



German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia

National Breed Commission Report

2025



National Breed Commission Report

July 2025

I present the combined National Breed Commission Report 2025 in line with the Annual National Breed Commission/Judges' Meetings to be hosted by the GSDL of NSW in Sydney at the Adina Apartment Hotel. Thank you to the Secretary, Jan Haase and Treasurer Peter Flynn for their assistance with arranging the hotel, bookings, and accommodation on behalf of the National Breed Commission.

Thank you to the Council Officers that run their portfolios, efficiently and mostly independently who keep things ticking over in the organisation.

HDED Registrar – I owe a huge debt of thanks to Jacinta Poole who works above and beyond her role, assisting every portfolio in the NBC. Jacinta has logged close to 100 hours of work in her own time to build the online breed survey application process for the team. This will streamline processes for the State Registrars who currently spend a lot of time transcribing information from the owner's application to the BS7 worksheets to have them ready for surveys. This system will do that automatically and save literally hours of work for people in the clubs. Whilst doing that Jacinta attends to her own work of processing HDED contracts mostly within a 24-hour turnaround. We are in debt to her and owe her our gratitude for facilitating processes that enable members receive to their results so efficiently. Thank you does not seem quite enough.

Breed Survey Registrar – Jessica Kada took over the registrar position this year and has found her feet with the processes very quickly. Jess has found it difficult to wrangle the clubs to get paperwork in efficiently and when this happens surveys get held up for long periods of time. Jess will co- lead the implementation of a central online



application system for applying to have dogs breed surveyed. The system mirrors the online HDED process and has been built by Jacinta Poole over the last 6 months. The rollout will occur throughout August for implementation in the last quarter of the year. Thank you to Jess for taking on the challenge of the registrar's position. I know it is in capable hands.

Breed Health and Welfare – Dr Candice Wedge (nee Baker) compiles information each year for us from the Breed Health reports and providing advice from time to time for owners and breeders. Over the past 12 months she has been working mostly in the DNA space to help us decide which service provider can offer the Council the best package moving forward. The goal posts are constantly being moved by the states going on their own path instead of Dogs Australia offering a national service which would seem the most logical path. However, collaborating with 8 Canine bodies to agree on one process seems like the impossible dream, hence why states are doing their own thing. This is a constant source of debate due to the cost involved. We all know it is the right thing to do, but when it hits the hip pocket people are reluctant to introduce yet another screening process. Thank you, Candy, for all your work for our organisation.

Database – Frank Moody works tirelessly for the Council ensuring the back end of the database is current with downloads from DogsAustralia. These downloads happen quarterly and rely on DogsNSW to pull the data. It is not always as regular as we would like it to be. However, as our system relies heavily on volunteer work it is not always a seamless process. Frank has spent quite a lot of time with Rob, the programmer who charges very little to make changes for us. Much of the work this year has been to manage the changes necessary for the Character Assessment data. Frank is the right hand to the Breed Survey and HDED registrars for fixing issues regarding pedigrees, changes to ownership and addresses among a myriad of things. Thank you, Frank, for your patience and diligence to the Council.

Verifications -Kurt Morton has been busy in the Verification officer's position ensuring that owners of imported animals and imported semen are processed efficiently to enable them to slot seamlessly into our systems here in Australia. Dogs that are surveyed overseas, mostly require documentation to be translated and Kurt utilises the services of Honey-Gross Richardson, Jenny De Lucia and Vince Tantaro to assist with German and Italian and calls upon the services of people within the organisation and sometimes external who can translate the other languages. Kurt has written an article recently that was published in the QNR to reach our members and advertise the service.

As the Chair of the NBC, I am fortunate to work with these great people, whilst also attending to executive tasks and responding to issues. Each portfolio has provided a report for this meeting. This information is combined and becomes the National Breed Commission Report and will be tabled at the commencement of the meeting on Saturday. The combined report will be sent to delegates and participants the week prior.

The first half of this year has been extremely busy, and I am yet to implement several of the initiatives that were directives from our AGM. Sometimes it is terribly difficult to be proactive in the space when we are blindsided by personal issues and gripes that surface constantly. The prevalence of people's preoccupation with social media to air their grievances is often unhelpful and derails progress, when we are all volunteers giving our time to steer the organisation in the right direction, often at great cost to our personal time and family life.

I am indeed grateful to Janet Haase and Gail Donald work closely with me and seem to do the bulk of the work on the Council Executive. I am not sure how I would manage without you reminding and supporting me to get the job done.



Breed Surveyor Retirements

Fay Stokes informed me in February of her intention to step down from the Breed Survey team. Fay commenced breed surveying for the Council in 1983, after gaining her judges licence in 1981. Her presence will be missed though I have encouraged her to remain active with the NSW Survey team. As Fay was unable to attend the National this year in Queensland, Sean Lynch and I presented her with a gift from the Council and Service Medallion for her valued and continuous service of 42 years as a Breed surveyor.

Not long after Fay's retirement was announced and another of our long-standing surveyors, Carol O'Rourke decided that it was time to retire as well. Carol's tenure as a Breed Surveyor began in Perth in 1983, in the same year as Fay. She and her late husband Barry were largely responsible for the concept and introduction of the State Breed Assessment. The first one was held in Western Australia and have continued since that time. Carol and Barry relocated to Queensland in 2008 and became an integral part of the Survey team there. Carol, like Fay has served the Council continuously as a surveyor for 42 years. We are indebted to their services and wish them well in their retirement.

From retirements to applications- In July 2024, Nicky McDermott was accepted by the peer group to join the survey team an aspirant. Nicky has participated in surveys throughout the year in Victoria and in Queensland as well. Her application to become accepted as a surveyor this year will be reviewed at the 2025 NBC meeting in accordance with the regulations. Wishing Nicky, the best of luck with her application.

Andrew O'Loughlin has applied to join the survey team as an aspirant after several years as the Breed Survey registrar in South Australia. Andrew has met the requirements as set down in the regulations and his application will be considered during the 2025 NBC meeting weekend.

Continuous learning and education

If our breed is to survive the plethora of criticism that it currently faces from many sources, whether they be politically generated or just social, as surveyor/judges we need to be doing our bit to keep abreast of the continually changing landscape within our breed. Historically, we have always relied on Europe to lead the way and provide us with the material to improve our breed here in Australia. Many of the survey team have been with us for the long haul and have witnessed the changes that have impacted key milestones in the development of the German Shepherd dog, anatomy, health and wellbeing, and character. The challenges we have faced have gone from almost too many shepherds being bred and being a bit spoiled for choice to now managing a much smaller blood base than we have had since the time of the importation ban. We must respond to these changes and new developments, meeting them head on and dealing with them in a holistic and appropriate manner, that encourages our breeders and young people rather than turning them away. Raising awareness of issues is necessary, however the nuance lies in how we sensitively deal with the issues given that it is far easier to be critical than it is to find the good points and support people in their areas for development.

I urge all our surveyors to engage with education, enter the conversation, have robust discussions, challenge your perceptions and beliefs in line with what is right for the German Shepherd Dog.

Breed survey reminders to member clubs

Clubs hold surveys for members across Australia, not just for members of their own clubs. I would hope we are all on the same page with this. The Breed survey scheme is a GSDCA national breed improvement program. Whilst members survey within their own clubs, some members travel further afield and it may be convenient for them to survey their animal in conjunction with a show. A state coordinator has been appointed to carry out the



duties of leading the survey in their state, except for the two clubs that do not currently have a residing surveyor on their books as a club member. i.e. GSDCT and NHRGSDC. Clubs work with the coordinator and registrar to select their dates and the appropriate surveyors. For instance, if there is a judge surveyor in attendance whilst judging a show it is entirely appropriate for that surveyor to officiate as it is cost effective to do it this way and it gives members a greater choice than the surveyors in their usual patch. Tasmania often holds their surveys on the morning prior to, or in some cases on the Friday before the show and this works well for them. Whilst some might argue that it gives the judge prior knowledge of the dog before he or she judges, I would suggest it is naïve to think that a judge would allow this to influence how they judge that dog on the following weekend. Breed survey is an entirely different activity to a show.

We will be rolling out a centralised online system which mirrors HDED. This will be discussed at the NBC Meeting. This will centralise our survey operations and bring change to how clubs manage the payment of surveys. Like the online system for HDED clubs will receive a re-imburement for surveys conducted rather than being billed by the Council which is current practice. With the introduction of any change of practice, there will be a period where we will continue with online and club level applications and as they system becomes fully operational and integrated hopefully, we will move to completely online in the future.

Sire's Progeny Report 51st National

The Judges' Chair, Jenny De Lucia and I deliberated over the Sire's Progeny parade at the 51st National in Queensland. Given the entry was not as large as in previous shows it was heartwarming to see that 11 of the eligible 13 sires presented a group. Two LSC and 9 SCs. The report will be discussed at the NBC meeting and distributed to the Surveyors after it appears in the QNR.

The following reports from the Officers of the NBC are combined to provide one document to be tabled at the meeting and for distribution to the Members clubs. The Sire's Progeny report will be distributed to members after it is published in the QNR later in August.

Tooth Certificates, in the first six months of this year there have been three applications for tooth certificates. I urge members to read the regulations in conjunction with the application before sending any paperwork to the Council. It is important for owners to understand what constitutes correct dentition.

<https://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/2013-tooth-certificate-regulations/>

Tooth Certificates issued 2025

No.	Name	Dentition issue	Date of issue
10149A	Gewalt Aramis	LL Incisor 3 (403)	MG16/02/2025
10150	Chevyvale Clearly Devine	Uleft incisor 2 (202) missing ULincisor 3 (203) medial chip	MG 09/04/2025

In regard to dentition, anecdotally via my conversations with colleagues and my own experiences judging, I would flag that we are seeing quite a few issues arising. Missing teeth are on the increase, under developed teeth or very small teeth, issues with bites, dropped or irregular incisors. German shepherds should have healthy well-formed teeth of an appropriate size in relation to the jaws of the animal. Please keep an eye on these issues, when making decisions about survey and breeding.



Thank you to all who have assisted in the formulation of the reports for this meeting and to the officers; thank you for the continued work you do for the Council.

In closing and in particular, I would also like to thank Robert Zammit BVSc, Louis Donald and Joanna Morris for accepting the invitation to present at our *Learning day* on Sunday in lieu of administration. They do so at their own cost and I am grateful for their contribution to our learning community. Being proactive and assisting with broadening our member's knowledge is an important part of growing as an organisation. I encourage clubs to follow suit and either replicate the opportunities for their members or to stimulate further conversations around what the members would like to learn more about. I congratulate the Victorian club for their initiative in organising a seminar for October and look forward to working with the club in the future.

Melanie Groth

National Breed Commission Chair



The GSDCA Executive invite
you to the NBC meetings
being held in Sydney
2 and 3 August 2025

Sunday 3 August

**Learn, share and
connect with breed
experts and fellow
enthusiasts!**

To Book contact: secretary@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Agendas





AN INVITATION TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING
 – If you breed, show or work German Shepherds!

3 AUGUST 2025 BOOST YOUR KNOWLEDGE LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

GSDCA NBC Education Day Program

Time	Topic	Presenters
9:00 - 10:00	Current issues on Spinal and osteopathic issues in the GSD	Dr Robert Zammit BVSc
10:00 - 10:30	Techniques for rehabilitation and physiotherapy	Joanna Morris
11:00 - 12:30	Current issues in the breed in Australia – Addressing them at survey and in the ring	Louis Donald and Melanie Groth
12:30 - 1:30	An in-depth look at the Sires Progeny 2025 National – making bloodline connections	NBC Team and Louis Donald
2:00 - 3:00	Reproduction, fertility in the GSD – trends, Natural vs AI	Dr Robert Zammit BVSc
3:00 - 3:30	Questions Thoughts Finalising meeting	Melanie Groth NBC Chair

Booking slip essential and available from the Secretary Janet Haase Book by 18 July 2025



GSDCA Education Event

OPEN INVITATION

**Breed Health -
 Osteopathic issues
 Reproduction &
 Fertility**

**Our sires / breeding
 programs**

Rehabilitation and Laser Therapy

GSDCA INC - VENUE

Adina Apartment Hotel
 17 Bourke Road
 Mascot NSW 2020
 For information

secretary@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

<https://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/>

3 August 2025

9:00 am-3:30pm



HDED Registrar Report - Jacinta Poole

The HDED scheme has been under transformation over the last year, primarily due to us moving to digital contracts and online x-ray submissions. This has proven to be enormously successful and the digital pathway is now preferred by owners and breeders. Primarily for two reasons: contracts can be applied and paid for online, then received same or next day by email. X-rays submitted to radiologists are read and results generally received next day. Gone are the days of paper, postage and waiting.....

The following report aims to provide useful and relevant information for owners and breeders who utilise the GSDCA Breed Improvement schemes.

GSDCA Breed Improvement Scheme Stats

Below is an overall summary that is included on the GSDCA website for public information about our schemes, current at 30 June 2025.

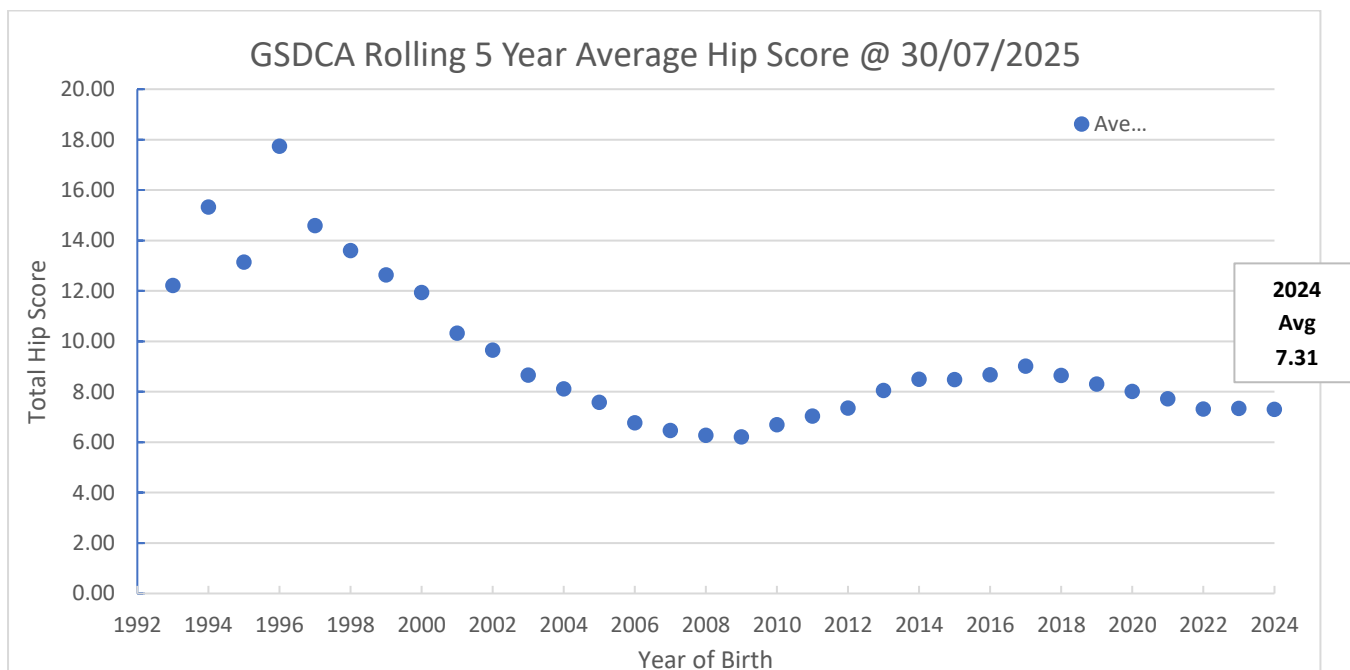
X-Ray Results in our Database	Breed Surveys in our Database	Animals Breed Surveyed in 2024	Animals completed ZAP	GSDCA Hip Score 5 year Rolling Ave
13,235	2,535	139	155	7.31

Breed Scheme Performance – Average Hip Score

Monitoring our average hip score provides a window into our breeds’ ongoing health and our ability to promote our pure-bred dogs to the public.

Based on date of birth, the graph below displays the current 5 year rolling average hip score for animals in the GSDCA Scheme. The rolling average trend provides an indicative influence of sires used over time.

The current GSDCA ‘live’ 5 year rolling average Hip Score at 30/6/2025 is 7.31, on a slightly upwards trend, albeit stable.



Digital Hip & Elbow Scheme

The GSDCA has administered a digital HDED Scheme since 1 July 2024. Since that date to 30 June 2025, 200 online applications have been processed and contracts issued. These digital contracts represent more than 95% of all GSDCA contracts issued for the 12 month period, indicating that online and digital is a greatly preferred process.

From those 200 contracts issued online 1/7/24-30/6/25, 165 (83%) x-rays have been submitted via the GSDCA web portal, direct to the radiologist of choice for scoring. The remaining 17% have been submitted via post, not yet x-rayed or not submitted to date.

The online system was launched to improve the contract application process and x-ray result delivery times for the HDED Scheme. This has clearly been achieved. Despite a digital learning curve, in the main this has run smoothly. There are still some vets who default to sending the x-rays via the CHEDS scheme, so it is incumbent on our owners to ensure the vet reads the directions with the contract. Very specific instructions are now included with the digital contract regarding the x-ray submission portal which has reduced the error rate.

Technical assistance is always available for those who may have difficulty with digital files from their vets, please don't hesitate to seek assistance from the HDED Registrar if needed.

The paper contract and x-ray postage system remains in place however given the uptake of the digital process, ending the paper contract system is in sight.

On 1st August 2024, GSDCA Radiologists received a \$20 increase in their fee to read hip and elbow x-rays (\$10 for hip or elbow only), the GSDCA price becoming \$97 for a hip and elbow contract.

From 1st August 2025, there will be a further increase for GSDCA Radiologists, bringing the new price for a hip and elbow contract to \$120. This increase reflects the value of the GSDCA scheme to the Radiologists and brings them closer in line to their fees for the CHEDS scheme. It also covers an increase in Australia Post costs for sending certificates.

For all your HDED x ray needs, visit: www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/xraycentre

Inclusion of CHEDS Data

Following the 2024 GSDCA AGM, Hip and Elbow results from the Dogs Australia CHEDS x-ray scheme can now be added to the GSDCA database. Since that time twenty (20) results from CHEDSs have been added to our database following owner submission for the GSDCA 'A' and 'Z' stamp.

These are hip and elbow x-rays that have been scored through the CHEDS scheme by a radiologist who is also a reader for the GSDCA HDED scheme. They are eligible without the need to have further x-rays taken, following purchase of the GSDCA HDED contract, submission with the pedigree and meeting the GSDCA criteria. This enables us to gather more data on our breed, improve our statistical reporting and any trends in our breed.

Utilisation of the Hip & Elbow Scheme

For the period 1/07/2024 – 30/06/2025, there were 249 animals presented to the Hip and Elbow scheme.

Club	ACT	NHR	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	NZ	Total	A Pass	Z Pass
Submitted	11	2	68	49	35	11	38	33	2	249	226	244
	4.4%	0.8%	27.3%	19.7%	14.1%	4.4%	15.3%	13.3%	0.8%		90.8%	98.0%



Of the 249 animals presented, 165 were from digital HDED contracts. Of the 84 paper HDED contracts presented, 72 (86%) were contracts purchased prior to the 1st July 2024 when digital contracts became available. This is a clear indication that digital contracts are the preferred pathway moving forward.

Identifiers

Of the 249 animals presented since 1st July 2024, 5 failed due to UAP. This represents 2.0%, which is a slight increase over what's seen previously.

During the same period, 3 animals have been identified with Transitional Vertebra at the Lumbrosacral Junction (LTV). Comparatively during the years 2022-2024, 15 animals were recorded with LTV during the scoring process.

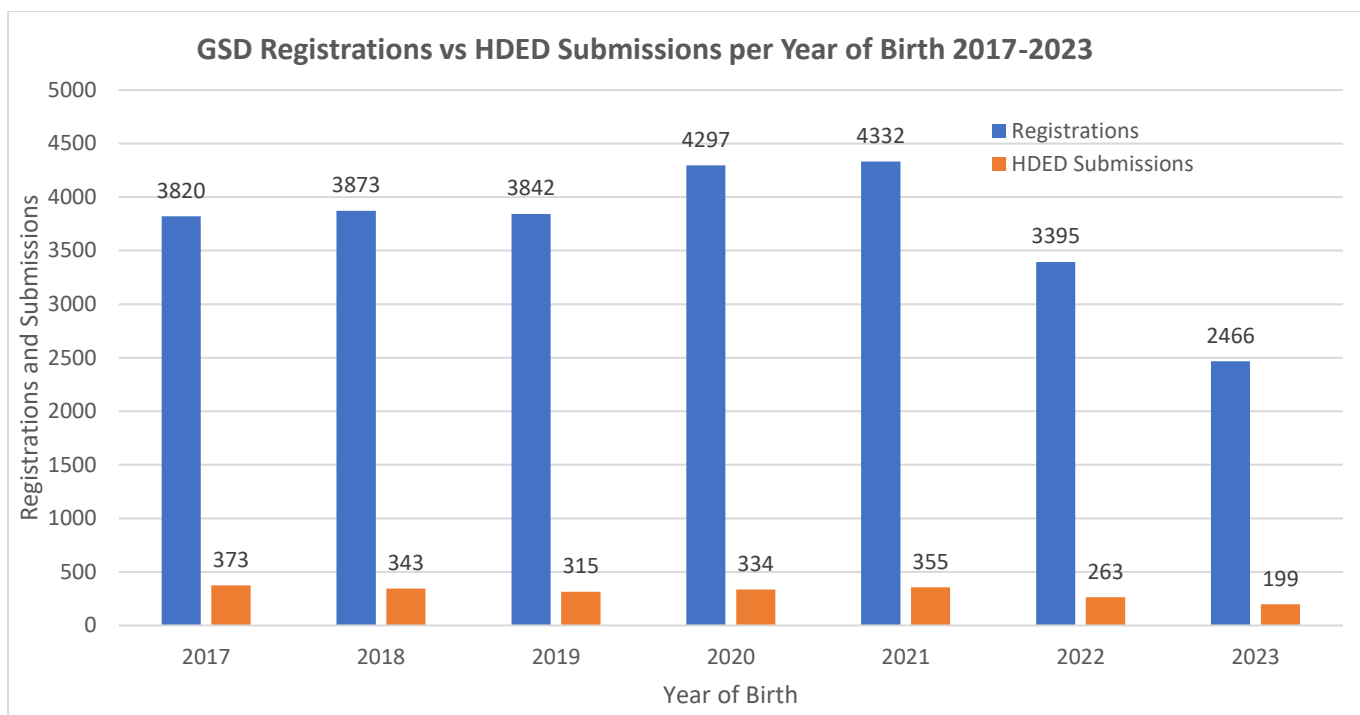
Registrations vs HDED Submission - by State and Year of Birth

Participation in the hip and elbow x-ray scheme provides owners and breeders with useful information that's relevant in all aspects of what they do with their dogs. As interest in performance event participation increases, knowing dogs are physically healthy becomes more and more important.

The table details Dogs Australia (ANKC) litter registrations for GSDs and the number of animals presented to the GSDCA HDED scheme in each state for years born 2017-2023. Less than 10% of registered animals are presented to the GSDCA HDED scheme. The combined total presented over the 2017-2023 period is 8.07% of all GSD registrations, on a slight upward trend, though possibly more indicative of reduced total registrations.

GSD Registrations vs HDED Submission by State and Year of Birth								
	DOB	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
NSW	Reg	1124	1016	969	1145	1058	847	653
	HDED	131	109	97	89	102	72	62
		11.7%	10.7%	10.0%	7.8%	9.6%	8.5%	9.5%
Victoria	Reg	797	864	649	979	1088	786	567
	HDED	71	62	38	54	48	27	37
		8.9%	7.2%	5.9%	5.5%	4.4%	3.4%	6.5%
SA	Reg	655	637	610	623	827	509	375
	HDED	76	63	54	53	83	51	33
		11.6%	9.9%	8.9%	8.5%	10.0%	10.0%	8.8%
QLD	Reg	674	644	656	809	595	490	434
	HDED	37	37	69	76	62	54	37
		5.5%	5.7%	10.5%	9.4%	10.4%	11.0%	8.5%
WA	Reg	451	533	841	611	603	604	344
	HDED	44	56	42	56	48	39	24
		9.8%	10.5%	5.0%	9.2%	8.0%	6.5%	7.0%
Tas	Reg	119	161	108	116	140	131	85
	HDED	14	15	13	4	11	17	6
		11.8%	9.3%	12.0%	3.4%	7.9%	13.0%	7.1%
ACT	Reg	0	18	9	14	21	28	8
	HDED	0	1	2	2	1	3	0
			5.6%	22.2%	14.3%	4.8%	10.7%	0.0%
Total Reg		3820	3873	3842	4297	4332	3395	2466
Total HDED		373	343	315	334	355	263	199
%		9.8%	8.9%	8.2%	7.8%	8.1%	7.8%	8.1%





Hip and Elbow and Breed Survey Scheme Participation

The data below summarises sires who have had more than 10 progeny born in 2021 or later presented to the HDED scheme. This is also correlated with presentation to breed survey of all progeny sired by these animals.

Sire	Prog Total	HDED Total	% Prog HDED	Ave Prog HD Score	Breed Survey	% BS of Prog	% HDED & BS
CONBHAIREAN FREDDIE (IMP UK)	443	100	22.6%	4.92	61	13.8%	8.8%
LAIKO VOM HUHNEGRAB (IMP DEU)	111	22	19.8%	4.45	11	9.9%	9.9%
EROICA ICE ICE BABY	113	22	19.5%	8.70	9	8.0%	11.5%
CHILI DELLA VALCUVIA (IMP UK)	501	91	18.2%	6.07	52	10.4%	7.8%
KASTER VAN CONTRA (IMP DEU)	140	24	17.1%	4.78	5	3.6%	13.6%
OLYMP VOM LARCHENHAIN (IMP DEU)	138	20	14.5%	7.89	9	6.5%	8.0%
OBAMA DU MONTGISON ((IMP DEU)	104	15	14.4%	6.47	4	3.8%	10.6%
PIRLO VON ARMINIUS (IMP DEU)	162	23	14.2%	6.11	8	4.9%	9.3%
PUPI VON NEU GARMOND (IMP HUN)	81	11	13.6%	7.73	0	0.0%	13.6%
ALWIN VOM HAUS NESGEN (IMP DEU)	137	18	13.1%	9.53	7	5.1%	8.0%
WULKANO-UNO VON SCHNITZERTEAM (HUN)	579	74	12.8%	7.61	36	6.2%	6.6%
GEWALT TENNESSEE DRUMMER	254	30	11.8%	5.77	14	5.5%	6.3%
VONDARCOR VALAK	118	13	11.0%	8.15	1	0.8%	10.2%
JACK VON FENRIR (IMP DEU)	157	17	10.8%	5.88	8	5.1%	5.7%
LENIN VON DER GRAFENBURG (IMP DEU)	407	43	10.6%	11.3	17	4.2%	6.4%
LETLAND FLINT	161	16	9.9%	7.19	9	5.6%	4.3%
XANDER VOM GRABFELDGAU (IMP DEU)	561	43	7.7%	9.58	13	2.3%	5.3%
SALVATORE VOM GRAFENWALD (IMP DEU)	234	15	6.4%	5.57	8	3.4%	3.0%
Total / Ave	4401	597	13.8%		272	5.5%	7.4%

*Data sorted by % Progeny submitted to the HDED scheme



Breed Improvement and Breed Assessment is measured by HDED submissions and Breed Survey presentations. Of the above sires, an average of 13.8% of progeny are x-rayed. The presentation to Breed Survey of all progeny of the above sires is currently only an average of 5.5%. This represents the fact that only 53% of the progeny x-rayed for Hip and Elbows continue to Breed Survey, a slight increase on previous averages.

How can we better encourage owners who complete hip and elbow x-rays to then continue on to Breed Survey their animals? We know the value, but what is the incentive to owners?

GSDCA Breed Improvement Scheme Recognition

Breeder Hip and Elbow Awards: Kennels are recognised for the number of animals successfully presented to the Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Improvement Schemes, for their contribution and significant achievement. Congratulations on these milestones to the following Kennels that qualified for awards in 2024. Medals were provided in March for presentation. Congratulations to all breeders.

Silver Medallion 25+

State	Kennel	Owner	Award	Animals passed
NSW	BEYCHIEF	Christine Anderson	'A' Silver	25
VIC	BOZEEB	Julie Jordan	'Z' Silver	26
QLD	CINDERHOF	Jo Cathie	'A' Silver & 'Z' Silver	26 & 29
WA	FREINHAUF	Robyn & Kevin Knuckey	'A' Silver	27
QLD	VON DARCOR	Amanda Parry	'A' Silver & 'Z' Silver	27 & 29

Bronze Medallion 10+

State	Kennel	Owner	Award	Animals passed
WA	CHEVYVALE	Dominic Auguste	'A' Bronze & 'Z' Bronze	13 & 12
QLD	GABMALU	Merilyn & Raechel Hornick	'A' Bronze & 'Z' Bronze	13 & 14
QLD	IMAGICK	Margaret Macklin	'A' Bronze & 'Z' Bronze	10 & 10
VIC	LORDAVO	David & Lorelle Organ	'A' Bronze & 'Z' Bronze	11 & 11
NSW	NIKOBISHUNDE	Neville & Miriam Kirkham	'A' Bronze & 'Z' Bronze	10 & 10
SA	NIMERIA	Melissa Mitchell	'Z' Bronze	12

My sincere thanks the State Registrars for their work over the last 12 months particularly using the digital processes. All have mastered them well and are appreciative of the reduced workload the digital system entails for them. We'd ask all owners submitting applications to ensure the data they enter is correct, as errors must be corrected before contracts are issued. Less work for all if done correctly the first time.

Thank you to our Radiologists for their assistance and patience in bedding down our digital system. Thanks also to Frank Moody for database help as required.

We should further ramp up our education around the importance of participating in our breed improvement schemes to ensure we continue to get animals x-rayed and breed surveyed. Breeders are encouraged to be actively involved with their associated owners in promoting this.

For any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time, hded@gsdcouncilaustralia.org



NBC Registrar Report - Jessica Kada

Breed Survey numbers by State and Coat variety

A total of 16 surveys were held between February and June 2025, as opposed to 12 surveys for the same period in 2024.

60 animals were presented for classification; being a small increase compared with the same period last year, however more surveys were held. The total number of animals presented however remains well under previous years.

The 60 animals presented comprised of 39 Stock coats and 21 Long Stock coats.

Stock coats accounted for 65% of all animals surveyed.

The percentage of Long Stock Coat animals presented to survey has remained relatively consistent this year at 35% compared with the same period last year (2024) at 39%.

Three imported dogs were presented, one imported from New Zealand un-surveyed and the other two imported from Hungary, also un-surveyed.

Seven (7) animals presented to survey have failed during this period. The reasons are stated in the table below. These animals represent 12% of all animals presented in this period.

Four failed the gun test, one was oversize, one had dentition issues and the other one failed on temperament.

Two of these failed dogs represented in this period and have now been classified.

Club	Surveys	Animals Presented	SC	LSC	Classified	FAIL	REASON	Imported Dogs
ACTGSDA	1	4	3	1	4	0		
GSDAWA	2	9	6	3	8	1	1 - Temperament	
GSDCQ	2	9	8	1	8	1	1 - Height O/Size	
GSDCSA	2	9	6	3	8	1	1 - Gun	
GSDCT	2	3	3	0	3	0		
GSDCV	3	10	4	6	7	3	3 - Gun	1
GSDL	3	10	6	4	10	0		1
NHRGSDC	1	6	3	3	5	1	1 - Teeth	1
Totals	16	60	39	21	53	7		3

At the time of this report all surveys for the first half of the year up until the last surveys to be conducted in late July for have been allocated and processed.

N&HRGSDC held one survey in May and then sort approval from the NBC for an extra survey in July. This was unfortunately cancelled two weeks out from the survey date.



Imported Animals presented to survey 1 January – 30 June 2025

Date	Name	Sire	Dam	Sex	Country of Origin	Surveyor	Club
2 Feb	SO ENGLISH ROSE VON GAVAROL	VENEZE VALEN	VENEZE YUMIKO (IMP UK)	F	New Zealand	J.Cathie	GSDL
11 May	WAJDA VON NEU GARMOND	PUPI VON NEU GARMOND	OOPSY VON NEU GARMOND	M	Hungary	J.Cathie	NHRGSD
18 May	FALCO VON HIRSMAN	MARK VON BAD-BOX	ZAMBIA VOM HAUS MILESEVAC	M	Hungary	I.Urie	GSDCV

Surveyors & Registrars

A reminder to please check the linebreeding of dogs being surveyed, this is important and is often missed. Dogs often have the same first part of their name so please ensure you check your work.

BS7 Forms

Please ensure BEFORE submitting your form to the state registrar that you have made clear which is applicable on the top right-hand section of your worksheet ie – CLASSIFIED/FAIL

Too many forms are being returned without this completed.

Allocating Club and Council numbers – Registrars and surveyors please note:

Each state club has its own Breed Survey Register. Please use your state club's prefix for this on the BS7 worksheet and when typing in your survey and on the survey report. Council numbers are allocated once paperwork is received, they are distributed into Stock coats and Long Stock coats.

Club	ACT	GSDL	N&HR	QLD	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
Number	ACT 369	NSW 3001	NEW 469	Q 1519	SA 1792	T 451	V 2391	WA 1579

Please note – There **MUST** be a space between the State Clubs prefix and the number, as below:

View Edit	6100084722	ADASHAD THRUTO THE KEEPER		9830	WA 1481	18/10/2015	Mrs. H. Gross-Richardson
View Edit	2100494879	ADJURE DAPHNE		10429	NEW 463	15/02/2020	Mrs. F. Stokes
View Edit	2100315303	ADUELE JARLIRA	ADU044	9091	NEW 336	18/09/2011	Mr. R. Bonello
View Edit	2100343821	ADUELE MYSTIQUE	ADU057	9428	NSW 2811	07/07/2013	Mrs. F. Stokes
Edit	2100408799	ADUELE OSTARA		10158	T 463	17/02/2018	Mr. A. Henderson



Photos

A reminder to registrars and surveyors to make it a must that we remind all members that they are to provide a suitable photo within 7 days of the date of survey. There are too many animals being approved on the database with no photo having been supplied. Photos can be emailed to me at regnbc@gSDCouncilAustralia.org.

Database Input

Most surveyors are inputting data into the database in a timely manner, thank you. Some still need reminding! Please remember the faster the information is entered and received to me, the faster members will receive their certificates.

The NBC chair is responsible for inputting dogs that Fail and imported dogs. All others are the surveyor's responsibility.

Submission of BS7 Worksheets

As per the Breed Survey Manual, 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.

GSDCA Breed Survey Personnel 2025

Club	Active Breed Surveyors	State Registrar	State Registrar and Coordinator contact email
ACTGSDA	Glenn Gregory (Coordinator)	Veronica Fairbairn	wmeffert62@gmail.com glenbala@outlook.com
GSDL	Jo Cathie (Coordinator) , Glenn Gregory, Melanie Groth, Karen Hedberg, Terry Jarvis, Jessica Kada, Kurt Morton, Graeme Stevenson, Fay Stokes (retired March 2025)	Pam Jarvis	tepe@bigpond.net.au havantaa@outlook.com
N&HRGSDC	Melanie Groth (Coordinator)	Chelsea Bird	chelseajanebird@gmail.com melanie.groth62@gmail.com
GSDCQ	Louis Donald (Coordinator) Sharon Ballantyne-Gordon, Carol O'Rourke (retired March 2025)	Peter Hersant	breedaffairs@gSDCQLD.org.au Louis@ozmeridian.com
GSDCSA	Peter Flynn (Coordinator) , Jean Butterfield, Steve Collins, Jenny De Lucia, Jane Pike Doug West (Retired Dec 2024)	Andrew O'Loughlin	andrew.w.oloughlin@gmail.com peter.flynn048@gmail.com
GSDCT	Alastair Henderson (Coordinator)	Lorraine Massis	breedaffairsgsdct@gmail.com alastair1957henderson@gmail.com
GSDCV	Alastair Henderson (Coordinator) Greg Green, Nicky McDermott (aspirant), Vince Tantaró, Ian Urie, Jenny Yuen	Gill Cafari	cafari@bigpond.com alastair1957henderson@gmail.com
GSDAWA	Robyn Knuckey (Coordinator) , Natalie Humphries, John Fenner (Retired Dec 2024)	Leanne Irvine	hotnote1@bigpond.net.au Robyn.knuckey@gmail.com

In closing this report, I would like to thank all registrars and surveyors who have made my transition into the role of NBC Registrar this year a smooth and easy process. I am still learning however I am enjoying the role immensely.



To Melanie who has been instrumental in assisting me learning the ropes, thank you. Also, a huge thank you to Frank and Jacinta for your assistance with various questions and hurdles.

If you have any questions for me, I would be more than happy to answer these.

Verification officer - Kurt Morton

The German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) continues to actively verify the credentials of imported dogs and semen to protect the integrity of Australian breeding programs. This thorough process ensures that German Shepherd Dogs brought into Australia match the documentation provided and align with records from their country of origin.

Dogs recently verified

The following dogs have been successfully verified in the last six months:

- Edvin von Neu Garmond
- Wadja von Neu Garmond
- Falco von Hirsman
- Kamillo vom Feuermelder
- Pearl vom Larchenhain
- Teo di Santa Venere

I would also like extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who continues to support the Verification Scheme. In particular, Mrs Honey Gross-Richardson and Mr Vince Tantarò, whose unwavering dedication and availability for interpretation have been invaluable to the success of this process.

It would be appreciated if Surveyors and club officials could encourage early submissions so verifications can be completed well in advance of surveys.

Database Report - Frank Moody

I am pleased to submit this GSDCA Database progress report to the 2025 NBC Meeting.

Unfortunately, I will not be in attendance at this meeting.

HD/ED Sire Statistics

The updated HD/ED Sire Statistics as at 30th June 2025, as prepared using the GSDCA Database, will be available approximately early August and placed on the GSDCA website.

Data Update

Dog Database - Registrations are currently up to 4th July 2025 – being 324,481 dogs.

Tattoo/Microchip – Microchips are uploaded when we receive the DA Registrations.

HD/ED - There are now 13,245 results in the database.

Breed Survey - There are now 2,652 results in the database.



Character Assessment (previously ZAP) – There are now 163 results in the database.

Database Changes since last report

We have recently undertaken changes to the ZAP Results template, as requested by Alastair Henderson and the GSDCA Executive.

I understand that Alastair will do a presentation of how the amended “Character Assessment” Results will work in the Database once we go LIVE.

There are 2 parts to the changes:

- 1) To allow Assessors to choose the words within each Part of each Element of the assessment. (The current ZAP program only allows Assessors to select ONE group of words as listed in the boxes under each Element)

The Worksheet has also been redesigned to reflect the same changes, as in the Database.

- As an example – In Element #1 – Impartiality test, there are 3 parts. Within each Part (i.e. ID Check) the Assessor will have to determine which Box best meets the reaction of the dog doing that test – and underline on the worksheet the 1st word within that box (i.e. “Indifferent”), and then can underline none/any/or all of the remaining words within the same box.

Evaluation of disposition		
ID Check	Examination of teeth	Measurement on platform
<u>Indifferent</u> , good natured, relaxed, friendly, <u>confident</u> , easy to handle	Indifferent, good natured, relaxed, friendly, confident, easy to handle	Indifferent, good natured, relaxed, friendly, confident, easy to handle
Cautious, inexperienced, slightly timid, still easy to handle	Cautious, inexperienced, slightly timid, still easy to handle	Cautious, inexperienced, slightly timid, still easy to handle
Anxious, insecure, threatening, difficult to handle, exercise terminated	Anxious, insecure, threatening, difficult to handle, exercise terminated	Anxious, insecure, threatening, difficult to handle, exercise terminated

- When entering the results into the Database. Scroll down until you come to “ID Check” – then click on the Down-arrow, as indicated by the RED arrow.. This then gives the choice of the 1st words in each box – Indifferent / Cautious / Anxious. Click on the word that you had underlined on the Worksheet – “Indifferent”.

The screenshot shows a form titled "Evaluation of Disposition". It has three sections: "ID Check*", "Examination of teeth*", and "Measurements on platform*". The "ID Check*" section has a dropdown menu with "Indifferent" selected. A red arrow points to the dropdown arrow. Below the dropdown menu, the words "Indifferent", "Cautious", and "Anxious" are listed. The "Examination of teeth*" and "Measurements on platform*" sections are currently empty.

This now shows the remaining words within that box on the Worksheet.



Evaluation of Disposition

ID Check* Indifferent ▾

good natured
 relaxed
 friendly
 confident
 easy to handle

Tick the words that you have underlined on the Worksheet.

The 3 words that you underlined on the Worksheet (i.e. “Indifferent, good natured, confident”) will be saved when you complete all section of the Data Entry.

- 2) We have also incorporated a name change from “ZAP” to “Character Assessment”. Most of these name changes are within the Certificate which is printed from the Database and provided to the Owner of each dog, by the Character Assessment National Registrar.

These changes are all currently in the Test Database, where all changes are fully tested prior to moving them into the LIVE Database – so anyone currently looking in the Live Database will not see any change.

It is envisaged that this will migrate to the Live Database soon after the NBC meeting, subject to Programmer availability.

User Activity

From year to year we continue to see slight variations in the Monthly Averages, which is to be expected, however there are still a very large number of Breeders/Members continuing to use this facility.

Monthly average				
YEAR	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits
2015	372	659	18,277	28,744
2016	398	722	16,870	28,795
2017	427	857	19,682	34,451
2018	477	992	18,629	35,840
2019	597	1,200	19,005	37,155
2020	656	1,267	16,732	34,161
2021	634	1,399	17,242	32,151
2022	551	1,400	17,425	30,899
2023	496	1,322	17,332	30,182
2024	593	1,238	15,586	28,642
2025 YTD	605	1,252	14,038	27,934



Breed Survey photos

Please continue to encourage Owners to submit photos for inclusion in the database.

Photos are very important so that we have a pictorial record of the dogs surveyed, so please supply these to the NBC Registrar ASAP.

Thank you

Thank you to Rob Filardo (Database programmer), Melanie Groth (NBC Chair), Jess Kada (National BS Registrar), Jacinta Poole (National HD/ED Registrar), Julie Urie (National CA Registrar) and the Breed Surveyors and Character Assessors for their time, and assistance in ongoing data entry and maintenance of the Database.

Thank you

Thank you to all officers for your dedication and hard work over the past 12 months. Your professionalism and the timely manner in which you carry out your responsibilities are greatly appreciated. The Council is deeply grateful for your efforts.

Due to personal reasons, Dr Baker was unable to submit a report at this time. We extend our best wishes to her and her family.

Melanie Groth

National Breed Commission Chairperson

