



GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

BREED SHOW RULES

GSDCA breed shows are open to German Shepherd Dogs only and are judged according to the Federation Cynologique Internationals (FCI), International Standard for German Shepherd Dogs. Breed Shows may be hosted by GSDCA SV-WUSV Programs clubs or the GSDCA Parent Club. Club and Regional shows are hosted by the SV-WUSV Programs clubs. National Shows are hosted only by the GSDCA Parent Club.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. All dogs 12 months or older born in the United States must have American Kennel Club (AKC) Registration Certificate.
2. All dogs 12 months or older must have a four generation AKC Certified Pedigree with microchip or tattoo certified on the pedigree.
3. Puppies under 12 months of age can be "pending" registration with proof of ownership and proof of sire and dam.
4. All dogs born outside of the USA must present SV, Canadian or other FCI recognized registration and pedigree from the dog's country of birth.
5. Original documents must be presented to the show secretary at check-in.
6. Copies of all required documents must be submitted with entry.
7. Entry Fee must be submitted with entry and are non-refundable.
8. Acceptable working titles are IPO, SchH/VPG, and HGH.
9. You do not need to be a member of the GSDCA to participate.
10. The age of the dog on the first day of the show will determine the correct entry for each age class.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Dogs that are not entered in the show will not be permitted on the show grounds.
2. A Judge's decision is final and cannot be contested.
3. After a dog is presented for the "stand for examination" but later withdrawn from the show the dog will be given an "Unsatisfactory" rating unless excused by a licensed veterinarian. A written excuse must be presented to the presiding Judge.
4. Prong collars are not allowed on show grounds
5. Shock collars are forbidden at all GSDCA events and on all GSDCA event grounds.
6. Double handlers may not use electronic, gas or compressed air amplification devices, pistols, whips, or protection sleeves. Violations may cause the dog to be disqualified and the dog and handler ordered off the field.
7. Participants are responsible for preventing their dog from coming into contact with other dogs. The GSDCA and any show organizer will not be responsible for injury or damage to any dog, or damage caused by any dog, or the theft of any dog.
8. False documentation for a dog will result in the banning of the dog from the competition and possible disciplinary action.
9. Misleading or deceiving a Judge about the true condition of a dog may result in the banning of the dog from the competition and possible disciplinary action.
10. A judge is not allowed to judge any dog which they have owned or co-owned or which has been in their possession within the past 12 months; is owned or co-owned by them; is in the possession of close relatives (1st and 2nd degree), life partnerships, shared households, and groups of owners.

BREED SHOW CLASSES

In every class, the Judge studies how well each dog conforms to the International (FCI) Breed Standard, both in character and anatomy. Judging in each class begins with the individual stand for examination.

Dogs 12 months of age and older will be tested for gun sensitivity. Dogs that are impartial to the gun test will then proceed for the gaiting evaluation.

The dog's age is determined by the first day of the show. Beginning with the youngest age group classes, females are judged first followed by the males.

Baby Puppy Classes, 3-6 months; **Junior Puppy Classes**, 6-9 months; **Senior Puppy Classes**, 9-12 months.

Ratings awarded are:

1. "Very Promising" (VP) - Dogs that conform fully to the FCI breed standard or have minor anatomical faults.
2. "Promising" (P) - Dogs that generally conform to the FCI breed standard, but with clearly observable anatomic or developmental faults.
3. "Less Promising" (LP) - Dogs that react negatively to external stimuli and/or have faults that would exclude them from breeding.

Youth Classes, 12-18 months and **Young Dog Classes**, 18-24 months.

Ratings awarded are:

1. "Very Good" (SG) - The highest rating in the Youth and Young Dog Classes for dogs that fully conform to the FCI breed standard. Also qualified are dogs that: (a) exceed the size limitations by no more than 1 cm below or above the standard; and (b) have missing one premolar 1 or one incisor.
2. "Good" (G) - Dogs that generally conform to the FCI breed standard but with clearly observable anatomical faults. Dental faults allowed under this rating include:
 - a. missing two premolars 1, or
 - b. missing one premolar 1 and one incisor, or
 - c. missing one premolar 2, or
 - d. missing one premolar 3, or
 - e. missing two incisors, or
 - f. missing one premolar 2 and 1 incisor, or
 - g. missing one premolar 2 and one premolar 1, or
 - h. missing two premolars 2.
3. "Satisfactory" (A) - Dogs which, on the day of the show, are gun sensitive or react negatively to external stimuli or which do not permit a higher rating due to their total condition, including anatomical factors.
4. "Unsatisfactory" (U) - Dogs that are gun shy, show limitations in their temperament, react negatively to external stimuli or display other shortcomings that prohibit breeding. Also, dogs that exceed size specifications by more than 1 cm below or above.

Open Classes, 24 months or older without working title(s). No ratings are awarded for this class, dogs are placed according to quality. The judge may critique the dogs but a Show Rating Certificate will not be issued.

Veteran Classes, 6 years or older with working title(s)

No ratings are awarded for this class, dogs are placed according to quality. The judge may critique the dogs but a Show Rating Certificate will not be issued.

Working Dog Classes, 24 months or older with working title(s)

At the GSDCA Sieger Show, all Working Dog class dogs must first complete a Performance Test, with a performance rating of at least "Pronounced" and "Outs." *Performance Tests are not held at Club or Regional Breed Shows.*

Ratings awarded are:

1. "**Excellent Select**" (VA) – Awarded only at the GSDCA Sieger Show to dogs that meet the following requirements:

- a. Fully conform to the FCI Breed Standard.
 - b. Are self-confident, outgoing and indifferent to gun fire.
 - c. Have an SV, OFA or other SV recognized hip certification equivalent to the SV's "a" 1 (normal) or "a" 2 (almost normal).
 - d. Have an SV recognized elbow certification "ED"1 (normal) or "ED" 2 (almost normal).
 - e. Have a current SV recognized Breed Survey.
 - f. Have complete and faultless dentition.
 - g. Have a minimum IPO2/SchH2/VP2 or HGH performance title. Dogs presented for a second VA rating must have an IPO3/SchH3/VP3 or HGH title.
 - h. Both parents and grandparents must have a SV recognized working title and a SV recognized Breed Survey.
2. "Excellent" (V) – Dogs in the Working Dog Class that otherwise meet the following requirements:
 - a. Fully conform to the FCI Breed Standard.
 - b. Are self-confident, outgoing and indifferent to gun fire.
 - c. Have an SV, OFA or other SV recognized hip certification equivalent to the SV's "a" 1 (normal), "a" 2 (almost normal) or "a" 3 (still permissible).
 - d. Have an SV recognized elbow certification equivalent to the SV's "ED" 1 (normal), "ED" 2 (almost normal), or "ED" 3 (still permissible).
 - e. If 3.5 years of age or older, have an SV recognized Breed Survey rating.
 - f. Double premolars 1 are allowed.
 - g. Have a minimum IPO1/SchH1/VP1 or HGH title.
 3. "Very Good" (SG) - Dogs in the Working Dog Class that otherwise meet the requirements for the "Excellent" rating but show minor faults in their anatomy. Also qualified are dogs that (a) exceed the size limitations by no more than 1 cm below or above the standard and (b) dogs missing one premolar 1 or one incisor.
 4. "Good" (G) – As described under the Youth and Young Dog Classes.
 5. "Satisfactory" (A) – As described under the Youth and Young Dog Classes.
 6. "Unsatisfactory" (U) – As described under Youth/Young Dog Classes.

PERFORMANCE TEST: (Applies only to the GSDCA Sieger Show.)

All dogs in the Working Dog Classes must participate in the Performance Test. The Performance Test rates the dog's inherent drives, self-confidence and stress tolerance (TSB).

Ratings awarded are:

"a" – Pronounced: Self-confidence, urgent, goal oriented, firm gripping and holding, no negative reactions to stick hits, close attention to the Helper during all phases.

"vh" – Sufficient/Present: Limitations in self-confidence, determination, biting, and reaction to stick hits and during the holding at bay phases.

"ng" – Insufficient: Lacking self-confidence, strong limitations with respect to stress tolerance and lacking interest in the Helper.

The dog is allowed three attempts to perform the free heeling exercise to the attack on handler and must reach a predetermined distance from the blind to pass. The actual attack will commence when the dog is at the predetermined distance from the blind. The distance from the starting point of heeling to the blind will be approximately 80 feet.

The judge will evaluate the grip work as it is described in the GSDCA Breed Survey Rules and Procedures.

The "out" should show the dog clearly off the sleeve and in the guarding phase. The only command permitted is one word for the "Out", such as "Out", "Aus" or any other single command of "Out". The commands to "Sit" or "Down" in order to affect the "Out" are not permitted here. The dog, however, may sit, down or stand upon the "Out" command, but may not bother the Helper. The sit or down may be

reinforced, if necessary, as the handler approaches the dog and is within a distance of 10 feet from the dog.

The handler should, after the attack, leash the dog without physical restraint. The dog may receive an extra command to out in order to put the leash on the dog without penalty; however, any dog that must be physically restrained or taken off the sleeve will be disqualified. Once the dog is secured on lead, this exercise is over.

On the pursuit or the long grip, the handler may encourage the dog while holding the collar at the basic position to initiate the release as the Helper proceeds to the middle of the field to start the exercise. The handler will release the dog upon a signal from the judge. The grip work and the out will be evaluated in the same manner as in the attack on handler.

Evaluation of the Performance Test

Dogs that do not perform the free heeling exercise within three attempts, dogs that do not release their grip on command, or that receive the evaluation of "Sufficient" or "Insufficient" cannot continue in the Breed Show competition. No rating may be given.

Kennel Groups

Each Kennel Group must have no more and no less than 5 dogs that carry the same kennel name. The dogs must come from at least two different sires and two different dams. The maximum difficulty is four fathers and four mothers. The dogs in the Kennel Group must also be entered and shown in a class at the show. The dogs must be of the same coat variety. Breeders may enter more than one Kennel Group.

Progeny Groups

Progeny Groups demonstrate the quality of dogs produced by frequently used stud dogs and brood bitches. The genetic dominance is evaluated through the consistency of individual strengths and weaknesses in the offspring. Progeny groups are critiqued in detail. However, no placements (first, second, etc.) are awarded.

All dogs presented in a Progeny Group must have been entered and shown in a class at the GSDCA Sieger Show. The stud dog or brood bitch is not required to be shown. A Progeny Group requires a minimum of four (4). At the GSDCA Sieger Show, a Progeny Group will be automatically scheduled for any sire or dam who meets the participation requirements. There is no entry fee to present a Progeny Group.

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