

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC



GSDCA ZAP CHARACTER TEST MANUAL

**Version 2
1st November 2023**

This document is to be read in conjunction with the GSDCA Constitution and relevant GSDCA Manuals.

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1 OBJECTIVE OF THE ZAP CHARACTER TEST

To promote and offer guidance for the uniform development of the German Shepherd Dog Breed and to consolidate and ensure the character and temperament as part of the breed's inherent working qualities is maintained. The ZAP Character Test is a very important part in evaluation of the German Shepherd Dog. It allows determination of behavioural characteristics and depending on the strengths/weaknesses displayed in each element, can be used in making future breeding decisions.

2 CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

German Shepherd Dogs shall be eligible to participate, provided they meet the following requirements:

1. At the date of the test, the dog or bitch shall have attained the age of no less than nine (9) months, and no more than (8) eight years of age.
2. All dogs submitted for testing must appear on the ANKC Main Register.
3. All relevant paperwork must be signed and submitted by the registered owner/s of the dog, as noted on the ANKC registration papers.

3 ABBREVIATIONS

ANKC	Australian National Kennel Council
GSDCA	German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia
NBC	National Breed Commission
CWTR	Character & Working Test Registrar: (person as appointed by Member Club in each state who will administer CW tests in each State and report back to the GSDCA Chair Obedience Committee)
CWTO	Character and Working Test Officer: Assessors as appointed by Council.
OC	Chairman Obedience Committee
ZAP	(Zuchtanlagenprüfung) Breed Suitability Test
Z 1	ZAP Character Test Application Form
Z 2	ZAP Character Test Assessment Form
Z 3	ZAP Character Test Certificate

4 ZAP CHARACTER TEST ASSESSORS

The assessors for the test will be appointed by the GSDCA Executive and be known as GSDCA Working & Character Test Officers (CWTO).

CWTOs must demonstrate a clear understanding of each element of the test and be able to apply their long held experience and knowledge of character and working ability of the GSD during the test procedure.

4.1 Assessor Training

Aspiring CWTOs must successfully pass a written examination followed by a face to face assessment that will test the person's knowledge of each element of the test as described in this manual.

Upon passing the written examination the aspirant will sit in on 2 assessments and complete interactive practicals with an officiating CWTO. (section 11)

5 DEFINITION OF CLASSIFICATION

5.1 Pass

1. Animals which satisfactorily pass the gun test and complete all other aspects of the test will gain an overall pass.
2. Animals that show trepidation, or are overly suspicious or are apprehensive or wary, shall be marked accordingly in the ZAP Character Test assessment form.

5.2 Fail

3. Animals which show a clearly negative reaction to the gun test, such as being fearful or clear avoidance will be deemed to have failed and such reaction will lead to termination of the test.
4. Animals that display significant aggressive behaviour without provocation, towards humans or other animals shall be deemed to have failed and such display of aggression shall result in termination of the assessment. In such cases, owners will be advised that they must seek help in controlling such behaviour.

6 TERM OF CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Period of Grading

The ZAP Character Test pass presented to an animal shall be for life.

6.2 Deferment of Classification

Animals which have failed at a previous assessment, may be represented at a subsequent ZAP character test and must declare the status of any previous ZAP character test application and result for that animal. (Refer to GSDCA Form Z 1)

6.3 Repeat Tests

The ZAP Character Test can only be repeated once.

7 APPLICATION AND CHARGES LEVIED

7.1 Application to Participate

To make application to participate in the ZAP Character Test requires submission of the following to the state CWTR for each animal, not less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled time and date.

- 1) GSDCA Form Z 1 (ZAP Character Test Application for Assessment). See Appendix 1
- 2) copy of the ANKC Certificate of Registration to accompany each application form
- 3) payment of the required fee

Forms are available on the GSDCA website under "Forms". www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/forms

7.2 Fees

The charge to the owner of the animals being assessed in the ZAP Character Test shall be uniform by all Member Clubs of the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia, for the GSDCA ZAP Character Test.

The charges for the GSDCA ZAP Character Test shall be determined by the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc.

The determined fees relative to the GSDCA ZAP Character Test can be found in the "GSDCA Scale of Charges" on the GSDCA website. www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/documents

8 DATES, VENUES AND NOTIFICATIONS

8.1 Dates

The conduct of ZAP Character Tests will vary from State to State; however it is expected that Member Clubs will ideally hold a minimum of 4 (four) assessments per year.

The dates and times to be allocated in a particular State shall be determined by the State CWTR in liaison with the resident CWTO and Member Clubs.

Scheduled dates as set in December for the following year will be advertised and promoted by the CWTO and Member clubs where the tests will be conducted.

Tests may be cancelled if there are no animals to be tested and the CWTO will utilise the usual member club communication methods including but not limited to social media to advise members.

8.2 Venues

It is of the utmost importance that a suitable venue is selected.

The ZAP Character Test may be held on a ground that is in use by another organisation, such as Canine Control grounds, provided the test area is devoted solely to the conduct of the test.

8.3 Notification

Dates, times and venues of all ZAP Character Tests to be conducted by the Council will be distributed to Member clubs and published by the GSDCA in January of each year.

The CWTR will ensure that Clubs promote and notify their members of test dates via their Club magazine and/or their Club website and/or their normal mode of member notification, at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled date.

8.4 Acceptances

Application to undergo the test shall be not less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled time and date. No late or on the day applications will be accepted.

8.5 Advertisement

It shall be a responsibility of the State CWTO, in close liaison with the respective Member Club, to promote and advertise the test dates in order to maximise participation.

9 CONDUCT OF A ZAP CHARACTER TEST

9.1 Character and Working Test Registrar (CWTR)

The Member Club shall appoint a State CWTR. The primary task of the CWTR will be to maintain the State ZAP Character Test Register and together with the CWTO assist in the conduct of ZAP Character Test events.

9.2 State ZAP Character Test Register

There shall be a ZAP Character Test Register which shall be kept by each CWTR.

This Register shall contain information listed under the following headings:

DATE	CLUB	NAME OF DOG	BIRTH DATE	SEX M/F	RESULT PASS/FAIL	ASSESSOR NAME
1/10/20	ACTGSDA	CH. GOOD BOY FIDO	1/1/20	M	PASS	MR.S. PEABODY

Table 1 ZAP Character Test Register

Relevant particulars for each dog shall be recorded in the **ZAP Character Test Register** at the conclusion of each assessment day.

9.3 Equipment Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the CWTR, to ensure that the prescribed equipment is set up on the day of the Test.

Refer to Sub-section 11.3 for details of equipment required.

9.4 Confirmation of ZAP Character Test

The CWTR shall confirm the event twenty-four (24) hours prior to the assessment date with the CWTO as allocated and inform as to the number of animals to be Tested.

9.5 Maximum Number of Animals to be Tested

A maximum of 12 animals per day shall be tested.

9.6 Order of Testing

Dogs shall be tested prior to bitches.

At the conclusion of the individual testing of each animal, the Assessor will begin the final presentation of that animal by announcing:

1. Whether the animal is a first-time applicant, or is being represented
2. The test result, Pass / Fail

9.7 Processing ZAP Character Test Forms

Each CWTR shall prepare and submit a report of the results of each test to the GSDCA Chairman Obedience Committee within 14 days of the test. This report to include the following:

- All details as required in Table 1
- Copies of all original paperwork
(Application Form Z 1, ANKC Pedigree and Testing Form Z 2)

9.8 Risk Management at ZAP Character Test Events

The CWTR together with CWTO shall ensure safe practise for all participants on the day and shall prepare a written, signed report as part of processing ZAP1 Character Test forms. See Appendix.

10 COMPLETION OF WORKSHEET AND DESCRIPTORS

10.1 Header

General information about the dog is requested.

Content includes: The age of the animal, how is rearing done? (I.e. kennels or house), how many other dogs are kept etc. Further details can be found in the assessment form.

10.2 Element #1: Impartiality Test

The behaviour of the dog is tested at the ID check, which includes checking of microchip, teeth, testicles (if applicable) and measuring of height, chest depth and circumference.

The result is recorded in the testing form by ticking the corresponding boxes/ adjectives.

10.3 Element #2: Social behaviour of the dog

Here is tested:

1. The relationship between the dog and dog handler (role playing).
2. Behaviour of the dog in a group of people.
3. Encounter with a foreign dog.

The importance of the bond is not only in the particular relationship between the handler and dog, but also in the psychological performance and the inherent safety of a dog.

Humans and dogs show their social cohesion and how they deal with each other in an environmentally friendly and social way.

Bonding, respect, trust and building a common language, as well as a clear understanding of the roles are to be shown with the training. The dog has learned to think, to help, to find solutions and to orientate itself to the dog handler and not superficially to the external stimuli.

10.4 Element #3: Noise sensitivity of the dog

This is tested using:

1. Sound source from a motor.
2. Sound source from a chain.
3. Gun shot.

In this category the dog has to deal with different acoustic stimuli, e.g. rattling, noise source from a motor and as the highest exposure to sound, the gun shot.

This is to check how the dog behaves with different noises. Is the dog still able to investigate the relevant noise source independently or needs more or less help from the dog handler?

Noise phobias, like fear of thunderstorms, fireworks or shooting can cause significant loss of life quality for the dog and its owner.

10.5 Element #4: Movement on unusual surfaces

This is tested by:

1. Rocking Platform.
2. Instinctual aim on the rocking platform.
3. Height sensitivity.

In this category the dog is rated for play readiness under increased stress and motion sensitivity.

10.6 Element #5: Evaluation of play and prey drives (Part 1)

This is tested by:

1. Play with the dog handler.
2. Play with the Assessor's assistant (stranger)
3. Intensity at the blocked prey (toy).

Here the focus is in the game for the dog with its owner, and also how does the dog play with a stranger (the Assessor's assistant) and how is the intensity of the dog at the blocked prey (toy placed under a bread crate).

10.7 Element #6: Evaluation of behaviour inside, including play and prey drive (Part 2)

This is tested by:

1. Motion safety (dog's reaction to smooth floor)
2. Unexpected sound.
3. Play with the dog handler.
4. Intensity at the blocked prey (toy).

In this category the play drive and the intensity at the blocked prey (toy) will be evaluated under pressure. The assessment of all exercises is done on a smooth surface.

Only a dog, who feels comfortable in his environment and can handle the situation, is able to play.

10.8 Element #7: Fundamental nature of the dog

This is tested by:

1. Isolation: the dog is left alone for at least 5 minutes, tied outside, well away from the test area (solitary).
2. Encounter between an unknown person (Assessor) and the dog.

How does the dog behave when left alone, and how does the dog react when it encounters a foreign person?

11 TESTING PROCEDURE

11.1 Uniformity of Conduct

It is essential that the procedures and test protocols are uniformly applied regardless of where the test is conducted. To avoid ambiguity and or confusion the terminology, method and or descriptors must be uniformly applied.

The ZAP Character Test is a tool by which the behaviour and flexibility of a dog is determined with different stimuli, which can trigger or provoke a range of behavioral responses.

The responses throughout the whole test allows the assessor to conclusively assess the character of the dog.

The goal is to test the dog objectively on its suitability to be a companion in today's environment.

The dog as tested should not be subordinately handled. In other words, no harsh/threatening commands or physical corrections are to be given. Commands are to be limited to the most necessary.

A negative rating of **“Assessment Cancelled”** can only be pronounced if the dog is gun shy or if the dog is highly aggressive in peaceful situations, very anxious or fearful at any point during the assessment.

During the test a certain degree of pressure will be generated, and this will determine whether the dog is able to cope with the various elements.

The testing procedure should be uniform and binding for every Assessor.

Through the accurate descriptive assessment of the behaviour of the dog, owners and spectators will easily understand the result for each animal.

11.2 Various Test Situations

The dog will undergo the test wearing a slip or fixed collar.

Use of head halters/similar devices, electric collars or pinch/spiked collars is not be permitted.

The use of food/training treats during the test will not be permitted, nor can they be carried on the handler's person.

It is the handler's responsibility to supply a suitable toy for use during the assessment. Eg. Tug toy with handle/s or ball on a rope.

The dog handler must be able to touch his dog all over.

The dog should let himself be touched by a stranger, for example by the Assessor or any helpers required for the conduct of the assessment.

The drive intensity and the behaviour of a dog during the game must be an important consideration in the assessment.

Only a dog who feels confident in his environment and is comfortable with the situation is able to play. Conclusions can be drawn as to the condition of the dog during the test by means of the game.

11.3 General Preparation and Equipment

It is the responsibility of the CWTR and officiating CWTO and club officials to ensure that all necessary equipment is available and set up on the day of test. See Appendix for photos of equipment and set up.

The items required on the day are:

- Starting Pistol and sufficient number of bullets
- Measuring Stick
- Tape Measure
- Measuring Platform
- Microchip Scanner
- Chainsaw (blade removed), Leaf Blower or similar sounding noisy power tool
- Length of metal chain (2 metres long, to be doubled into 1 metre length) and a metal plate/dish to drop the chain into
- Rocking Platform – standard sized pallet (minimum dimensions: 1250mm x 950mm, modified as per description in 11.8.1)
- Trestle tables – 5 standard plastic trestle tables (available from Bunnings), plus a ramp leading up to the tables. Ensure ramp is secure in place. Ramp to be covered with a non-slip surface. Trestle tables to remain uncovered. Tables available from Bunnings, length 1.8metres, width 750mm, height 750mm. An extra trestle table can be used as the ramp (refer to photos) or another suitable ramp may be used.
- Bread delivery crate (or similar) to be fixed with one vertical rod/pole for added resistance

- Suitable leash (approximately 1.5 metres) for tying dog out on its own
- Clubhouse, or other suitable building/structure
- Helpers for various tasks, as listed in component descriptions.

Helpers should be fully briefed before testing begins, to ensure they understand what is required of them in each element. For consistency, their actions need to be carried out the same for each participating animal. It is important that helpers are used where specified, as this leaves Assessors free to evaluate and record the displayed behaviour.

11.4 Course layout

Positioning on the field of equipment needed will vary from Club to Club, depending on areas available for use. It is necessary that the testing area is enclosed by means of pegs/rope or use of a mesh barrier. This will ensure that the area is not accidentally encroached by spectators or others who may not be aware the test is taking place.

11.5 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.

11.6 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.

11.7 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.

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'.

11.8 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.

11.9 Element # 4: 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.

11.10 Element #5: 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.

11.11 Element #6: 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.

11.12 Element #7: 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.

12 CLASSIFICATION

At the conclusion of each ZAP Character Test it shall be the responsibility of the Assessor to record the grading of pass/fail on the ZAP Character Test work sheet (Form Z 2).

13 ISSUE OF ZAP CHARACTER TEST DOCUMENTATION

13.1 Duties of GSDCA Chairman Obedience Committee

The OC shall have the responsibility for the accurate compiling and issuing the ZAP Character Test Certificates and reporting annually to the NBC Chairperson.

On receiving the master ZAP Character Test Work Sheet from the State CWTR, the OC shall check the work sheet to ensure all points are correct.

The OC shall then allocate the GSDCA ZAP Character Test Number to the ZAP Character Test Certificate (Z 3).

The OC shall transpose all information to the ZAP Character Test Certificate, plus the inclusion of the GSDCA ZAP Character Test Number.

Completed certificates will be posted to the registered owner of each animal successfully completing the ZAP Character Test.

13.2 Issuing of the Annual ZAP Character Test Report

The OC shall maintain the National ZAP Character Test Register.

The OC shall record into the National ZAP Character Test Register all relevant points (as per Table 1)

It shall be the responsibility of the OC to prepare an annual report, listing all dogs presented nationally that have passed the ZAP Character Test.

The report will be presented to the annual NBC meeting and included in the NBC Annual Report as presented at the AGM.

All animals that have passed the ZAP Character Test shall have their work sheet published on the GSDCA website.

14 AMENDMENT OF THE ZAP CHARACTER TEST MANUAL

Any GSDCA Member Club may put forward a recommendation for an amendment to the ZAP Character Test Manual, by placing an item on the NBC Meeting agenda to be carried forward, or directly on to, the GSDCA AGM agenda.

15 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The GSDCA wishes to acknowledge the contributions of Honey Gross-Richardson and Elke Effler in translation of the various documents necessary to develop this manual.

16 APPENDICES

The following are included.

Z 1 – ZAP Character Test Application for Assessment - Appendix 1

Z 2 – ZAP Character Test Worksheet (SV Version) - Appendix 2

Z 3 – ZAP Character Test Certificate – Appendix 3

Event Management Checklist for ZAP Character Test – Appendix 4

Photographs of equipment required for ZAP Character Test – Appendix 5

16.1 Appendix 1 - Z 1 - GSDCA APPLICATION FOR ZAP CHARACTER TEST

*Please print all details and circle / underline / delete options on this application **clearly**.*

Applicants Name: _____ Telephone: (__) _____

Postal Address: _____

State/Territory: _____ Post Code: _____

Email Address: _____

**I submit the following animal to the ZAP Character Test being held by
(Name of Club) _____ on __/__/____ and declare that this animal
has / has not been previously presented to the GSDCA National ZAP Character Test.
If the animal has been previously presented to a ZAP Character Test, please supply details below.**

Animal has been previously presented on:

Date: __/__/__

Name of Club: _____

Name of Assessor: _____

Name of Dog: _____

Sex: Male / Female

Born: __/__/____ Reg. No.: _____

Microchip No.: _____

I have enclosed copies of the following documentation: **ANKC Certificate of Registration**. Failure to provide the required documentation with this application will result in the animal being unable to participate in the test.

All relevant original documentation must to be brought to the ZAP Character Test and shown to the officiating ZAP Character Test Assessor.

I agree to abide by the rules and regulations pertaining to the GSDCA ZAP Character Test and consent to the results of this ZAP Character Test being published in the annual GSDCA ZAP Character Test report and on the GSDCA Website. I understand that a false declaration will result in the ZAP Character Test result being made null and void and any award that has been achieved as a result of this false declaration will be revoked.

Signed: _____

Date: __/__/____

This application must reach the Club CWTR no later than seven (7) days prior to the date of the assessment. Only entries on the official GSDCA application form Z 1 will be accepted.

16.2 Appendix 2 - Z 2 – ZAP Character Test Worksheet (SV Version)



GSDCA ZAP Character Assessment of Dogs aged 9 months +

Venue:		Date:	
Dog Name:		Name of Dog owner:	
Sire:		Dam:	
Linebreeding:			
DOB (dd/mm/yy):	Age (yr/mth):	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Microchip No.:
Home Conditions: <input type="checkbox"/> Kennel <input type="checkbox"/> Kennel/Indoor <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor		Use: <input type="checkbox"/> Breeding <input type="checkbox"/> Trial <input type="checkbox"/> Sport <input type="checkbox"/> Pet	
Number of dogs: _____			
Name of Dog Handler:		Handler since:	

Coat: <input type="checkbox"/> Stock <input type="checkbox"/> Long	Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Could be better	Testicle Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass Comments:	Teeth Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass Comments:	Measurement: Height at withers: _____ Chest Depth: _____ Chest Circumference: _____
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Evaluation of disposition			
ID Check	Examination of Teeth	Measurements on platform	
Indifferent, good natured, relaxed; friendly; confident; easy to handle	Indifferent, good natured, relaxed; friendly; confident; easy to handle	Indifferent, good natured, relaxed; friendly; confident; easy to handle	
Cautious; nervous, inexperienced; somewhat timid; agreeable handling	Cautious; nervous, inexperienced; somewhat timid; agreeable handling	Cautious; nervous, inexperienced; somewhat timid; agreeable handling	
Scared; uncertain, tangible threat; Exercise terminated	Scared; uncertain, tangible threat; Exercise terminated	Scared; uncertain, tangible threat; Exercise terminated	

Evaluation of social behaviour			
Relationship with handler	Behaviour in a group	Encounter with another dog	
Very good bonding, joyful, energetic; confident; good temperament			
Good bond, joyful, attentive; good temperament			
Normal bond, calm; balanced temperament	Good natured; indifferent; Confident; easy to handle	Good bond with handler; good natured; open, contact seeking; confident	
Poor bond, cautious; unsettled; Restless temperament	Insecure; tense; avoid contact but agreeable to handling	Poor bond but interacts with handler; somewhat tense/uncertain	
No bond, threatening; uncertain; scared; Exercise terminated	Scared; threatening, shows clear avoidance; Exercise terminated	No Bond; threatening; uncertain; scared; Exercise terminated	

Evaluation of noise sensitivity			
Engine	Metal chain	Gunshots	
Calm; attentive; indifferent; curious	Calm; attentive; indifferent; curious		
Brief reaction; tolerant; stabilizing quickly after identification of noise	Brief reaction; tolerant; stabilizing quickly after identification of noise		
Reactive; Quick stabilisation after identification of noise; slightly tense	Reactive; Quick stabilisation after identification of noise; slightly tense	Self-assured, Indifferent	
Adverse reaction; calms down; stay cautious; remains tense despite help	Adverse reaction; calms down; stay cautious; remains tense despite help	Sufficiently firm	
Clear adverse reaction; fearful; panic; shunning behaviour; Exercise terminated	Clear adverse reaction; fearful; panic; shunning behaviour; Exercise terminated	Gun-shy; Exercise terminated	

Movement on Unusual surfaces					
Rocking platform		Play on rocking platform	Height sensitivity		
		Intense play; dynamic; persistent; confident movement; Confident play	Ascent: <input type="checkbox"/> OK/confident <input type="checkbox"/> Help needed <input type="checkbox"/> Refused	Motion	GAP
Convincing; confident; indifferent; confident movements		Good; persistent; confident movements	Energetic; confident; confident movements	No reaction	
Slight reaction; recovers easily with a bit of help and shows confident movements		Sufficient sustained play; confident movements	Sufficiently confident; slightly insecure; confident movements	Brief reaction but OK	
Strong adverse reaction; insecure; timid reaction; significantly impaired movements		Hardly plays; lack of sustained interest; impaired movements	Insecure; impaired movements	Prolonged reaction, but OK	
Panic reaction; avoidance; exercise terminated		No play; fearful, panic; exercise terminated	Refuse: fearful; avoidance; Exercise terminated	Avoidance Insecure	

Evaluation of play and prey drive			
Play with handler	Play with stranger	Search for Toy	
Intensive; powerful; quick; vigorous; persistent	Intensive; powerful; quick; vigorous; persistent	Highly target driven; persistent; retrieves the toy independently	
Determined; energetic; persistent	Determined; energetic; persistent	Run to source; persistent	
Sufficiently sustained energy; could be more intense/engaging	Sufficiently sustained energy; could be more intense/engaging	Needs help to go to source; Could be more active; only sustain prey drive with help	
Intermittent play; but doesn't stop	Intermittent play; but doesn't stop	Needs extensive help to run to source; little interest in retrieving toy despite strong help	
No Play; lethargic; uninterested; Exercise terminated	No Play; lethargic; uninterested; Exercise terminated	Doesn't run to source; avoidance; Exercise terminated	

Evaluation of behaviour inside – smooth surface				
Movement	Noise	Play with handler	Search	
		Strong; intensive	Focussed; finds toy fast	
Confident; secure movement	No reaction	Quite energetic	Sufficient drive; finds toy eventually	
Confident but slightly uncomfortable	Brief reaction	Sufficient play	Must be more active; needs help	
Nervous; restless	Uncertain reaction	Hardly plays	Lack of motivation despite strong help	
Insecure; Exercise terminated	Strong reaction; Exercise terminated	No play; exercise terminated	No interest; doesn't find toy	

Evaluation of isolation behaviour			Overall Comments
On its own	Encounter		
Attentive; indifferent; calm			
Calm; waiting	Trusting; reliable; greeting		
Slightly restless; settles with time	Careful; calm; natural		
Insecure; nervous; restless	Uncertain; timid; submissive		
Scared; exercise terminated	Insecure; fearful; aggressive; exercise terminated		

Evaluation outcome	PASS <input type="checkbox"/>	FAIL <input type="checkbox"/>
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GSDCA Assessor: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____

16.3 Appendix 3 - Z 3 – ZAP Character Test Certificate

(Example only)



THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

ZAP Character Assessment Certificate

GSDCA ZAP No: **109307**

Club ZAP No: **V 2579**

Club Name: **GSDCV**

Assessment Date: **12/05/2020**

NAME: SHALEEDY ROYAL HIGHNESS

ZAP Test Result: Pass

Sex: Female

Date of Birth: 28/04/2011

Microchip: **985000000295031**

HD Result **'A' (2:2)**

Reg No: 31000244009

Titles:

Elbow: **'Z' Normal (0:0)**

Grand Sire: * ORRINSHIR ELTON JOHN 'A' 'Z'

SIRE: *DJENUEN ROCK MACHINE 'A' 'Z'

Grand Dam: *ICCARA VEGAS SHOWOFF 'A' 'Z'

Grand Sire: *AIMSWAY ABACUS 'A' 'Z'

DAM: *VANHARLEY ZIRCONIA 'A' 'Z'

Grand Dam: *VANHARLEY QUANTA 'A' 'Z'

Line breeding: Iwan Lechtal (5, 3-3) Iniff Vagrant (3-5,3)

Breeder: Mr F & Mrs V Moody

Address: PO Box 173 Macedon, VIC 3440

Owner: Mr F & Mrs V Moody

Address: PO Box 173 Macedon, VIC 3440

GSDCA ASSESSOR: **Mrs. J Yuen**

DATE: **16/08/2020**

ZAP (Zuchtanlagenprüfung) Breed Suitability Test

The ZAP Breed Suitability Test promotes and offers guidance to breeders for the uniform development of the German Shepherd Dog Breed.

The **ZAP Character Assessment** as one of its elements is conducted to ensure the character and temperament that serves the breed's inherent working qualities are maintained and improved. The test allows determination of behavioural characteristics across a number of elements that as assessed will assist breeders to consolidate traits that are specific to the required utility of the breed.

The full assessment of 'Shaleedy Royal Highness' can be accessed from the ZAP Test database at www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org

16.4 Appendix 4 - Event Management Checklist for ZAP Character Test

Date of ZAP Test:

Location:

Number of Dogs Participating:

Assessment (please tick)

	Yes	No
Ground Assessment		
The ground was level without dangerous holes		
The ground was not too wet to be slippery		
Grass was cut to an appropriate length		
The test area was suitably enclosed		
Clubhouse (Indoor) Assessment		
The floor surface was safe for dogs		
All sharp objects were stored away		
There were no extra distractions for the dog than required		
Outdoor Assessment		
A suitable and safe tie out area was provided		
Equipment Assessment		
A complete set of ZAP Test Equipment was provided		
Equipment adhered to the requirements		
All equipment was in correct working order		
All surfaces were safe for dogs and handlers to walk on		
There was a suitable non-slip surface on the trestle table ramp		
General Assessment		
Facilities for handlers and spectators were adequately provided		
Spectators were kept at a suitable distance from the test area		
The test area was contained from other events at the venue (if applicable)		
First Aid Kit available		
Administration		
Assessment Forms completed		
Comments		

Declaration

The above is true and correct.

Dated ____/____/____

Character & Working Test Officer (CWTO)

Name: _____ Signature _____

Character & Working Test Registrar (CWTR)

Name: _____ Signature _____

16.5 Appendix 5 - Photographs of ZAP Test Equipment

The items required on the day are:

Starting Pistol and sufficient number of bullets

Measuring Stick

Tape Measure

Measuring Platform

Microchip Scanner

Chainsaw (blade removed), Leaf Blower or similar sounding noisy power tool

Suitable leash (approximately 1.5 metres) for tying dog out on its own

Clubhouse, or other suitable building/structure.

Length of metal chain (2 metres long, to be doubled into 1 metre length) and a metal plate/dish to drop the chain into.



Trestle tables – 5 standard plastic trestle tables (available from Bunnings), plus a ramp leading up to the tables. Ensure ramp is secure in place. Ramp to be covered with a non-slip surface. Trestle tables to remain uncovered. Tables available from Bunnings, length 1.8metres, width 750mm, height 750mm. An extra trestle table can be used as the ramp (refer to photos) or another suitable ramp may be used.



Rocking Platform – standard sized pallet (minimum dimensions: 1250mm x 950mm, modified as per description in 11.8.1)



Bread delivery crate (or similar) to be fixed with one vertical rod/pole for added resistance.

