

THE German Shepherd Dog

QUARTERLY NATIONAL REVIEW



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QNR CLOSING DATES

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CONTACTS

GSDCA EXECUTIVE

President Sean Lynch +61 467 798 973 president@gsdcouncilaustralia.org	Secretary Janet Haase +61 448 581 870 PO Box 2080 Howrah TAS 7018 secretary@gsdcouncilaustralia.org	NBC Chairperson Mr Ian Urie PO Box 626 Cockatoo VIC 3781 0418 175 727 nbc@gsdcouncilaustralia.org	Obedience Chairperson Alastair Henderson 0417 567 159 +61 0491 610 096 obedience@gsdcouncilaustralia.org
Editor Yvonne Yun +61 0450 905 929 PO Box 251 North Richmond NSW 2754 revieweditor@gsdcouncilaustralia.org	Treasurer Peter Flynn +61 468 814 438 treasurer@gsdcouncilaustralia.org	Judges Committee Chairperson Melanie Groth judgescommittee@gsdcouncilaustralia.org	

GSDCA OFFICERS

Breed Health & Welfare Committee Chair Dr. Candy Baker +61 409 168 299 gsdhealth@gsdcouncilaustralia.org	NBC Registrar Melanie Groth regnbc@gsdcouncilaustralia.org
HD Registrar Doug West +61 416 219 260 hded@gsdcouncilaustralia.org	GSDCA Webmaster Jacinta Poole website@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA Database Coordinator
 Frank Moody
 +61 419 134 718
database@gsdcouncilaustralia.org
GSDCA Website
www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org

GSDCA CONSULTANTS

GSDCA CONSULTANTS
 HD
 Dr Roger Lavelle
 Dr J. L. Richardson
Public Relations Officer
 Position Vacant
pr@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Front cover: Awards for GSDWA members

Back cover: Mia and Jai enjoying Winter at Point Hut- photo by Karen Hoare

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By time you read this our 49th National GSD Show & Trail would be over and I am sure everyone would have had an enjoyable weekend.

It's our best opportunity to watch the best of the best in action and also a great chance to socialise with friends and fellow breeders to discuss our wonderful breed. To the entrants I congratulate you all, I know the massive amount of work that goes into preparing

your dog for this event, both for show or trail it takes months of hard work.

To the Victorian club, I would like to thank you and the team for presenting the National how it should be, a showcase to show off our best. You have received an extremely good entry of 465 German Shepherds and

this is very pleasing. Not only the show but to also to arrange the social activities is an enormous achievement – well done.

Now I look forward to reading the reports and the critiques of all the dogs presented and the overviews from our Judges, it seems we are always looking forward to the next thing.

NBC Meeting

Can I also urge as many as possible to attend this year's NBC meeting – this will be a face to face meeting, the first since early 2020 and a great opportunity to discuss our future direction. This year it will be held in Adelaide on the 19th and 20th August – ask your clubs for the details.

Until then, enjoy yourself and that you own a German Shepherd Dog.

Cheers
Sean Lynch
GSDCA President

EDITORIAL

It's hard to believe we are almost half way through 2023 – seems like it was only yesterday we were all in lockdown but it was February, 2020 when the Ruby Princess docked in Sydney. And in one sense, we have to acknowledge that some of the challenges we are now seeing for the canine world in general, and possibly our breed in particular, originated at this time. Challenges you ask?

In a recent interview of a dog behaviourist in Queensland speaking about recent dog attacks in that state, one of the factors she attributed as causing the problems were the lack of socialisation of young puppies during the mad dash to acquire a dog by those locked down during COVID. Little thought was given to the needs of the animals for socialisation – it was all about the owner's need for distraction and creating an opportunity to "walk the dog". Sadly, this has led to a couple of quite serious issues – high anxiety in some animals now being left at home as families return to normal routines, poorly socialised dogs that so many cannot and a very high dumping rate at pounds, shelters and rescues. We all know that socialisation as puppies is absolutely critical to a dog's success in their new homes and for anyone placing a puppy into a new home, I have reproduced an article from a few years back about this very subject that may be very useful for your buyers.

Last weekend, I was privileged to attend the GSDL Dog Walk along the shores of the Nepean River. Having started in GSDs over 30 years ago, it was great to see a motivated group getting back to grass roots promotion of breed. Dogs of all sorts of backgrounds – show, obedience and just lovable pets – came together without distinction and just had a great day out. A number of owners and dogs were not able to complete the hike, but waited for the A team to return in the warm sunshine on a very busy Sunday morning. The number of people doing a double take on seeing a group of happy, well adjusted dogs together was so gratifying. It can only be hoped that these activities become a regular fixture for the club and perhaps other clubs could take up the challenge and organise similar events. As household budgets tighten, families could see these as a great way to get out, exercise and socialise. You never know,

it could lead to clubs attracting new members, but it will definitely help in the promotion of the GSD as a dog for "now". Well done to the organisers Cassie and Mel!

Over the next few weeks, you will be receiving two magazines in quick succession – this Autumn edition and shortly, the National edition. It's not a mistake – this edition was held to carry the report on happenings in Lerma. You will see on reading that Dr Karen Hedberg gave two very strong presentations to the Conference, with the presentation on coat being introduced by Louis Donald. As we've had quite a lot of discussion on the topic over the last few months, if space permits, I will publish the key points of that one in Spring. For this, I've included the key points on Immune System diseases which is by no means definitive but may present owners with some of those mystery ailments with a few starting points for research or clues to get a definitive diagnosis. We have also had an update from our fantastic Breed Health and Welfare Committee Chair, Candy Baker on an article on spinal problems that she has updated and knowing how pushed for time she is, a big thank you goes out.

Currently, the Legislative Committee is working in support of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act review in Queensland. There is an urgency for this to happen, following the Queensland Premier making this a priority project following a spate of very serious dog attacks in that state. No one in our ranks wants to see anyone hurt under such situations, but our primary objective with government needs to be messaging of Deed not Breed and as responsible breeders, we should not be missing any opportunity to pass that message along, no matter where you live.

A very busy time coming up,
Yvonne Yun

ZAP QNR AUTUMN 2023

It is very pleasing to note that the ZAP Character Assessment is now being embraced by GSDCA Clubs and their members. So far this year, the GSDCV have successfully held one assessment, with three more scheduled for later in the year. The GSDCT has also successfully held one, with another scheduled to be held in May. The GSDL has also successfully held an assessment. I congratulate these Clubs for embracing the Assessment and making it available to their members.

Participation rates have been very good, and feedback from the members involved is positive, with all enjoying their experience. Any fears held by participants were instantly dispelled, once they understood what was required of them and their dogs to successfully participate. In fact, many have commented after participating, that it is actually a lot of fun, and they were glad they had entered.

It is also very pleasing that all dogs presented so far have passed the Assessment without problem. Important to note is that there are only two reasons which will see an animal fail, these are: Animals which show a clearly negative reaction to the gun test, such as being fearful or clear avoidance. Also, animals that display significant aggressive behaviour without provocation, towards humans or other animals. Gun test aside, even if an animal does not complete one or more of the remaining elements, it will not fail. The dog's reactions are simply noted on the worksheet, then it will move on to the next element.

The safety aspect of some elements has been questioned, with regard to animals walking across tables which are not covered in non-slip material, and also the rocking platform not being covered in non-slip material. Uncovered, smooth surfaces are an integral part of these elements, and this was confirmed by Harald Hohmann (SV) when he conducted a ZAP seminar in Melbourne in 2019. Confident dogs should not have a problem, or be bothered by negotiating such surfaces.

The following is a complete list of all elements in the Assessment, which are designed to assess the animal's bond with the handler, confidence in various situations, and level of play drive. These are all traits which a well-bred and well-handled working dog should display, even at a young age. I would urge all members to participate with their dogs, when your Club makes the ZAP Assessment available.

Alastair Henderson GSDCA
Obedience Chairperson

Element # 1: Impartiality Test (Confidence In Being Handled By A Stranger)

The CWTO shall ask all the animals entered in the test to assemble for the initial assessment.

- The owners shall produce the original ANKC Registration Certificate for verification.
- Each dog shall individually have its Microchip verified and recorded on the work sheet.
- Each dog will be measured for height, depth and circumference of chest, with these measurements being recorded on the work sheet.
- Each dog will have its dentition checked, with results being recorded on the work sheet.

- On completion of the initial assessment, the CWTO shall allocate all accepted dogs a number, and record their details on to the ZAP Character Test Assessment Form (Form Z 2).
- Testing of individual dogs shall begin, with only one dog being tested at any one time in the outdoor elements of the test. Once a dog has completed all outdoor elements and moves indoors, the following dog may then begin its testing in the outdoor elements.

Element # 2: Evaluation of Social Behaviour

Part 1 – Relationship with handler

With the dog off lead, the handler commences to move around the test area. The handler may use voice and body movements to engage the dog's interest if necessary.

Ideally, the dog should display a clear bond by staying close to and being attentive to the handler. It should not be overly distracted by outside stimuli.

Part 2 – Relationship with handler and behaviour in a group

The dog is taken by its owner approximately 20–25 metres away from an assembled crowd of a minimum 8–10 people. The owner removes the lead, and a helper holds the dog, while the owner walks back toward and through to the other side of the crowd. The owner then calls the dog, which is released by the helper. The dog is required to return directly to the owner by running through the crowd. After the dog returns to the owner and with the dog still off lead, the owner then walks among the crowd and encourages the dog to follow. The dog should be keen to return directly to its handler and subsequently not be intimidated by going through or following its handler among the crowd.

Part 3 – Encounter with another dog

With the dog on lead, the handler walks toward another dog which is approaching from the opposite direction. The approaching dog is also on lead. Dogs are expected to pass each other at approximately 2–3 metres, without showing signs of fear or aggression. The 'extra' dog required for this element may be one of the other dogs being tested on the day, or any other suitable dog may be used.

Element # 3: Evaluation of Noise Sensitivity

Part 1 – Power Tool

With the dog on lead, the owner stands still. With power tool running, a helper circles the dog approximately 2–3 times at a distance of 2–3 metres. Following this, the motor is turned off and the power tool is to be placed on the ground. Ideally, the dog should not react adversely to the noise of the motor and should be open to investigating the source, once the power tool is switched off and placed on the ground. It is important, that if a leaf blower is used, the air outlet be pointed away from the dog, not toward it.

Part 2 – Metal Chain

A length of metal chain is suspended from a post/tree. On the ground below the chain is a metal plate/dish. With the dog on lead, the owner stands approximately 3–4 metres from the chain/dish, while a helper releases the chain and lets it drop onto the metal plate/dish. The chain should be dropped from a height of at least 2 metres. Ideally, the dog should not react adversely to the noise and should be open to investigating the source, once the chain has been dropped.



KASTER *van Contra*

Digger von Edelweiss - Jill van Contra

National 2023 Gold Medal Winner / V31 BSZS '21 / IGP3 / KKL / HD/ED:normal/normal / DNA:Gepr.

STANDING AT STUD IN SYDNEY

info: kastervcontra@gmail.com / Jess Kada 0413 008 092



Part 3 – Gun Test

The Gun Test shall be conducted with due regard for State/ Territory Firearms Legislation, Canine Controls and or Member Club rules and procedures. Each dog shall undergo the Gun Test individually.

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

- The pistol shall be held pointing downward at the side and not to the rear of the Assessor.

- Dogs must stand firm and confident showing no real concern for the shots discharged. The desired reaction is one of total lack of concern.
- The owner/s of any dog/s which do not satisfactorily complete the gun test will be advised by the Assessor/s that they are excused from any further part of the assessment and these dogs shall be marked as a 'fail'.

Element # 4: Movement On Unusual Surfaces

Part 1 – Rocking Platform

For this test, a standard sized wooden pallet is used. The top surface where the dog stands must be covered to exclude gaps. A round wooden pole/polycarbonate pipe (80mm diameter) is fixed to the underside of the pallet, across the centre. This will allow the pallet to rock back and forth when the dog stands on top of it. The dog is encouraged to walk onto the pallet and to move around, so the pallet rocks under the dog. It is acceptable for the Assessor to manually rock the wobble board (pallet) if the dog's movement alone does not rock it sufficiently. Any reaction/s will be recorded as per descriptors on testing sheet.

Part 2 – Rocking Platform with play

While the dog is standing on the pallet, the owner encourages the dog to play tug. If necessary, the owner may stand on the pallet as well, to engage with the dog. In this category the dog is rated for play readiness under increased stress and motion sensitivity. Ideally, the dog will engage actively and persistently with its handler and the toy and not be put off by the motion of the board. Any reaction/s will be recorded as per descriptors on testing sheet.

Element # 5: Height Sensitivity

Trestle tables

For this test, 5 trestle tables are required. The tables should be aligned so that they form an "L" shape. On the short side, the tables are butted up against each other, with no gaps in between. On the long side, two of the tables should have a gap of approximately 20cm between them. Surface of the trestle tables to remain as normal (not covered in non-slip). A suitable ramp is also required, enabling the dog to walk up onto the tables. The ramp should be covered in suitable non-slip material. With the dog on lead, the owner encourages the dog to walk up the ramp and onto the trestle tables. The dog should walk the entire length of the tables, turning the corner of the "L" and continue over the gap in the tables. Once at the end, the dog is turned around and returns along the same path, exiting via the ramp where it commenced.



Element #6: Evaluation of Play And Prey Drive

Part 1 – Play with handler

With the dog off lead, the handler commences to play a game of tug with the dog. Ideally, the dog should be powerful, quick, vigorous and persistent during the game. The dog's willingness to engage with its handler is then assessed. The dog's reaction/s will be recorded as per descriptors on testing sheet.

Part 2 – Play with stranger

After initial play with the handler, and on order from the Assessor, the owner then tosses the toy to a helper, who is standing approximately 5-6 metres away. The dog is expected to follow its toy and engage in a game of tug with the helper. Ideally, the dog should be powerful, quick, vigorous and persistent during the game. The dog's willingness to engage with a stranger is then assessed. The dog's reaction/s will be recorded as per descriptors on testing sheet.

Part 3 – Search for toy

A helper holds the dog on lead, with the owner making an obvious display of the toy, while proceeding to move away and place the toy under an upturned bread crate (approximately 5-6 metres away). The owner then returns to the dog, removes the lead and sends the dog to find its toy. The dog is expected to go to the bread crate and work out how to gain its toy from underneath the crate. Ideally, the dog should be highly target driven, persistent and retrieve independently. The dog's reaction/s will be recorded as per descriptors on testing sheet.

Element #7: Evaluation of Behaviour Inside

Part 1 – Smooth floor

The room should be set up as normal with tables, chairs and other items normally found inside. The dog is brought inside on lead, then the lead is removed. Owner moves casually around the room, among the furniture, while the dog is left to explore at will. Ideally, the dog should display confident, secure movement as it moves around the room. The dog's reaction/s will be recorded as per descriptors on testing sheet.



Part 2 – Noise reaction

A metal bowl/dish will be dropped to the floor by a helper on the opposite side to whichever table the dog is next to at the time. Ideally, the dog should not react adversely to the noise and should be open to investigating the source, once the bowl has been dropped. The dog's reaction/s will be recorded as per descriptors on testing sheet.

Part 3 – Play with handler

With the dog off lead, the handler commences to play a game of tug with the dog. Ideally, the dog should be strong and intensive during the game, without being discouraged by the smooth surface. The dog's willingness to engage with its handler is then assessed. The dog's reaction/s will be recorded as per descriptors on testing sheet.

Part 4 – Search for toy

With the owner holding the dog, a helper takes the toy, and making it obvious to the dog that he has it, moves away and hides the toy from the dog's vision. The dog is then sent to find the toy. It is important that the toy be hidden from the dog's vision, but not placed anywhere that is not easily reached, once the dog has located it

with its nose. Ideally, the dog will remain focussed on the toy and find it quickly. The dog's reaction/s will be recorded as per descriptors on testing sheet.

Element #8: Fundamental Nature of The Dog

Part 1 – Dog left on its own

This part is carried out well away from the testing area and clubhouse, in order that the dog is left in a completely isolated position. The dog is tied securely to a tree/ post by the owner, who then leaves the dog and goes out of sight. The dog is left isolated for approximately 5 minutes. Ideally, the dog should remain attentive, indifferent and calm. The dog's reaction/s will be recorded as per descriptors on testing sheet.

Part 2 – Dog left on its own

After 5 minutes, a helper will then walk toward and straight past the dog. Once several metres past the dog, the helper will then turn around and return past the dog from the opposite direction. On both occasions, the helper should pass within approximately 2 metres distance of the dog. Ideally, the dog should remain trusting and reliable. The dog's reaction/s will be recorded as per descriptors on testing sheet.

IMMUNE SYSTEM RELATED DISEASES IN THE GSD

Dr Karen Hedberg BVSc 2023

At the recent conference in Lerma, our own Dr. Karen Hedberg presented on two major topics for our breed. These were done in Powerpoint presentation as dot points guiding the speaker. These key points have been extracted and appear below to assist owners and breeders grappling with trying to get a definitive diagnosis for a problem they are experiencing. The information is by no means comprehensive, but may prompt discussion with your vet in the care of your dog.

General information

- Immunodeficiency disorders are defined by a **diminished ability** by the body to mount an effective immune response to a perceived threat – eg. infection.
- Primary immunodeficiency disease is caused by hereditary defects in the immune system. Secondary immunodeficiency disease is a diminished immune response acquired as a consequence of some other primary disease.
- Primary immunodeficiencies involving the cell-mediated, humoral, complement and phagocytic systems have all been described in veterinary literature. Defects involving the humoral immune response are associated with a high susceptibility to bacterial infection. Defects involving the cell-mediated immune response are associated with a high susceptibility to viral, fungal and protozoal infections.
- Defects in the phagocytic or complement system are associated with disseminated infection.
- Clinical Signs – depend on the level at which the immune response is defective and range from chronic respiratory to gastro-intestinal signs, skin infections as well as life threatening conditions.
- This is a seldom used term but refers to increasing homozygosity at many gene loci. This can occur either from long term very close inbreeding and/or selection for uniformity of type.
- While increasing **homozygosity** can result in increasing uniformity of type and other traits across a breed, at the same time it removes the ability for

the individual (and eventually the breed) to be able to react to change.

- The most common factors that are adversely affected by inbreeding depression (or increasing homozygosity) are:
 - Decreased Fertility in both the male and female
 - Decreased viability of puppies and shorter life spans
 - Reduced genetic response to outside threats – new viruses, bacteria,
 - **Weaker immune system** in general, limited or reduced response. (Ref: *The impact of identity by descent on fitness and disease in the dog 2020 J.Mooney et al*)

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Ig A dysfunction in the GSD

- A primary Ig A **dysfunction** has been described in the GSD and is probably at the root cause of the many GSD specific immunological disorders.
- Dogs can express at least 4 allotypes of Ig A. **Interestingly, all GSD's examined so far express just one of these allotypes (type C).** This occurs in the Ig A heavy chain hinge region. This could explain or potentially influence the ability of Ig A molecules to bind antigens. (K Allenspach 2011).
- **Ig A is primarily involved in mucous surfaces and skin/mucous surface junctions. This means the major areas involved are the skin, gut, eye and nose.**

Current Understanding of Ig A problems in the GSD

- The GSD is predisposed to a range of immunological or autoimmune diseases, primarily at this stage resulting from a dysfunctional Ig A transport system.
- "In the case of bacterial and fungal infectious diseases, it has been proposed that **weak immunological defenses at the mucosal or cutaneous surfaces** permits the infection to gain foot hold in the body.
- The normal regulation of the immune system must be defective to allow **an inappropriate attack on self tissues**. Most autoimmunity is now considered to have **an infectious trigger**. Both types of disease may be related to an inability of dogs of this breed to deal effectively with infectious agents.
- There is no simple immunodeficiency in dogs of this breed, and the overall function of the humeral, cell mediated and phagocytic arms of the immune system are generally considered normal. There may however be a defect in the mucosal Ig A production.
- Current studies are continuing to address the molecular mechanism that underlies this selective defect in mucosal immunity." (Prof. Michael Day 2003).
- Current understanding of the Ig A problem show this as a very complex problem with no simple answer at this stage.
- Measurements of Ig A levels show a wide variation of serum Ig A levels in normal GSD'S.
- Reduced Ig A levels have been shown in tears and faeces of normal GSD.
- Studies of the prevalence of **fecal IgA levels** in GSD have been found to be low (**<3%**) which may be the underlying connection with EPI, idiopathic IBD (Grutzner 2021),
- Ig A serum levels do not appear to reflect mucosal Ig A secretion in the GSD, despite normal to increased Ig A plasma cell numbers in the lining of the gut.
- It appears that GSD's may have a "block" in the transportation of Ig A across the intestinal wall into the gut (and possibly other surfaces). [Some of the current research involves 2 molecules that transport the Ig A from outside to inside the gut lumen.

Disorders in the GSD associated with a compromised immune system

Disorders seen in the GSD associated with a compromised immune system include the following:

- *Aspergillosis and other mycoses*
- *Skin* – Deep Staph pyoderma/folliculitis, Pemphigus
- *Skin* – SLE (Systemic lupus erythematosus), Acanthosis Nigricans.
- *Eye* – Pannus, Plasmoma
- *Gut* – *Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD)*,
- *Gut* – *Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO)* & its related antibiotic responsive diarrhea (ARD),
- *Gut* – *Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI)*,
- *Gut and Skin* – *Anal furunculosis* – almost exclusive to the GSD.
- *Muscle* – Fibromyositis of the Gracilus / semitendinosus muscles.

Systemic Infections

Aspergillosis – Fungal Infection

- Commonly affects the nasal cavity and bone – more often seen in long nosed breeds. Aspergillosis (and other mycoses) can be seen in the disseminated forms ie. where there is spread through out the body,
- Aspergillosis and other systemic fungal infections are usually as a result of **inhalation**, more commonly in areas where there is higher humidity. Cases of Aspergillosis have been reported around the world, more so in the warmer and more temperature climates.
- Aspergillosis in the GSD has been related directly to the Ig A dysfunction and **has an almost 100% death rate**.
- **The GSD is uniquely susceptible to the severe disseminated forms.** "The cases seen are often relatively young dogs that develop fungal granulomata throughout the body, particularly involving bone and kidney. Generally considered to cause opportunistic infection in immunocompromised individuals". (M.Day 2003).
- **Age of onset** – any age but normally younger dogs around the 2–6 years age group.
- **Symptoms** – can vary depending on where the infection sets up. The dog may have vague symptoms of ill health, persistent high temperatures and failure to respond to normal antibiotic therapies.
- **Diagnosis** – getting an accurate diagnosis is the most critical step. X rays on any bone areas that are suspicious, blood tests, culture of urine.
- **Treatment** – antifungal drugs can be tried but once a GSD's becomes infected, however, **the odds of the dog surviving are extremely poor** due to the underlying immunodeficiency of the Ig A system. If the dog's condition does not improve very quickly, it is the kindest thing to consider the dog's welfare above all other issues and **euthanase** the dog.
- Numbers seen – Australia wide – usually less than 5 cases per year.



Photos of affected Aspergillosis dog. Photos Clinical immunology of the Dog (M. Day P.304).

Skin – Deep Staph Pyoderma (Furunculosis / Folliculitis / Cellulitis)

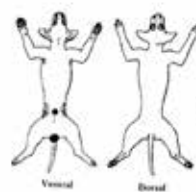
- **Age of onset** – almost exclusive to middle aged GSD's, usually around 5-8 years of age, a slightly higher incidence seen in females.
- **Causes** – can be associated with allergies, chronic bacterial infections.
- **Symptoms** – often with a history pattern of intense pruritis prior to breaking out. Areas affected rump, back, flanks and thighs in a bilaterally symmetrical pattern. Some individuals have more extensive lesions affecting the chest and neck. The head, ears and front legs are rarely involved. Most cases have a pattern of frequent relapses and the condition is thought to have **an immunological basis**. Bacterial hypersensitivity, genetic predisposing factors, immune deficiencies and hypothyroidism have all been considered as precipitating or complicating factors.
- **Treatment** – consists of long courses of antibiotics, medicated shampoos and ongoing use of low doses of prednisolone 2-3x weekly or long courses of cyclosporins for up to 6 months. Some of these dogs may be cured, however many dogs require ongoing medication and treatment.
- Severely affected dogs, if not treated adequately, should be euthanased.
- Numbers affected – less than 1%.



Deep staph pyoderma.

Skin – Pemphigus

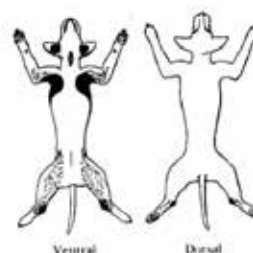
- Is a chronic ulcerative disease of dogs that primarily affects the mucocutaneous junctions, oral mucosa and skin. Immune system related disease. Breeds affected GSD's and Collies are predisposed.
- **Age of onset** – varies but usually the cases seen are over 3-4 years of age.
- **Symptoms** – initially ulceration of the roof of the mouth, the lips and mucosal junctions. The ears, eye rims, nose, feet and genitalia may also become affected. Exposure to ultraviolet radiation acerbates the condition. In the GSD it is primarily the mouth and nasal area that are affected.
- **Treatment** – this is usually ongoing but at a low level of prednisolone several times a week, more so in summer. This condition is largely controllable but not curable. Excessive exposure to summer sun should be avoided.
- Numbers seen are very small proportionally.



Secondary Acanthosis Nigricans – (thickened hyperpigmentation/ black skin).

Skin – Secondary Acanthosis Nigricans (Thickened Hyperpigmentation / Black Skin)

- Chronic disorder affecting mostly Dachshunds (primary), but in the secondary form has been seen in all breeds and varying ages. This causes post inflammatory hyperpigmentation that may resolve after correcting the underlying causes.
- **Symptoms** – Affected dogs show first show **hyperpigmented** patches in the **axillary areas** often with associated inflammation. This can be seen as early as 9-12 months of age. In chronic cases these areas become blackened, thickened, have an associated seborrhea and odour. Advanced cases affect the chest, flanks, neck and inner ears with hyperpigmentation.
- **Causes** – Can include hypothyroidism, food allergies and secondary skin infections.
- **Treatment** – of secondary bacterial and yeast overgrowth is critical. However, some dogs may require ongoing intermittent treatment with corticosteroids, thyroid supplementation and antibiotic therapy. Additional supplementation with Vit E and zinc and periodic treatment with antiseborrheic shampoos can assist in control.
- **Outcomes** – many affected GSD's fail to cure and do need ongoing treatment and medication. Numbers affected – quite low.



Early Stages



More Advanced

Eye Condition – Pannus (Chronic Superficial Keratoconjunctivitis)

- Affects the **cornea** of the eye resulting in the **increasing deposition of black pigment across the cornea**. This is considered to be an auto-immune disorder due to the chronic nature of the inflammatory response.
- Pannus occurs in the older GSD; probably affecting less than 5% of the population. Pannus is seen in other breeds including the Pug, Pekingese, Greyhound to mention a few. Environmental factors such as altitude

and solar radiation may modify the occurrence of this disease.

- **Age of onset** – usually older than 6 years of age, most are over 8–9 years of age.
- **Symptoms** – usually **bilateral, symmetrical inflammation** of areas of the cornea resulting in patches of variable pigmentation (from pink to black). This reaction often starts at the medial or lateral to lower-lateral edges of the cornea. The pannus (black pigmentation) gradually covers the majority of the cornea and blindness can occur if untreated. This condition involves lymphocytic infiltration with expression of inflammatory cytokines and other molecules
- **Treatment** – **this condition is controllable but not curable**. Long term use of corticosteroid eye drops and/or cyclosporin eye drops can slow the progression of the disease, however the condition can flare up in the hotter months. Treatment is often used daily until there is good control, then ongoing treatment is usually 2–3x weekly. If the condition flares up, treatment is again stepped up for short periods.



Pannus early to late stages.

Eye Condition – Plasmoma

- Similar inflammatory condition to pannus, however here it is affecting the lids, predominantly **the 3rd eyelids** not seen very often, affecting GSD's primarily. Incidence within the breed – very low, well under 1%.
- **Age of onset** – usually older than 6 years of age.
- **Symptoms** – inflammation affecting the medial edge of the eye lids, mostly of the 3rd eye lid. Usually **bilateral**, can be unilateral. This causes inflamed thickened areas of conjunctiva and **the loss of pigmentation and thickening of the 3rd eyelid**. The affected tissue is invaded with lymphocyte and plasma cells.
- **Treatment** – like pannus, this condition is **controllable** to a large degree, but **not curable**. Similarly treated to pannus. Long term use of corticosteroid eye drops and/or cyclosporin eye drops can slow the progression of the disease, it can flare up in the hotter months. Treatment is often used daily until there is good control, then ongoing treatment is usually 2–3x weekly. If the condition flares up, treatment is again stepped up for short periods. The cornea in these cases is unaffected.
- This is considered to be an auto-immune disorder due to the chronic nature of the inflammatory response.

GSD Gastric Conditions

- The GSD as a breed prone is to a number of chronic gastric conditions. These are a group of disorders **that affect the digestion, absorption of food and/or intestinal stability** of the GSD. Many of these conditions probably have an **allergic or immunological basis (or trigger)**. In an overview of these types of conditions as they affect dogs, the GSD is certainly **over-represented**.
- The following conditions have all been proven to have an immune system dysfunction/inflammation process underlying their basis.

- Equally, **treatment of these conditions is generally similar** – the aim being to minimize allergic/inflammatory responses of the body and to stabilize the gut bacteria and lining so that normal digestion and assimilation of food is possible.
- The finer points of exactly **how these allergic or inflammatory responses are triggered** is the current goal of researchers. Once we know these triggers, we can be far more specific in developing appropriate diets, food types etc such that the incidences of these conditions should diminish significantly over time.

Idiopathic Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)

- This covers **several** different diseases, usually classified according to **the type of inflammation present** and **the area of the intestine** where the majority of the inflammation occurs.
- This collective term covers disorders that are associated with **persistent or recurrent gastrointestinal signs** and are characterized by histological evidence of intestinal inflammation without a specific cause.
- As the Ig A system is intricately involved in dampening the body's reaction to gut antigens, any dysfunction in the system will have an immune response reacting to various gut antigens, be it a bacterial product, a food antigen, or a self antigen (autoimmune). The resulting response **induces gastrointestinal irritation and inflammation**.
- Some breeds are more predisposed to more than one type of inflammatory bowel disease – the GSD and the Boxer are certainly of note – and that these diseases are considered to have an immune mediated component.
- These chronic conditions are usually seen (on average) in the slightly older dog (antibiotic responsive diarrhea ARD is more commonly seen in younger dogs). "It has been speculated that ARD occurs first, and that **prolonged stimulation by the intestinal flora in genetically predisposed individuals, ultimately causes IBD**" (*K Allenspach 2009*).
- **Age of onset** – generally not much under 12 months, more commonly seen over 15–18 months.
- **Symptoms** – vomiting (intermittent), diarrhea, weight loss, poor appetite.
- **Diagnosis** – care should be taken to ensure that all possible causes of diarrhea and weight loss are thoroughly explored. Test for EPI as well as bacterial and parasitic cultures should also be carried out, ideally a faecal PCR test.
- **Treatment** – for these dogs, **diets aims at stabilizing the gut sufficiently that food can be absorbed, minimizing irritation and stabilizing the gut bacterial populations**.
- The food given should ideally be concentrated, of an easily assimilated form so as to be highly digestible with low residue. Certainly, consideration for low allergenic diets should be considered – wheat and beef free diets should be of prime consideration for GSD's as there is a reasonably high percentage of allergies to these components.
- Despite these diets, some dogs may have to remain on a combination of drugs including metronidazole, motility modifiers, gut bacteria stabilizers, pancreatic enzyme replacers in some conditions, and/or low doses of cortisone in very refractory cases.

Small intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO)

- SIBO and IBD are often linked, particularly in relation

to the GSD. SIBO is thought to occur in the younger animal and if not resolved, turns into IBD over time. [ARD mentioned above is technically the same as SIBO].

- **Symptoms** – diarrhea, weight loss, failure to thrive.
- **Treatment** – These cases generally respond to antibiotics such as Tetracyclines, Metranidazole or Tylosin. These dogs are often placed on 4-6 weeks of drugs while the gut is stabilized. * It is very important that every effort is made to try and sort out the reasons behind the chronic bacterial overgrowth, so the dietary advice given in the IBD section also applies here as well.
- **Chronic Colitis (Lymphocytic-Plasmacytic)**
- A subtype of IBD, characterised by infiltration of lymphocytes and/or plasma cells into the walls of the intestines, often involving the full thickness of the mucosa. GSD's and Sharpei's may be predisposed.
- **Age** – most present before 6 years of age. Signs vary considerably between individuals in type severity and frequency, increasing over time.
- **Symptoms** – chronic diarrhoea, vomiting common, anorexia followed by bouts of ravenous appetite, chronic weight loss, blood in faeces occasionally seen. Thickened loops of gut, enlarged mesenteric lymph nodes.
- **Causes** – infectious (bacterial giardia, salmonella, campylobacter, clostridium perfringens); dietary (food additives, meat or milk proteins, wheat glutes); genetic factors (breed predilections).
- **Treatment** – treat any specific infection for long enough to get clear tests. Low allergy diets. Cortisone and long term antibiotics may be needed.

Eosinophilic Enteritis

- Inflammatory disease of the small intestine, an uncommon form or subtype of IBD, which is characterised by the infiltration of eosinophils. This affects parts of the colon where eosinophils have invaded various layers deep. Eosinophils are commonly found where **allergic and/or parasitic** reactions are going on. The GSD, Rottweiler and Sharpei may be predisposed.
- **Age** – younger animals usually less than 5 years of age, but any age can be affected. Symptoms – intermittent vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, weight loss, thickened bowel loops.
- **Causes** – immune related, food allergies, parasites.
- **Diagnosis** – involves trying to determine the cause of the ongoing reaction(s). Through worming and dietary elimination trials may be necessary.
- **Treatment** with low allergy diets, limited food sources, high digestibility. Long term dietary control may be required. Use of cortisone may be necessary in the short term.

Wheat (Gluten) Allergies

- These are very common in many breeds. Tests run have suggested that over 30% of dogs suspected of having food allergies are sensitive to gluten. Many of the features seen in gluten allergies are also seen in other types of inflammatory bowel diseases eg. Lymphocytic-plasmacytic enteritis, and it highlights the need with this group of diseases to try **elimination diets** to ensure that what appears as a chronic disease is not a simple allergy driven condition.
- **Age of onset** – Most dogs that exhibit this condition show few signs prior to 7-9 months of age (the earliest I have seen this is around 8 months), as it

takes time to sensitise an individual by continual low grade insult.

- **Symptoms** – usually present as failure to maintain body weight, often despite increasing the food intake; chronically loose to sloppy motions.
- **Treatment** – as this is around a similar age to the diagnosis of pancreatic insufficiency in GSD's, my first step is to try these dogs on a wheat or gluten free diets for a minimum of 6 weeks and limit the type of meat proteins fed (usually I limit the meat to either chicken or mutton, and cut out beef entirely). If using a dry food, the safest cereal base to use is rice or low allergy. Other grains that contain some gluten include barley, rye, buckwheat and oats.
- I would estimate around 10-15% of GSD's have a definite wheat/gluten sensitivity and this figure can be higher within certain bloodlines. Add in gut bacterial replacers (Protexin, acidophilis etc) and something fine to line the gut (corn flour) if motions are loose.

Pancreatic Atrophy / Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency (EPI)

- **GSD's represent over the cases seen.**
- **Age of onset** – in most breeds, this is seen over 2-3 years of age. In the GSD however these dogs are often seen at a young age, even so, signs **rarely** appear prior to 8-12 months of age, so presumably sufficient enzymes are produced prior to this time.
- **Symptoms** – chronic diarrhea, often **pasty (pale) coloured** motions, weight loss/**failure to hold weight**. This is considered an immune mediated condition in the GSD, and as mentioned above, these conditions generally are triggered by an allergic or infectious trigger.
- **Diagnosis** – tests TLI blood test – fasted TLI <2.5mg/L is diagnostic. Low serum cobalamin is associated with EPI and distal bowel malabsorption (poor absorption of food).
- **Treatment** – supplementation with pancreatic enzymes. Some pancreatic enzyme replacers are far better than others ***Creon 10,000** is currently the best available. These enzymes are most effectively used by placing them into soaked food about 1 hour before feeding to give the enzymes time to start working.
- Place these dogs on low allergy diets in addition to pancreatic enzyme supplementation and bacterial gut replacers, and products to line the gut (if loose motions).
- If the dog picks up really well over 4-6 weeks (good weight and firm motions), try gradually removing the pancreatic enzyme supplements, if the weight stays good and the motions stay firm, the majority of the problem could have been a chronic allergic response. If the loose motions return and/or the dog starts losing weight, the dog will probably need to stay on enzyme supplements for life.
- Older dogs rarely respond completely to dietary correction as the changes to the pancreas are more extensive and will require ongoing enzyme replacement.
- The number of GSD's affected by pancreatic insufficiency or atrophy, once the chronic allergy cases are eliminated would be quite small.

Gut / Skin – Anal Furunculosis

- Chronic disorder – very debilitating.
- **This condition is almost exclusive to the GSD (95%)**

of all cases), many affected dogs have concurrent intestinal disease (chronic colitis) or other immune related conditions. Chronic diarrhea may contribute by increasing soiling of the anal area.

- **Symptoms** – ulceration, inflammation and sinus tract formation around the anus. Dogs lick the area fairly incessantly. Small ulcerations appear which when examined that penetrate quite deeply into the tissue behind. Over time these become deeper and more extensive.
- **Causes** – The major histocompatibility complex (MHC) has been proven to be involved, showing that there is a definite genetic association in affected GSD's.
- Combined with a broad based and low set tail, there is a **reduced aeration of the anal area**. With age, there is an increasing inability to raise the tail (due to fusion of the tail vertebrae).
- **Treatment** – as this condition is considered to be an immune mediated condition, it responds to a variety of immunosuppressive treatments including cortisone, and cyclosporins.
- Treatment reduces signs, however the condition has a **very high recurrence rate**, Surgery has a mixed outcome, although some are cleared. In my experience these complete clearances are few and far between, and are more likely to be successful where tackled early on in the condition.
- Good local hygiene with shaving of the hair at the base of the tail and on either side of the anus (creating a 'breezeway effect') can be very beneficial in assisting in controlling the condition. Long term antibiotics and intermittent corticosteroids can help as well'.
- Numbers affected – probably maximum of 1%

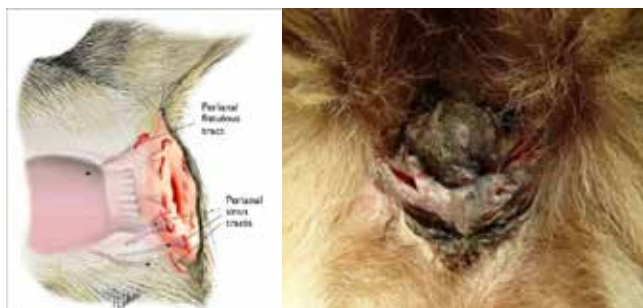


Figure 11: Anal Furunculosis. Circumferential perianal sinus tracts and fistula in a dog. (Illustration by Mr. Kerry Helms).

Conclusion to Chronic Gastric problems

- **It is most important that the diagnosis of the chronic bowel condition of your GSD is correct**, as several conditions eg. chronic wheat (gluten) allergy can present a similar picture of poor absorption of food and/or irritable bowel symptoms.
- Correct testing of faeces to remove infectious and parasitic causes must be done – **faecal PCR tests** are invaluable in this area.



- Remove wheat/gluten sources from the diet and see if symptoms abate, try a low allergy diet, or a rice based diet, remove beef proteins as well as this is the most common meat based protein that dogs can be allergic to. Replace gut bacteria with probiotics.

Summary

- The world of immunology and gastroenterology is one that is changing.
- Our understanding of the finer points of what causes these incredible immunological misfirings or over reactions as well as understanding how gastric allergies and infections trigger these unwanted reactions is often just beyond our grasp at this time.
- Hopefully, over the next decades, as our understanding of the genetics of the underlying molecular processes involved advances, this will progress to the stage that we can start to be able to give much more specific advice and specialised diets that result in minimal disease and a much healthier future for our breed.
- In my opinion, **the % of chronic IBD and EPI in the GSD is actually decreasing with better diagnostic tools and improved diets.**

Ref:

- *Michael J Day "Chronic German Shepherd Dog Illness." 2003.*
- *K Allenspach et al "Evidence for a role of innate immunity in the Pathogenesis of Inflammatory Bowel disease in German Shepherd Dogs". 2009.*

Muscle – Fibromyositis of the Gracillus / Semitendinosus muscles

- Muscle damage / inflammation followed by the replacement of muscle tissue with dense connective tissue. Affects the muscles on the inside of the thighs. Can be unilateral or bilateral. Majority of cases seen in the GSD, followed by the Doberman.
- **Symptoms** – these dogs have a distinctive double swing gait of the hocks with the hindlegs unable to fully extend. One can readily palpate the thickened bands of muscle on the inside of the thighs just above the stifle.
- **Age of onset** – usually around 3-7 years in highly active GSD's, can see occasional case from 12 months, more common in males.
- **Cause** – possible initial trauma followed by inappropriate immune mediated disease.
- **Treatments** – have been largely unsuccessful so the **prognosis is poor. Surgery** has very poor results and **is not advised**. Moderate exercise and prednisolone offer the best long term results.
- More recently treatment adipose-derived stem cells has had some promising results but it is still early days (2017 M.Gibson, G Brown, N Brown).
- Study on 'Genetics of fibrotic myopathy in the GSD' is currently ongoing by P.Muir (Wisconsin Uni Vet School) – **contact genetics@vetmed.wisc.edu**

SCENT WORK



Scent Work is a fairly new ANKC recognized sport that is a lot of fun for dogs and handlers. The official ANKC introduction is “Scent Work is a sport that is based on the task of working detection dogs to locate an odour and communicate to the handler that the odour has been found. Detection is done in a variety of environments and often during changing weather or environmental conditions. Scent Work is a positive, challenging activity that allows dogs the opportunity to use their strongest natural sense in a way that is fun, engaging, and builds and strengthens a foundation of trust between the handler and dog”.



My husband and I first started training our dogs for Scent work during COVID, we were lucky enough to live in a part of Victoria that didn't have lockdowns as such, but it meant that we couldn't attend any training in Melbourne. There are a few different ways to train your dog for this discipline and there are training groups that you can join throughout Australia. We chose an Online course to get us started, the method we used meant we first had to train the dog to recognize the odours. We did this using a tube that we secured the odour in and as soon as the dog put its nose in the end, we dropped food down the pipe so the dog begins to associate the odour with reward. You gradually increase the time the dog holds its nose in the pipe before being rewarded and this is the foundation of your 'indication' There are 4 odours used in competition.. each is an essential oil. They are Birch, Anise, Clove and Cypress. Some methods teach the dog each odour separately but the method we used introduced all 4 odours as a 'cocktail' right from the start.

We found it very easy to separate the odours once we had the basics in place with the dogs showing no more difficulty between one odour or another. When you start to compete at trials, there are 4 elements that your dog will need to locate the target odour in. These are:

1. A container search, as it suggests, the odour is hidden in a container, at novice level these are always identical cardboard boxes, between 10 and 15 and laid out in rows of 5.
2. An Interior search where the odour is hidden in a room.
3. A Vehicle search where the odour is hidden on 1 of 2 or 3 vehicles.
4. An exterior search where the odour is hidden within an outdoor area of between but with the added distraction of natural airflow and/or other sounds or smells.

You can enter just 1 or all 4 elements at each trial. The dog must locate and indicate the odours within a time limit that is set, as the levels get harder, obviously so do the searches.

It's a really fun sport to do with your dog and can really be done by anyone regardless of age or fitness level. Dogs who might be a little nervous around other dogs especially enjoy this as, unlike other dog sports, its just you and your dog working the areas with maybe only 2 or 3 people in the vicinity being the judge and a couple of stewards. You are allowed to talk to your dog during the searches. As I said earlier, you can join a group to learn this but its something that you really can learn on your own at home by following a good online course. From attending trials here in Victoria, we've found the competitors to be really friendly and supportive of each other, its always a secret as to where the 'hides' are of course until all the dogs have gone through and nobody talks about the actual searches until everyone has finished. Its exciting to see each team enter the search area (which of course is obscured from everyone else) and to then see them exit a few minutes later. There is a code we all use to advise if we passed or failed, a thumbs up or a thumbs down.

I really would recommend this sport as something that is so much fun to do with your dog, building a bond and trust between each other. Dogs have incredible noses, this sport gives them a chance to really use that skill, it can build confidence in them and satisfy natural drives, its also a great way to use up excess energy.



SPINAL DISEASE IN GERMAN SHEPHERD DOGS

Dr Candice Baker BSc BVMS MANZCVS
GSDCA Breed Health & Welfare Chairperson

*Emergency & Critical Care Veterinarian
(Western Australian Veterinary Emergency & Specialty)*

There are many spinal diseases that may occur in German Shepherd Dogs. Some can be managed in the same way that we manage any type of osteoarthritis, others may require surgery and some have no favorable treatment or cure. The problems which can arise following their diagnosis warrant some factual and informative educational articles which are helpful for our general GSD owner. There is such a vast variety of spinal issues that can occur in our breed, as such, this article was written to provide information on those disease processes.

Contrary to popular belief, our breed isn't over represented in the surgical suite for not being able to walk due to intervertebral disc disease. The most common breeds include – Dachshunds, Beagles, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels and cross breeds make up the majority. Intervertebral disc diseases are vast in their varieties and presentations and GSD's have a greater representation for chronic osteoarthritic back issues, rather than sudden disc protrusions. The difficulty in interpretation of anything to do with locomotion issues in GSDs is that there are a lot of possibilities. There is often a differential diagnoses list requiring a process of elimination based on imaging and other medical diagnostic tests. It is also evident that there is potentially a lot of cross over for the processes that can occur that require a very similar set of diagnostic tests to find an answer.

When we talk about spinal diseases and back problems it helps to have a basic picture in your mind, of the anatomy. The back is made up of the cervical spine (C1-C7), thoracic spine (T1-T13), lumbar spine (L1-L7), sacrum (S1&S2) and caudal spine / tail. The vertebral bodies are bone and between those vertebral bodies there is a soft tissue structure called a disc, the disc contains two components – the annulus fibrosis (outer layer) and nucleus pulposus (inner layer). As shown below in figure 1.

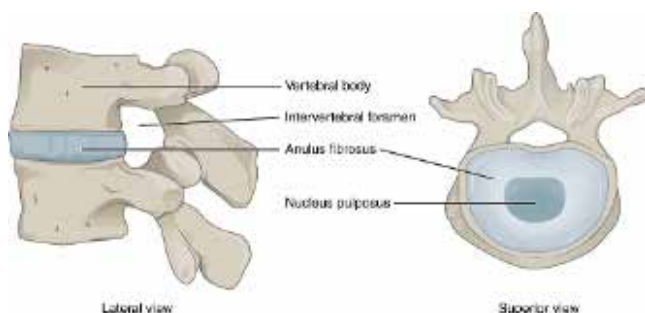


Figure 1: Vertebral body and disc anatomy (anatomy & physiology Wikimedia commons)

The spinal cord runs through the vertebral bodies protected by bone and discs. When the bone or discs are compromised, for reasons such as; excess pressure on the back due to conformation or trauma, arthritis, growth abnormalities, infection or cancer. The consequence is disturbance of messages from the brain to the limbs.

The process of assessing a dog that is losing the ability to walk is an EMERGENCY, because rapid deterioration can occur with negative outcomes the longer you wait. A neurological exam is the first step in the vet's assessment, following this, blood work +/- urine testing, plain xrays and following that advanced imaging. Advanced imaging includes computed tomography (CT scan), myelography (injecting dye via spinal tap) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). This is only accessible in specialist veterinary practices, including universities and private specialist practices.

Some of the more common disease processes that occur in GSDs have been listed and explained below:

Diskospondylitis

- Painful, active, sudden inflammation within the disc and disc space, which can most commonly be caused by fungus in GSDs, bacterial diskospondylitis also occurs not infrequently
- The effect of the disease and how it is seen and interpreted on an X-ray is the lytic or eaten appearance of the vertebrae end plate (shown in a picture below – figure 2)
- Diagnosis is often based on a plain x-ray
- However, sometimes more advanced imaging such as computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance (MRI) along with a fine needle biopsy of the disc to culture the organisms causing the infection is the only way to find and diagnose it
- The end result once the infection is treated is often arthritis in the back at that particular vertebrae



Figure 2: Diskospondylitis lesion L3-L4

Treatment of diskospondylitis requires aggressive anti-fungal or anti-biotic therapy combined with pain relief and anti-inflammatories. With wide spread fungal diseases in the body there is often a guarded prognosis due to there being multiple organs affected and the potential for failure in those organs.

Intervertebral disc disease

- Often long standing, painful disease, over time becomes less painful
- Causes weakness in the hindlimbs and often paralysis, toe dragging and scuffing of the toes, wobbly gait, low tail carriage and tail weakness

- When they are paralysed with disc disease they cannot control bladder or bowel function appropriately
- Protrusion of the soft disc between the vertebrae onto the spinal cord
- In GSDs often a Type II Hansen disc protrusion, long standing calcification of the disc slowly protrudes over time (shown in figure 3)
- Type I disc protrusions can also occur – sudden prolapse of the disc compressing the spinal cord
- Type III disc – fibrocartilagenous embolism can also occur, these are a more sudden insult to the spinal cord secondary to a piece of disc shooting out into the spinal cord

Diagnosis is made with the combination of (sometimes) plain X-rays, myelography, CT scan or MR imaging. Depending on the degree of pain and neurological deficits management and treatment is often done through anti-inflammatories and pain killers, medications to aid urination and occasionally surgery to decompress the spine.

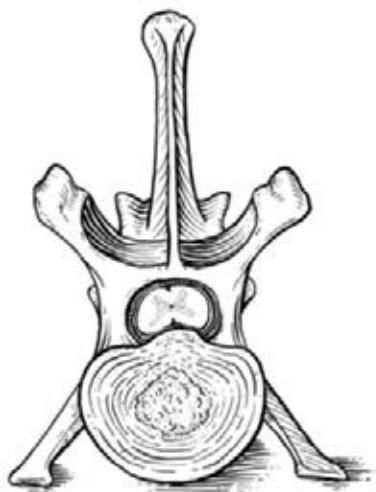


Figure 3: Hansen Type II disc extrusion showing compression on the spinal cord (Sturges, 2012)

Tumours & cancers

- Can affect the spinal cord and peripheral nerve as well as the bony vertebrae
- Such as peripheral nerve sheath tumours, lymphoma, bone cancers and so on
- Extremely painful and progressive
- Diagnosis is made through a combination of blood tests, X-rays, CT scan or MR imaging. Some discrete tumours can be surgically removed but often they are too invasive and the prognosis for them to be able to walk after surgery can be very guarded.

Bridging spondylosis – Spondylosis Deformans

- Degenerative disc disease causes arthritic changes along the vertebrae in the back
- Calcification of the discs occur, which in turn cause degenerative changes that look like hooks linking from one vertebrae to the next (as shown in figure 3)
- Osteochondrosis (abnormal cartilage flap occurring during growth as a pup) at the vertebrae end plates can occur in dogs
 - This in turn causes degenerative joint disease in the vertebrae
 - The last lumbar vertebrae and the sacrum is the most common site in GSDs

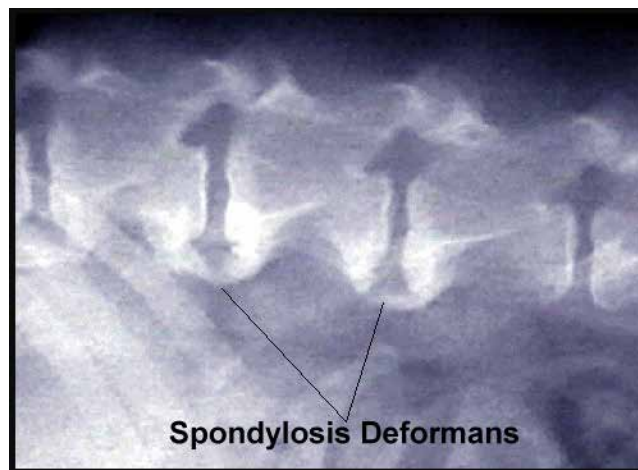


Figure 4: Radiograph of spondylosis deformans

Diagnosis is made through X-rays, management is through physiotherapy, gentle regular exercise, anti-inflammatory pain killers and soft bedding, particularly in the winter months.

Transitional vertebrae



Figure 5: BSAVA manual of canine & feline musculoskeletal imaging – images of lumbosacral transitional vertebra

- Lumbosacral transitional vertebrae are the malformation of the bone through the pelvis that shows anatomy of both the lumbar vertebrae and the sacral vertebrae
- Due to the unbalanced anatomy of the bones in that region the pelvis tilts and this can affect the hip scoring

- It also creates an eight-fold increase in the likelihood of cauda equina syndrome – explained below

Diagnosis is often made through plain X-rays alone, the secondary effects occur through the process of cauda equina syndrome, explained following this.

Cauda equina syndrome



Figure 4: Radiograph of spondylosis deformans

- Signs result from compression of the spinal cord or the nerve roots at the level of the pelvis
- The syndrome manifests itself in some of the following issues:
 - Tail chasing, dead tails, tail pain, hind limb weakness and lameness, increases the risk of perianal furunculosis
 - Back pain is noticeable during jumping, climbing or any kind of hyperextension on the back
 - The tail may be weak in advanced cases and compression will lead to weakness and paralysis of the hind limbs, finally faecal and urinary incontinence can follow
- Osteochondrosis is also a predisposing factor, as explained earlier
- We should probably be considering this condition as a main differential in the common diagnosis of degenerative myelopathy for somewhat similar presenting signs – weakness, limp tail, un-coordinated hind limb gait etc.
- At this point in time the best diagnostic tool is MRI

- Treatment is with anti-inflammatories, pain killers, rest and physiotherapy. There are surgical options to decompress the spinal cord in this area, as well as steroid injection into the area. Acupuncture could be considered for management of pain and to aid mobility.

Degenerative myelopathy

- Degenerative Myelopathy is a term used to describe a progressive spinal cord degenerative disease
- The disease process affects the pelvic limbs to start with, whereby causing a hind limb weakness that is slowly progressive in an ascending fashion, over months to a year
- It is a non-painful disease and the age of onset is typically over 8 years old, but can be as young as 4 or 5, or as late as 12-13 years old
- Due to a variety of other spinal cord lesions, as seen above, definitive diagnosis is made on post mortem examination of the spinal cord
- The DNA/genetic identification of an animal that is homozygous for the A allele of SOD1 missense mutation – clear of SOD1, carrier of SOD1, at risk SOD1 are the resultant possibilities
- However, it is a known possibility that an affected DNA mutation does not always go on to exhibit the disease
- Overly aggressive breeding programs to eliminate the gene are advised against due to the “bottle neck” effect, possibly increasing the potential for other diseases to occur and other undesirable traits
- At risk/affected should be considered a more serious fault than carrier in breeding programs

Intervertebral disc disease and degenerative disc disease through the thoraco-lumbar and lumbar spine are also common places for GSDs to have disc protrusion and subsequent weakness and paralysis of the hind limbs. The most common site for disc protrusion in all breeds of dogs is the middle of the back.

The vast majority of GSD owners are quick to assume their old (or even young) GSD has gone “off their legs” due to hip dysplasia, without considering that these other diseases could be the primary issue. Future breeding should always consider back and spinal issues and due diligence should be taken. There are not always easy and inexpensive ways to find out the exact spinal disease you GSD may have when any of these signs occur, however appropriate assessment with your trusted vet and consideration of a second opinion with a surgical specialist should always be considered. Private and university based specialist veterinary practices have access to advanced imaging techniques to appropriately diagnose and treat a lot of these conditions. Simple management and physiotherapy options are also there for the long-term comfort for your dog.



WINNING THE DUAL

Q&A with Craig Whitford

You seemed pretty happy after winning The Dual Trophy at the Victorian state breed exhibition. Can you explain why?

Happy probably doesn't quite cover the range of feelings I had after the Victorian State Breed. The Dual Trophy was something we had been trying to achieve for a while, and it was certainly amazing to win one on such a fantastic weekend. As best as I can remember we have qualified 3 other times and been beaten each time by some amazing dogs and handlers. Each of those handlers I consider to be friends, each of those dogs are worthy winners and each time I was over the moon for them, but I will be honest and say that I was really hoping one day it would be ours. Mixed with the happiness was certainly an element of relief. I never realised how many things need to go right for a team to win the Dual, but thinking back on it, we got lucky.

Most people will tell you that I haven't stopped smiling since the SBE, and they would be right. I'm still riding the high, in one weekend we got our first Novice class qualifying score, 177/200 (not a great score, but it was enough to get the pass), we were awarded Excellent Merit 1, Victorian State Sieger Long Stock Coat Dog and the Dual Performance Trophy, what's not to be happy about. I'm so proud of my boy *Eroica Jethro RN CCD ET (Roland), he's an amazing dog and gives it his all at everything I ask of him. I certainly lucked out when he came to me, but I must say a massive thank you to Kim Leonard, she took a chance when I asked her for my first show dog, and I will always be grateful for her guidance and friendship.



How long have you been a GSDCV member and which branch are you part of?

This time round I have been a member since mid-2016. I got my first shepherd back in 2010 and was a member

for 2 years, I then moved to Darwin for four years, when I got back to Melbourne the GSDCV was the first place I went to sign up and become a member again. Western Branch has been my home branch since I joined. The people are so welcoming and helpful, that I love going to Sunday Training and being part of a fantastic club and branch. In fact, when we moved to Darwin the last place, I was in Victoria was Western Training on a Sunday morning, we left training and started driving North.

I've been on the committee at Western a couple of times and have just taken on the GSDCV role of Obedience Training Administrator. I really think our Club is an amazing place. Who knew there were so many people, passionate about our breed of dog.

Is Roland the first dog you have trained and why a male LSC?

Sort of is the easiest answer to the first bit. Roland is not my first GSD. I have had 2 others before him, but he is certainly my first Show Dog and first Stud Dog. Like I said I got my first dog back in 2010, and realistically knew nothing about German Shepherds or dog training. If it hadn't been for the dedicated Instructors at the GSDCV, Western Branch, I would have made a mess of it all. I trained that first dog in Obedience, and we even trialled a bit for some mixed results. We got some passes, but got even more fails, it didn't really matter as we just wanted to have some fun. Initially training was just a means to an end, but the more we did, the more we had fun and the more I wanted to learn. So, Roland is the first dog I have trained to Title, but my previous 2 all had the foundations.

As for why a LSC Male, it was an accident. My family had had a couple of Stock Coat GSD's when I was growing up. They were what made me fall in love with the breed. When it finally came time to get my own dog, I knew exactly what I wanted. I approached a breeder who was having a litter, and asked for a Stock Coat Male GSD, they were happy to oblige, but informed me they would be keeping pick male and female for the show ring. I was fine with that as I didn't want show dog and had no idea what pick male meant anyway. When the litter was born there were 2 males and 3 females, turned out that the second male was a Long Coat, again I had no idea what that really meant, except that they couldn't be shown. Once I had seen a photo of that pup there was no denying, he was going to be mine. That dog grew into a stunning boy, who had an amazing temperament. I was hooked, he converted me from a traditionalist into a Long Coat lover in a very short period. So strong was the conversion that I now have my fourth LSC GSD and am hoping that one day she will be the foundation of my own breeding and Kennel. I really do want others to get the same pleasure and enjoyment out of well-bred and trained GSD's that I do.

When did you decide to try and compete for The Dual?

This one is easy. The day I rang Kim Leonard and asked her for a show quality Male LSC. I knew I was going to be doing obedience trialling, I wanted to fix all the mistakes I made the first-time round, plus, there is an Instructor at Western who also trials and for several years I had been in awe of his dogs and the things they did. I really wanted to learn how to do that with my dogs, and the best way to learn is to do it yourself. I also knew I wanted to learn the show side of our world. I had been to several

shows as a spectator and enjoyed the gaiting, I love, that part of speciality showing is the dog in movement, not much looks better than a well-presented GSD in a well-balanced fast gait. When I found out there was an award for dogs that did both obedience and show, I knew I was going to have a go. I am not a trophy hunter, I don't really care if we win or not, but I really enjoy the competing, the putting all our hard work on display and seeing if we are good enough to stand with those around us. Finding out what we need to fix and going away and working on it to make it better.

Any advice for new owners who may read this and want to have a go?

Lot's, but I'm no expert. What I will say is don't be daunted or overawed. It's not as hard as you may think. The conformation of your dog is largely out of your control, I had no idea how Roland would grow and what he would turn into. I'm biased, but I think I hit the jackpot, however that came about because of the experience of a great breeder. Talk to your breeders, and tell them what you are looking for, most of them would love people to show their dogs and will help you with the right fit and assistance where they can. Also don't think show is all about running and being pretty, I probably put more effort into the show training of my boy than I did into his obedience training. The dual is the highest placed show dog that has a qualifying score in obedience, so remember to present your dog to the show ring in the best possible way.

The Obedience training shouldn't be hard, training should be short, sharp, high energy and full of praise and play. I was lucky and had access to a great group of instructors who were happy to share their knowledge. I know that each of the state clubs are different, but I am sure there are people at each that would love to share their knowledge and help in any way they can. Don't be afraid to ask for help, I certainly do. We all get stuck occasionally and need advice from others, most people in the GSD world are happy to share their advice. Above all else remember to keep it fun. Both Obedience and Show should be activities that should be enjoyed. Pass or fail, 1st or last, it is about the dog not us and I know what I want is for my dogs is to be happy and enjoy what they are doing.

Any people you may want to thank?

This is a pretty long list, but I will try to keep it short.

- Kim Leonard not only because she gave me one of her dogs, but she has been a constant source of information and advice. I really had no idea what having a show dog meant, but you persevered, and I think I am starting to get it right.
- All or Roland's Show handlers. Show handling is such an expertise. I have no idea how you guys do it, but each of you has made my boy look amazing, Wendy Blunt, Joanna Morris, Surya Prakash, Peter Hersant and Kurt Morton have all done some amazing things, especially when the owner has no idea what he is doing as a double handler. I must give a special shout out to Jess Bird who did an amazing job at the State Breed, never thought we'd be in the running for an Excellent Merit or State Sieger, but you showed him off to his best Jess.
- To all the volunteer instructors at Western Branch that have been so helpful and give so much of their time and to Andrew Saliba for constantly being supportive and offering little nuggets of wisdom they are really appreciated.

Finally, a shout out to those other competitors. It is great to see the number of Dual Competitors grow each show and the comradery between them is fantastic to be a part of. We all want each other to do well and have genuine happiness when one of us is successful. Thanks for making it a fun thing to do.



How do you find time to train for obedience and show?

This was / is tricky. I guess I realised I was going to have to make some sacrifices. The biggest one was sleeping in. Our fitness training happens at 5am, we do an hour of either walking or running every weekday morning, he also goes swimming for 30mins on Saturdays, this might seem like it's a lot, but it is time we spend together, and we both really enjoy that. Obedience training happens as often as we can. We try to limit our training sessions to 10mins multiple times a day. I once heard that dogs learn better in small bursts more often, than longer sessions less often. That's how we work. We try for 2 or three 10min training session targeting 1 exercise each session. I must fit both obedience and show training in around work, hence the 5am start time and obedience before and after work.

What are your plans for you both in the future?

Well at the time of writing this we are prepping for the National. We are hoping to at least qualify for the National Dual. No illusions of winning here, but to be in the running is always a privilege. There will be some phenomenal competitors at the National and I look forward to watching them all. I really hope that the entry for the National Dual is huge and that it continues to grow with each show. To me it is the pinnacle of what our dogs should be. That "working breed" tag isn't just for kicks. Our dogs need to be challenged mentally and physically. They are intelligent and well bred. The Dual shows them off to their fullest.

GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL

The GSDCV is proud of its 40 years association with the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal with overall total collected being \$732,678.50 and the 2023 collection total \$27,155.10. That's pretty awesome in rattling cans on street corners and also the support of a local football club.

The Western Branch have only missed one year of tin rattling due to the Covid restrictions, what a fantastic achievement from a small but dedicated band of individuals who have got the general membership of the Western Branch behind them and then other Branches enthused to assist. Here is a bit of potted history of the involvement of the many other Branches.

In 1984, the Western Branch decided to join the Good Friday appeal. In 1992 the Northern Branch joined in for a number of years. Then from 2003 to 2008 the Bendigo Branch would come down to help out (a great effort from a small country branch). Also, in 2003, some members from the Skye Branch (on the opposite side of Melbourne) would collect on the Thursday before Good Friday and did this for some years. Gippsland Branch also came down and collected on our corners in 1996. The Eastern Branch joined in 2001 and has continued to this day, with their bunny suits and cheeky personas who could resist them on the street corners – yep real giant onesy Bunny suits in pink with big ears – a sight to behold.

If we tried to name and thank all those past and present members of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria, along with their family and friends who have helped out with this fantastic appeal, we would miss some very important people that should be mentioned so we will just say thank you to everybody who has been involved over the past 40 years.

If you are not aware of how the RCH collection process works for the tin rattling on corners, you cannot just turn up at a corner and tin rattle – the corners are all coordinated and shared amongst the many groups of volunteers – eg fire services, scouts etc. by the RCH. This allocation process starts months out from Good Friday Appeal.

Corners our amazing volunteers have traditionally tin rattled at over the many years include: Epsom Road and Smithfield Road, Kensington; (Eastern Branch corner) Gordon Street and Ballarat Road Footscray; (Western Branch) Ballarat Road, Anderson Road and McIntyre Road, Sunshine; (Western Branch) Sunshine Avenue and Main Road East, St Albans; (Western Branch) Plus tin rattling at the Keilor football club by Western Branch members.

So you might have seen our members if you passed these corners on any Good Friday over the past 40 years (and often there would be some dogs there too!).

Traditionally at the conclusion of the morning tin rattling, the teams would meet in the city and then march down to the location where the donation tins would be delivered. Often the GSDCV would put on a demonstration of our wonderful dogs out on the forecourt of the stadium being used as the donation headquarters.

This year, RCH recognised the Western Branch with a wonderful 40 year plaque and this will take pride of place in the Western Branch clubrooms.

The key persons behind the Western Branch Good Friday Appeal are Bernie Lester, Lyn Pickering and Dom Cafari. Lyn has for the past 23 years been doing all the liaising and organising all the paperwork with the Royal Children's Hospital and Bernie's dream is to get more members involved so that more intersections can be taken up for street corner collections on Good Friday.



GSD members Bernie Lester, Lyn Pickering and Dom Cafari



Ned and Hayden who is one of the Good Friday Ambassadors.

CHELSEA BIRD BECOMES OUR NEW YOUTH OFFICER

Firstly, I would like to thank the GSDCA for the invitation to be elected as the youth officer for the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia, and to the committee for the warm welcome.

I am excited for this new role and the opportunities it may open for our community. I am hoping that within my time in the position we are able to arrange a few more youth-based events working with each state club to help encourage our youth into our sport as they are the future.

As this is my first article for the Quarterly Review and I am still trying to find my feet in a new position, my goal was to introduce myself, the goals I have and hopefully encourage some feedback from our members.



A little information about myself, I have been attending dog shows and showing dogs for 27 years with my family. Getting my first German Shepherd 7 years ago, I was introduced to the specialty world and what a

difference that was to what I was used to in the all-breeds rings, but I wouldn't have it any other way. Since then, I have been exhibiting my dogs with my sister Jess, both in the specialty rings and all breeds rings with many great highlights for me both as an owner and handler

My goal while in this position is to see more handling classes/demonstrations, or even youth events/shows. These are some of the things I would like to try and help each state club organise, as part of the German Shepherd Dog League of NSW we are in the process of trying to work out a youth-based event in conjunction with one of our specialty shows. As more information comes available, we will advise members, and if successful I will look to approach other clubs who may be open to running a similar event in their own state.

I am open to any suggestions from any parents, or children as to what they might like to see. So please if there is something feel free to message me or speak to me at a show.

With our German Shepherd National in Melbourne fast approaching, we generally see quite a few youth handlers participate in the Junior Handler Competition. I am hoping this year will be the same and I am excited to judge these classes for the German Shepherd Club of Victoria, as I feel the kids really enjoy handling at the National.

Thanks Chels

RECOGNITION OF 3 WEST AUSTRALIA MEMBERS

Ben Purves and Ella Campbell were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, at the 2023 State Breed Exhibition in WA, for their help and dedication to Daryl Willis for a number of years. It was always appreciated by Daryl and Cherylyn.

Congratulations to Ben and Ella, from the President and Committee of the GSDA of WA.

The Club is in good hands if this is an example of the love and dedication of two of our younger members here in the West.

Congratulations to both of these two younger members of the GSDA of WA.



Ben Purves was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Management Committee of the GSDA of WA in recognition of the significant time and effort that he gave to help out Daryl Willis during his period of health issues.

Ben helped Daryl by arranging to pick up his dogs and bring them to the club for training and Shows.

This was a great effort by Ben, which was greatly appreciated by both Daryl and Cherylyn.



Ella Campbell was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Management Committee of the GSDA of WA in recognition of the time and effort Ella put in helping to train and handle Grandwest dogs during the past year.

The help offered has been exceptional from one of our younger handlers during the difficult times for Darryl and Cherylyn and she is to be congratulated by us all.

Recognition of the outstanding achievement of Penny Alder and Alderhaus Kennels

Penny was presented with an Appreciation and Recognition Certificate by our Judge, Greg Green, at the recent State Breed Exhibition in WA.



Penny started breeding in 1972 while living in NSW and came over to WA in January 1977. She has imported many German bred German Shepherds over a long period of time and has bred many quality litters during this time.

Some of the trophies won by Alderhaus Kennels are listed below:

- VA4 at the 2015 Seiger show in Germany

- National Show medal winner in 1987, 1988, 2001, 2003, 2016, 2017 with Alderhaus Yonni – Silver in 1987 and Gold in 1988. *CH Triumphs Kazan – Silver in 2001 & 2003 and *Ch Labo vom Schollweiher Gold medal in 2016 and Bronze in 2017
- West Coast Challenge four times Best in Show and three times Runner Up in Show. Between 1986 to 2007.
- WA SBE Sieger in 2001 and 2002 with Triumphs Kazan and Sieger in 2007 with Orpheus von der Krauterwiese.



Penny with the VA Trophy won by Labo at the 2015 Seiger Show.

Congratulations on this wonderful achievement of 50 years involvement in the world of German Shepherds in Australia.



WUSV GSD WEEK

Judges Seminar,
World Congress,
Show, Dog Sport, and
a WUSV Special Assembly



There were three themes flowing through the WUSV GSD Congress and Judges seminar.

- **Ethics** in judging and breeding.
- **Health** of the dog, both physically and mentally.
- **Unity** – connecting as a community to protect the wellbeing of the breed.

One Breed – One World

The week featured a multitude of events and competitions; an International Working Dog Competition, Agility workshop and competition, seminars with speakers from all over the world (21) and a seminar for judges in terms of breed and trial, seminars for veterinarians covering performance of official x-rays for the diagnosis of hip and elbow dysplasia.



The event was organised in collaboration with the WUSV Board and REAL CEPPA team led by its president Javier Silva Parrondo and event coordinator, Rodrigo Gonzalez Campuzano. A host of volunteers did their utmost to ensure the needs of all the presenters, exhibitors and attendees were met.

At the heart of this global forum was the desire for networking and community building, to jointly explore how to collaborate and contribute ideas, how to challenge thinking and the status quo.

The Judges Seminar

The week began on Tuesday with the judges' seminar for both working and breed judges. The working judges' forum was led by a board member, Vadim Plotska. Presentations will be available for viewing in due course.

Margit van Dorssen, SV Judge, began the breed judges forum with a lecture on the role of the judge. Roberto Caputo explored the 'hypo' and 'hyper' types. An interesting poll was conducted during this section about which dog of the past most closely reflected the standard. The two dogs shared the top spot, Quenn vom Loher Weg and Remo vom Fichtenschlag.

Louis Donald followed with a presentation that examined judging in the standard today. Focus was on the objective versus the subjective elements of the standard. The meeting culminated with the WUSV/SV President Heinrich Messler exploring the responsibility of judges and future challenges. It was a long day, 8.30 am until 8.00 pm.



Gabrielle Labbe, from Guatemala, very capably translated the presentations. The main languages spoken were Spanish, English and German. This was a challenge for all and added considerable time, nevertheless we had great interaction through Roberto Caputo's use of Mentimeter and Louis breakout group discussing elements of the anatomy and the challenge they present to judges.



CARICATURAS



Lacks(Hipo Type)



Definition of hyper-typing / Definición



- Overemphasis on one or more standard features, neglecting the overall picture and the "primary" breeding goal

- Énfasis excesivo en una o más características del estándar, descuidando la imagen general y el objetivo de cría "primario"

The Congress

Thursday

A series of presentations covered the value of using DNA and Genetic technologies, the value, hazards, and pitfalls in pure dog breeding, examining inbreeding depression and the challenges for purebred dog. Ursula Zabel, a long-time lover of the breed and past Board member enlightened us with her provocative views on pure dog breeding in the Twenty First Century. Louis Donald presented excerpts from his recent book on the value of the breed standard today. Professor Messler continued the theme of pure dog breeding, the strain on welfare organisations, GSD inbreeding depression. Over typing leading to torture breeding where exaggerated animals are in pet homes and have the effect of damaging the reputation of the pure-bred registered dogs.



Dr Karen Hedberg enlightened us with information that impacts on pure bred dog breeding in closed populations. For example, the more characteristics you test for and eliminate from breeding programs further limits the availability of lines within a breeding population in a country. The limitations are manageable in a larger population but can have significant impact in smaller populations. This was a good segway into the controversial topic of inter-variety breeding later in the day.



Costa Rica's Dr Alerto Gamboa presented the Congress with some interesting points regarding the introduction of Artificial Insemination (A.I.). He offered contrasting information that impacted on the hard rules around the non-promotion of A.I. and canine welfare regarding the closed population of purebred dogs in countries. He highlighted issues around vast countries and the inability to travel dogs on planes limiting access to sires.

The SV's leading Radiologist Veterinarian, Dr Bernd Tellhelm spoke about advances in hip diagnostics, explaining the benefits of National and International hip schemes that will enable and enhance the collection of data for analysis.

The final session of the day was a combined presentation from Louis Donald and Karen Hedberg who were tasked by Prof. Messler to challenge the notion of inter-variety breeding.

Louis presented research of coat varieties from the formation of the GSD in Von Stephanitz' era. This was thought provoking and enlightening about the types of coats that were eliminated from the initial standard. It was established that at that time Von Stephanitz described three coat varieties; curly/rough coat, bearded shaggy and short coat. He discarded the curly/rough coat and bearded/shaggy coats leaving the breed with the stock coats of varying lengths. This was a light bulb moment for many of us. The SV's interpretation of this action was to discard LSC, and this was written into the standard.

Karen's' presentation of a simplified version of the genetics of breeding SC and LSC along with a close



look at the data from NZ, Australia, and Germany (+20 years) amplified the notion that the LSC population were currently stable at around 20% and had remained that way for close to 20 years. Thus, indicating in this example, that inter-variety breeding would not adversely affect the population of stock unless there was a shift in approach by breeders to select for LSCs and dismiss SC in their breeding programs.

It was unfortunate that the WUSV IGP Championship was held on this day as many of the presentations would have been of much interest to the Dogsport enthusiasts.

Friday

Friday morning many of the breed enthusiast went to the show to participate in or watch the individuals of the puppy classes. Presentations continued at the Parador Hotel for the dog sport enthusiasts. The afternoon session covered animal welfare, legislation, association trademarks and compliance.

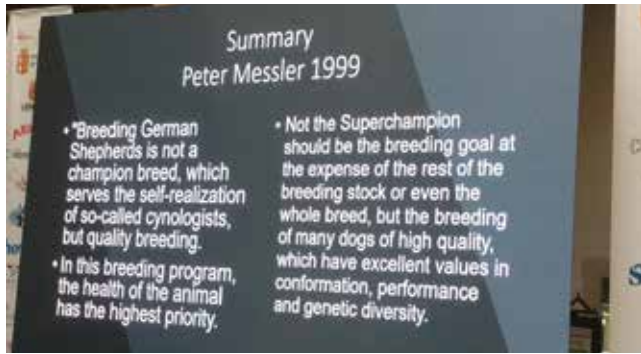
Saturday

TSB training for judges and helpers took place in the morning, followed by the TSB tests for working class males and females, and then the individuals for the male and female 12-18-month, 18-24-month and the working classes.

The draw of the judges of the senior classes took place at the Parador at lunchtime.

The seminars continued, starting at 8:30 am with Prof Messler challenging the beliefs around deep hind quarter angulation. His presentation was aptly titled 'Over typification' of the Hindquarter. Utilizing Louis' work and images and that of Prof Fischer, he presented an excellent overview covering anatomy, examining the impact of over long bones in the hind quarter and the impact on the lateral and cruciate ligaments of the knee joint during movement and walking. He also examined the effect of the curved back, lower hip position, long femur and tibia and challenged the notion of endurance versus sprinting. He spoke about the judges needing to control the ring and limit the normalisation of the sprinting GSD.

He concluded with a summary that highlighted how these faults reduce GSD endurance and economy of movement.



Rene Rudin provided a brief overview of harmonisation levels, DNA and HD/ED. Our continental director, Heather McDonald, asked him about countries that have their own established schemes and whether consideration could be given to alignment with the WUSV/SV system. This was going to be raised with DR Tellhelm after the veterinary presentations.

Mr Chen, President of China delivered a presentation about the development of the organisation in China and highlighted their achievements since their formation in 2001.

Javier Nectali Diaz, from Spain, demonstrated an app that had been developed that could enhance data collection and analysis.

Thoughts

It was a full program of presentations over three 12-hour days. Thought provoking and enlightening.

The theme of ethics was evident throughout and the effects of ethics on every facet of the GSD community from breeding dogs, pet food companies, hiding faults, judge corruption, concerning trends of linebreeding depression, canine welfare and the importance of positive identification and its impact on canine health schemes and breeding programs.

Australia was well represented though its presenters Karen Hedberg and Louis Donald. Louis's material has been embraced by the WUSV and its president, Heinrich Messler. As a country and a GSD community we can be immensely proud of their contribution to the breed on a global scale. In all, seven Australians attended, paid their own way to contribute to this amazing week of learning, collaboration, and innovation. As a country we have much to celebrate, and we felt the warmth and camaraderie from other countries who share our challenges. We share many common issues across our community of political agendas regarding canine welfare, health and diseases, and legislation.

The Australian participants were Louis Donald, Gail Donald, Karen Hedberg, Melanie Groth, Vince Tantaro, Fran Tantaro and Janet Haase.

Presentations

All the presentations will be available online and we encourage you to view them as they become available

WUSV Special Assembly

At the completion of the presentations the authors of this report represented the GSDCA as delegates for Australia at the WUSV Special Assembly. This meeting was called to consider the working party's recommendations (formed in September 2022) for change to the bylaws and statutes to comply with new

legislation. The changes outlined in the agenda 3.1 to 3.9 and 3.11 to 3.15 were passed unanimously. These were recommended by the SV lawyer; chair of the working party, to reduce discrimination and modernise the statutes to align with current laws.

3.10 The Board of Directors

The move to expand the Board of Directors involved some discussion, as the motion put, if passed increased the number and compilation of the board members from 4 to 6/7 (depending on the President of the SV or past president). The board members elected will be proposed by the member clubs of each zone.

The zones are:

- Europe and Africa
- South America
- North America, Central America, and the Caribbean
- Asia, Pacific and the Middle East

Australia would be able to propose a nominee to represent the Asia, Pacific and the Middle East zone. Voting would be conducted by delegates of the WUSV member clubs at the General Assembly.

Australia abstained on this item. Item was passed.

WUSV Judges

The draft regulations were presented to the meeting. The revision of the regulations was required to remove any discriminatory factors that would not be allowable in many member countries. i.e., forced retirement at age 70. If passed these regulations would recognise judges training schemes and qualifications in member countries and open access to applications from members to become National or International judges. The draft was well received by member clubs. Feedback is required from member clubs on the draft is required by 15th May to inform the final submission that will be presented to the next General Assembly in September.

Takeaways from the WUSV Week

- The advantages in genealogy relating to health and character traits mean that DNA tools for identification and correct family may make it possible in the future to identify health and character issues.
- The presentation on LSC intervariety breeding has raised questions for the SV and WUSV to consider its current position.
- We must consider the character and working traits of our GSDs to preserve their inherent qualities as a herding, working, protective and social family pet. For this it means we need to implement a working assessment qualification that is proof the dog can use its brain if we wish an SV excellent in the near future (2025).
- Extremes in our breed are evident in both show dogs and working dogs. We must work towards balance.
- We met many qualified, enthusiastic breed judges that are not domiciled in Germany that speak English and could easily hold their own judging our events.
- There are many benefits for the GSDCA to remain as a WUSV member and rather than withdraw. The Congress proved that the WUSV can be an educator and binder of common goals to serve a diverse pool of GSD enthusiasts from around the world. The WUSV demonstrated it is an organisation that can serve the welfare and betterment of the GSD worldwide!

*Report compiled by
Melanie Groth (GSDCA Judges Chair),
Janet Haase (GSDCA Secretary),
24 April 2023*

WHAT IS PUPPY SOCIALISATION ANYWAY?

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

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

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

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

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

There are two main types of puppy socialisation:

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

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

Why Is It So Important To Socialise Our Puppies?

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

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

- Socialising your puppy has an even bigger influence over her behaviour than the breed of dog she is - it's that important.
- A socialised puppy is well placed to think, learn and problem solve (including obedience training), whereas a fearful stressed dog (unsocialised) is severely restricted in this area.

- A well socialised dog will happily accept change, new people, challenges and will interact appropriately with other animals.
- Puppy socialisation prepares your puppy for the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Things like the vacuum cleaner, dishwasher, lawn mower, cats, TV and whatever else life throws at him.
- Puppy socialisation educates your dog about appropriate social interaction and how to inhibit aggression towards people and other animals.
- Socialisation feeds all of the senses and safely, positively promotes emotional and mental stimulation.

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

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

When Does The Puppy Socialisation Period Begin?

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

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

HOW DO I SOCIALISE MY PUPPY?

First Impressions Matter

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

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

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

Conditioning Tools

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

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

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

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

The best advice is to seek professional help from knowledgeable trainers if you notice fearful or

aggressive behaviour. There is always a path around these situations, a path that doesn't involve reinforcing unwanted behaviours or forcing a pup to deal with situations that he finds stressful (risking irreparable psychological damage).

Emphasising the positive

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

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

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

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

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

So how about those experiences? Try this!

- Puppy house training, crate training and chew toy training should commence as soon as your new housemate arrives. This is all part of the puppy socialisation process, it establishes proper household etiquette, reinforces desirable behaviour and prevents bad habits from forming.
- Pick your puppy up, stroke her belly, touch her all over (ears, feet, tail etc) while gently talking to her. Also invite other people to do the same.
- For your dog's safety and to establish a close bond it's important to begin some obedience training right away. Teach some basic commands such as sit, down, stay and the recall.
- Involve your new puppy in everything you can (isn't this why you got your puppy in the first place?), always under close supervision. Just get her familiar and comfortable with all of the daily routines and happenings of her new household. This is her environment now, we want her to be relaxed and comfortable around things like the vacuum cleaner, dishwasher, TV, lawnmower and noisy children.
- It's essential that your puppy meets as many people as possible before he reaches 12 weeks of age. Always make visits a fun, nonthreatening experience for your

little pup. Encourage play, treats and touch between your visitors and your puppy. If you're game you can also visit some friends with immunised and trustworthy cats or dogs.

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

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

- Places - car, vet, beach, park, school, shops, friends' houses, crate, public transport, groomer, cafe, obedience club, stairs, hard floors, carpet, gravel, other unusual surfaces (walking over a tarpaulin or a grate).
- People - friends, neighbours, family, children, elderly people, men with deep voices, men with beards,

people in hats, people with wheelchairs or walkers, people who ignore dogs, people who are affectionate toward dogs.

- Animals - other puppies, other dogs, individual dogs, groups of dogs, working dogs, playing dogs, cats, poultry, horses, livestock.

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

Other winning strategies

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

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

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

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

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

References:

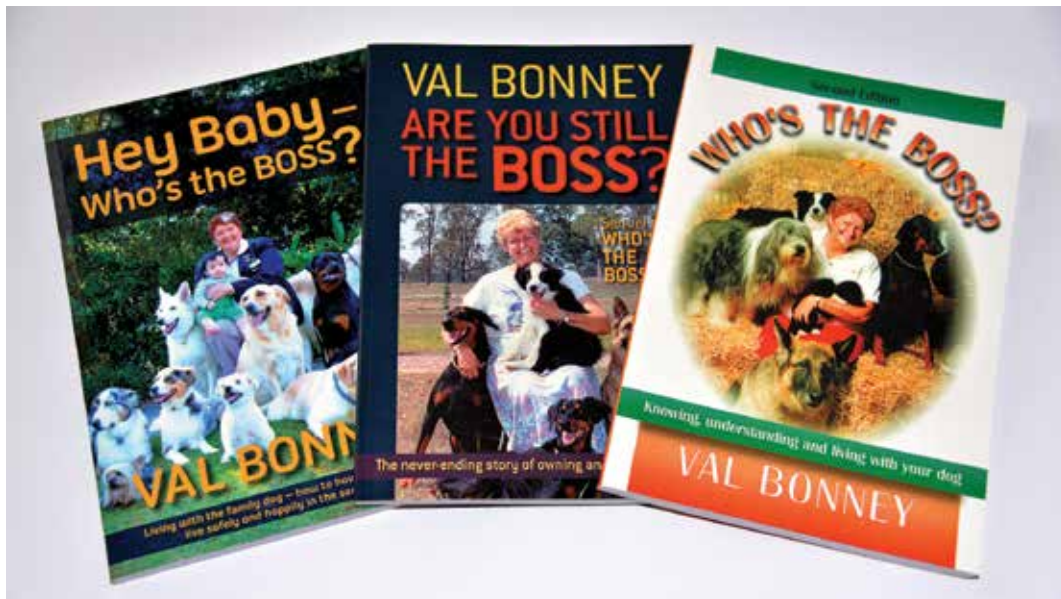
<https://clickertraining.com/node/2184?SSAID=179604>

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

TRY THESE WITH YOUR PUPPY !

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

We are very grateful for the support of Val Bonney, a very highly accredited trainer and “Fixer” of problems.



“WHO’S THE BOSS”? The book that tells” **Why the dog does the things it does, and What makes a dog tick?** “Over 70.000 copies of this sold over the years. Breeders, Dog Obedience Clubs, Puppy Schools etc. all buy these at **W/Sale price for their puppy buyers and their Obedience clients.** The knowledge in this particular book is necessary if people are to have the best companion possible. It helps the owner to accept that a Canine is different in so many ways from its human counterpart. It teaches us how to have the dog live with us, and NOT VISA VERSA. A TOTALLY NECESSARY BOOK EVERY DOG OWNER SHOULD HAVE.

“Are you still the BOSS”? **The book for Multiple dog owners.**
Understanding stress, first Aid for Dogs, The different types of Aggression.
How the pack structure really works. No Anthrophorphism.

“Hey baby-Who’s the BOSS”? **The book for all pregnant families or families with young children.** This is the book for those who have a dog already and are getting ready to bring a baby home. They expect the dog to just accept this baby (to the dog it is an interloper into its pack/family). It needs adjustments to be made before baby comes home (preferably a few month’s before babies arrival) so it can accept it into its pack without huge problems arising. Research shows that over 20,000 dogs were either euthanized or re homed (in one year) when babies came home. People who don’t understand their family pet could now not handle them. They just didn’t understand all that is in the 1st of these books.

This pack of 3 books is considered the best educational pack any and every dog owner should and must have.

To purchase individually you can just go into the web page
w.w.w. bonnies.com.au and buy on line r.r.p. is **\$28.95**

or **for W/Sale contact the author. Val Bonney on Email info@bonnies.com.au and Val will discuss special prices for Breeder, Clubs etc.**
Lets get the knowledged out there.

You can phone **0417 631 246** or **07 3300 2959** if you wish and ask for Val.

WHO OR WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DOG BITES?

Written by Val Bonney

Edited by Christian Bonney

Who is responsible for the dog bites? Is it the dogs themselves? Is it their owners? Is it the trainers/clubs who are training the dogs? Is it the breeders? Is it due to a lack of education about what it means to own and manage a dog? There are so many possibilities it is impossible to answer them all here, but where does the blame lie?

I have been asked to write this, but it is not an easy question to answer, and it doesn't matter what I say; some people are going to disagree somewhere along the line, so all I can do is use my experience to try and open a conversation on the matter.

The intent of this article is not to upset anyone, but this problem has become huge and will not just go away. It is going to get worse before it gets better, and the one who ultimately suffers is the dog.

A person who gets badly bitten by a dog can suffer great trauma. Not only pain from the actual bite but mental anguish. Some never really recover emotionally from a serious bite. It stays with them for the rest of their lives. This is not acceptable in our society, and it is our collective responsibility to do something about it.

At its very core, I believe we have lost sight of the fact that a dog is a dog. It is not a human. It doesn't think, talk, walk, or eat like us. It is not a person dressed up in a dog costume. It is and always has been and always will be a descendant of the wolf, with over 20,000 years of heritage and instinct. Primary instincts are fight, flight, bite, and hunt. All dogs are accepted as being descendants of the wolf and are, therefore, natural predators. Without consideration for your circumstances, would you take a wolf into your home?

Over the years, we have domesticated our furry friends and made them a massive part of our lives; however, education about the causes of dog bites is still surprisingly limited!

Your new dog!

Let's start from the beginning when new owners decide on what breed of dog they are inviting into their life. A dog can sometimes become an extension of the owner's personality, which makes sense; we all want a dog compatible with our lifestyle. The macho person may want a macho breed, so they go for the stronger, more dominant breeds and encourage it to become arrogant and often aggressive for "protection". This is quite often the situation that causes problems. Put simply, the first reason for dog bites is that people consider their wants more than their needs when deciding to get a dog and rarely consider the situation of their neighbours and surroundings.

For example, let's say when you were little, you grew up with a certain high drive breed, such as a shepherd, border collie, etc. As a result, now that you are in a position to get your own dog, your mind defaults to the familiarity of those breeds and often leaves little space for further consideration. So, you get that dog, and it grows up, and you realise, "I never considered how I would manage this dog with my two young kids, in our

small apartment, with our neighbours that are extremely fearful of all dogs", and so on, just as an example.

If more people took the time to sit down and consider their situation, what they are capable of doing when it comes to looking after a dog, what their living situation is like, what the disposition of the breed they want to get is, and account for potential changes in lifestyle over the 10-15 year commitment that is owning a dog, owners may find a better match with dogs they can handle, and subsequently, the bite rate will go down.

Obedience Training

Another large area of dog ownership that can be done poorly and result in dog bites is obedience training or lack thereof. Unfortunately, it is all too common that owners find obedience classes unnecessary and learn everything about their dog through online videos and articles like this without practically using the information to work with their pup. Owners may cite that "my dog sits and drops when I tell it at home and doesn't jump up on people; I don't really need anything else."

I have lost count of the number of times I have been told this. Then the dog came to training and was immediately anxious and aggressive towards other dogs and people, and the owners told me, "he isn't usually like this; I swear, he's being so weird tonight." Assuming a dog will maintain a constant disposition in every situation you put it in is naivety, and this is what causes dog bites.

In reality, a good dog training school is, first and foremost, a people training school. It's fine to give your dog to someone else to train, but you are robbing yourself of developing a deeper understanding of your best mate, and you won't be able to identify the body language your dog displays when they feel anxious, overwhelmed, scared, and everything else. An uneducated owner is, in my opinion, the leading cause of preventable dog bites.

Do yourself a favour, and maybe save your dog's life, your friend's dog's life, or your neighbour's kid's life and so on, by spending some time with your dog at training, learning their in's and outs, and understanding what makes them the dog they are. You will be better equipped to identify signs of distress earlier and have the skills to avoid casualty.

Training Methodologies

It is becoming clear that the dog training world is moving towards what has been labelled a "positive only" style of training. The idea is that you praise a dog for doing the right thing and ignore it when it does the wrong thing, and instead try to re-direct it back to doing the right thing again to praise. Whilst there are a million different styles of training, this style often involves not correcting the dog when it does the wrong thing, including but not limited to lunging at other dogs or people, growling and barking, and other issues that are created as a result of serious aggression issues, whatever the root cause may be.

Positive-only training certainly has its place, and those methodologies are certainly applicable to heeling training, basic obedience training, and other things such

as agility. However, completely writing off measured, calm, and appropriate corrections for unwanted behaviour removes a critical element of training that helps to establish the boundaries around the dog's lifestyle.

Without these well-executed and effective corrections, the dog will slowly begin to feel that it can do whatever it wants without considering if it is "supposed to". This can be as seemingly innocent as jumping up on the lounge or as frustrating and dangerous as pulling on the lead and lunging at other dogs on a walk.

This is yet another element that may be playing a part in the prevalence of dog bites. Please ensure you are not using a one size fits all approach to your training, and consider all different avenues of training that may help you keep your dog safe and under control.

Breeding

It is critical, when looking to get a puppy, that you consider the circumstances in which it was raised and in which it is currently living. It is in a litter with other good-tempered dogs and parents? Is it in a shelter with no interaction with other dogs or people? Is it

forced to fight for attention, food, and affection constantly? How will this dynamic affect your ability to manage the dog in your situation?

Evaluate all of these points, speak with a trainer or another trusted breeder, understand the likely results of the puppy's situation, and decide if you are ready for that challenge.

Council and Regulations

Here is another little bit of food for thought. What if instead of registering each dog, we, as owners, register for the privilege of having a certain breed of dog? What if we, as owners, were required to show that we are capable of managing that 30 - 40 kg german shepherd? Would it not make more sense, and foster more confidence, if we knew that owners in control of these potentially very dangerous animals are willing to invest time in training and understanding them and have the facilities to manage them effectively?

I know this suggestion may seem abrupt, but think about it, where is the downside? I understand you may want to own a Rottweiler, but if you are told that you can't, for a specific reason, maybe that is for the best, and maybe it is preventing a tragic event from occurring that you haven't thought about yet.

This may assist in removing what I lovingly call "passion blindness". Where you are so excited about the thought of owning a dog that all of the relevant considerations around it are not able to be understood by yourself, and you may need an external body to help you with that and perhaps suggest a more suitable breed, or changes to make to your situation prior to getting the breed you are wanting, to give you the best chance of success. Does that not help everyone?

Just think about it!

Human Behaviour Around Dogs

We do many things as people that may be exacerbating the issue of dog bites. These could include going up and reaching over fences to pat dogs, putting our face down to the dog's face, lying on the floor with our dog, and many more.

Often our behaviour, no matter how comfortable we think the dog is with it, can cause immediate distress, enough to trigger a bite response from our pups. Think back, for example, to when you accidentally stepped on your dog's paw, did they yelp and maybe briefly sharply turn and mimic a biting motion towards your leg? Did they potentially just nip you?

This is an example of a microcosm of dog bites. Unfortunately, children are often responsible for behaviour that contributes to dog bites as well. This, again, is a combination of a lack of communication with the child, a lack of boundaries when managing interactions between the child and the dog, and/or a lack of education and training for the child or the child's parents.

Be sure to include the whole family in training and understanding your dog and, in turn, lower the chances that your child is involved in an avoidable bite.

Conclusion

All in all, there are an endless amount of factors that influence if a dog bite occurs or not. It is our responsibility as a community to evaluate our personal scenarios and training methods continually, as well as consider appropriate changes to legislation and breeding methods etc, to ensure that avoidable dog bites are just that, avoided. Love your dog, love them enough to understand them, train them, and put them in the best environment you can that is conducive to that.

(Give your pup an extra pat from me!)

Val Bonney

*Bonnies Dog Obedience and Puppy School
Founder*





“OH MY GOD, IT’S A STAMPEDE

Jess Kada

These were not the words of some red carpet reporter in Hollywood, but words from a 6ish bike rider encountering our 19 or so GSDs on our social walk along the banks of the Nepean River at Penrith on 21st May. On a walk organised by Cassie Booth and Melissa Turoczy, members and guests were invited to participate in a beautiful 10Km walk along the river, crossing two bridges in the process. The dogs were in full public view all of the time, just shy of 2 hours.

It is a great pleasure to let you know that all dogs were immaculately well behaved and not one put a foot out of place. The river walk, which has recently been restored following the horrific flooding that affected our National, is a very popular Sunday morning family walk and is always crowded with Cavoodles, Mastiffs and anything in between.

Sadly, these days, the GSD is not seen in public as much as it has been in the past and this was a great opportunity to remind the public that we’re still there





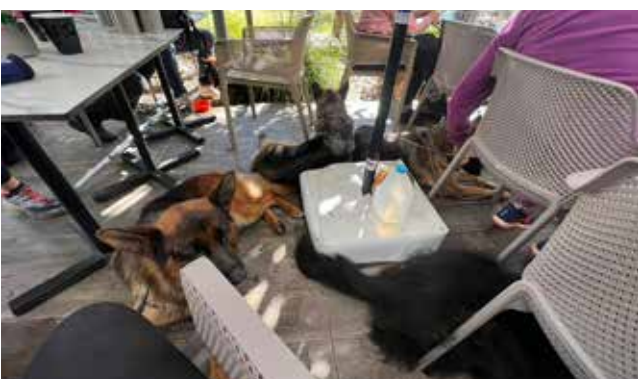
OF CUTENESS!"

and perhaps better mannered than many would remember from the 60s and 70s.

Back at base camp, the Coffee Club, there were a further 9 dogs, some from rescue backgrounds, some former stud dogs and princesses of the ring. It was hard to expect these guys to go the distance, but their mere presence in numbers was a great draw card with a number of café patrons approaching to pat and talk about the GSDs they'd owned and treasured.

The overriding objective for today was to get members and owners together to enjoy their dogs and re-connect with the basics – the joy of owning a GSD. It was gratifying to see everyone mixing in – rescue dog, pet dog, obedience dog and our show dogs. There was not a single instance of any distinctions being made and congratulations go to the walk organisers for having done such a great job.

More of these activities are already in planning.



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBER CLUBS



GSDC of TASMANIA
 PRESIDENT
 Janet Haase
 SECRETARY
 Gabrielle Peacock
 W: gsdct.com/committee-members.asp

We've Had A Big Year With More To Come!

We were pleased to have Jane Pike & Melanie Groth officiating at our February 2023 shows. The conditions were very warm and we thank our committee, hard-working canteen staff, volunteers and the exhibitors for making this a successful weekend.

Special mention must go to Gail Donald who spent many hours ensuring we all had beautiful pictures and memories of the weekend. Gail always finds ways to capture every important moment on camera.

We were fortunate to gain Sponsorship from Black Hawk for this event. Thank you to Maureen Lowery for her work in making this happen.

Results

Jane Pike - Day 1

- Challenge Dog Best of Breed Long Stock Coat - Jack Von Fenrir
- Challenge Bitch Stock Coat - Zumbrozac Frankensteiner
- Best In Show - Zumbrozac Frankensteiner
- Reserve Challenge Bitch Stock Coat - Ondja Du Val D'Anzin
- Runner Up Best of Breed Stock Coat - Obama Du Montgison
- Challenge Dog

Melanie Groth - Day 2

- Challenge Bitch Stock Coat - Ondja Du Val D'Anzin
- Reserve Challenge Bitch Stock Coat - Roxamburg Coming To Get You
- Best of Breed Stock Coat - Ondja Du Val D'Anzin

- Runner Up Best of Breed Stock Coat - Obama Du Montgison
- Best In Show - Ondja Du Val D'Anzin
- Runner Up Best In Show - Obama Du Montgison



Over the weekend of 4th and 5th of March we held a Bootcamp, conducted our inaugural ZAP Character Test, had our second Breed Survey for the year, and attended the GSDCA Sires Presentation.

This all came about due to the generosity and kindness shown by Jo Cathie, Melanie Groth and Kylie Zimmerle. We thank them for their professionalism and willingness to share their knowledge of the German Shepherd Dog. This weekend would not have been possible without the hard work of our dedicated committee and of course our members who made the event such a success. We hope everyone found it valuable and enjoyed the experience.

Congratulations to the following dogs who successfully passed the Zap Character Test:

- Allinka Wilma - R & M Lowery
- Hasenway Miss Tingle - J Haase, G Peacock, J Oar
- Hasenway Miss Buttercup - G Peacock, J Haase, J Oar
- Lozani Romi - G & K Hall
- Ronaline Rip Tide - C & M Douglas
- Roxamburg Funhouse - M Lang

- Zumbrozac Eternally Grateful - B Summers

Congratulations to owners of these dogs who were successfully surveyed so far this year.

- Elsass Call Me Senorita - L and T Massis
- Komatzu Extra Hot Ruby - T Beaton
- Roxamburg Funhouse - G & K Hall
- Roxamburg Rosette - G & K Hall
- Elsass Piping Hot - L & T Massis
- Roxamburg Evita - G & K Hall
- Ch. Karrairie Blazes Sterling Silver - P Eaves-Tennant
- Jack von Fenrir (IMP DEU) - S Parker (verification)
- Kaster van Contra (IMP DEU) - J Haase, J Haase, G Peacock, J Kada & C Booth (verification)



On behalf of the entire GSDCT team, we congratulate Gabrielle Peacock & Jurgen Haase on Violet (*Hasenway Dixie Chick AZ) being awarded the Siegerin title Excellent Merit 1 at the GSDCV State Breed Exhibition under Robyn Knuckey in March 2023. What an excellent achievement.



*Hasenway Dixie Chick AZ ExMerit State Siegerin GSDCV



Congratulations to the owners who have successfully passed the Hip & Elbow scheme in the past quarter.

- Roxamburg Reaper AZ Owner R Bentley
- Zumbrozac Eternally Grateful AZ Owner B Summers
- Allinka Wilma AZ Owner R & M Lowery

We are looking forward to the National in Melbourne, our May Championship Show with judge Louis Donald, and our back to back in September with Greg Green and Robyn Knuckey officiating.



GSDC of SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT

Mr. John DeLucia
M: 0491 610 096
E: jjdelucia@bigpond.com

SECRETARY

Mr. Stephen Collins
P: (08) 8556 2340
M: 0419 212 749
E: secretary@gsdcsa.org.au

The Club is in full swing with organising the 2024 50th National Show and Trial.

Please be advised that accommodation bookings are available at Adelaide Shores from late June 2023.

We are carrying out maintenance to our clubrooms which have been fully painted on the exterior with the interior scheduled to be carried out over Christmas.

We will be holding a specialist show in conjunction with the Winter International at Dogs SA with International Judge. Mr. Makul Vaid (India) on the 1st 2nd 3rd June 2023. Then, the following week of 10th & 11th June, we will be holding our Championship Show judged by, Mr Mike Bradley (NZ) on the Saturday and Mr Greg Green (Vic) on the Sunday. We hope to see you all there!

We will also be holding two more Members Comps later in the year on 16th July and 17th September as our judges planned to be Glen Gregory and Andrew O'Loughlin (TBC). Then we have a double header open show to give aspiring Group 5 Judges a chance to experience judging German Shepherds under Specialist conditions. We are always trying to encourage new Dogs Australia Judges and give them a chance to try something different from their norm.

Our obedience trials will be held on 28th May then Endurance test 24th June with a double obedience trial on 1st July then our most prestigious Obedience Trial being the Balmead Shield Trial being held on the 12th August.



GSDC of VICTORIA

PRESIDENT

Mr. Vince Ebejer
P: (03) 9467 8653
M: 0411 462 358
E: president@gsdvc.org.au

SECRETARY

Mrs. Dearne Jackson
M: 0413 278 042
E: secretary@gsdvc.org.au

Our AGM in March was our biggest day to date this year 😊. Presentations of Title awards and Show trophies was all important, but most important to recognise was the presentation of service awards to instructors and committee members, including presentations of certificates to our 14 new obedience and 2 show instructors. My we were proud. Of note was the 40 year membership awarded to **Ian** and **Julie Urie**. That's a lot of dog time 😊. Speaking of 40, Bernie Lester was recognised for his 40 years as an obedience instructor. **Dom Cafari** and **Shirley Petrella** weren't far behind with 30 years as instructors. Wow, that's amazing commitment to our breed. A Special Recognition Award was presented to **Sharyn Thompson** and her dogs Kali (Jayshell Chloe) and Leiha (Freinhaus Leiha) for their efforts in promoting our breed as story dogs and therapy dogs, and as ambassadors for all the good that dogs can do.

Our big awards were saved for 2 very deserving members - GSDCV OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS were presented to **Fiona Henderson** and **Jo Mee** for their significant contribution to the GSDCV over many years. Both are highly regarded long-standing members whose service has ensured the GSDCV has grown stronger and better thanks to their efforts at both branch and club level. Well done Fiona and Jo.

Our Perpetual Show Trophy Winners were:

- Eric Orschler Annual Breeders Trophy: Lordarvo Kennels - Lorelle & David Organ
- Schneider Trophy (most successful show dog) *Ch. Lordavo Royal Symphony AZ
- The Walter Reimann Annual Dual Performance Trophy:

Judith Strachan and
*Ch. Hasenway Daddy Cool
AZ CCD SWN RN

- SC Specialist Dog of the Year 2022: *Obama Du Montgison (Imp Deu)
- SC Specialist Bitch:
*Ch. Cinderhof Italiaa
- LSC Specialist Dog:
*Derharv The Force is Strong
- LSC Specialist Bitch:
*Ch. Lordavo Royal Symphony

Our State Breed Exhibition was held on the March long weekend, judged by Robyn Knuckey (WA). A great show weekend all round. Some lovely dogs took to the ring and our winners were:

- LSC Bitch Winner –
Exc Merit *Ch. Lordavo Royal Symphony AZ
- LSC Dog Winner – Exc Merit –
*Eroica Jethro AZ RN CD ET
- SC Bitch Winner – Exc Merit
*Hasenway Dixie Chick AZ
- SC Dog Winner – Exc –
*Pupi Von Neu Garmond
HD ED Normal (Imp Hgy)
- Dual Performance Trophy –
Eroica Jethro AZ RN CCD ET

In the obedience trial the Winner of Winners run off was won by HILLMAGIC LARANGA BONO (AI), owned and handled by Andrew Macdonald who in his Novice class win scored 200/200pts Q.

Our next big effort is of course the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal, which via our Western branch we have collected for 40 years this year. That's right, it's been 40 years since we started collecting funds for the Royal Children's Kids Appeal. With the first collection raising \$286 in 1984 to our overall total of \$705,000 COLLECTED SO FAR, we can't wait to see how much we've added this year. A mighty effort for all involved for such a good cause. Thanks to anyone who got involved and helped.

National Show & Trial, 28-30 April 2023

Where can you find all the News and Results?

Check our website
www.gsdcv.org.au/2023national

Check our event facebook page
www.facebook.com/2023GSDNational
for everything you need to know.

Thanks to everyone who has supported our event, sponsored,

purchased or donated.

Congratulations to everyone who exhibited.

'My Shepherd, My Friend, My Responsibility'



The GSDCQ held their first events on the 24th and 25th March 2023,

17 for the Breed Survey, which was a record amount for Queensland in many years.

This was followed by an Open show- Judge Catherine Walker, a GSDCQ member with an entry of 61. Catherine's judging was well received, and I hope you we have a budding GSD specialty judge. On the Sunday the GSDCQ held a Members Competition with Tony Gibson (NZ) the judge, with a terrific entry of 90. Tony complemented us on the dogs at the show and said the standard was exceptional, so we were very pleased. Tony and his wife Annie were a delight and hope to see them back in QLD in the not so distant future.

The weather was not that kind to us it was unseasonally hot and we had a small storm on the Saturday, but we weathered through. The GSDCQ were very happy to welcome the working dog enthusiasts, not only for breed survey but they also stayed on and participated in the show. Thank you also to all the exhibitors that travelled from far and near to support the show. We hope to see you back at our next show.

The results of both shows are on the GSDCQ web site, the live feeding that Alison Drinkwater did of the Sunday show, and also the photos that Gail Donald took make us the envy of many clubs and we are so happy to have these ladies in QLD a big thank you.

The introduction of Obedience by the club, commenced in Feb 2023, with the 2nd 6-week course commencing after the National.

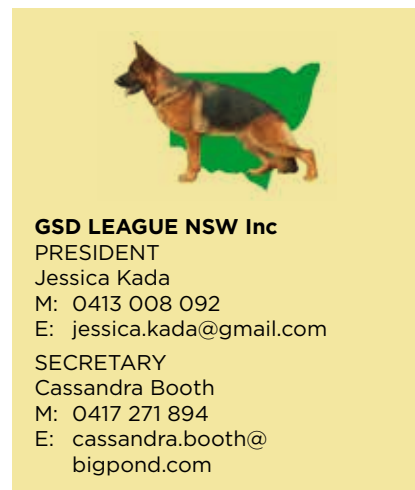
We have some terrific events for the working fraternity with Unrestricted Double tricks trial 14th May, 16th July, and 4th November, and 2 restricted obedience trials on the 8th July and 24th September.

Our biggest show event this year will be the Double Header Championship Shows and Trials in July with 2 overseas judges. Mandy McAteer (UK) and Albert Balmer (Ireland). So put this in your calendar as a must attend event.

Our club continues to grow we have reached 250 members, and are aiming for the 300.

On behalf of the GSDCQ we wish everyone travelling to Melbourne for the GSDCA National much success.

Regards
Sharon Thorp
President GSDCQ 2023



GSD League Autumn Quarterly Report 2023

Our first event for the year was an action packed weekend beginning with a breed survey, sausage sizzle and followed by our first ZAP Assessment on the Saturday then our February Members Competition on the Sunday. A lovely, warm, summer weekend.

February Survey



Congratulations to the following animals who were successfully presented at our first breed survey

for 2023 on Saturday 11th February with 4 surveyors present:

- Bhuachaille Jumping Jack Flash (LSC) – Carobria Black Pepper AZ x *Bhuachaille Xhibitionist.
- Pupi von Neu Garmond (imp Hgy) verified – *Zenit von Schnitzerteam x De Orse Mak Flai Nelli.
- Kuirau Willow – *Chili Della Valcuvia x *Kuirau Indelible.
- Freevale Unnecessary Nonsense – *Olymp vom Larchenhain x *Freevale Up To No Good.
- Bhuachaille Kinky Boots – *Bhuachaille Yessaidfred x Bhuachaille Vivacious AZ.
- Sundaneka Stargazer – *Pirlo von Arminius x *Sundaneka Bella Donte.
- Khanique Quentessa – *Jaci's Style Einstein x *Hasenway Magnolia.
- Bronboreo Una – *Wulkano-uno von Schnitzerteam x *Seigen Hayos Asha.



** Our next survey will be Sunday 2nd April.*

Zap Assessment

Our first ZAP Assessment organised by Melanie Groth, was conducted on 11 February with seven animals presented and passing their assessments. Several attempts to run an assessment were quashed last year due to the horrendous weather events and state of the grounds that plagued us in 2022. Thank you to Alastair Henderson (recently appointed Obedience Chair GSDCA) and Julie Urie (Former Obedience Chair and

author of GSDCA ZAP Manual) who travelled up from Victoria to provide guidance and support to the GSDL team. Chelsea Bird organised the schedule for the day and assisted throughout. Jo Cathie ran the day with Alastair's assistance. There are plans to hold another ZAP assessment later in the year. Thanks to Greg Jones for organising the equipment and making sure everything was in place for the Assessment Team. The feedback has been very positive.



February Members Competition

GSDL's first show for the year, on 12 February, was judged by Mr Salvatore Pitelli (SA) with a pleasing entry of 90 whereby 76 were exhibited. Thanks to our sponsor Royal Canin for their support.

- Salvatore's Best SC Dog was *Khayem Revelation ET and Reserve was *Pupi Von Neu Garmond
- His Best SC Bitch was Ch. *Vladimir Supercalifragilistic and Reserve was *Kuirau Signorina Liliana
- His Best LSC Dog was Ch. *Eroica Jethro RN CCD ET and Reserve was Ch. Cinderhof Diaablo.
- His Best LSC Bitch was Ch. *Eroica Nova and Reserve was Randinka Typhoon Tess.

Junior Showmanship:

Congratulations to our junior handlers who were judged by Brooke Mills:

- 7 to 10 years – 1st Ava F
- 13 to 19 years – 1st Paris T

A very warm summer's day where the exhibitors enjoyed the very appealing canteen menu with thanks to Yvonne Yun, Arty Tatian and their support team.

13's Club

- Lana (*Bemboka Inner Star AZ) Multi excellent graded. Born on December 12th, 2009
- Whisky, born May 12, 2009. Whisky is proudly owned and loved by Hiroko Takahara
- Angel (Unshaus Storm's Miracle) Born on 25th January 2010. Very much loved, owned and bred by Hetty Choy

Life Member

We would like to congratulate Greg Jones on being given a GSDL Life Membership and thank him for all his hard work, time and commitment to the club.

Goodluck to all at the 49th National in Melbourne and enjoy the catch up with fellow exhibitors. Hopefully the weather is kind to us.

Karen Stevenson

**ACT GSDA****PRESIDENT**

Sasha Beljanski

E: senka13@optusnet.com.au

SECRETARY

Wolf Meffert

E: wmeffert62@gmail.com

Hi From The ACT GSDA

We have had a great first quarter of this year, with our new memberships remaining steady. Assessment Day results have been very pleasing, we have had great numbers of members passing from Beginners into Intermediate, then from Intermediate into Graduate level. There has been a renewed interest in Obedience Trials, with this in mind, an extension to our Novice Class for members looking towards competing in obedience trials has been introduced, member response has been wonderful.

We co-sponsored two weekends of Scent Work Workshops with Tuggeranong Obedience Dog Club, which were very well subscribed. These workshops were conducted by Jo Bates, an ANKC Scent Work Judge, Scent Work Instructor with NCSW and operator of a scent work training business, from Victoria. These were two weekends where dog owners had a choice of paying to attend workshops, at their dog's attainment level or one on one instruction or both. Sessions were also open to observers. The great thing with this sport is that it is suitable for all ages of dogs and because it is all 'on lead', it can be suitable for those dogs who cannot trial in 'off lead' sports.

One of our local scent work judges has organized to use our Clubhouse and environs, as the location for a series of workshops. Not only can our members pay to come and learn scent work but also it is fantastic to support one of our local judges, who not only teaches this after hours but he is also one of the course convenors for scent work aspirant judges.

We are conducting four scent work trials this year, some as a single element trial and the others over a

weekend in conjunction with Dogs ACT and Tuggeranong Dog Club. This was very successful last year allowing our members a chance to see how much their dog could enjoy scent work, but also bringing in competitors from NSW and VIC.

An Endurance Test will be conducted on May 28 by the Club in conjunction with Dogs ACT. This is the twentieth collaboration between the Club and Dogs ACT since the Inaugural E.T. Trial in 1996.

It will be fantastic to hold our Annual German TWO CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS 30th September & 1st October 2023 JUDGES: Saturday Mr. Rene Jorgensen (DEN) and Sunday Mr. Jens Becker-Olsen (SPN). Judging will commence 0830 both days. All the relevant information for these shows is available on our web page actgsda.co



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

\$130.00 (Non - Advertising)

Back Cover

\$110.00 (Non - Advertising)

Full Page

\$165

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.

Magazine and Website Package

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

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

Please make Cheque/Bank draft or Money Order payable to: German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc. and forward to:

The Treasurer, GSDCA QNR, 93 Dawkins Road, Lewiston 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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