



## GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA PERFORMANCE TEST RULES

**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 Evaluation). "TSB" describes the following characteristics: **Triebveranlagung** (instinctive behavior), **Selbstsicherheit** (self-confidence) and **Belastbarkeit** (the ability to cope with stress). Dogs that receive the results "does not release" or a DQ, do not receive a TSB rating and are not allowed to continue in the competition.

### **Part 1 – Attack**

1. The handler reports to the judge with the dog on the leash.
2. As instructed by the judge, the handler takes a position at a marked spot 25 meters (approximately 82 feet) in front of the blind.
3. After the basic position the dog is kept on leash for about 15 steps.
4. Handler and dog stop again in the basic position.
5. Handler removes the leash and the leash must be placed around the handler's shoulder or in a pocket.
6. As instructed by the judge, the handler walks with his unleashed dog toward the helper's blind.
7. The dog must stay closely at heel until the handler reaches a marked spot located 7 meters (approximately 23 feet) in front of the blind. Repeated verbal commands are permitted. Touching the dog or collar is not permitted. If handler and heeling dog reach this marked spot, the helper, as instructed by the judge, will perform a straight-lined attack on the dog and handler while making threatening noises. If the dog breaks the heel before reaching the marked spot, the helper shall not attack. The handler has two more opportunities to reach the 7-meter marking with his dog at heel. Should the dog fail to heel to the 7-meter marking in all three attempts, the protection test will be discontinued due to lack of obedience and the dog will receive a DQ rating.
8. The dog must counter the attack immediately, confidently and energetically with hard and full grips.
9. When the dog has gripped the sleeve, the dog is given two equal blows, the first after about 4 steps and the second after 4 additional steps, with the soft-stick. The hits are to be on the dog's thighs, sides, or in the area of the withers.
10. The handler may encourage the dog verbally to counter the attack.
11. The judge signals the helper to stop the attack and the helper then stands motionless.
12. The dog must release the sleeve independently or upon the command "aus/out" and must then guard the helper intensively.
13. The judge then instructs the handler to approach his dog.
14. The handler puts the leash on his dog and is instructed by the judge to step into an assigned blind.
15. The dog has to repel the attack with determination and a steady calm grip.

### **Part 2 – Countering an Attack from the Watching Position**

1. The judge instructs the handler to step out of the blind and then move to the center line position.
2. Handler removes the leash and the leash must be placed around the handler's shoulder or in a pocket.
3. The dog is now unleashed and held by the collar.
4. The dog must maintain this position until he is sent to counter the attack with the command "voran/go on".
5. The judge signals the helper to step out of the blind, which is located at a distance of approximately 70 to 80 paces from the handler and to walk across the field at a normal pace.
6. The handler verbally commands the helper to stop by shouting "stop/stand still".
7. The helper ignores this command and performs a frontal attack on the handler and the dog.

8. Immediately following the attack on the handler, the judge instructs the handler to counter the attack and send the dog.
9. The handler immediately sends his dog forward with the verbal command "voran/go on" and stands still.
10. The dog must grip the sleeve with drive, energetically and with a hard and full grip in order to counter the attack.
11. Once the dog has a grip on the sleeve the helper must, after a short pressure phase, stop the counter-attack without hitting the dog with the soft-stick, when the judge instructs him to do so.
12. The dog must release the sleeve independently or when given the command "aus/out" and must then guard the helper intensively.
13. The judge instructs the handler to approach his dog directly at a normal pace and then put the dog on leash.
14. The handler then reports to the judge with his dog on the leash and leaves the field.
15. The dog has to repel the attack with determination and a steady calm grip.

### **Identity Control**

Before leaving the field, the identified official, must check the tattoo/microchip number of the dog.

### **Scoring-Releasing**

1. The dog must let go of the sleeve independently after the attack is stopped.
2. The handler may give the first command "au/out" independently after a suitable time.
3. If the dog does not release the sleeve after the first command the judge instructs the handler to give up to two additional commands to the dog to release the sleeve.
4. The handler must stand still when they give the command "aus/out" and must not influence the dog.
5. If the dog's name is used in shall be regarded as a verbal command to release the sleeve.
6. If the dog releases the sleeve independently when the handler approaches, it can also be regarded as releasing (outing). However, the handler must be at least 5 paces away from the dog.
7. If the dog releases independently or by means of a verbal command during the "attack" and counters the attack from the watch position, the designation "out" is entered in the report.
8. If this is not the case, even in just one phase, the dog shall be given the designation "does not out".
9. During the entire protection work the judge shall remain in the vicinity of the handler and observe the dogs' and handlers' behavior intensively until the handler goes to pick up the dog.
10. The dog will also receive a DQ if he bites the helper anywhere other than the protection sleeve.

### **Scoring the Drive, Self-Confidence & Resilience**

The overall rating of the protection work is scored as "a" pronounced, "vh" sufficient, and "ng" insufficient.

"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. These dogs will proceed to the show ring.

"vh" – Sufficient/Present: Limitations in self-confidence, determination, biting, and reaction to stick hits and during the holding at bay phases. These dogs can proceed to the show ring and can be "V" rated; however, they have to be placed at the rear of all other "V" rated dogs.

"ng" – Insufficient: Lacking self-confidence, strong limitations with respect to stress tolerance and lacking interest in the Helper. These dogs will not proceed to the show ring.