

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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BREED SURVEY MANUAL

Version 10 (July 2024)

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

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1. STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL BREED COMMISSION

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The National Breed Commission (NBC) is made up of the following members of the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Executive members:

- Chairperson, NBC
- President, National Council
- Chairperson, Judges Committee ○ The Secretary, National Council is to be copied on all correspondence.

The following position holders report to the NBC Chairperson:

- National Breed Survey Registrar
- Chairperson of Health and Welfare Committee
- HD/ED Control Scheme Registrar
- State Breed Survey Coordinators
- State Breed Survey Registrars
- Character & Working Test Registrar

2. ABBREVIATIONS

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ANKC	Australian National Kennel Council
BSC	Breed Survey Classified (Pass)
GSDCA	German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia
NBC	National Breed Commission
SBSC	State Breed Survey Coordinator
SBSR	State Breed Survey Registrar
QNR	GSDCA Quarterly National Review
GSDACNZ	German Shepherd Dog Advisory Council of New Zealand

3. OBJECTIVE OF BREED SURVEY

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To promote and offer breeding guidance for the continued development of the German Shepherd Dog Breed in Australia.

It is expected that animals that are successfully Breed Survey Classified will contribute to the overall improvement of the breed in Australia.

The Breed Survey year commences on 1 January and ends at the 31 December [2015]. This manual is to be read in conjunction with the [Regulations](#) Manual.

4. CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

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- 4.1 German Shepherds, both Australian bred and imported, shall be classified for breeding provided that they meet the following requirements. Specific requirements for imported animals refer section 5.3.
- 4.2 Animals MUST not be desexed and must be registered on the ANKC Main Register prior to application for Breed Survey.



- 4.3 The animal must be positively identified:
- For animals born prior to 1 July 2017, by Tattoo through the GSDCA National Tattoo Scheme or a GSDCA recognised Tattoo scheme; or by Microchip [2017]
 - For animals born after 1 July 2017 the only acceptable identification method will be microchipping [2017]
- 4.4 At the date of the survey, the animal must be at least eighteen (18) months or no more than eight (8) years.
- 4.5 An animal can be presented to Breed Survey under the required age of eighteen (18) months in outlying areas with the permission of the NBC Executive. Requests will be assessed on a case by case basis. The Breed Survey classification in these instances becomes effective when the animal becomes eighteen (18) months of age.
- 4.6 The animal must be in possession of a GSDCA 'A' Stamp and a 'Z' Stamp or passed any other GSDCA approved scheme for hips and elbows.
- 4.7 It is important that only classification be given to animals that are temperamentally sound and of above average anatomical structure.
- 4.8 Classified animals must not:
- display signs of severe general sickness, nervous disorders or constitutional weakness.
 - have albino characteristics (i.e. lack of pigmentation and with pink noses, near whites or with near white coats, even with black noses or dark eyes or dark nails).
- 4.9 Male dogs with one sided or double-sided cryptorchidism or uneven testicles or underdeveloped testicles cannot be successfully classified.
- 4.10 Animals to be classified at breed survey must not have any line-breeding closer than (3-2) or (2-3).

5. ADMITTANCE RULES AND APPLICATIONS FOR SURVEY

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5.1 Application for survey

- 5.1.1 Entries for Breed Survey will only be accepted on the official application form, GSDCA Form BS 1 - Application for Breed Survey.
- 5.1.2 The relevant paperwork is to be forwarded to the SBSR not less than seven (7) days prior to the nominated survey date. The paperwork must include the following:
- The required fee.
 - ANKC Certified pedigree.
 - The pedigree must record the applicant as the animal's owner.
 - Copies of the 'A' and 'Z' stamp results/certificate.
 - Five generation pedigree.
 - For previously presented animals that have failed a copy of the *GSDCA Form BS 2 - Notification of Failure* must accompany such animals.
- Failure to provide all of the above documentation with an application will result in the animal being unable to participate in a Breed Survey. No late submissions shall be accepted.
- 5.1.3 A coloured, high resolution photograph is to be posted/mailed to the NBC Chair within seven (7) days of the Breed Survey. The photograph must be high resolution that is scanned at 300dpi at postcard size or alternatively a raw camera image that has not been resized.
- 5.1.4 All original documentation as detailed above must be presented to the Surveyor on the day.



- 5.1.5 Incomplete compliance with requirements or criteria or a false declaration, will result in a Breed Survey result being made null and void. Any award that has been achieved as a result of non-compliance or a false declaration, will be revoked.
- 5.1.6 Previously presented animals to the GSDCA National Breed Survey Scheme must be recorded by the owner on the *GSDCA Form BS 1 - Application for Breed Survey* and a copy of the *GSDCA Form BS 2 - Notification of Failure* included with the application.
- A false declaration will result in the breed survey result being made null and void, and any award that has been achieved as a result of this false declaration will be revoked.

5.2 Interstate Survey

Animals should be surveyed in the State of domicile however it shall not be compulsory.

If an owner wishes to survey in a state other than their state of domicile, they must advise the NBC Chairperson via email nbc@gsdcouncilaustralia.org who will advise the relevant SBSC Coordinators.

For whatever reason, representation of animals will only be accepted if the animal is presented again to the Breed Survey Panel where the original survey was conducted.

Where the original survey was conducted at a National Show, application may be made to the NBC Executive to re-present to a different panel and location. [2019]

5.3 Imported Animals

- 5.3.1 Imported animals with a recognised successful breed survey are given six months from release from quarantine to be re-presented to breed survey during which time the GSDCA recognises the breed survey classification from approved organisations (as per [Regulation 3.7.2](#)) for breeding and show purposes provided the following requirements are met.

If the animal has not been re-presented within this time, without valid reason verified by the NBC Executive, the GSDCA will not recognise the breed survey classification and therefore the animal will be deemed as an unsurveyed animal and will not be permitted to present a Sires Progeny Group at any Show conducted by a Member Club or hosted for the GSDCA.

- 5.3.2 Imported animals with a recognised breed survey shall retain the classification as originally awarded after presentation to the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme refer [Regulation 3.7.2](#).

- 5.3.3 Animals with a recognised breed survey imported title/classification/registration prior to entry into GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme and/or prior to advertising in the QNR shall provide the following documentation to the GSDCA Verification Officer [2016]:

- Completed GSDCA Title Verification Application form (available from the [GSDCA website](#) or GSDCA Verification Officer),
- Copy of the overseas pedigree and
- Copy of any titles or breed survey classifications.

The overseas breed survey certificate is to be translated by an official GSDCA interpreter or GSDCA Verification Officer as listed on the [GSDCA website](#).

The GSDCA Verification Officer shall verify the required information and will notify in writing the NBC Chair and the owner of the imported animal that the titles have been verified, a copy of which shall be included with the *GSDCA Form BS 1 - Application for Breed Survey* and included with any advertisement for the QNR if applicable.

A fee is payable for all GSDCA Title Verifications as listed in the GSDCA Scale of Charges available on the [website](#). In the case of any discrepancy arising and the issuer of the breed survey needs to be contacted, any additional costs incurred by the GSDCA shall be payable by the owner of the animal. [2016]



5.3.4 That all imported animals with a survey status from the country of origin; or animals with an SV Breed Survey status conducted in Australia by a current SV Koermeister who have a Dogs Australia recognised HDED result; must be presented to a GSDCA Survey panel and have the following checked and any differences as observed from original survey noted on their survey:

- Verification of Tattoo and/or Microchip,
- Dentition,
- Testicles,
- Height,
- Gun Test, and
- Crowd Test.

The original survey classification and findings will not be altered, but differences must be noted.

5.4 **New Zealand Animals**

5.4.1 Requirements for recognition of Breed Survey Status for animals previously breed surveyed in New Zealand for entry into the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme.

5.4.2 Imported animals from New Zealand classified GSDACNZ Breed Survey Classified shall have their breed survey recognised on the proviso that the following criteria is met:

- Has been awarded a GSDCA 'A' and 'Z' stamp or passed any other GSDCA approved evaluation scheme for hips and elbows refer [Regulation 3.7](#).
- Has been verified by the GSDCA NBC Chair

5.4.3 Have checked at the breed survey:

- Verification of Tattoo and or Microchip,
- Dentition,
- Testicles,
- Height, • Gun Test, and
- Crowd Test.

The original survey classification and findings will not be altered, but differences noted.

5.5 **Title verification of animals whose semen has been imported (2023)**

5.5.1 The process to be applied and fees charged will be that as for imported animals (see 5.3.3) with the exception that verification can take place at any time. (i.e., verification of the animal's pedigree, hip and elbow results, breed survey if applicable, and any titles).

5.5.2 A copy of the GSDCA Title Verification should be attached to the Breed Survey applications for any progeny, so importers of semen are encouraged to apply for verification well before the semen is used and any progeny are presented to survey. Breeders should also request to see the Title Verification prior to breeding with imported semen.

5.5.3 Verification of semen is required before Imported Semen may be advertised in the Quarterly National Review.

6. **DATES, VENUES AND NOTIFICATIONS**

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6.1 Dates & Notification

The conduct of Breed Surveys will vary from state to state.

The dates and times to be allocated will be determined by the SBSC in liaison with their GSDCA Member Club and provided to the NBC Chair by 1 December for the following year. Dates are to be advertised via Club magazine/Website by no later than 1st January.

For Member Clubs where there is no domiciled GSDCA Breed Surveyor, application in writing must be made to the NBC Chairperson no later than 6 weeks before the nominated date of the survey. Member Clubs must advertise the approved Breed Survey in their Club magazine/Website, at least twenty-one (21) days prior to its conduct.

Scheduled dates may be cancelled provided reasonable notice is given to Club members.

6.2 Venues

The breed survey must be held on grounds that allows open access to all members and does not compromise its conduct.

6.3 State Breed Survey Registrar

This position shall be appointed by the Club. The primary task of the SBSR shall be to maintain the Club Survey Register and assist the SBSC in the conduct of the breed survey.

6.4 Choice of Surveyor

Owners of animals may choose a surveyor present and available on that day.

There is an option to request a Surveyor on the *GSDCA Form BS 1 - Application for Breed Survey* to request a Surveyor but it is not compulsory.

6.5 State Breed Surveyor Panels

Refer to [GSDCA Breed Surveyors](#) for current listing of Surveyors on website.

There are five (5) State Breed Survey Panels with a Coordinator appointed by the NBC Chairperson as per Regulation 6.3.2 across Australia to represent the following States/Territories:

- Queensland
- New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory – GSDL, NHRGSDC & ACT GSDC
- Victoria/Tasmania – GSDCV & GSDCT
- South Australia
- Western Australia

If necessary, the NBC Chairperson can appoint an acting SBSC, if required, and will ensure that person is aware of their responsibilities.

Where a survey is undertaken by a Club with no resident Surveyor, the NBC Executive will, in consultation with the Member Club, appoint a second Breed Surveyor. All Breed Surveys conducted by an affiliate Club of the GSDCA, must have a minimum of two (2) qualified GSDCA Breed Surveyors to conduct the survey. Travel arrangements and reimbursement of expenses will be approved by NBC & GSDCA Treasurer for the second Breed Surveyor only. Expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with GSDCA business rules.

6.6 Criteria for Aspiring Breed Surveyors

Refer [Regulations](#) Manual Section 6.4.



7. AMENDMENTS TO THE BREED SURVEY MANUAL

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Amendments to the Breed Survey Manual can be proposed by GSDCA Executive, Member Clubs and Breed Surveyors by placing items on the NBC Meeting Agenda.

The proposed amendments, if supported by the NBC Meeting, will be listed together with rationale on the GSDCA AGM Agenda.

The changes as approved at the GSDCA AGM will see a revised copy of the GSDCA Breed Manual circulated to all GSDCA Member Clubs, GSDCA Breed Surveyors, and posted on the [GSDCA Website](#).

8. CLASSIFICATION

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8.1 Breed Survey Classified

Animals shall be successfully Breed Survey Classified provided they are anatomically above the breed average and temperamentally sound. Descriptors must reflect the construction of the animal in order to distinguish between those that are far above the average or above average.

A GSDCA Breed Survey certificate is awarded to the owner of the animal that has successfully passed the requirements of the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme.

8.2 Period of Classification

The Breed Survey classification presented to an animal shall be for life, subject to the sub- sections of 8.5 below.

8.3 Deferment of Classification

Animals, which have been deferred or have failed to gain classification at a previous Breed Survey, may be re-presented at a subsequent survey under the original State Survey Panel and must declare the status of any previous Breed Survey application and result for that animal (Refer to *GSDCA Form BS 1 - Application for Breed Survey*).



8.4 Re-Survey for upgrade to description and after deferral

An animal for re-survey at any subsequent survey must complete a *GSDCA Form BS 1 - Application for Breed Survey*:

- is re-presented for an upgrade of description.
- where deferred from a previous survey.
- failed a survey and is re-presenting. The *GSDCA Form BS 2 - Notification of Failure* from the original survey must also be submitted.

The animal must be presented to the original Surveyor and Survey Panel. If the original surveyor is unavailable for any reason, the animal can be re-presented under a different surveyor from the same Survey Panel. Refer also section 5.2.

Note: When a animal is submitted for re-survey it may not necessarily pass in which case the record remains on the database but is hidden from view of the membership. [2019]

8.5 Removal of Breed Survey Status

A animal may be declassified where:

- An animal deemed aggressive and suspended by a Canine Control shall have its breed survey status removed for the period of suspension. At the end of the period of suspension and upon reinstatement by the Canine Control, the animal must re-present at the next breed survey for character and temperament testing
- Declassification of an animal may only be considered if the Breed Survey Panel, in conjunction with the SBSC in the animal's state of domicile, agree that the said animal has demonstrated serious faults or has produced detrimental breed problems that warrants the animal to be recalled for possible declassification.
- In such cases, the SBSC shall provide a *GSDCA Form BS 5 - Recommendation for Breed Survey Declassification*, plus relevant data to the NBC Chair who shall after consultation with the NBC Executive arrange for said animal to be recalled for re-evaluation by the NBC Executive, whose classification shall be final.

8.6 Appeals

The owner/s of an animal has the right to appeal, if they believe their animal was unfairly assessed. The following steps detail the appeal process.

- 8.6.1 Owner of the animal must lodge an appeal in writing within seven (7) days to the SBSC at the Club at which the survey was conducted. The State Breed Survey Coordinator will inform the NBC Executive of the appeal.
- 8.6.2 The SBSC in consultation with the original GSDCA Breed Surveyor and owner will document the appeal and forward same to the NBC Executive. The NBC Executive may further consult with all parties in the matter to provide more detail.
- 8.6.3 The NBC Executive will, after investigating the case, provide the owner/s with a ruling in respect of the appeal.
- 8.6.4 In the case of where the animal is to be re-assessed:
 - The assessment panel shall be made up of at least one member of the NBC Executive and two GSDCA Breed Surveyors.
 - The re-assessment shall be arranged at the cost of the owner.
 - However, to reduce this cost, the re-assessment may be held at a future breed survey held by the Member Club or interstate.
 - The SBSC and original GSDCA Breed Surveyor shall not be a part of the assessment panel.



- The decision of the assessment panel shall be final. [2017]



9. CONDUCT OF A SURVEY

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9.1 Confirmation of Eligibility

The SBSC/ SBSR shall, on receiving the *GSDCA Form BS 1 - Application for Breed Survey*, confirm that all animals are eligible eg. HD/ED, age, registration etc., before passing onto the relevant Surveyors.

9.2 State Breed Survey Register

There shall be a Breed Survey Register which shall be kept by the SBSR.

This Register shall contain information listed under the following headings:

- Survey Number,
- Survey Date,
- Name of Animal,
- Sex – M/F,
- CC Registered Number,
- Birth Date,
- Microchip Number / Tattoo Number (Refer 4.3),
- 'A' stamp classification,
- 'Z' stamp classification,
- Survey Classification (Pass or Fail),
- Breed Surveyor,
- Variety – Coat type.
- Relevant particulars shall be recorded into the Breed Survey Register at the conclusion of each breed survey. Failing classification shall be recorded as 'F'. Recommended for re-presentation shall be recorded as 'RP'.

9.3 Equipment Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the SBSC to ensure the supply of the necessary equipment and forms on the day of the Survey. This may be delegated to or done in conjunction with the SBSR.

The items required on the day are:

- Approved metric Measuring Stick/Frame which has been annually checked by a designated club official and appropriately labelled.
- Suitable metric Cloth Measuring Tape,
- Suitable 6mm (0.22") Starting Pistol with sufficient blank cartridges,
- Suitable metric Weighing Scales,
- Microchip scanner,
- Desks and chairs for all GSDCA Breed Surveyors and the State Breed Survey Registrar is preferred, where possible.

9.4 Confirmation of Breed Survey

The SBSC shall confirm the event at least seven (7) days prior to the Survey date with the other Surveyors involved. This may be delegated to the SBSR. A list of all participating animals will be sent to the Survey Panel three (3) days prior to the survey by the SBSR showing choice of Surveyor, if requested prior to Survey date.

9.5 Charges Levied

The charge to the owner of the animals being breed surveyed shall be uniform by all Member Clubs of the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia, for the GSDCA National Breed Survey Scheme. The



charges for the GSDCA National Breed Survey Scheme shall be determined and set by the GSDCA at the AGM and documented on the GSDCA Scale of Charges on the [GSDCA Website](#).

9.6 Breed Survey Report

The SBSC or their delegate, shall prepare a written report of the results of each survey using the *GSDCA Form BS 11 – Breed Survey Report* for the NBC Chair and NBC Registrar within seven (7) days of the survey. This brief report advises the NBC Chair & Registrar that a survey has occurred and who has participated. The report should detail the following:

- Date and location of survey and officiating surveyors.
- Name of animals presented to the survey and the surveyors name.
- The survey results obtained by each animal. An animal deemed to have failed survey a completed *GSDCA Form BS 2 - Notification of Failure* must accompany the official paperwork for such animals.
- A notation of any animals re-presented.

10. SURVEY PROCEDURE

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10.1 Uniformity of Conduct

It is important that the procedures as adopted are applied uniformly at all Breed Surveys conducted by Members Clubs.

Any alteration or deviation from this Breed Survey Procedure should only be made after official approval by the NBC Chair.

10.2 General Preparation

As referred to in section 9.3, it is the responsibility of the SBSC and/or SBSR to ensure that all necessary equipment is available on the day of survey.

All animals submitted for survey are entered in the Club Survey Register and a Club Survey Number issued.

A GSDCA Form BS 12 - Breed Survey Checklist and GSDCA Form BS 7 - Breed Survey Worksheet are to be completed by the SBSR and attached to the following:

- completed GSDCA Form BS 1 - Application for Breed Survey,
- copy of the ANKC Registered pedigree,
- five generation pedigree, and
- confirmation of GSDCA 'A' and 'Z' results or any other recognised GSDCA official scheme.

And if applicable:

- a GSDCA For BS 2 Notification of failure for previously presented animals, and
- copy of the email verifying the titles for imported animals.

Originals shall be available on the day of breed survey.

10.3 Order of Assessment

10.3.1 The animals participating in the Breed Survey shall report to the SBSR and/or the SBSC and have their microchip/tattoo verified

10.3.2 Allocation of animals to be advised to the participating Breed Surveyors.

10.3.3 The GSDCA Breed Surveyors shall ask all the animals entered in the breed survey to undertake a warm up lap. Animals that obviously would be better served by representation at a later time should be acknowledged. Factors for this may include condition, injury, immaturity, unprovoked aggressive behaviour etc, and this decision must be made during the warm up procedure. Such animals shall not be deemed to have failed the Breed Survey



but deferred to present at a future Breed Survey. Refer section 11.8 regarding “aggressive behaviour”.

- 10.3.4 The animals will then be gaited, dogs followed by bitches in numerical order.
- 10.3.5 The gun test followed by the temperament and character test will then be conducted
- 10.3.6 Teeth, Testicles, Measurements and Weight will then be checked.
- 10.3.7 Discussion by panel members regarding the classification of each animal.
- 10.3.8 The chosen surveyor shall assess the animal and complete the Breed Survey Worksheet for those animals deemed to have been successfully classified.
- 10.3.9 Animals deemed as having failed the breed survey at any point from 10.3.4 above, shall take no further part in the survey and shall be recorded accordingly in both the Club Survey Register and on *GSDCA Form BS 2 - Notification of Failure* which shall be attached to the *GSDCA Form BS 7 - Breed Survey Worksheet* and forwarded to the NBC Chair/NBC Breed Survey Registrar for recording purposes, a copy to the owner and a copy made available to the officiating Breed Surveyor. No general description or underlining is to be completed on the *GSDCA Form BS 7 - Breed Survey Worksheet* for failed animals.
- 10.3.10 Presentation of the successfully classified animals and a brief summary of the survey by each Surveyor for each animal surveyed shall conclude the survey.

11. CRITERIA

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11.1 Microchip/Tattoo Verification

For animals born before 1/7/17 only the tattoo should be verified prior to Breed Survey Classification. The animal must be tattooed via the GSDCA National Tattoo Scheme or any other recognised/approved scheme.

For animals born after 1/7/17 it is only necessary to verify the dog's microchip for Breed Survey Classification

Should any discrepancy be found with the tattoo number and/or microchip number the animal must take no further part in the breed survey.

11.2 Dentition

A Dentition check is to be carried out.

For damaged teeth, undeveloped, partly discoloured, missing and additional teeth shall be recorded in writing on *GSDCA Form BS 7 - Breed Survey Worksheet* under sub-section IV (25) heading, Dentition Faults, and included in the General Description.

Faultless, Gapless, Healthy Dentition - Teeth that are all fully developed with correct scissor bite, regular spacings and no wear to the incisors. The teeth and gums are clean and healthy.

Double P1's Allowed but care should be taken not to mistake this dentition for a single P1 with an underdeveloped P2 when the P2 is actually missing.

Breed Survey Classified animals are PREFERRED to have complete, healthy dentition

- no missing teeth, double P1's are allowed.

Breed Survey Classified animals MAY have •

a slightly level bite, but without wear.

- not quite correct scissor bite.
- no more teeth missing than
- one only M4 or
- one only Incisor or



- two only P1's or
- one only P2 or
- one only P1 plus one (1) incisor.
- discoloured or so-called distemper teeth, provided the enamel of teeth is still intact.
- **slightly** worn teeth, this being not only due to age.

Animals with other dentition faults, such as, more missing teeth than described above or with over or undershot mouths are to be denied classification. The condition of an overshot mouth is deemed to occur when the incisors of the upper jaw protrude a distance of two (2) mm or more from the incisors of the lower jaw.

The loss of teeth through accident or mechanical means, provided they are attested to by a GSDCA Tooth Certificate shall be counted as though they are present and considered as such when making a classification. No other form of documentation shall be accepted.

11.3 Testicles

The dog is to be checked carefully to ensure that two apparently normal testicles are fully descended into the scrotum. The testicles must not be abnormally uneven or undeveloped.

11.4 Measurements

11.4.1 Height

- The dog shall stand on a flat, level surface with forelegs plumb and shall not be stretched in the rear.
- The dog should stand “four square” with forelegs perpendicular to the ground and neck at a normal position in accordance with the Breed Standard.
- The adjustable bar of the measuring stick shall be rested firmly, without undue pressure, on the point of the withers. The measurement must be one that will be repeated by other Surveyors or Judges and not be open to constant dispute.
- Height at withers shall be taken by measuring vertically and plumb from the ground to top of withers directly behind the ulna joint.
- Three measurements are to be taken and the average recorded. Where three or more surveyors are present each measurement should be taken by a different surveyor. When only two surveyors are measuring each shall take one measurement and then either surveyor to take the third measurement.
- Only the measurement of height is of consequence in determining pass or fail.
- Breed Survey Classified animals should stand within the limit of 60/66cms for dogs and 55/61cms for bitches.
- Animals that are oversize and measure no more than 62 cm (bitches) or 67 cm (dogs) that are considered of HIGH anatomical worth may be considered for Breed survey Classification. Animals that measure over 62 cm (bitches) and 67cm (dogs) will be recorded as failed. [July 2020]

The Breed Survey Certificate will contain the following under *Warning and Recommendation* “Serious consideration with regard to the correct size must be taken when breeding from this animal”.

11.4.2 *Depth of Chest*

The chest depth shall be taken by measuring vertically and plumb from the top of the withers to the underside of the chest directly behind the ulna.

11.4.3 *Chest circumference*



Chest circumference will be measured using a linen tape placed in the centre of the shoulder blades on top of the withers and carried right around the trunk directly behind the ulna and pulled tight.

11.4.4 *Weight*

Weight of the animal shall be measured using suitable metric weighing scales and recorded.

11.5 **Ears**

Breed Survey Classified animals should have an ear carriage without fault. Where animals have small faults of ear carriage this must be noted on the Breed Survey. Animals with soft, non-erect ears cannot be classified.

11.6 **Tail**

Breed Survey Classified animals should have a tail carriage without fault, however a slight deviation from normal should not be penalized but must be noted on the Breed Survey. Animals with hooked or rolled tails cannot be classified.

11.7 **Coat**

German Shepherd Dog – Stock Coat - Breed Survey Classified animals should have normal coats. The length of the coat may vary from a slightly short coat to a fuller, profuse coat, with undercoat. Where animals may have small faults of coat occurring, such as wavy coats this must be noted on the Breed Survey.

German Shepherd Dog - Long Stock Coat - Breed Survey Classified animals should have a long double coat (with undercoat) ie. Long, soft, topcoat not lying closely, with undercoat feathering on ears and legs, bushy breeches and bushy tail forming flags below. Where animals may have small faults of coat occurring this must be noted on the Breed Survey.

Animals with a soft top coat, usually with a parting down the middle of the back and without undercoat, must be denied classification.

11.8 **Character & Temperament**

11.8.1 *Testing*

The dog is to be tested to ensure that the character and temperament befits a working dog. The dog is to be confident, fearless and aware. Testing is to be done in a rather natural everyday type situation. No threatening, dramatic gestures are made towards the dog.

Can be assessed by walking toward the dog from the front in a somewhat slow way and observing the dog's eyes, at the same time, patting and handling the dog if desired. Also, observe the dog prior to his assessment. Observe whilst the dog stands in the crowd and also whilst being measured.

11.8.2 *Classification*

For animals to be Breed Survey Classified they must be firm and self-assured in character. Animals that display any deviation shall be deemed to have failed breed survey. **Animals that either show trepidation, are overly suspicious, are apprehensive, wary, visually fearful or are aggressive without provocation, shall be deemed to have failed Breed Survey.**

11.8.3 *Aggressive behaviour*

11.8.1.1 *Towards a person or persons.*

Animals that display any unprovoked, aggressive behaviour towards a person **at any stage** during the breed survey will be immediately excluded from further participation in the survey and deemed to have failed. Such behaviour will be noted on the GSDCA BS 2 - *Notification of Failure Worksheet*.

11.8.1.2 *Toward other animals*



Animals displaying unprovoked, aggressive behaviour towards other animals at the breed survey are to be excused from the breed survey with the agreement of the officiating breed surveyors on the day up to and including **the warm up laps**. The findings re the aggressive behaviour of the deferred animal will be noted on the *GSDCA BS11 - Breed Survey Report*. The owners are to be requested to work/socialise the animal to reduce the level of aggression. The animal may be represented to breed survey at a later date. The findings re the aggressive behaviour must be noted along with the deferral of the animal on the *GSDCA Form BS 7 - Breed Survey Worksheet*.

11.8.1.3 *Continuous aggressive behaviour*

The animal will be deemed to have failed survey if it takes further part in the survey and displays continuous, unprovoked aggressive behaviour towards other animals. Such behaviour will be noted on the *GSDCA BS 2 - Notification of Failure Worksheet*

11.8.1.4 *Re-presentation of aggressive animals*

The owners of dogs unable to be classified due to aggressive behaviour towards people or animals are to be requested to work/socialise the animals concerned to reduce the level of aggression. The animals may be re-presented once again to breed survey at a later date and a copy of the *GSDCA BS 2 - Notification of Failure Worksheet* must accompany the future application.

11.9 **Watchfulness**

This can be assessed prior to the dog advancing, whilst still in the crowd awaiting his turn. Whilst in stance observe if the dog is alert to "every sight and sound" or dead pan and disinterested.

11.10 **Condition of Nerves**

Is the dog on edge, hypersensitive or calm and self-assured. This is direct observation.

11.11 **Confidence.**

Unmistakable when present. A crowd test is beneficial here. A minimum of Five (5)-people walk around the dog or have the handler walk the dog through a group of people. The handler and dog will then return and stand in the middle of the crowd until asked to leave.

11.12 **Gun Test**

The test shall be carried as per Section 10.3.

The handler shall walk to a designated position and stop without giving the dog a command facing the Surveyors with the dog standing and on a loose lead. The pistol shall be held pointing downward at the side, and not rear, of the Surveyor. Up to five (5) animals at a time may be tested at once.

The pistol shall be fired by the GSDCA Breed Surveyor or steward, twelve (12) paces from the dog. It is recommended that an initial shot is fired, then a pause of 2-3 seconds followed by 2 rapid fire shots. A dog that shows a wandering movement, padding or discomfort will be retested.

Animals must stand firm and confident showing no real concern for the shots discharged. The desired reaction is one of total lack of concern.

The animal that stands sufficiently firm may be classified and will have sufficiently firm noted in the General Description and under Virtues and Faults. An animal described as sufficiently firm may show a mild reaction to the gun but will recover, relax and become unconcerned with further shots/testing. A gun sure animal normally reacts to the gun shot by standing in one spot and either, being alerted or showing a lack of interest. A gun-shy animal adversely reacts to the gun shot by not standing in one spot and either, moves around, jumps up on the handler, walks around the handler, hyperventilates, moves closer to the ground, licks lips a lot, looks fearful and anxious, sits or cringes. The entire body language needs to be observed. If the animal moves or appears uncomfortable retest. The major assessment is stability to the discharge sound.



Only those animals that stand firm and sure or sufficiently firm during the gun test can be Breed Survey Classified successfully.

Animals who fail the gun test shall not be classified and shall be deemed to have failed the Breed Survey.

11.13 GSDCA A Stamp for Hips & GSDCA Z Stamp for Elbows

It will be necessary to produce the certificate or verification of recognized GSDCA official HD/ED Control Schemes (refer [Regulation 3.3](#) and [Regulation 3.7](#)) to the Breed Surveyor to be successfully Breed Survey Classified.

12. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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The summary must always follow the same pattern and order. It must cover the same important basic points.

As such, the description is rather light and general, but must clearly define the type, quality and balance of the animal, noting qualities to highlight and those of serious concern. Any slight faults will be recorded in the breakdown description on the remainder of the work sheet.

The general description and the specific descriptors as underlined must be consistent.

12.1 Size

Determine the size of the dog or bitch by referring to the measurement that was taken:

<i>Dogs (cms) :</i>	<i>Bitches (cms) :</i>	<i>Description :</i>
60 - 61	55 - 56	Small
61 - 62	56 - 57	Under Medium Size
62 - 63	57 - 58	Medium Size
63 - 64	58 - 59	Above Medium Size
64 - 65	59 - 60	Large
65 - 66	60 - 61	Very Large *
66 - 67	61 - 62	Oversize**
Above 67	Above 62	FAIL [July 2020]

* Under Particular Virtues and Faults (Standing on the upper limit of size)

** Under Particular Virtues and Faults (Oversize and breed warnings)

12.2 Strength.

Take into consideration the general strength and formation of bone, muscle tone and development, tautness, ligamentation, weight and general condition. Animals are divided into the following categories:

Description : Fine Medium Strong Strong Medium Heavy Heavy

12.3 Proportions

The standard length to height ratio is ideally 10 : 9 to 8.5, whereby the dog is longer than it is high.

<i>Length :</i>	<i>Height :</i>	<i>Description :</i>
10	9.0	Well proportioned
10	8.5	Well proportioned
10	8.0	Long
10	9.5	Rather Square
10	10.0	Square

12.4 Type

This is a general, but accurate description relating to the overall 'type' of the dog. The ideal type being a dog of anatomical proportions and structure that perfectly suits its ability to serve as a working dog.



12.5 Head

The correct proportions of the head, skull as to muzzle, is 50:50 from the stop and ideally equally parallel to each other. The stop should not be too pronounced. MAKE a note of a Roman nose if it's very apparent.

12.6 Pigment

Description of overall pigment is selected from the terms of:

Well pigmented; Quite good pigment; Paling pigment.

12.7 Neck

Length; angle.

12.8 Withers

The description of the withers relates to the height of the dorsal vertebrae in relation to the top of the back and croup. It can be expressed by:

High Vertebrae clearly above the top of the back and croup.

Flat or Level Vertebrae level with the top of the back and croup. *Low*

Vertebrae below the top of the back and croup.

12.9 Back

The back must be strong, tight, firm and level both in stance and gait, free of roll, up and down movement, sag or roach. The back, as formed by thoracic and lumbar vertebrae between the rear edge of the dorsal vertebrae (withers) and the forward edge of the croup, should be short and firm.

12.10 Croup

The croup should appear to be an extension of the line of the back. Its angle should not exceed 23 degrees and if approaching 28 degrees is described as steep.

12.11 Tail

Length and carriage

12.12 Front

Look at the dog from the front. If its barrel ribbed, the toes will turn in. If it is narrow fronted (french front) the toes will turn out excessively. The legs should be straight.

12.13 Forequarter Proportions

The correct proportions from top of withers is 45:55 where 45% of the height is the total depth of the chest and 55% is the length of foreleg. Also note the chest development. The prosternum bone should be just in front of the shoulder joint, not well in front of it.

12.14 Forequarter Angulation

Both the shoulder blade and the upper arm should each be approximately 45 degrees to the horizontal. The upper arm should be slightly longer than the shoulder blade. If the angle is difficult to accurately determine, sit the dog and the bones become more prominent.

12.15 Hindquarter Angulation

To be correctly angulated the upper and lower thigh bones should be approximately of equal length. If the lower thigh is considerably longer, the animal is 'long in lower thigh'. If the lower thigh is shorter, the animal is 'short in lower thigh', and similarly for the upper thigh.

Note: Whilst in stance with hock plumb, the ideally angulated dog should exhibit a make believe plumbline dropped from the root of the tail striking approximately 30 mm in front of the toe. Where the line strikes considerably further in front whilst the hock is plumb, the dog is over angulated and particular note should be made in the both the General Description and Virtues and Faults.



12.16 Gait

Observe the animal going and coming at a walk and gaiting. Observe both hock and elbows for firmness. Unless there is quite pronounced weakness, do not mention it on the worksheet, especially in young dogs as the ligaments may firm with maturity. Take note of the position of the steps, only record if the steps are narrow or crossing. Next, gait the dog and observe from the side, paying particular attention to:

- The forequarter assembly and its reach.
- The drive of the hindquarter and its firmness.
- The reach of the hindquarter under the body.
- Firmness of back. Is it level with the ground?
- The croup angle.
- The pasterns, with an angle over 28 degrees, the pasterns should be firmer in movement.
- Overall firmness of ligaments and joints.

12.17 Temperament

Some brief comment on both character, temperament and reaction to the gun should be made in the General description.

12.18 Linking the Observed Attributes

Using these fifteen (15) points and basically in the same sequence, a general description of a Breed Surveyed Classified animal could be constructed from the observations of:

medium size, medium strength, well proportioned, very good type, strong head, strong, pigment, good length of neck, high withers, strong back, slightly short and slightly steep croup, correct length and carriage of tail, correct in front, good forequarter proportions, very good forequarter angulation, very good hindquarter angulation, correct going, correct coming, strong drive, far reaching, back remains firm, Character and temperament are firm and self assured.

12.19 Particular Virtues and Faults

It is important to highlight the animal's virtues and faults as determined throughout the survey.

Dogs that measure over 65cms and bitches that measure over 60cms shall be described in Section V Particular Virtues and Faults as standing on the upper limit of size.

Dogs that measure over 66cms and bitches that measure over 61cms shall be described in Section V Particular Virtues and Faults as oversize.

12.20 Advice for Selection of Breeding Partner

This section must be completed by the GSDCA Breed Surveyor and contains both recommendations and warnings.

Any animals that have a parent or grandparent with any Elbow grading or less than an excellent score in Hips shall have a warning in Section VI Advice for Selection of a Breeding Partner.

It shall be as follows:

*To consolidate his/her normal elbow results only suitable for sires/bitches with normal elbows.
[2006]*

Knowledge of the dog's pedigree should be well understood in order that both dominant and recessive aspects can be considered.

What is required here is advice relating to either virtues or faults in the individual that are typical of the bloodline. For example, the dog in question may stand at middle size, but come from stock that was inherently large. We would put here, "suitable only for bitches of medium size".

The logic would apply to any other points such as croups, angulations, length, sex characteristics, etc.



Similarly, the dog may excel in both forequarter and croup, a valuable dog indeed if it's dominant. Here we could put "recommended for bitches which are not correct in croup and forequarter angulation".

It is most important that this section should say "Recommended to the bloodlines of " Or "Connections to the lines of should be an advantage"

The real value of this section will be determined by the GDDCA Breed Surveyor's knowledge of both the breed and more importantly, bloodlines.

Note: Knowledge of suggested bloodline combinations is vitally important in this area of the survey.

13. SUMMARY OF SURVEY

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At the conclusion of each survey day, the SBSC or delegate will line up the animals presented for the days survey and may begin the final presentation of the animals surveyed by announcing:

- The total number of dogs/bitches presented.
- The total number of animals passing the survey.
- The total number of animals excused (if any) from the survey.
- The total number of animals failing (if any) the survey, including the reason for the failure. The total number of animals being re-presented.

The animals being presented for the day's survey shall be lined up and the Surveyor should successively present the results of their survey on each animal to all present.

14. FAILURE

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Animals which do not fulfil the previously described requirements will be classified as FAIL. Where an animal fails the survey, they may be presented again at any subsequent survey, provided that the previous results of the presentation of the animal to breed survey is declared on the *GSDCA Form BS 1 - Application for Breed*

Survey and a copy of the signed *GSDCA Form BS 2 - Notification of Failure* accompanies the *GSDCA Form BS 1 - Application for Breed Survey*. A false declaration will result in the breed survey being declared null and void. The animal must be re-presented to the original Breed Survey Panel including wherever possible the original Breed Surveyor.

Any animal that has been deemed to have failed breed survey on two separate occasions for the same reason **shall not be eligible** to present to breed survey on any future occasion.

15. FINDINGS OF SURVEY - BS 7 BREED SURVEY WORKSHEET

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This form is to be filled out at the completion the Breed Survey. Ensure that all sections of the form are completed correctly and neatly. The Breed Surveyor is responsible for entering the detail into the Database WITHIN FOURTEEN (14) DAYS however the hand-written worksheet is to be forwarded to the NBC Breed Survey Registrar with other paperwork by the SBSR within TWENTY ONE (21) DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE SURVEY.

16. NATIONAL BREED COMMISSION

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16.1 Duties

The NBC Chair and/or NBC Breed Survey Registrar shall



- Receive post survey the SBSC or delegate's *GSDCA Form BS 11 – Breed Survey Report* (refer Section 9.6) which is then forwarded to the NBC executive.
- receive and process worksheets from the SBSRs
- have the responsibility for the accurate checking, filing and issuing nationally all of the Breed Survey Forms, Work Sheets and Certificates.
- When requested attend all meetings held by the NBC and provide an accurate statement of account at the end of each financial year.
- maintain the "National Breed Survey Register".
- Complete quarterly report for billing of Breed Survey Levy and forward to GSDCA Treasurer.
- All correspondence sent by the NBC Chair and/or NBC Breed Survey Registrar to be copied to the GSDCA Secretary and NBC Executive.
- NBC Chair and/or NBC Breed Survey Registrar provides report for the NBC meeting and Annual report regarding numbers surveyed etc.

16.2 Issuing of Breed Survey Certificates:

On receiving the master Breed Survey Worksheet from the State Club, the NBC Chair/NBC Breed Survey Registrar shall check the Survey Sheet to ensure all points are correct. A necessary check shall be to ensure that a dog recorded on the Survey Sheet as "having not been surveyed before" is correct.

The NBC Breed Survey Registrar shall record into the "National Breed Survey Register" all relevant points and from the Register, allocate the GSDCA Survey No. to the "Breed Survey Certificate".

The NBC Breed Survey Registrar shall check the data entered into the GSDCA Database and print the Certificate.

Photos ideally are to be received within seven (7) days of the survey. Where photos are not supplied in a timely manner the survey will be loaded onto the database with a notation "Photograph not supplied"

The master *GSDCA Form BS 7 - Breed Survey Worksheet* shall be filed by the NBC Chair/ NBC Breed Survey Registrar.

Note: Should a "Breed Survey Certificate" need correcting, the original GSDCA Breed survey Certificate must be returned to the NBC Chair for alteration.

16.3 GSDCA Breed Survey Results

- All animals successfully Breed Surveyed during the GSDCA year shall be published on the GSDCA Database. [2015]
- The current requirements for successfully passing the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme shall be detailed in the GSDCA Breed Survey Manual. [2015/2017]
- Hip scores, and both Elbow grading and millimetres of change are to be shown on both the breed survey certificate and on the GSDCA Database. [2015]
- The tattoo number (for animals born before 1st July 2017 only) and/or Microchip of a Breed Surveyed animal shall be printed along with all the other relevant information on the GSDCA Database. [2017]
- Obedience titles to be recorded on the GSDCA Database Breed Survey result against the names of the animals holding those titles, when provided by the owner at the time of entry. [2015]
- Any error on the GSDCA Database will be corrected, if notified in writing to the NBC Chair. [2015]



17. GSDCA DATABASE

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17.1 Entry of Breed Survey data in the database

- Breed Surveyors shall be issued a unique Username and Password for access to the GSDCA Database, by the GSDCA Database Coordinator.
- Breed Surveyors shall enter into the GSDCA Database the breed survey data for all animals that they survey – except for imported animals, and any animal that is being re-presented to survey. The survey data for imported animals and/or animals that are being re-presented to survey must be entered by the NBC Chair / NBC Breed Survey Registrar.
- Database Data Entry Procedure for Breed Surveyors available from the Database Registrar.

17.2 Read Only access

- Each club is issued with a unique Username and Password to be shared with their membership for access to the GSDCA Database, by the GSDCA Database Coordinator.
- Information includes, dog registrations, HD/ED results and breed surveys for the use of the member for research.

[CLICK HERE](#) to be directed to the GSDCA Database.



APPENDIX 1

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Website Documentation relating to Breed Survey

The GSDC website - <http://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/>

GSDCA Documentation on this page:

- Aspirant Judges Education Pack
- Regulations Manual - The following Regulations pertain to Breed Surveyors and or Breed Survey and are not included in the Breed Survey Manual.
 - 3 GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes
 - 6.3 GSDCA Breed Surveyors
 - 6.4 GSDCA Aspiring Breed Surveyors
- Guiding Principals
- Character & Working Assessment Manual
- Extended Breed Standard
- Scale of Charges
- Social Media Code of Conduct

Breed Survey on this page:

- Breed Survey Calendar
- What happens at Survey?
- GSDCA Breed Surveyors
- National Breed Survey Registrar
- Breed Survey Certificates
- Gun Test Article

Hip & Elbow Control Scheme on this page:

- ANKC Regulations
- Hip and Elbow Certificate
- Comparison of the GSDCA elbow scheme with the SV Scheme

Statistics on this page:

- Publication of Hip and Elbow Scheme Statistics

Sires Progeny Reports

GSDCA Database

APPENDIX 2

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Forms that apply to Breed Survey are as follows and are available to download from the [GSDCA website](#)



- BS 1 Application for Breed Survey
- BS 2 Notification of Failure
- BS 5 Recommendation for Breed Survey De-Classification
- BS 7 Breed Survey Worksheet
- BS 11 Breed Survey Report
- BS 12 Breed Survey Checklist



APPENDIX 3

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CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

Breed Survey Classification	Item/Description
DENTITION	
Pass	Preferred: Faultless, gapless, healthy dentition that are all fully developed with correct scissor bite, regular spacings and no wear to the incisors. The teeth and gums are clean and healthy.
	May have: Slightly level bite, but without wear.
	Double P1's allowed (care to be taken not to mistake this dentition for a single P1 with an underdeveloped P2 when the P2 is actually missing)
	Not quite correct scissor bite.
	Missing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One only M4 or • One only Incisor or • Two only P1's or • One only P2 or • One only P1 and One only Incisor
	Discoloured or so-called distemper teeth, provided the enamel of teeth is still intact
	Severely worn teeth, this being not only due to age
Fail	Missing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One only P3 or • Two only Incisors or • Two only P2's or • One only P2 and One only Incisor or • One only P2 and One only P1 or • One only P3 and one further tooth or • One only Canine or • One only P4 or • One only M1 or • One only M2 or • Three or more teeth altogether.
	Bite is Level or Undershot 2 mm or more or Overshot.
OTHER	
Pass	Must have: A stamp and Z stamp or recommended equivalent.
	Long stock coats must have undercoat
	Character and temperament is firm and self-assured.
	Preferred: Maximum size is 66 cms for dogs and 61 cms for bitches. Minimum size is 60 cms for dogs and 55 cms for bitches.
	Gun sure.
	May be:



	<p>Outside of the size range ie. Between 61 – 62 Bitches and 66 – 67 Dogs [July 2020] but are considered to be of ABOVE AVERAGE ANATOMICAL WORTH may be Breed Survey Classified, and the height as measured shall be recorded on the Breed Survey with a Warning and Recommendation that extreme care must be taken when considering breeding from this animal.</p> <p>Sufficiently firm on the gun test.</p>
Fail	Character and temperament is not firm and self assured. Not Gun sure.
	Albinism. Long coat without undercoat.
	Not two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
	Dogs over 67 and Bitches over 62 [July 2020]