



GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA Inc.

OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Saturday 6th October 2018

Time: 8.30 am to 5.00 pm

Venue: GSDCV Western Branch Clubrooms,
McCrae Boulevard, Kealba.

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Opening & Welcome:

Chair Mrs. Julie Urie – GSDCA Obedience Committee

Meeting declared open at 8.30am

The Chair declared the meeting open and welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Unfortunately the Tasmanian delegate and the GSDCA Secretary were unable to attend due to personal matters and have sent their apologies. The Delegates were asked to introduce themselves to the meeting.

2. Present: *As per the signature sheet.*

Obedience Committee Chair	Julie Urie
GSD League	Kathy Minton
GSDA of WA	Honey Gross-Richardson
GSDC of Victoria	Les Rudling
GSDC of Victoria	Tony Mercieca
ACT GSDA	Jenny Kenworthy
GSDC of Queensland	Annie Tamblyn
Executive	
GSDCA President	Vince Tantaro
GSDCA QNR Editor	Jacinta Poole
Minute Secretary	Barbara Blythe
Observers	
Ray Batchelor	
Jenny Yuen	
Cristine Begbie	

3. Apologies: *As per the signature sheet.*

GSDC of South Australia, N&HRGSDC, GSDC of Tasmania, GSDCA Secretary Mrs. Val Moody, GSDCA Judges Chair Mrs. Robyn Knuckey, GSDCA Treasurer Ms. Jane Pike.

Motion: *“That apologies be accepted”.*

Moved: Jenny Kenworthy. Seconded: Honey Gross Richardson. CARRIED.

4. Adoption of the Agenda:

4.1 Adoption of the Agenda for the GSDCA Obedience Committee meeting.

“That the agenda for the GSDCA Obedience Committee Meeting as circulated, be adopted”.

Moved: Annie Tamblyn. Seconded: Jenny Kenworthy. CARRIED.

5. Confirmation of the Minutes:

- 5.1 *“That the minutes of the GSDCA Obedience Committee Meeting held on Saturday 2nd August 2014 at the GSDCV Western Branch Clubrooms, McCrae Boulevard, Kealba, Victoria be accepted as a true and accurate record”.*

The meeting agreed to accept the Minutes from the 2014.

6. Matters Referred to the 2018 GSDCA Obedience Committee Meeting from GSDCA Member Clubs:

6.1 Implementation of Harmonisation elements relating to Character and Working Tests. Tasmania/Victoria.

- Zap Working Test – Part 1 Puppy Test
Drafting rules/manuals, assigning and training assessors, communication to members, detailed implementation timetable.

The Chair advised that this task is well underway and will be finalised next year. A PowerPoint presentation together with a list of required equipment and description of tests was sent to all clubs in June 2018. It was sent to every club's secretary for "information" purposes until the manuals are available. Whilst the PowerPoint presentation wasn't intended to go out to the members at this time, we can see no problem with showing it to members in the club house. As two delegates said they had not received the PowerPoint presentation, it was agreed that the presentation would be resent to **all** clubs again.

A two page document written by Julie Urie and links to all the information can be found on the Council website.

The discussion and comments from the delegates included the following:

- *Character and Working Test Officer' (C&WTO)* Each State has or should have appointed a C&WTO. Alastair Henderson (in Victoria, for instance) will need to liaise very closely with the Breed Liaison Officers and the branches to commence implementation of the puppy test.
- Equipment: Whilst the list of equipment states the use of a chainsaw, there is no issue with using another tool – i.e. a leaf blower – can be used as long as the noise is similar and safe to use around the dogs. Wooden trestle tables can be replaced with the moulded trestle tables easily and cheaply obtained from Bunnings around the country. The equipment needs to be standardized.
- Assessors/Testers: The C&WTO is to be the "driver" but will not necessarily conduct the test. There will be fine tuning required as we go along. Breed Surveyors will be the people to judge the test. Clubs can set up equipment and on training days with the C&WTO overseeing the use of the equipment.

At the present time, Breed Surveyors will be conducting the testing. It was agreed that there are very experienced people in the obedience fraternity who we can consider further down the track. Remember this is Draft #1 – it will be refined over time.

- Introduction Timetable for Zap 1 – Puppy Test: All dogs born after 31 December 2019 would be eligible. Minimum age is 9 months with the maximum age 15 months. **No official testing will be held until 30 September 2020.** We need to get things moving now so that members get their heads around the idea of the ZAP.

We want to encourage people to be involved and doing something with their puppy. This process starts with the breeder and extends to the puppy owner by encouraging participation. This is the beginning of the so called "conditioning" and getting puppies acclimatised.

As the majority of Clubs voted in favour of the Harmonisation Scheme, we now need to prepare a process of implementation. We need to acknowledge that some clubs do not want to go

ahead with the Harmonisation scheme now, others, haven't the capability to do so. The whole point of this meeting is to instill the belief that the GSD is a working dog and put the belief into practice. It will take time to encourage people to see their dogs as "working dogs". It all comes back to the individual Clubs to drive this. We are changing the culture in small steps.

The Chair said that she cannot see that maintaining the C&WA test is the way to go. The SV/WUSV expects us to commence with the implementation of the ZAP. The clubs have not supported the C&WA in the past, and asking them to support both exercises will not work. She believes we should discontinue the C&WA test. It is up to each club if they want to put out C&WA equipment they will also need to put out ZAP equipment

The Chair said it is up to the delegates present today to go back to their Clubs and be proactive. Now is the time to start running with this, build enthusiasm in our instructors and get this off the ground in 2020. We need you to ask questions and push if things are not happening. Unless the Clubs are the driving force behind this plan, nothing with change. Consider holding training days on the same day as Breed Survey days. - Although discussion on the day did center around encouraging breeders to be involved, it was also pointed out that this test is open to all, and all members are welcome to participate. Suggest the following: *'Breeders/Exhibitors will be encouraged to support this test; however, all members are welcome to participate'*.

The GSDCA President informed the meeting that Harold Hohmann will be judging our National Show & Trial in 2019 and is happy to run a seminar training day the weekend before the National. He is also going to provide information on ZAP 2 essentially with the view of replacing the IPO qualification with an alternative. From Council's point of view, all the working test officers will be invited and Clubs can nominate delegates to also attend the seminar.

ACTION: Send the PowerPoint presentation and notes to all Club Secretaries and the delegates attending this meeting today. .

ACTION: Delegates to promote the training and using the equipment to the breeders. On Breed Survey days, ensure the equipment is available at the clubs and encourage people to use it.

o **BH Test**

Drafting rules/manuals, assigning and training assessors, communication to members, detailed implementation timetable, training systems.

The Chair advised that this task is well underway and will be finalised next year.

This test will be harder to implement as it is not recognised in Australia and we do not have judges qualified to judge the test. The possibility of using the ANKC CD (Novice) trial class may be able to be considered as this class would be accessible to everyone around the country as they can train at any obedience club.

Comments and discussion:

- It is acknowledged that there is an issue with the capability of some clubs to conduct the BH test. We need to consider accepting a qualifying pass in CCD or CD (Novice) as the working element, with the character element run by the GSDCA. This would meet the requirement that the GSD is a working dog and the dog character is tested.
- Why can't we implement BH as a council scheme? Rename the C&WA and morph it into "BH" – the BH is an FCI title. Why not make a test of our own based on the BH test: again resources needed to implement same is beyond most Clubs capabilities..
- 7 or 8 affiliate members of the WUSV are not happy with the timelines set for implementation of Harmonisation Scheme and it is thought that WUSV Board will be accepting that each country will do the best they can, when they can, to implement the elements of harmonization.
- We need to be wary of introducing more work as Clubs are already under manned. If we accept an ANKC established trial pass, this will reduce the extra people and man power required.

- If the character part of the BH test is going to be a separate item, could the breed survey be expanded to encompass the character test? And then need to obtain a pass in CD/CCD.

The Chair recommended that we accept one pass in CD (comparable to the BH test) and add the character test onto survey – we would then fulfill both requirements. Executive will discuss whether this recommendation will be taken to the AGM. My original recommendation was that we accept a pass in CD along with the BH temperament test being added to Breed Survey, as well as accepting the option of a BH title attained under an SV judge in Australia. Vince provided comment that on the grounds we cannot recognize BH as it is not an ANKC sanctioned activity and likelihood of ANKC implementing same at this point in time or near future is highly unlikely. Following Vince's rejection of this, the recommendation then became as suggested. I would like the minutes to include my original recommendation.

Action: Executive of the GSDCA to discuss and consider whether a pass in CD (Novice obedience) and the inclusion of a character test at survey should take the place of the BH test. Will be taken to the AGM in 2019

- **AD Test**

Drafting rules/manuals, assigning and training assessors, communication to members, detailed implementation timetable, training systems.

The Chair said that Council is currently investigating the possibility of utilizing the ANKC system to have dogs do an ET test that is readily available around the Australia. The major issue is the age difference to put our dogs through breed survey (18months) when the ET minimum age is 24 months. Perhaps consider putting a submission to the ANKC to see if we can get the rules changed.

The GSDLeague said the League would be disadvantaged as only one ET test is available per calendar year with limited numbers and cut off numbers.

It was suggested that perhaps as we have dogs breed surveyed prior to 2 years of age they be granted a 6 month period in which to obtain the ET with the paperwork presented and the breed survey form updated.

ZAP Puppy Test Workshop: - Executive.

- Update to and from Member Clubs:
Agreed clubs make equipment available.
- Map out each clubs requirements;
- Set timelines;
- Set up State Co-ordinators
- Organise club education days prior to Zap becoming official.
- Update on ZAP Procedure Manual, certificate, Judges training and licensing program for:
 - ZAP - Puppy Test (9 to 13 months old);
 - ZAP plus BH (**CCD**); - The motion would be for 1 pass in CD not CCD.
 - ZAP plus AD (ET).

This item has been dealt with above.

6.2 BH & AD - Victoria

Given that the BH and AD are not currently a sanctioned ANKC event, what progress, if any, has been made to achieve this? If this is deemed to not be something that cannot be achieved, can we implement an internal title in place of them?

(Zap is currently only an internal title as is CWA).

The ANKC has not yet been approached formally. Note comment above re BH test

6.3 Implementation of Manuals - Victoria

What alternatives are in place if the actual release date for the three manuals: Zap, BH, AD are such that they do not allow sufficient time for the implementation of the programs such as the training of members GSD's, the selection and training (if any) of those members that will adjudicate the testing procedures for the three test as per the vote taken on the timetable?

The Chair advised that the manuals will be ready in time.

6.4 Reporting at GSDCA AGM – Victoria.

The GSDCA AGM Agenda for 2019, 2020 and 2021, to include a report by each Member Club on their progress in implementing the three above mentioned items (ZAP, BH, AD), with emphasis on their capability in training members and subsequent testing as well as actual numbers of participation. The report should form part of each Clubs report to National Council.

If there is a delay in the release of the manual, reports to begin the GSDCA AGM following the release of the training/testing manuals and continue for 3 subsequent GSDCA AGM's.

It will be the responsibility of the State coordinator to provide a report to the NBC meeting in July detailing the progress being made and an update as to equipment and should also be included in each State Club's AGM Annual report.

Action: GSDCA Secretary to formally request that all Club Presidents to include an update on the implementation of the ZAP etc in their Annual Reports including what progress has been made, what dates are set for training etc. including any issues that need to be resolved.

6.5 GSDCA National Obedience Instructors Manual – GSD League

- Is there a National Obedience Manual for our Instructors?
- Is there a National Obedience Training Manual?

Rationale:

We need consistency in our approach to instruction of our Instructors as each person brings a different skill and experience set in their training. I am currently the training co-ordinator for GSDL, a teacher, with 40 years experience and an experienced trialler. Currently trialling at UDX level-my bitch has her Obedience Grand Champion title. Most people don't have that experience. We need to give our volunteer instructors practical and consistent advice and training to have them confidence in their delivery of instruction.

The response to this question is "No". In the past agreement was given by the GSDCV to distribute training pamphlets and manuals etc and these documents were sent to the other states. In the past, Victoria have always been willing to share their manuals with other Clubs. This may provide the other Clubs a base on which they can either add to their own manuals or at least provide a starting point

Action: GSDCA Secretary to make a formal request that Victoria share their updated Training Guidelines with the other States and approach other member Clubs to share any new training methods and written information and manuals.

6.6 Regular Seminars /Workshops for our Instructors. – GSD League.

The GSD League wishes to discuss the possibility of regular seminars/workshops for all Obedience Instructors.

Rationale:

These seminars/workshops are necessary to keep our instructors up to date. The outcome being that our instructors will deliver better instruction to our members and our members will then continue bringing their GSDs to GSD clubs for training and socialisation. Currently many clubs are not retaining new members after an initial period of training sessions.

GSD League

In response to the question, the following comments from the delegates included:

- Victoria provides speakers every year that are open to all members and the public. Other branches run different types of demonstrations. Some branches pay for their instructors to attend these seminars, other branches ask their instructors to pay for the courses. This is done every year without exception.
- Newcastle club have organised an excellent seminar coming up this weekend. There are numerous people who conduct good lectures and seminars.
- Victoria and WA Delegates told the meeting about what they do regarding training of instructors and ongoing education of instructors and what their requirements were.
- It was suggested that the League and other Clubs could work with their local ANKC affiliated obedience clubs and look at providing the 4 free training certificates. If clubs only have only one training location, find out where all the other obedience clubs are located and see if you can strike up a relationship with the obedience clubs and explain the breeders 4 free training certificate idea to them and sell that the obedience club may get new members out of the exercise.

The Chair suggested that the Clubs that cannot formally run puppy socialization classes need to be proactive in getting breeders to ensure their pups pups are directed to other obedience clubs. Clubs could form partnerships with these clubs. The aim of all Clubs should be to help the GSD puppy owners have well socialized and trained dogs.

VICTORIA PROVIDED A COPY OF THE VICTORIAN FREE TRAINING CERTIFICATE AND PUPPY BOOKLET TO ALL DELEGATES.

7. Matters Referred to the GSDCA Obedience Committee Meeting from GSDCA Executive:

7.1 Discussion Item: - Obedience Committee: - its relevance and future:

- Would a Working Test/Obedience Affairs Officer reporting to NBC serve the Council and activity better?
- More cost effective for Council and Clubs.
- Shaping the future direction of Obedience and how best to utilise this discipline to reach out much better to GSD owners.
- Discuss strategies that may be adopted that will see agreement on a national basis that sees us, promote, standardize, share information and conduct workshops/seminars etc.

The GSDCA President said that no responses were received from the clubs re attending this meeting. This meeting has not been supported for many years and the input is way less than desirable and focused on awards rather than progressing obedience in most clubs. How do we shape the progression of obedience?

We need to serve the puppies – It is up to the clubs to make their attendance as a positive and fun experience that hopefully results in more members. As a breed club we need to make sure that we service those new owners and have a plan on how to help them out. Need to look after the pups being bred. We need to keep the links open between the affiliate clubs and work with our fellow Shepherd clubs. We ask that people support the clubs to ensure the puppies get trained.

A question was asked why the ZAP focuses only on breeders and not on our pet owners? .

The reply was that ZAP is not to the exclusion of anyone. The reason we are focusing on the breeders/show fraternity is because some are not engaged and are resistant to change. The Harmonisation Scheme is actually enforcing guidelines that breeders will need to adhere to, to be able to go through breed survey. It is not a prerequisite for pet owners. Breeders send their puppies to the branches and that is the beginning of getting them to participate in training – both obedience and show.

Action: Something in the QNR referring to co-operation between the Clubs throughout Australia.

- The better utilization of the GSDCA National GSD Show & Trial to better showcase not only obedience, but other working disciplines that are integral to the working ability of our breed.

This is a very good idea, but once again it is dependent on time and man power. If there is any club hosting a National and would like to include a demonstration not usually seen, and they can find the time to fit it into the schedule and have the manpower, this would be welcomed. Obviously the GSDCA Executive requires ideas to be put to them first before committing to them. Demonstrations usually go well with members. Get ideas together and send the proposal to the Executive.

Action: GSDCA Obedience Chair to liaise directly with clubs that host the National and encourage and work together to ensure the working ability of our breed is showcased: suggest working two years ahead to ensure this matter is well considered.

7.2 Introduction of Obedience Training as a core activity of Member clubs:

The GSDCV model can it be applied to other Member Clubs? *Refer Attachment No.1, Page 6.*

The attachment sets out the way the Victorian Club structure. It depicts how all the sections of the club relate to each other.

Where no obedience committee or group exists it is highly recommended that this is put in place and reports back to the main club committee. There is a need for those dedicated to obedience to promote same in your club. If you need any help to get this off the ground Julie Urie offered her availability to help in any way and see what we can do to assist.

Club Training –

- Need for structured obedience classes.
- Ascertain help needed to get this off the ground.

This should be the aim of everyone here to take back the information to your clubs and get started on the structure of your classes and we really need to have regular obedience at all clubs. Servicing the puppies our breeders breed is paramount. Offer obedience/socialisation/lifestyle classes to pet owners. Provide other activities not necessarily obedience related. People want to know how to manage their dogs so they fit in with the family and out in society. If people can see it will benefit them and make their dog easier to live with, they will apply themselves. Provide training tips in newsletters or magazines or on the club Facebook page.

7.3 Educational Training Seminars –

- Can we organise such for instructors/members?
- Utilise same person/group, so we are all on the same page?

Refer to item 6.6 above. If you need ideas of suitable speakers for seminars, just ask as there are a lot of people out there who can provide seminars etc. Consider partnering up with local obedience clubs to run seminars with good speakers. Make the event open to everyone at a cost to cover expenses. Keep in touch with each other, pass on information about a speaker you might have had and share the information. We are part of one organisation, and are all here for the GSD.

7.4 Discussion Item - GSDCA Member Clubs Obedience Challenge

Current Regulation:

6.8 GSDCA MEMBER CLUBS OBEDIENCE CHALLENGE

A set of four identical plaques of sample size should be ordered for the GSDCA Member Clubs Obedience Challenge, which shall be presented to each member of the winning team. Plaques shall be ordered by the National trophy steward.

Member Clubs Team Challenge: Look at rules, strictly Club Teams or open to all teams?

Club Teams: Vince Tantaro

Should it be an inter club competition where each Club submits names that will represent them at the National Obedience Challenge?. Winning Team to be acknowledged in the Quarterly National Review (QNR) by means of a photo.

Formalise the following:

- Member Club Obedience Team Competition
- 4x members can compete (team)
- trophy awarded to winning Club
- Winning Team photo appears in QNR National edition

Restricting the competition to only entrants representing their Club - Julie Urie.

- Most clubs struggle to make up the required number for a team.
- Some Clubs only have one or two members to represent them so teams have been made up on the day.
- If we restrict the competition to inter-club only, then the members from clubs which cannot make a full team will not be able to participate at all and any club fortunate enough to have 5, 6 or 7 members trialing, will only have 4 of those members able to participate, because they are unable to make up 2 complete teams.

This item was discussed with Delegates putting forward their views. The conclusion was, with more members coming into trialing and competing in both the trial and conformation rings, the status quo remain for the time being. This competition needs to be promoted at Club level to encourage trialers to put a team together.

Conclusion: Majority agreed to leave the way it is for the time being.

Action: Clubs to promote the Teams Event with members.

7.5 National Show/Trial

Presentation Ceremony:

Alter Regulations to allow 1st place to get all but Trophy and Sash, at time everyone else gets theirs.

Current rule below, sees first place getters not recognised at all during the presentation held at conclusion of Trial.

7 TROPHY PRESENTATION: *Presentation of sashes and mementos (for the places 2nd to 5th in each class) and Excellent medals (where applicable) should take place at the conclusion of the trial.*

It was agreed that competitors should receive their sash and if applicable, the excellent medallion at the obedience presentation and not at the Sunday presentations.

Motion: Presentation of sashes and mementos (for the places 1st to 5th in each class) and Excellent medals (where applicable) should take place at the conclusion of the trial. Trophy will be presented at the presentations at the conclusion of the National Show and Trial.

Moved: Jenny Kenworthy. **Seconded:** Annie Tamblyn. **CARRIED.**

Action: This to be taken to the 2019 GSDCA AGM and then The National Show & Trial Manual to be amended to reflect the above motion if approved.

7.6 **Discussion Item: Excellent Merit Grading**

Awarding an Excellent Merit Obedience Grading in Trials held in conjunction with a State Breed Exhibition (SBE). Participant will be required to obtain a score of 195pts or above and for CCD a score of 98pts or above.

After discussions, it was agreed that the Excellent Merit Grading is a breed value award, based on breeding and progeny.

A show of hands was called for with the discussion item being lost.

8. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

8.1 **Obedience Judges Preferred and Supplementary lists – GSDCV**

We need to consider how judges are selected for these lists. ie at what point are judges able to be included on these lists? This has never been documented as to whether the judges should be full panel judges (ie able to judge all obedience levels or all Rally levels)

The GSDCV preference is that a judge should only be placed on either of the lists if they have achieved the highest level so that the judge is able to judge any level, and that is the basis of how Victoria has nominated judges for the supplementary list in recent years.

Also there is no provision on these lists for including ANKC judges who are licensed to judge only Rally or Endurance or Tracking or Herding (or multiples of these). With the push towards harmonisation and the need to show the working ability of the GSD we need to acknowledge ANKC judges who are able (or prefer to only) judge these disciplines. So should the "preferred list" and supplementary list also expand to include judges of these disciplines and be renamed "Performance Judge" Preferred and Supplementary lists?

The above item was discussed in depth with the majority of delegates agreeing that, given that we bring judges from interstate to judge what is a prestigious event, the selected judges should be full panel judges regardless of the discipline and then in other events held at the National, then the selection is made from the Supplementary List. The process of nomination would not change. Judges who are friendly to the GSD but not a member of the club, could go on the supplementary list. Everyone currently on the list is taken across to the new lists. This procedure will not be retrospective

Action: Change the title in the regulations to read:

**GSDCA Performance Judges
Preferred Performance Judges List
Supplementary Performance Judges List**

Any judges added to the list in the future must be full panel in the discipline they are judging. This will not be retrospective.

Action: motion for AGM

That as of 1st July 2019, Performance Judges must be full panel judges in one or more disciplines in order to be nominated and added the GSDCA Performance Preferred and Supplementary Performance judges Listings.

8.2 **National Award Recipients - ACT**

The ACTGSDA has recommended that any National Award applications include conformation that the member receiving the award is actually a member of the Club. A provision on the application form that the Secretary can sign off confirming the person is a member would suffice.

9. Date & Venue for 2020:

Date and Venue for the 2020 GSDCA Obedience Committee Meeting – To be advised.

Delegates were asked to consider whether that this Obedience Committee Meeting should be held every year given the task ahead of implementing the Harmonization Scheme.

The ACTGSDA offered to host the next meeting but acknowledged how difficult and expensive it is to get in and out of Canberra.

It was agreed that the meeting be held annually with the venue being alternately Sydney and in Melbourne.

ACTION: Alter point 2.9.1 of GSDCA Regulations Manual to reflect this change.

Current regulation is as follows:

2.9.1 The GSDCA Obedience Meeting will be held bi-annually as of 2014.

2.9.1 Regulations will to be rescinded and the following motion placed on the GSDCA AGM.

Motion: That a GSDCA Obedience meeting will be held annually with the venue being alternately between Melbourne and Sydney (to be held in a conference room at the hotel near the airport where the delegates would be staying).

ACTION: Investigate cost of best option and available dates for next year's meeting to be held in Sydney ensuring dates do not clash with school holidays to limit costs.

10. Close of Meeting:

The Chair thanked everyone for their active participation in discussions today. She asked that all delegates take your enthusiasm and drive and get a group or small committee together at your clubs. Keep reporting, asking questions of your main committee and get things going. Thank you all for coming. She believes today provided very good frank and open discussion which was appreciated..

The meeting thanked the Western Branch Manager, Steve Kinsman and his wonderful assistants, Ros Mills, Jess Kinsman and others for providing their club rooms and the wonderful morning tea and lunch. Your hospitality is very much appreciated by all.

The Delegates thanked Julie Urie for what they said was a very proactive meeting.

Meeting closed at 2.05pm.

The Structure of the GSDCV

