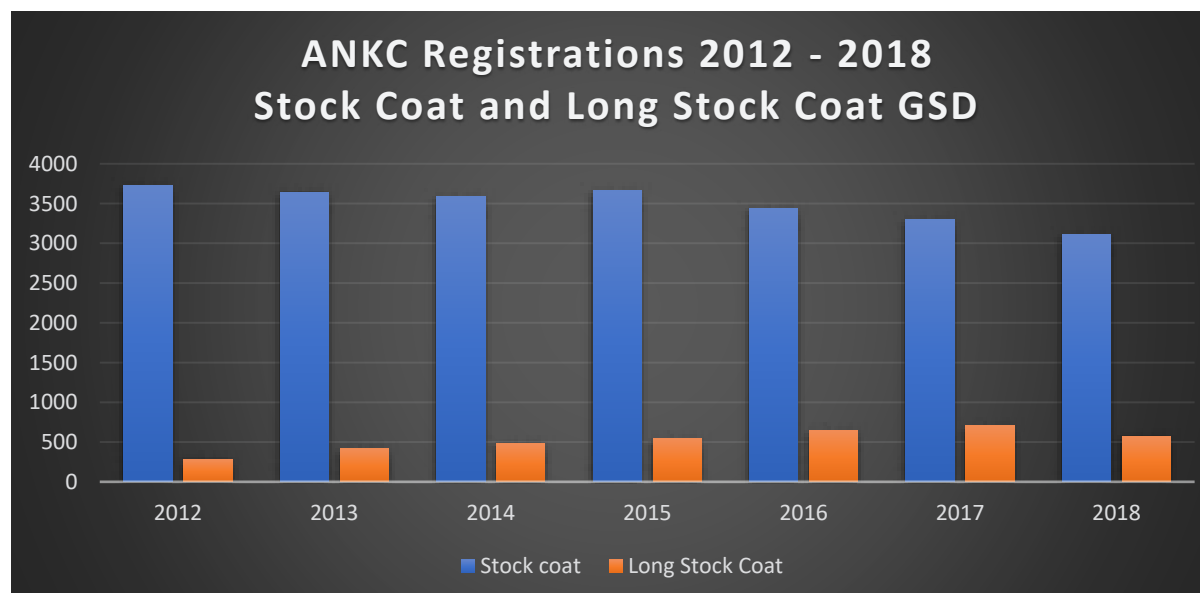
The awards have been forwarded to the various States to be presented to the Kennels at a significant Club event.

German Shepherd Dogs By the Numbers

Registration numbers of German Shepherd Dog puppies with the Australian National Kennel Council have gradually declined since 1986. The registrations for a number of popular breeds have followed the same declining pattern

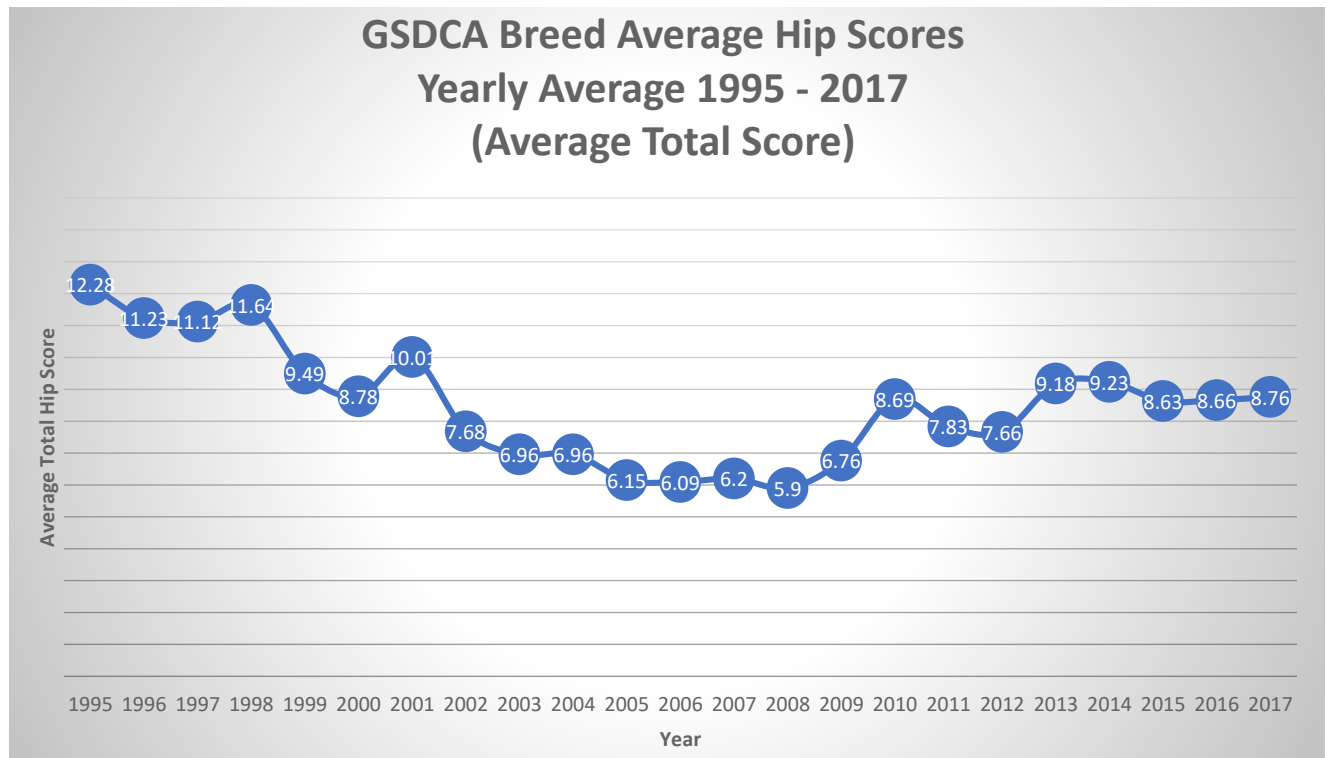


From 2012, Long Stock Coat GSD's were registered separately by the ANKC and have steadily grown in numbers in the show ring since then.

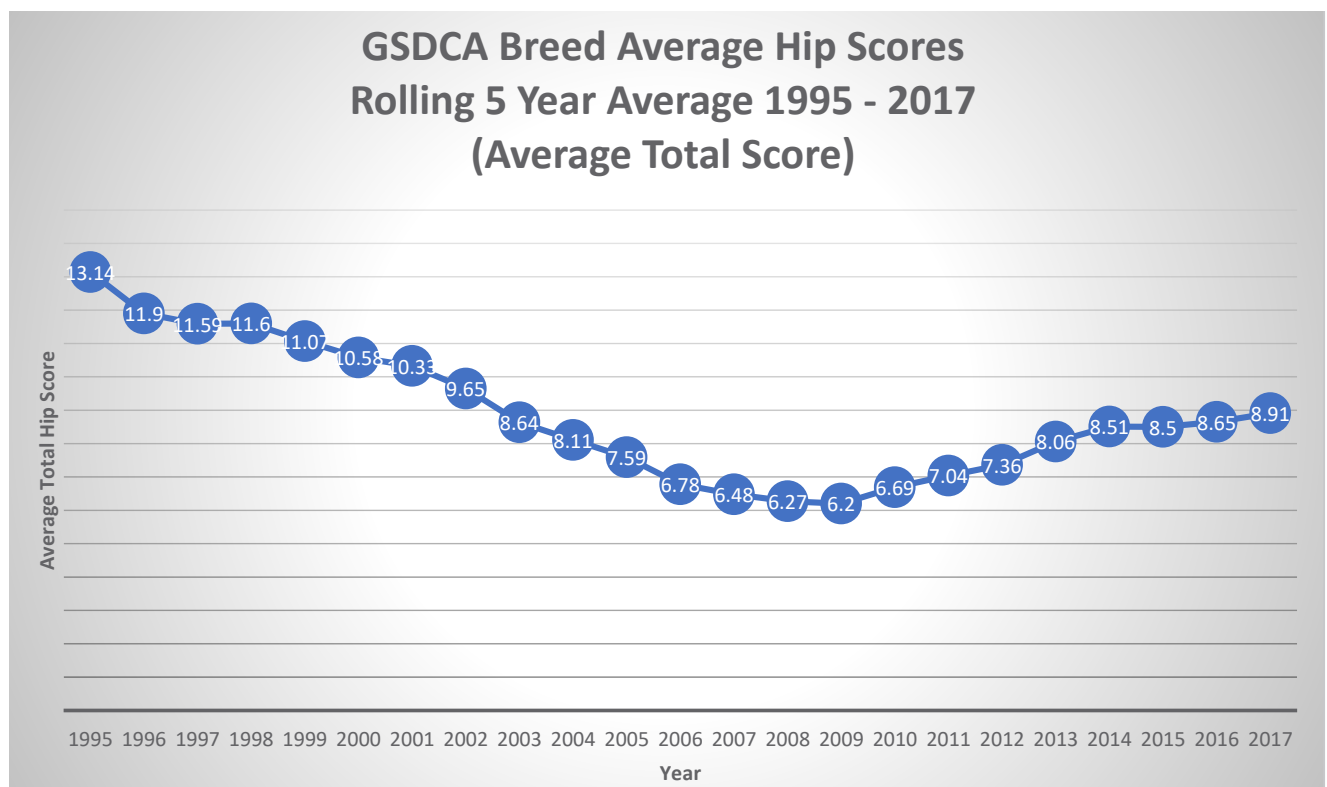


The GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes for Hip Dysplasia has been in place since 1982. The graphs below show the improvement and changes in the average scores for all GSD's who participated in the scheme from 1995-2017.

Graph 1. The average scores for all dogs participating in the scheme each year.



Graph 2. The rolling 5 year average of Hip scores for all dogs participating in the scheme each year.



The above data can also be found in the HD ED Registrar's 2019 NBC report.

GSDCA Judges Committee Chair Report

By Robyn Knuckey

I would like to thank my fellow Executive for their support during the past twelve months, it has been a roller coaster time in work life in aged care with a Royal Commission and changing standards that are in place from July 1, 2019. With, and the support of a willing team, a number of achievements have been formalised within the Judges portfolio and overall in the NBC Executive.

1. The education package for trainee GSD Judges has now been circulated to all GSDCA Judges and members of the fraternity that were ANKC aspirants.
2. State Breed Exhibition rules are in place and all clubs are abiding by these.
3. GSDCA Agreements have been redistributed as a generic focus to cover both Judges and Breed Surveyors. At the time of writing this report, the closing time of 30 June 2019 has not been reached. Reminders have been sent to those that have not returned signed copies to the GSDCA Secretary.
4. The workshops now completed at the NBC weekend have been very well received, this year the focus will be proportions and the breed standard, as well as other items under the NBC banner.
5. Education package completed by Jo Cathie on presenting dentition as a handler. This was required following the poor behaviour of a number of animals when the handler was trying to present dentition at the 2018 National. This was printed in the GSDCA National Quarterly Review. This should be highlighted at all clubs, as in Richard Brauch's summary of the National, he noted the poor behaviour of animals on dentition checks.
6. From January 2019, all Judges are required to provide a summary of the show to be a prelude to the critiques. Initially this was being completed by judges, but recently judges have needed a reminder to complete this task.
7. All educational material on the GSDCA website has been reviewed and updated to reflect changes and current breed issues. This has been sent to all judges.
8. Actions from the 2018 GSDCA Judges Meeting have been completed, except one. The revamp of PowerPoint for the GSD Extended Standard will be presented to the 2019 GSDCA Judges Meeting for comment.

Critiques

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. With height, it is a requirement to use the appropriate descriptors for size, this is not always the case. An email has been sent to all judges to remind them of size descriptors, the requirement to complete a summary of the shows judged and to ensure depth is appropriately critiqued. This issue will be covered in the workshop over the weekend.

Clubs that have newer judges, please provide them with the opportunity to review their critiques prior to uploading onto websites. Please check that the show summary is completed prior to publishing as well. 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. These are updated on a three-monthly basis. The latest list as of 3 June 2019 is published on the GSDCA website.

2019 GSDCA National

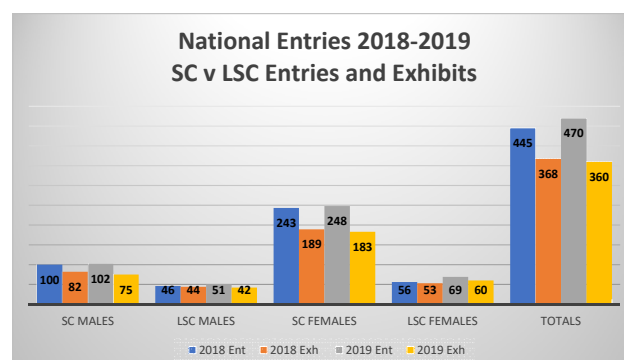
The GSDCA National was held in Melbourne from 5 to 7 April 2019. The GSDCV, as always, did an excellent job overall, especially considering the adverse weather conditions, with a small band of dedicated workers who were on site to deal with the storm damage. It was evident, the Club had worked very hard on details to ensure it was a successful weekend. Well done to Tony Mercieca, Vince Ebejer and Cristine Begbie and the club crew for an excellent weekend. There were some very tired bodies at the end of the Sunday.

A special note of congratulations to Jacinta Poole, for her amazing work over the National weekend, running between the trial, taking photos in the show ring, handling dogs and being an active part of the organising committee. Then backing up to present the amazing GSDCA National Quarterly Review – National Addition. This was no mean feat.

At the Official Opening of the GSDCA National German Shepherd Dog Show and Trial, both Jenny DeLucia and Salvatore Pittelli were both presented with their GSDCA judges' pins and certificates, having completed their GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course. We all wish Jenny and Salvatore the very best in the continuation of their judging careers.

Another presentation at the National was to Honey Gross-Richardson to honour her commitment to the German Shepherd Dog and dedication as a Breed Surveyor and GSDCA Specialist Judge. Honey retired from these activities at the end of 2018.

A breakdown of the excellent graded animals is presented as Tail Male charts for both males and females for the 2019 GSDCA National. Thank you again to Stephen Collins for his continued support and assistance in presenting these charts, these were printed in the National Edition of the GSDCA National Quarterly Review.



<i>Database for Stock Coat Classes GSDCA National Entries</i>																
Judge	Year	BB		MPB		PB		JB		IB		OB		Excs	Totals	
		Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex		Ent	Ex
Schweimer	2018	17	11	20	16	4	4	13	9	19	17	27	25	25	100	82
Hohmann	2019	11	6	14	9	7	4	14	11	19	15	37	30	29	102	75
Judge	Year	BB		MPB		PB		JB		IB		OB		Excs	Totals	
		Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex		Ent	Ex
Mast	2018	35	28	41	30	20	15	28	24	51	39	68	53	53	243	189
Brauch	2019	40	33	33	20	20	17	39	31	45	31	71	51	48	248	183

<i>Database for Long Stock Coat Classes GSDCA National Entries</i>																
Judge	Year	BD		MD		PD		JD		ID		OD		Excs	Totals	
		Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex		Ent	Ex
Schweimer	2018	10	10	4	3	3	3	6	6	13	12	10	10	10	46	44
Hohmann	2019	8	7	4	3	5	4	6	5	10	8	18	15	15	51	42
Judge	Year	BB		MB		PB		JB		IB		OB		Excs	Totals	
		Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex	Ent	Ex		Ent	Ex
Schweimer	2018	7	6	8	8	4	4	8	8	13	12	16	15	15	56	53
Hohmann	2019	9	9	8	5	5	5	12	11	14	14	21	16	15	69	60

<i>Totals of entries and exhibit numbers</i>										
Year	SC males		LSC males		SC females		LSC females		Totals	
2018	100	82	46	44	243	189	56	53	445	368
2019	102	75	51	42	248	183	69	60	470	360

An interesting point of note is the higher entries in both stock coat and long coats from 2018, but animals exhibited was lower in both varieties and sexes.

With clubs struggling to make ends meet with hosting the GSDCA National. We may need to review the number of animals placed on the pegs. In 2019, seven long stock coat classes have less than 10 animals. In addition, there were three male stock coat classes with less than 10 animals presented.

GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course

Jess Kada has completed her phase 1 mentor assessments with Melanie Groth, Karen Hedberg and Jenny Yuen. I will be working with Jess to set up the next phase in examination assessments, 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, Sue completed her first GSD specialist appointment in June at the championship show for the GSDCA, feedback on her first appointment was very positive. 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 to our specialist judging panel.

We have endorsed Nicky McDermott (Vic), Kurt Morton (NSW) and Andrew O'Loughlin (SA) to commence in the GSDCA Judges Extension Course. All clubs have been notified of their commencement in the Course and their eligibility to award GSDCA gradings. I wish them the

very best of luck as they commence this new phase of involvement in the German Shepherd Dog. Both Andrew and Kurt have mentor assessments completed and have more booked into the second half of 2019. I must congratulate both Andrew and Kurt to their proactive approach in working with me to set up mentoring sessions outside of their own state to broaden their knowledge and seek back from senior judges in our fraternity. I am working with Nicky to set up assessments in the coming months.

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 often impacts on their ability to exhibit and/or handle animals in the show.

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 agreed 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 other standing requirements for the relevant assessment/examination are met, as per the regulations, then

Shows for 2019

We currently have 41 GSDCA Specialist judges able to award GSDCA gradings, of these, three are trainee GSDCA specialist judges. Ingo Kahl has notified the NBC Executive that he will no longer be continuing with his ANKC Judge's licence, so will not be continuing with his GSDCA Specialist Judge's accreditation. We wish Ingo the very best in his continued travels with Caron-Lee and look forward to seeing them both at various shows on the east coast.

The GSDCA 2019 show calendar has 40 specialist shows for 2019, this is 1 less than 2018 and 2017. These consist of the GSDCA National, 3 SBEs by a various number of judges, from 1 to 2, 21 Championship Shows, 12 Members Competitions and 2 Open Shows. There is are 2 additional shows where special judges have judged GSDs only, but no critiques are completed. There are several overseas shows where Australian GSDCA Judges have officiated at shows in New Zealand and Malaysia. This shows that 20 Australian Judges will have judged at least once this year.

With the trend of Members Competitions being taken up by most clubs to provide show opportunities for their members, we see at times a very congested show calendar across the states. We had 7 weekends where shows were held on the same weekend in different states. On 2 of these occasions involved German judges that probably impacted on entries with people choosing a show to travel to against staying in their state or would have travelled if the dates didn't clash.

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 2017 to 2019, 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 40 shows and comparison to the previous 2 years, are as follows:

WUSV Judging Accreditation – SV National Judge

The updated criteria for this Accreditation was passed at the 2018 AGM and is listed on the GSDCA website. On reviewing the SV website, there is no notification of planned seminars in 2019 or 2020 at this stage.

We have 4 current applicants, 3 were accepted a couple of years ago, they were Vince Tantaró, Louis Donald Ian Urie and Robyn Knuckey. To date none of these judges have commenced in the programme with the SV.

Jo Cathie has completed her first show for her SV International Breed Judge's licence with Frau Margit van Dorssen in Belgium in May 2019 and is still awaiting the results of that examination. This is an additional process on top of her already recognised SV National Breed Judge. Once the results of that examination are completed, Jo still has 2 more examinations to go.

Judges for Nationals

The judges from 2014 are listed so all are aware of the SV judges that have judged the recent GSDCA Nationals for rotations with sexes and time since last judged a GSDCA National. We now have several non-German judges approved to judge our National. These are Malcom Griffiths (UK/Colombia) Heather McDonald (UK) and Jens Becker-Olsen (Spain). A further SV judge, Herr Wolfgang Lauber was added to National list. The 4 judges for the 2022 GSDCA National, will be presented by the NBC Executive to the 2019 GSDCA Judges Meeting.

In conclusion, it has been a busy year with Judges and NBC responsibilities, but progress has been made and with some younger judges coming through, we can look to the future with succession planning. Looking forward to a productive and interactive NBC weekend.

CLUB	INTER JUDGES 2017	INTER JUDGES 2018	INTER JUDGES 2019	AUST JUDGES 2017	AUST JUDGES 2018	AUST JUDGES 2019
ACT GSDA	2	2	1	0	0	1
GSDA WA	1	1	1	6	6	8
GSDCQ	National	1	1	4	4	6
GSDC SA	1	National + 1	1	4	4	3
GSDCT	0	0	0	4	5	
GSDL	2	1	1	5	6	5
GSDCV	2	2	1 + National	7	5	5
NHRGSDC	0	0	1	2	2	1
Totals	8 + National	8 + National	7 + National	32	32	32

Confirmed list of judges for GSDCA Nationals

2014 Canberra	J Stiegler (males)	F Goldlust (females)
2015 Melbourne	L Quoll (LSCs & SC males)	H Scheerer (SC females)
2016 Sydney	H Buss (LSCs & SC males)	M van Dorssen (SC females)
2017 Queensland	J Stiegler (SC females)	F Goldlust (LSC & SC males)
2018 South Australia	H Schweimer (LSC & males)	R Mast (SC females)
2019 Melbourne	R Brauch (SC females)	H Hohmann (LSC & SC males)
2020 Sydney	J Steigler (SC females)	H Buss (SC males & LSCs)
2021 Queensland	C Ludwig (SC males & LSCs)	M Griffiths (SC females) F Goldlust (Reserve)

NATIONAL BREED COMMISSION REPORT

NBC Chairperson's Report 2019

Jenny Yuen, NBC Chair

It is with great pleasure that I present my first report and welcome you all to the 2019 NBC meeting. As Melanie said in her first report it is a very steep learning curve. I have huge shoes to fill following on from Joylene Neddermeyer and Melanie Groth. I have taken on board the comments made in Vince's report at last year's NBC meeting and am working towards sharing the workload. I am extremely fortunate to be surrounded by a very capable and helpful team - Frank Moody as National Database Coordinator, National HD/ED Registrar Doug West, NBC Registrar Melanie Groth, Breed Health and Welfare Dr Candy Baker, Title Verification Officer Jenny DeLucia and The Education Working Group leader Jo Cathie.

I would like to thank sincerely all of you for continuing in your roles. I urge you all to read their reports as they do contain valuable information.

I would like to thank my fellow GSDCA Executive for their support and assistance, all of whom have had me on the 'phone with queries. I have to make special mention of Frank Moody, Jane Pike, Jacinta Poole and Val Moody who have been of enormous assistance over and above their normal roles. I would also like to thank Barbara Blythe for always being there and assisting me.

Throughout the year I have attended many interstate shows and of course the National Show in Melbourne. I note the usual issues with size continues. I note the reference made by Herr Hohmann and Herr Brauch at the National with regard to the length and lay of the upper arm and I would certainly agree here. We need to also bear in mind the pronounced hind angulation. The croups tend toward being too steep and this is exacerbated in some cases by the curve of the lumber spine and we still have an issue with the length of the under chest. I have seen a steady increase in and seemingly acceptance of an elevated forehand reach. The German Shepherd should move close to the ground, covering it with a minimum of effort not wasting energy by high stepping. A number of our dogs do not present themselves well during the measuring and teeth check. By the time a German Shepherd moves into the adult classes there really is no excuse for unruly or nervous behaviour during the teeth check and measuring. Remember the German Shepherd Dog must be sound in mind and body.

I was a little disappointed by the lack of support by some exhibitors in not presenting their dogs to the Sires Progeny parade at the National Show and Trial in Melbourne this year.

It should be noted that it is a condition of entry. Setting that aside the Sires Progeny is an important aspect of the National. It is an opportunity for breeders, exhibitors, enthusiasts and

spectators to view progeny that may be an aid in making future breeding and/or purchasing decisions.

I was indeed gratified at the GSDCA AGM in February to see all State Clubs working together to forge a way forward with the Harmonisation program that is acceptable and doable here in Australia. Much has been accomplished through compromise and dare I say it some common sense. I hope we can all continue to work together toward suitable and satisfactory outcomes. It is easy to forget sometimes just how much

we, the German Shepherd enthusiasts, through our State Clubs and the GSDCA, have achieved since the import ban was lifted.

I was reminded of this recently when a Judge/Breeder of another working type breed came to a Survey in Melbourne and was so impressed that we were able to establish our Breed Survey scheme and yet sometimes we all take it for granted.

Let's all work together going forward, enjoy this lovely breed and the company of fellow Shepherd lovers. Look forward to seeing you all this weekend.

Tooth Certificates:

Certificate 10122	Lago Giotto	Issued 07/06/2018
Certificate 10123	Delkit Northern Lights	Issued 23/09/2018
Certificate 10124	Leberhine Umeeo	Issued 21/02/2019
Certificate 10125	Bhuachaille Deliberation	Issued 21/05/2019

GSDCA Registrar's Reports

National HD/ED Registrar – Doug West

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

Once again, I'm pleased to present my report to the 2019 NBC Meeting covering activity on Hip & Elbows. Councils Database now has 11,221 animals recorded as at 17/05/2019, comprising of 3,269 males (29.13%) and 7,952 bitches (70.87%).

Again, this year the statistics have been extracted from the GSDCA database and is an increase of 3.55% on the 10,835 submitted in 2018. There have been 385 animals entered into Councils Database during the 2018/19 year covering the period 04/05/2018 to 17/05/2019 based on certificates issued.

The Hip scheme has now been in operation since 1982, 37 years, the Elbow Scheme commenced in 1993, 26 years ago, and it has been my pleasure to have been involved from day one and to see the pass rates improve over the years.

This report comprises of data extracted from the Database and covers the period 4th May 2018 to 17th May 2019 the last 12 months, however the whole database is also reported on to give the complete picture with regard to Hip & Elbow Dysplasia in this Country & NZ.

Table: 1 - 2019 Full Database to 17/05/2019

	Submitted		'A'		'Z'	
Year 2019:	11,220	100.00%	9,688	86.35%	10,849	96.69%
Year 2018	10,835	100.00%	9,386	86.24%	10,528	89.15%
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%

As can be seen from Table 1 above, which gives a snapshot of the full database as at 17/05/2019, 11,220 animals have been submitted to the scheme since records have been recorded electronically some 30 odd years ago. During that time 9,688 animals have gained the "A" stamp giving a 86.35% pass rate (L/Y 86.24%), this is an increase on the 9,386 from last year. With elbows there was 10,849 gaining the 'Z' resulting in a

pass rate of 96.69% compared to last year's 96.78% which is a slight drop. There have been 126 cases of UAP recorded in the full Database giving a pass rate of 98.88%.

Table: 1a - Last 12 Months 04/05/2018 17/05/2019						
Club	Submitted		'A'		'Z'	
ACT:	2	0.52%	2	100.00%	2	100.00%
BH:	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	0	100.00%
N&HR:	11	2.86%	11	100.00%	10	90.91%
NSW:	98	25.45%	87	88.78%	97	98.98%
NT:	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
NZ:	8	2.08%	7	1.82%	8	2.08%
QLD:	57	14.81%	51	89.47%	55	96.49%
SA:	54	14.03%	47	87.04%	53	98.15%
TAS:	16	4.16%	15	93.75%	14	87.50%
VIC:	84	21.82%	73	86.90%	77	91.67%
WA:	55	14.29%	48	87.27%	52	94.55%
Year 2019:	385	100.00%	341	88.57%	368	95.58%

Table 1a above shows the results from the past 12 Months (04/05/2018 to 17/05/2019)

There have been 385 animals submitted to the Scheme during that period based on certificates issued. Comprising of, 341 gaining the 'A' with a pass rate of 88.57%, and 368 gaining the 'Z' with a pass rate of 95.58%. During the 12 Month period there were a total of 5 animals recorded with UAP giving a pass rate of 98.70%.

Once again NSW has submitted the most animals with 98 animals presented (25.45% of the total presented for the year), 87 of them gained the 'A' (88.78% pass rate) and 97 gaining the 'Z' giving a pass rate on Elbows of 98.98%.

Close behind NSW is Victoria who recorded a total of 84 (21.82% of the total for the 12 Month

period). 73 of them received the 'A' (86.90% pass rate) and 77 gaining the 'Z' giving a pass rate on Elbows of 91.67% for Victoria.

Table 2 Full Data Base 2019		
	11,221	100%
Dr Lavelle =	6,000	53.47%
Dr Wyburn =	4,636	41.32%
Dr Richardson =	585	5.21%
Females: =	7,952	70.87%
Males: =	3,269	29.13%
Hip Summary:		
Total Hip Pass=	9,690	86.35%
Total Hip Fail =	1,464	13.05%
Hip N/S =	67	0.60%

Table 2 shows the consolidated figures above for the whole data base, 11,221 animals, and 9,690 have gained the 'A' stamp giving a **pass rate 86.35%** for hips.

Dr Lavelle has adjudicated on **6,000** = 53.47%, Since the start of the Scheme.

Dr Wyburn has adjudicated on **4,636** = 41.32%. up to 2011.

Dr Richardson has adjudicated on 585 = 5.21% From 2011 to 2019 8 years.

The feminine influence with **7,952** (70.87%) continues to be much stronger than the males with **3,269** (29.13%).

Elbow Summary below shows 10,849 animals passing the 'Z' with a pass rate of 96.69%. Total number of animals with Near Normal 8 = 0.07%, Normal elbow is 8,395 animals 74.82%, Grade 1 = 1,777 15.84%, Grade 2, 777 = 6.92%, Grade 3 = 3, 0.03%, total number of Elbow Fail is 304 = 2.714%. Total number affected with UAP is 126 & this represents 1.12% of the total 11,221 in the database. There have been 67 that were not submitted for elbows 0.60%.

Elbow Summary:		
Total "Z"=	10,849	96.69%
Total "N/N"=	8	0.07%
Total "N"=	8,395	74.82%
Total Gr1=	1,777	15.84%
Total G2=	777	6.92%
Total G3=	3	0.03%
Total Elbow Fail=	304	2.71%
Total "UAP in right Elbow"=	91	0.81%
Total "UAP in left Elbow"=	77	0.69%
Total "UAP in both Elbows"=	42	0.37%
Total No. animals with "UAP"=	126	1.12%
Elbow Not/Scored =	67	0.60%



GSDCA Breed Average - Hip Scores (as at 17/05/2019) Australian Bred Dogs Only

GSDCA Yearly Average					GSDCA Rolling 5 Year Average			
Year of Birth	Number of Dogs (per year)	Sum of Total Scores (per year)	Average Total Score		Year of Birth	Number of Dogs (per year)	Sum of Total Scores (per year)	Average Total Score
1989	1	2	2.00					
1990	4	79	19.75					
1991	4	27	6.75					
1992	16	197	12.31					
1993	25	310	12.40					
1994	55	989	17.98					
1995	244	2996	12.28		1995	344	4,519	13.14
1996	659	7399	11.23		1996	999	11,891	11.90
1997	622	6914	11.12		1997	1,605	18,608	11.59
1998	630	7333	11.64		1998	2,210	25,631	11.60
1999	491	4658	9.49		1999	2,646	29,300	11.07
2000	493	4329	8.78		2000	2,895	30,633	10.58
2001	471	4717	10.01		2001	2,707	27,951	10.33
2002	467	3585	7.68		2002	2,552	24,622	9.65
2003	406	2827	6.96		2003	2,328	20,116	8.64
2004	485	3374	6.96		2004	2,322	18,832	8.11
2005	424	2608	6.15		2005	2,253	17,111	7.59
2006	445	2710	6.09		2006	2,227	15,104	6.78
2007	442	2740	6.20		2007	2,202	14,259	6.48
2008	437	2577	5.90		2008	2,233	14,009	6.27
2009	375	2535	6.76		2009	2,123	13,170	6.20
2010	408	3544	8.69		2010	2,107	14,106	6.69
2011	391	3060	7.83		2011	2,053	14,456	7.04
2012	467	3577	7.66		2012	2,078	15,293	7.36
2013	457	4194	9.18		2013	2,098	16,910	8.06
2014	402	3709	9.23		2014	2,125	18,084	8.51
2015	397	3427	8.63		2015	2,114	17,967	8.50
2016	378	3275	8.66		2016	2,101	18,182	8.65
2017	279	2445	8.76		2017	1,913	17,050	8.91
2018	17	86	5.06		2018	1,473	12,942	8.79

Further to the minutes from the 39th Annual General Meeting. The following was noted in the NBC minutes:

"That the HD/ED Registrar includes in his annual report a rolling breed average taken over the past 5 years." This was raised by Dr Karen Hedberg. Karen stated it is the only way of truly determining whether we are improving or going backwards.

Above is a chart depicting the Yearly Average and the Rolling 5 year Average.

The charts are based on the "year of birth" of the dog (not the x-ray date).

This is so we do not get distortion by animals submitted well after the normal 12 month age – it therefore gives a more accurate picture of the influence of Sires used at that time.

The results of the period 2005 to 2012 were very much due to the popular stud dogs of the day that produced very good hip results. The overall yearly average 2005 to 2012 was 6.91, and the rolling 5 year overall average was 6.80.

One can see from the chart that the yearly average and the rolling 5 year average have increased over the years 2012 to 2017. The overall yearly average for those 6 years was 8.69, and the rolling 5 year overall average was 8.33.

During the 6 years from 2012 to 2017 there was 188 less dogs presented for the yearly average chart, that's a drop of 40.25%, and the rolling 5 year average chart there was a drop of 165 dogs for the 6 years that's 7.94% drop. It needs to be noted the 2018 year is incomplete.

Congratulations to the 20 Kennels below that qualified for GSDCA

H&E Awards during the 2019 Year.

A total of 20 Kennels achieved 33 Medallions in 2019, 7 Bronze for Hips & 6 for Elbows, 4 Kennels received both 'A&Z'. 5 Silver for Hips and 5 Silver for elbows, with 1 kennel gaining

Silver in Both 'A&Z'. 3 Gold for Hips and 5 Gold for Elbows, and 2 Kennels gained Gold in both 'A&Z'. No Plaques were achieved this year.

The ACT = 1, NCHR = 1, NSW = 4, Qld = 2, SA = 4, Tas = 1, Vic = 5 & WA = 2.

Gaining Council's Awards are not easy to achieve, and it can take several years to receive the Bronze which is for successfully presenting 10 or more animals with your Kennel prefix gaining the "A" or a "Z" stamp. Silver is for achieving 25 and Gold is for 50, and there is a special Plaque awarded to those kennels achieving 100.

With all Dogs now being Micro Chipped the H/E Application Form has a place to record the animal's microchip number. And if the Chip can't be found at the time of X-Ray a new chip is to be implanted by the Vet conducting the X-Ray, there is a place for the Vet to record the new microchip number on the 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, as the information from it is required to be embedded in the X-Ray**, the animal must be 12 Months of age or older, the Application Form & State Contract numbers are not to be given out over the phone by the Registrar, forms are not transferable between animals.

Members can you please ensure your **Vet reads all the instructions on the H&E Dysplasia Control Scheme Application Form before your animal is x-rayed**, and saves any digital Disc's in the DICOM Image (ie: **.dcm extension**). Some x-rays received have had **no copy of the Registration Papers, & some no self stamped address envelope enclosed. These items need to be included.** 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 (And that it is readable) 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 and x-ray will be returned. Some x-rays have been received and the required details have not been Radiographically identified, **this will result in your animal having to be x-rayed again** to get the positive identification embedded into the x-rays, no one wants to put their animal through general anaesthesia unless it's necessary, and then have the extra wait to get your results.

A big thank you to all the Members and Breeders who have continued to support the H&E Dysplasia Control Scheme over the years and has seen the value in reducing the number of animals affected by this crippling disease. The pass rate is at an all-time high, we need to continue to monitor this so we can be proactive if and when needed.

I would like to thank the various State Registrars around Australia and New Zealand for their input in distributing the H&E Forms to the Members.

I look forward to working with Jenny Yuen who I have known for many years. Thank you to Frank Moody the Database Coordinator for continuing assistance and co-operation with problems as they have arisen.

Remember Dysplasia can only be diagnosed radiographically, and not by the naked eye! Thank You.

NBC Breed Survey Registrar

– **Melanie Groth**

It's been a busy six months. Surveys are up to date in the database. Fewer surveys were held this year as compared with the same period in 2018. As a result, fewer animals have been surveyed, however the failure rate has remained consistent.

Club	No. of surveys	Classified	Fail	Reason
ACT	0	0	0	
GSDL	2	16	1	gun test
Newcastle	0	0	0	
Queensland	2	8	2	level bite/gun
South Australia	2	17	Nil	
Tasmania	2	4	Nil	
Victoria	4	16	2	Character/Character
Western Australia	2	6	Nil	
Total 2019	14	67	5	
2018	16	84	7	
2017	15	80	7	

Club	Active Breed Surveyors	State Registrar
ACTGSDA	Melanie Groth	Veronica Fairbairn
GSDL	Fay Stokes (Coordinator) Melanie Groth, Karen Hedberg Terry Jarvis, Graham Stevenson	Pam Jarvis
N&HRGSDC	NBC Chair appoints	Gavin Bean
GSDCQ	Carol O'Rourke (Coordinator) Sharon Ballantyne-Gordon Louis Donald	Gail Donald
GSDCSA	Peter Flynn (Coordinator) Jean Butterfield, Christine Collin Steve Collins, Jane Pike, Doug West	Jenny Delucia
GSDCT	Alastair Henderson	Janet Haase
GSDCV	Alastair Henderson (Coordinator) Greg Green, Ian Urie, Vince Tantaró, Jenny Yuen, Andrew Jones (Aspirant)	Gill Cafari
GSDAWA	Robyn Knuckey (Coordinator) John Fenner, Natalie Humphries Honey Gross-Richardson (retired 2018)	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.

Breed Health & Welfare Committee

- Dr. Candice Baker BSc BVMS MANZCVS (ECC)

Current updates in the seat of the Breed Health & Welfare Chairperson's report –

- Continuing to provide health articles, advice and input from veterinarians in their fields of expertise, such as; dermatology, gastroenterology/internal medicine and orthopedics (to be included in national review magazines).
- Continued point of contact for health advice for breeding animals, working and show animals for general membership.
- Education on common breed health issues to focus on.

Research updates:

- o **Degenerative Myelopathy**
 - Latest updates in research in police dogs in QLD, pending.
 - Results of progeny of clear DNA to carrier DNA producing affected progeny, likely DNA sampling technique fault. Clear results reliability? If carrier or affected then believable.
 - Actual development of the disease < 5%, article written by Dr Wolfgang Lauber and breed warden Lothar Quoll and published in the SV Zeitung in 2015 (Honey GR translated article).
- o **Bloat/Gastric Dilation Volvulus**
 - Latest research and journal articles out of the US.
 - Gastric pH and bacteria as well as faecal bacteria population studies, showing changes in bacterial load in the gut with GDV affected Great Danes.
 - Strong genetic/familial predisposition, identifying the DNA increasing the association risk of developing GDV.
 - Immune effects on the gut microbiome.
 - Conclusions from an article entitled "The canine gut microbiome is associated with higher risk of gastric dilatation-volvulus and high-risk genetic variants of the immune system" Hullar et al 2018.
 - "The microbiome in GDV was altered by an expansion of a minor lineage and was associated with specific alleles of both innate and adaptive immunity genes. These associations are consistent with our hypothesis that immune genes may play a role in predisposition to GDV by altering the gut microbiome. Further research will be required to directly test the causal relationships of immune genes, the gut microbiome and GDV."
- o **Hemangiosarcoma (cancer of the blood vessels)**
 - Most recent research in Australia identifying the glycoprotein triggering HAS, based of the human angiosarcoma model.

Committee plans:

- o As the Breed Health and Welfare Chairperson I have a lot going on. There are many things in the pipeline that are difficult to focus on and get on top of consistently due to other family and work commitments myself.
- o Such as letters to Veterinary Surgeon Boards in each state for notification of JPS procedures if they have been performed and to be recorded on a national database as well as letter asking Vets if they can complete or ask owners to complete breed health form.

- o I have approached a few people with the intent of using them to help with leg work to the best of their ability.
- o The emphasis on discretion and the ability to perform and understand tasks that involve breed health and research data collection are very beneficial to provide me with some assistance.
- o With more people working with me, more ideas may come to light with strategies and plans to put forth to the council for breed health programs in the future.

Research and data compilation for the breed council.

- o Whilst the breed health reports are not that frequently completed and submitted the information and reports that I have obtained require administrative compilation to collect data.
- o The outcome of the breed health reports is to show statistics on major health issues within the breed. This can be helpful for other research focus as a reference for other academics and research personnel.

Haemophilia A / Factor VIII deficiency cessation of testing.

- o No further Haemophilia testing since last report.
- o Be aware and advise if any known cases or concerns.

Inter varietal breeding

- o For reference, LSC to LSC vs SC to SC offspring to be reported tick box if known.

Elbows

- o Elbow disease is often troublesome and frustrating to diagnose, with or without the presence of a lameness.
- o It is a common issue with our GSDs sold to the general population, and radiographs are not always clear cut for any diagnosis.
- o Advanced imaging in the form of CT scans or assessment of the elbow joint surgically is sometimes our only way to find the problem, which is almost always coronoid disease (fragmented coronoid process).
- o With further contact and liaison with our radiologists some foresight and advice on breeding recommendations with regards to elbow radiographs and scoring would be beneficial.
- o One current consideration should be decreasing the arthritic change to less than 1.5mm, the reality of this, is that no arthritic change should be acceptable as it is likely indicative of underlying elbow disease.
- o We need to consider more stringent breeding practices to avoid producing coronoid disease (fragmented coronoid process), delay in anconeal process closure (separate center of ossification).
- o Grade 1 (without arthritic changes) raises concern for coronoid disease or other underlying elbow pathology.
- o Advice from current radiologists needs to be followed up.
- o Liaison with Dr Graeme Allen with regards to delayed closure of UAPs as this is a fairly uncommon situation.

Title Verification Officer – Jenny DeLucia

This is my second report to the GSDCA NBC Annual Meeting as Title Verification Officer. From my last report in 2018 to the NBC Annual Meeting to the present time, I have verified the following animals.

- Iliano von Juvenisty (Netherlands) non surveyed male SC

- Olexius Vera (Sweden) non surveyed female SC
- Ica von der Zenteiche (Germany) surveyed female SC

Due to two animals being bred outside of the SV, additional resources are required in order to correctly verify details which is a little more time consuming.

Owners of animals to be verified are submitting their completed forms together with the required documents seemingly without difficulty and the online system is working well.

National Database Coordinator

– Frank Moody

It is my pleasure to submit this GSDCA Database report to the 2019 NBC Meeting.

At the time of writing this report we have nearly completed changes to the Breed Survey section which will greatly assist the surveyors:

- The ability to re-edit their results after initially entering them to the database, prior to submitting them for approval by the NBC Breed Survey Registrar. This will enable them to pick up any errors (i.e. spelling, grammar, or incorrect drop-down options etc.) before submitting.
- A warning prior to the system timing you out, if you have taken too long to complete the survey entry.
- Other background fixes.

By the time we get to the NBC meeting I hope this will have been completed.

HD/ED Sire Statistics

The updated HD/ED Sire Statistics as at 30th June 2019 as prepared using the GSDCA Database, will be available at the NBC meeting and placed on the GSDCA website.

DATA UPDATE

Dog Database

Registrations have recently been updated to 11th June 2019.

Records in the Database

- Dog registrations – nearly 304,000 records,
- HD/ED – over 11,200 results,
- Breed Survey – nearly 1,800 results,
- Haemophilia – 1,083 results.

Breed Survey Photos

At the February 2019 AGM, the requirement for a photo prior to releasing the Breed Survey Certificate was changed. This has enabled surveys to be completed much more quickly, and therefore available for the members to view.

The need for photos is still very important so that we have a pictorial record of the dogs surveyed.

We have therefore developed a report to assist the Club Registrars to chase-up outstanding photos. This report is forwarded to Jenny and Mel for distribution to Registrars.

Below is the current status (as at 6th June) of missing photos by Year and Club.

	2016			2017			2018			2019 YTD		
	Surveyed	No Photo	Percent	Surveyed	No Photo	Percent	Surveyed	No Photo	Percent	Surveyed	No Photo	Percent
ACT	5	1	20%	6	2	33%	5	4	80%	0		-
GSDL	20			46	3	7%	25	5	20%	16	9	56%
NHR	4			10			12	3	25%	0		-
QLD	31			18	1	6%	22		-	9	3	33%
SA	30			32	2	6%	40	5	13%	10	4	40%
TAS	9			9	1	11%	14	3	21%	2	1	50%
VIC	34	3	9%	41	2	5%	39	6	15%	13	6	46%
WA	18	1	6%	28	2	7%	23	1	4%	4		-
Grand Total	151	5	3%	190	2	7%	180	27	15%	54	23	43%

USERS

The use of the Database continues steadily with a slight increase year over year, as can be seen by the table below.

Monthly average				
YEAR	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits
2015	372	659	18,277	28,744
2016	398	722	16,870	28,795
2017	427	857	19,682	34,451
2018	477	992	18,629	35,840
2019	594	1,095	18,848	36,798

My sincere thank you to Rob Filardo for all the programming work he undertakes voluntarily. Also thank you to Jenny Yuen, Melanie Groth, Doug West, Candy Baker, and the Breed Surveyors for their time, and assistance in ongoing data entry and maintenance of the Database.

Education Working Group

– Jo Cathie

The Education Working Group has evolved from the Breed Survey Improvement Working party groups born out of the 2016 Breed Survey Forum conducted by the GSDCA.

Initiatives:

1. The Judges Show Report now being followed by all GSDCA Specialist Judges.
2. The GSDCA State Education Workshops/Seminars- The first was run in NSW in March to be followed by Western Australia and Queensland in October and Victoria in November. This initiative included the demonstration of the Zap Test. Members of the Education team are being utilised in these workshops.
3. THE AUSTRALIAN SIRE PRESENTATION UPDATE – currently in the process of being developed. A snapshot was shown during the NBC weekend.
4. OPERATION OUTREACH - that requires further work at this stage.

Advertising Info for Members of Affiliated Clubs

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

Front Cover

\$225.00 (Non - Advertising)

Full Page

\$360.00

Half Page/Quarter Page

\$180/\$100

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

Back Cover

\$200.00 (Non - Advertising)

Double Spread

\$700.00



Magazine and Website Package

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

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

Please make Cheque/Bank draft or Money Order payable to: German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc. and forward to: The Treasurer, GSDCA QNR, 12 Williams Road, Two Wells SA 5501

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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