



GSDCA TATTOO REGULATIONS

(Effective 1st July 2009)

1) PURPOSE

To provide positive identification of the German Shepherd Dog for:

- Litter Records,
- Proof of ownership,
- Identification for GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes

2) ELIGIBILITY

Any Purebred, ANKC Registered German Shepherd Dog.

3) TATTOO SYSTEM

- 3.1 Application for Tattoo Symbols shall be made to the National Tattoo Registrar on the prescribed Form (TS1), who shall allocate the Tattoo Symbol, upon receipt of the signed Application Form and payment.
- 3.2 The Tattoo Symbol shall be three (3) letters of the Breeders choice, or if already taken a symbol chosen by the National Tattoo Registrar. No symbol selection can be used unless accepted and approved by the National Tattoo Registrar.
In the past some applications were allocated a three (3) letter symbol which was the same as other symbols with a distinguishing letter placed on the end of the numbers.
i.e. Berenberg = BER001, Bergwald = BER001A, Bergluft = BER001B
This practice no longer exists, and all three letter symbols are now unique.
- 3.3 A Tattoo Symbol is issued to a Kennel Prefix and therefore is not transferable to any other Kennel Prefix.
- 3.4 Puppies shall be tattooed between 7 and 8 weeks of age.
- 3.5 Every live puppy in the litter must be tattooed.
- 3.6 The puppy will be tattooed in the right ear. The whole tattoo identification is to be placed in the inside of the ear, and in the centre of the ear, starting with the first letter of the symbol towards the tip of the ear and the numbers going down the ear towards the skull.
- 3.7 Only Tattoos that are formally recognised by the GSDCA will be accepted as the means of positive identification for all Council Schemes.
- 3.8 All tattooing of GSD's within Australia must be done by authorized Tattoo Officers of GSDCA Affiliated Clubs. In extenuating circumstances tattooing maybe done by a veterinarian authorized by the Affiliated Club Tattoo Registrar. This must be recorded in writing on a litter-by-litter basis (with a copy to the GSDCA National Tattoo Registrar) and in the event that problems arise with these animals in the future these vet's will no longer be authorized. A pro-forma instruction letter to be provided to the veterinarian.
(Amended 2005 AGM)
- 3.9 Any New Zealand animals must be tattooed through the current NZ German Shepherd Dog Advisory Council system.
- 3.10 **Re-Tattooing of dogs previously tattooed.**
In the event that the animal's tattoo is illegible or indistinct the dog/bitch will be tattooed in the **left** ear with the original number allocated to it as a puppy, and this shall be performed with the dog under general anesthetic. This must be done in consultation with the Club Tattoo Registrar who shall notify the details in writing to the National Tattoo Registrar.

4) ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Breeders Responsibility

- 4.1.1 To apply for a Tattoo Symbol (using TS1 Form) at least four (4) weeks before the litter is born.
- 4.1.2 Notify the Club Tattoo Registrar of tattooing requirement using the TS3 Form (Litter Notification), or in accordance with the Club requirements.
- 4.1.3 To ensure the completed TS4 Form (with all Reg. Names, Reg. Numbers, aligned to Tattoo Numbers) is returned to the Tattoo Officer within 4 weeks of the Tattoo date. In the event of an extraordinary delay the Breeder must keep the Club Tattoo Registrar advised.

4.2 Clubs Responsibility

- 4.2.1 To appoint and support the Club Tattoo Registrar.
- 4.2.2 To ensure compliance with the GSDCA Tattoo Regulations by the Club Tattoo Registrar and Tattoo Officers.
- 4.2.3 To promote the GSDCA Tattoo Scheme to the members.
- 4.2.4 To ensure the provision of Tattooing is available to all Breeders within their domicile, whether they are members or non-members of a GSDCA affiliated Club.
- 4.2.5 To ensure payment of the GSDCA portion of the Tattoo Charges, to the GSDCA Treasurer on a quarterly basis.

4.3 Tattoo Officer Responsibilities

- 4.3.1 To comply with the GSDCA Tattoo Regulations.
- 4.3.2 To conduct the tattooing of litters in accordance with the GSDCA Tattoo Regulations.
- 4.3.3 To check before tattooing a litter the allocated Tattoo Symbol, and next number in the sequence, and record the litter on the TS4 Form.
- 4.3.4 To ONLY leave the “pink” (Breeders copy) of the TS4 Forms with the Breeder. This also applies where the information on the TS4 Form is incomplete (lacking Registration details, etc).
- 4.3.5 To collect the tattooing fee on the Clubs behalf, and forward payment to the Club Tattoo Registrar along with the completed TS4 Form.
- 4.3.6 To ensure the TS4 Form is completed correctly, and ensures submission of the completed form to the Club Tattoo Registrar within four (4) weeks of receiving the completed TS4 Form from the breeder.

4.4 Club Tattoo Registrar’s Functions & Responsibilities

- 4.4.1 To administer and record litter notifications.
- 4.4.2 To ensure adequate training and assessment prior to appointment of Club Tattoo Officers.
- 4.4.3 In the event that a Breeder repeatedly does not comply with written requests for information or completed TS4 Forms within the required timeframe, the Club Tattoo Registrar may recommend to the Club Management Committee to suspend any future tattooing until all information has been provided to the Club Tattoo Registrar. The Club Secretary shall notify the National Tattoo Registrar of any such decision/s.
- 4.4.4 State Tattoo Registrar’s shall supply to the National Tattoo Registrar a quarterly return of litters tattooed, accompanied by the TS4 Yellow copies. (Quarters to be 1 Oct to 31 Dec, 1 Jan to 31 Mar, 1 Apr to 30 Jun, 1 Jul to 30 Sep).
- 4.4.5 To ensure correct payment by the Club, of GSDCA portion of the Tattoo Charges, to the GSDCA Treasurer on a quarterly basis.
- 4.4.6 To enter the Tattoo data from the completed TS4 Form into the GSDCA Database as soon as possible – but no later than when the litter is 9 months of age.
 - 4.4.6.1 If any discrepancy in the Registered Name and Number, to the Tattoo

(including spelling mistakes) exists it MUST be investigated at the time of entering the information into the database, by contacting the Breeder (in writing) detailing the issue/s that has been found. Until the written response is received from the Breeder the information MUST NOT be entered into the Database. Common sense to prevail.

4.5 National Tattoo Registrar's Functions & Responsibilities

- 4.5.1 To allocate, approve and record Tattoo Symbols.
- 4.5.2 To keep a National Register of all dogs and bitches tattooed within Australia.
- 4.5.3 To forward notification of approved Tattoo Symbols to the relevant Club Tattoo Registrar.
- 4.5.4 To supply an updated National Tattoo Symbol listing to all Affiliated Clubs at each AGM of the GSDCA.
- 4.5.5 To assist and support Club Tattoo Registrars where possible.
- 4.5.6 To submit a detailed report to the NBC Meeting, and a report to the NBC Chairperson for inclusion in the NBC Report to the GSDCA AGM.
- 4.5.7 Administer the Tattoo section of the GSDCA Database.

4.6 National Breed Commission's (NBC) Responsibilities

- 4.6.1 To supply to all Clubs uniform administration forms free of charge.
- 4.6.2 List of Administration Forms:
 - Form TS1 – Tattoo Symbol Application (Kennel)
 - Form TS2 – Tattoo Symbol Approval – Kennel (for use by National Tattoo Registrar)
 - Form TS3 – Litter Notification
 - Form TS4 – Tattoo Litter Record
 - Form TS5 – Tattoo Symbol Application (AUS)
 - Form TS6 - Tattoo Symbol Approval – AUS (for use by National Tattoo Registrar)

5) "AUS" SYMBOLS

- 5.1 The "AUS" symbol is to be reserved for special purpose tattooing.
- 5.2 Application for an "AUS Symbols shall be made to the National Tattoo Registrar on the prescribed Form (TS5), who shall allocate the Tattoo Symbol, upon receipt of the signed Application Form and payment.
- 5.3 Adult dogs (from 12 weeks of age) must be tattooed with an AUS symbol, which shall be performed with the dog under general anesthetic.
- 5.4 The service is only available to:
 - Pedigree GSD dogs/bitches, which have been imported into Australia and were not previously tattooed.
 - ANKC registered pedigree dogs/bitches whelped in Australia that have not previously been tattooed.

6) EQUIPMENT

Standard Tattoo equipment shall comprise:

- "Hauptner" Tattoo pliers with seven (7) spaces in a single row, for 7mm high characters,
- Three (3) sets of 7mm high single numerals (0 – 9),
- Three (3) sets of 7mm high single letters (A – Z),
- "Hauptner" black or green paste, must be used.
- This equipment is obtainable from: Sieper & Co., (Address obtainable from the GSDCA Secretary)