



EXECUTIVE AND OFFICE HOLDERS UPDATE

Issue 3 June 2023

50th GSDCA National Show and Trial

3rd, 4th and 5th May

The SV judges have been contracted and SV clearances have been received.

Conformation:

Herr Rainer Mast
LSC bitches; LSC dogs; SC dogs

Herr Wolfgang Haßgall
SC bitches

Obedience judges have been contracted and contracts have been returned.

Mr Brian Fielder (SA)
Utility Dog Excellent (Ring 1)

Mrs Jan Brabham (SA)
Utility Dog (Ring 2)

Mr Peter Dynan (SA)
Companion Dog Excellent (Ring 1)

Mrs Donna Vigor (SA)
Companion Dog (Ring 2)

Mr Brian Fielder (SA)
Community Companion Dog (Ring 1)

Junior Showmanship

Miss Jessica Bird (NSW)



FROM THE PRESIDENT - SEAN LYNCH

Welcome to the winter newsletter,

Congratulations to the Victorian club on a highly successful National, it was very pleasing to see the quality of the dogs, the great organisation combined with the excellent weather and wonderful judging overall something to be very proud of.

Unfortunately, due to a dog bite incident in Queensland and the possible reaction of the Queensland government, Yvonne has put back together the working party and currently working very hard in the area with a dedicated group of volunteers. This has been a massive amount of work, I am sure you all will receive an update shortly, thank you to all involved.

A few shows coming up, I look forward to catching up at these events.

Sean Lynch



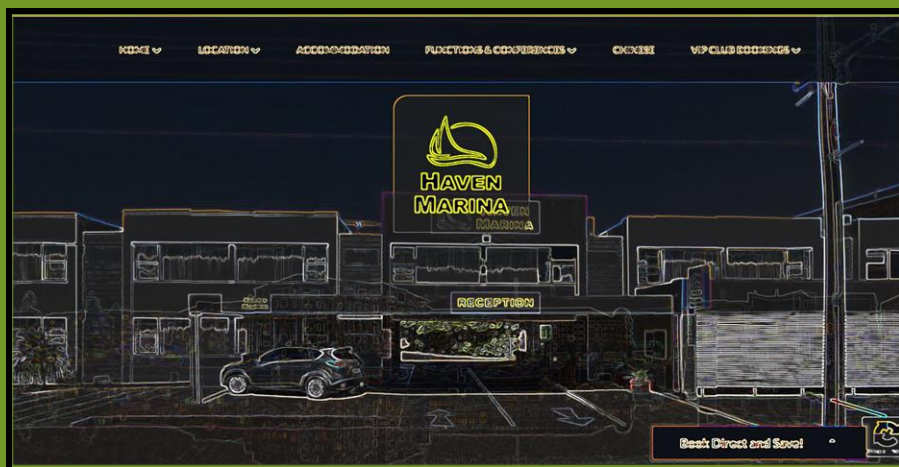
50TH NATIONAL ACCOMMODATION

Arrangements have been made to secure The Resort facilities at the Big4 West Beach Parks.

Other pet friendly establishments are:

- Adelaide Showground Caravan Park, approximately 15 minutes from grounds
- Highway 1 Tourist Park, approximately 30 minutes from grounds

NBC and Judges Meeting



Venue: Haven Marina Hotel

Dates: 19th and 20th August 2023

6-10 Adelphi Terrace, Glenelg North South Australia
5045, Australia

Phone: 08 8294 1555

Email: reservations@haveninn.com.au



When booking rooms please mention the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia.

FROM THE JUDGE'S CHAIR

In collaboration with Robyn Knuckey, I have provided an overview for members regarding the session held at the 49th National by the Continental Director, Heather McDonald. The session was well attended by a hundred or more people that were at the Meet & Greet on the Thursday afternoon.

At the forthcoming Members Competition for the GSDL Mathew Morris will be completing a mentor session with Fay Stokes. Mathew is progressing through the Judges Training Scheme whilst simultaneously completing requirements for the GSDCA Judges Extension Course. Dogs NSW held its subgroup practical night on Monday 22 May at the Bill Spilstead Complex. Karen Hedberg and Glenn Gregory officiated as supervising judges on the night and eleven shepherds were made available for the twelve trainees by members of the GSDL. Mathew Morris, Caryl Morris, and Chelsea Bird participated in this practical and will be sitting their written exams for Shepherds when the subgroup is assessed. Mathew completed his single group assessment with excellent result but will also participate in the subgroup written assessment later this year. I believe the practical examinations will be held in October/November this year.

Trainee judges that meet the requirements for entry into the Extension Course and are interested in becoming a GSDCA judge should make application to the Judges Chair.

REPORT ON Q AND A WITH HEATHER MCDONALD, WUSV CONTINENTAL DIRECTOR

Thursday 27th April 2023, GSDCA 49th National Show and Trial

Heather commenced the session, giving apologies from Helmut Seteki, Secretary of the SV/WUSV. She informed us that he was hoping to travel to Australia for this National, but with the proximity to the International Congress in Lerma, Spain and the workload associated with it, he was unable to make the trip to Melbourne. She conveyed his best wishes for the coming Event.

So, on Herr Seteki's behalf, Heather wishes to allay some of the uncertainties that prevail about why Australia should continue as a part of the WUSV. Heather explained that the GSD is one single breed, world-wide and it is important for Australia to remain as part of the collective and that we all have a role to play collectively in ensuring we guard the breed standard.

She emphasized that it is important to remember that the GSD is a 'working dog' and it's critical to retain and protect the inherent working ability/traits of our breed. Therefore, it is important to have in place a working test that assesses the inherent working characteristics of the GSD. Police and armed forces across the world have moved away from GSDs in favour of Malinois and some of this is due to structure but also character. She emphasized that our breed is a GSD not a Labrador. It is an intelligent, working dog, capable of incredible work and companionship. As members of our clubs, affiliated with the GSDCA, we are the guardians of the breed in Australia. We are 1 of 56 member clubs of the WUSV. Collectively if we work together, we can ensure the survival of the German Shepherd Dog.

The WUSV, understand that in Australia we are not in control of our registrations. We have a kennel control that has its own set of rules that we are bound by. This is the same as the UK and other countries across the world and presents its own set of challenges.

Artificial Insemination:

The WUSV acknowledge and accept, that Australia can utilize AI through its Kennel Control system and understands that geographically this practice helps to improve the breed in Australia. The WUSV is investigating using AI technologies and investigating possibilities for semen of German males to be available worldwide. The investigation is in its infancy, and protocols need to be decided, in particular regarding protection through positive identification etc. However, this is an important change in mindset for the SV/WUSV.



The Congress in Lerma presentations identified that the world has a closed gene pool for our breed and to promote the health of the GSD, the gene pool needs to be as extended as much as possible. The change in attitude has come to light in presentations by experts across the world on dog behaviour and character traits, epigenetics, and research into closed breeding populations.

IGP:

Heather still feels that IGP is an area of misrepresentation/misinterpretation. She is of the



impression that Australians have been slow to believe that the expectations with regard to IGP SV/WUSV Harmonisation have been relaxed in favour of an alternative working test.

In her meetings with the WUSV Board in Germany with Janet Haase and Melanie Groth during the 2022 Sieger Show, it was made clear that the GSDCA need to decide on a suitable working test that can be approved by the WUSV Board for dogs to be eligible for SV Excellent gradings post 2025. This test needs to be approved for sustainability and its ability to be held anywhere in Australia.

If the decision is to design our own test, it needs to be submitted to the WUSV Board for approval. This test needs to ensure the animal can work and complete tasks. The GSD needs to possess the ability to work, in conjunction with its construction and anatomy.

The WUSV understands that many areas of Australia lack infrastructure, however by embracing technology; training videos could be incorporated to support training e.g., videos of the test, thus reducing the need to have an obedience club to be able to train for tests. Technology makes things accessible for all.

Heather discussed tracking and that she can easily train a 12-week-old puppy to do a single line track, so basic training is not difficult. If an animal has a working title that can demonstrate its working ability such as herding, tracking etc. then this could be accepted. She suggests that these are tasks that could be incorporated to make up a GSDCA working title.

DNA:

In Germany, only a blood sample is accepted for DNA. This is accepted as a problem for Australia, due to distance to get samples to Germany and cost. Heather is going to make a connection with Orivet, to see about their protocols with online test kits, with authorized collectors and payment directly to Orivet, for single tests for full DNA profiles. George Solphronides set up the Dog Queensland system for DNA profiles required prior to registration of litters.

Ian Urie added that the ANKC was considering setting up DNA system Australia wide but has not progressed. The GSDCA can explore setting up our own system and investigations are ongoing in this area.



Hip and Elbow Scheme:



Heather understands the importance to Australia of keeping our own database. There are avenues in Australia to access the SV scheme through the WGSDCA. Ideally the WUSV would like a world-wide health system to be integrated but recognizes that countries have their own systems. Heather will work with the WUSV to try and keep our scheme. She explained that the requirements for Vets to comply with Tellheim's methods for taking X rays are not as difficult as first thought and for experienced Vets it is a matter of reading through training material and adopting the positions required for the German system and signing up.

Inter-variety Breeding:

The WUSV understands and accepts that in Australia this is controlled by the ANKC and not the GSDCA. As with the AI issue, the comments of not having a closed gene pool to manage the health of the breed, was taken on board by the WUSV and will look at this with a new lens. The presentations in Lerma by Dr Karen Hedberg and Louis Donald were enlightening regarding support for Inter-variety breeding and the WUSV/SV is considering its position on this.

Closing remarks

The audience were appreciative of Heather giving her time to add to our understanding of what is required in progressing forward. Feedback received confirmed that the session was worthwhile and helped to debunk some of the myths surrounding Harmonisation and our position within the WUSV.

Melanie Groth / Robyn Knuckey

FROM THE NBC CHAIR - IAN URIE

As you will now be aware the venue for the NBC and Judges Committee meetings has now been confirmed as the Haven Marina Hotel in Glenelg SA. As it is now 4 years since we have met in person, we are looking forward to your attendance and interaction at these meetings, which I believe have a positive effect on unity and camaraderie between the Judge/Surveyor group and Club delegates. The meetings will be held on 19th and 20th August, and the agendas close eight weeks prior, on 24th June. In addition to Member Clubs, Specialist Judges are eligible to submit agenda items or motions for the JSC meeting and Breed Surveyors can also submit items for the NBC meeting. Any applications for consideration to join the trainee Judges or Surveyors schemes should be received by the respective Chairs before close of agenda, with appropriate documentation and a supporting letter from your member club.

I am encouraged that the ZAP puppy character assessment scheme is taking off in many States now after a slow start. Victoria, NSW, and Tasmania have all held multiple assessments, and WA is holding their first one this month. Hopefully, other clubs will join in soon. It is not a difficult thing to do, and responses from most first-time participants have been incredibly positive.

The 49th National is done and dusted and I congratulate all the winners. Both judges did a wonderful job, and I believe a timely statement was made regarding some of the problems in our breed. The host club GSDCV should be congratulated on their efforts in putting on a great show.



Ian Urie

FROM THE EDITOR - YVONNE YUN

Finally, the Autumn edition is now on the press and should be leaving early next week.

The current distribution numbers are:

Victoria	1173
ACT	107
Queensland	167
NHRGSD	77
GSDL	237
GSDAWA	289
Tasmania	39
South Australia	179



National edition

Compilation of the National edition is well under way and my thanks to the Victorian Club for collating the material required in such an orderly and complete manner.

The opportunity to substitute photos closed on 15th May 2023 and despite well publicized advice, there were still a few late comers. All have been advised that their substitution will not be accepted. Unfortunately, this has been without exception because if allowance is made for one, it must be made for all.

The next phase will be obtaining permission from all placegetters who did not provide a substitute photo for the use of the official photographer's image. Again, this will require action from the exhibitors involved and unfortunately, I know only too well that many will fail to respond. If this occurs, no image will appear against their critique in the top 1-10 placings. This will be clearly spelt out in the email sent to each and these will go out up to 2nd June 2023 with response required no later than 9th June 2023.

Hopefully, this will allow for publication and distribution by end June 2023, glitches permitting.

Queensland legislation

Following the dreadful dog attacks in Queensland, that state has moved to strengthen and amend their *Animal Management (Dog and Cat) Act 2008*.

By the time clubs receive this report, there will have been at least three meetings of the Working Group and minutes from these as well as a slide deck presentation will have been forwarded to clubs.

Yvonne Yun

One World



One Breed