

July 2015

Shepherd



News

Official publication of the  
German Shepherd Dog League Inc of NSW

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## A message from our President

Welcome to the third edition of Shepherd News for 2015.

Congratulations to all our members who participated in the recent National Show and Trial held in Melbourne. We had some great results, the highlights being the Gold Medal Stock Coat Dog & Bronze Medal Long Stock Coat Dog. Whilst the weather was not the best the results certainly made up for it.

With the cold weather now upon us, Club activities usually slow down. The National Show Committee are working hard to organise a great event for next year.

Our weekend training days at Erskine Park are being well attended despite the weather. My thanks to Fay Stokes, Cassie Booth, Lee Baker, Kim McGregor & Bret Adams for their assistance.

My thanks to the members who attended the Dogs NSW 'Dogs on Show' open day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The GSDL was represented and the public were impressed with the display.

Our Fun Day on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015 is coming together well. A promotional flyer is available on our website and in this edition. The day is aimed at having fun with your dog. There will be some obedience demonstrations and fun events for people and their dogs to participate in. Please print off the flyer and publicise the event amongst your friends, colleagues and puppy buyers.

Information on these events as they come up, are advertised in Shepherd News, on our website and our Facebook page.

The weather was fine for our June show and trial, the grounds unfortunately did not hold up too well with all the rain we have had before the event. Thanks and congratulations to those brave enough to participate.

I look forward to seeing members at all of the events we are participating in.

**Greg Jones**

**President.**



## 43rd National Show & Trial Results



Congratulations to GSDL members that exhibited at the 43rd National German Shepherd Dog Show & Trial in Melbourne in May 2015. League members had some very good results, including:

- **Gold Medal Stock Coat Dog**, Challenge Dog,  
\***Toby von der Plessenburg (imp Deu)**, owned by Jodie Carroll, Dr Robert Zammit and Andrew Jones. (shown here with Dawn Fraser, GSDCA Patron)
- **Reserve Challenge Bitch, 1st Junior Stock Coat, Sadria Storm Queen AZ**, owned by Pattie and Steve Morrissey (shown below)
- \* **1st Baby Puppy Dog**— Reichkaiser Fire Foxx (E & Z. Birac)
- \* **1st Minor Puppy Dog**—Bossface Barrack (M. Theris)

\* **1st Puppy Dog**—Glenbala Funk N Pizzazz (G & K Gregory)

\* **1st Puppy Bitch**—Aimsway Brooklyn (Aimsway Kennels)

\* **1st Minor Puppy Bitch LSC**—Kelinpark Icing On the Cake (L. Gregor/ C. Shayler)

\* **Bronze Medal LSC Dog**, Ch. \*Sundaneka True Blue AZ (Eaton/Stevenson)



### Be Involved in Your Club! All Welcome!

The League is looking for members to become involved in our breed publicity activities and as stewards for our shows.

**Publicity Team**— Publicity Team members are needed. You will need a willingness to talk to the general public about our wonderful German Shepherds, promote the GSDL and GSDCA Breed Improvement schemes. If you have a wonderful, happy GSD as well, that would be great! We have a number of events coming up that will enable us to showcase our fantastic breed and our club. Please contact the Publicity Officer, Teresa Mills, if you can spare some time to promote our German Shepherds. Email her at email [schonfeuer@bigpond.com](mailto:schonfeuer@bigpond.com).

**Stewards**— stewarding in conformation shows or the obedience ring gives you the judge's perspective and is a rewarding learning experience! You will meet new people, such as overseas and SV judges and be right at the centre of activities. We also feed you a yummy lunch! If you would like more information about becoming involved, please contact the Show Manager, Terry Jarvis at email [tepe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tepe@bigpond.net.au)

**44th National Show & Trial 2016**—we need the assistance of any members that hold a current RSA so that we can run a successful bar at the show. Members will be rostered over the days of the show, so you will only have to give us a few hours of your time. Alcohol to be served will be canned beer and spirits, wine and also soft drinks. Let us know if you can assist, by emailing Fay Stokes at [faystokes1@bigpond.com](mailto:faystokes1@bigpond.com)

## Awning Over the Front of the GSDL Building

The committee of the GSDL have sought and gained approval from Dogs NSW to erect an awning across the front of our building at Orchard Hills.

This awning will provide comfort and protection from all weather elements for those members attending training and our shows. It is intended to place suitable tables and chairs along the veranda where members can sit and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat whilst watching the show. It is not intended for members exhibiting to 'set up camp' with their exhibits.

The cost of this awning is \$11,440 and the committee feel it is well worthwhile spending some of accumulated funds on the members comfort and building improvement. **In regard to this expenditure, the committee would like the approval of the membership.**

We are also negotiating with Dogs NSW to have the centre covering in the bitch ring upgraded to match the one Dogs NSW have replaced in the dog ring. At the last show when it rained, we had to erect a tent under the ring cover to stop the judge from being drenched.

We believe Dogs NSW spent \$8,500 on the new cover in the dog ring, however it is anticipated that they will require the GSDL to contribute towards a new cover in the bitch ring. We will, of course, keep members advised.

Should you wish to lodge an objection to this money being spent please address your concerns **in writing to the Secretary no later than 5pm Sunday, 12th July**.

**COMMITTEE, GSDL OF NSW INC.**

### 44th National German Shepherd Dog Show & Trial Logo Design Competition

Congratulations to  
**Daniel Lahnor**  
on his winning design,  
and to Lee Allen for 2nd place

#### July General Meeting

There are a number of new motions to be put to the members for approval at the July General Meeting, Monday 13th. Please come along and vote!

#### On Line Entries Now Available!

The GSDL is now online for show and trial entries, starting with the State Breed Assessment in July.

Log onto Show Manager, set up your dogs and away you go!



## Show Manager

Online Entries Available  
[www.showmanager.com.au](http://www.showmanager.com.au)

# Hip Dysplasia—DNA Test Development

There are a number of inherited joint and cartilage diseases of dogs. Osteochondrosis dessicans (OCD), luxating patella (dislocating knees), fragmented coronoid process (FCP - Elbow dysplasia – one of the three possible causes), un-united anconeal process (UAP – another cause of Elbow dysplasia) and avascular necrosis of the femoral head, to name a few. Yet, despite pre-breeding radiographs to gain an “A” stamp, along with selective breeding programs, and despite the development of various programs around the world to improve the breeding of sounder hips in dogs (BVA Scheme developed in conjunction with well-known German Shepherd enthusiast and genetic guru, Malcom Willis; Penn-Hip Scheme Developed by Gail Smith at Pennsylvania University), Canine Hip Dysplasia still remains the most common inherited orthopaedic condition in dogs.

Over the years in Australia, the incidence of Hip Dysplasia has decreased in German Shepherds, however there are still a number of cases being reported every year. Despite the general trend comparing the number of cases in the eighties with those early this century, some people are suggesting, anecdotally at least, that there might be a rise in the incidence of Hip Dysplasia over the last few years. Certainly, it is difficult to get true estimates because many cases of younger dogs with HD are not reported. Further, many people who have a dog radiographed for the scheme, but find that individual is an obvious failure, decide not to submit the radiographs. This not only skews the true incidence of the disease but also prevents another reasonable test to avoid breeding HD, namely by progeny testing. Currently, one scientific published article from Germany states that the incidence of Hip Dysplasia in German Shepherds is 35%.

Analysis of DNA has now been proposed as a possible answer to our question: **How do I avoid breeding animals that develop Canine Hip Dysplasia?** The problem with this logic is that HD is a polygenic disease. That is to say, there are several genes that result in the development of this condition.

In the development of DNA profiling for diseases or a particular effect of a drug on a patient, scientists have identified “**Single-Nucleotide Polymorphism**” or **SNPs**. These can cause a simple difference in the manufacture of proteins (which are literally written in the genes of the animal), thus resulting in a different expression between individuals. Much work has been put into genome mapping of dogs because they are so similar to humans. .../continued next page

## Coming Up Soon!

Mark these dates and events in your calendar so you don't forget them!

Full details are always on the GSDL Website, [www.gsdl.info](http://www.gsdl.info)

<b>4th July</b>	Fun Day 11am, Erskine Park
<b>4th July</b>	Hip Dysplasia DNA Collection with Dr Robert Zammit, Erskine Park
<b>5th July</b>	Breed Survey, 11am, Erskine Park
<b>5th July</b>	Current Stud Dog seminar—Joylene Neddermeyer, Following the Breed Survey, approx 1.30pm
<b>18th/19th July</b>	State Breed Assessment, Vince Tantaró



## Hip Dysplasia—DNA Test Development continued

Researchers have said that the dog genome is a rearranged version of the human genome – it is divided into roughly 70 different segments then arranged on a greater number of chromosomes (Dogs have 78 chromosomes while humans only have 46 – so who is the superior species?). Genetic diseases of the two species are also very similar, thus the work in canines has benefited both dogs and humans alike.

Canine Hip Dysplasia SNPs have now been reported in an article (PLOS One – Identification and Validation of Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL) for Canine Hip Dysplasia (CHD) in German Shepherd Dogs) published May 6, 2014 by Ottmar Distl and Lena Fels (University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover Germany). To identify the common alleles (gene variants) associated with Canine Hip Dysplasia, they examined 96 dogs with mild, moderate and severe Hip Dysplasia, analysing the results by using a canine high density SNP chip. **The result identified five SNPs associated with Canine Hip Dysplasia.**

To now examine this work for possible use in the field - that is to say, **with our breeding programs** – a study has been proposed by Professor Bill Ballard (University of NSW) and Dr. Robert Zammit (Vineyard Veterinary Hospital) that will examine **one thousand previously radiographed dogs.**

The study involves taking DNA from German Shepherds that have been radiographed under Australian scoring conditions. The bulk will be under the auspices of dogs radiographed under the GSD National Council Scheme. However, as previously stated, as some animals with Hip Dysplasia never make submission to the scheme, their radiographs will be read and their DNA submitted as this will be a crucial addition to the study.

The samples are allotted a “DNA Number”. The Hip Dysplasia results are recorded but are not examined until the DNA mapping generates a separate result of the hip status of the animal according to the DNA analyses. This will then be compared to the radiograph result, examining the correlation between the two methods. All individual results will be kept anonymous as this is a population study. If a correlation is found to be strong then the second part of the study (probably some two to three years away!) will commence. At this stage, we will examine DNA from sires and dams to see if there is predictability of results.

Obviously this is a long and involved study but it leaves a legacy to the breed that cannot be overstated. In plain English, if this works, future generations of breeders (and maybe even you), will be able to breed towards making Hip Dysplasia a historical event in the breed.

**What is needed from you to advance the study is your co-operation in collecting DNA from radiographed dogs, whether they have passed or failed.** Indeed, failed animals will be invaluable to the study so please assist the investigation by bringing those animals along for DNA collection. Rob Zammit will be travelling around the country to collect samples along with copies of hip results. This is done under the auspices of German Shepherd National Council and your local club will let you know the dates and location that this will occur in your State. Hope you can help.

**Dr Robert Zammit,**

**Vineyard Veterinary Hospital**



## **German Shepherd Dog League Inc of NSW**

### **Fun Day**

**4th July 2015**

**Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs,  
Luddenham Rd, Orchard Hills (Erskine Park)**

**11 am—3pm**

**Join us for fun and games,  
crazy competitions.**

**Great Prizes!**

**Bring all of the family!  
Your on-lead dog is most welcome!**

**Come and meet breeders and have all of your questions about**

**German Shepherds answered!**

**Find out about League activities.**

**Refreshments will be available**

**More info: [www.gsdl.info](http://www.gsdl.info) and  
[www.facebook.com/gsdlofnsw](https://www.facebook.com/gsdlofnsw)**

**Celebrity Host & Judge:**

**Dr Robert Zammit— 2GB, author,  
Burke's Backyard & A Country Practice**



# Hip Dysplasia—DNA Test At the Fun Day 4th July 2015

## How Can You Help This Vital Study???

Simple.

Come along with your xrayed dog.

Bring a copy of the Dogs NSW Registration Papers

Bring a copy of the animal's Hip and Elbow score sheet (the "Pink Sheet") or a copy of the GSDCA issued A and Z certificate.

The dog will have blood and cheek swabs taken by Dr Robert Zammit.

And that's it! Simple. But very important for the future of our breed!

## Around the June Show .....







## July 2015

Contact Us By Snail Mail at:

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GSDL  
23 Ariel Crescent  
Cranebrook, NSW 2749

Phone: 02 4730 4013  
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Email: [faystokes1@bigpond.com](mailto:faystokes1@bigpond.com)

Contact the Editor at:  
[khayem@bigpond.com](mailto:khayem@bigpond.com)

The German Shepherd Dog League Inc of NSW (GSDL) and the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) have been established to promote the breeding, exhibition and overall improvement of the German Shepherd Dog in Australia.

The GSDL operates training branches at Erskine Park and on the Central Coast. Both branches offer Obedience and Show Training. General Meetings of the club are held bi-monthly, with exact dates shown on the League website and Facebook page.

## From The Editor

The 2014 National Show and Trial is over and we are working towards the 2015 National here on home turf in Sydney!

Congratulations to the GSDCV on a well run and enjoyable show. While the weather was horrible in patches, especially during Open Dog and Bitch, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and there was a great atmosphere. Many GSDL members had good results on the pegs and brought home 2 Medals!

If you would like to be involved in the **2015 National**, please let anyone on Committee know. There are many jobs of all sizes and we would appreciate the help! We are particularly looking for members that hold the **RSA** and can assist us in running the bar. The bar is a great fundraiser at every National, so if you can help out, please let us know asap!

While on the National, congrats to Daniel Lahnor on winning the **logo design** competition. Daniel's design will be unveiled soon!

The League was well represented at the **Dogs NSW Dogs on Show Day** recently.

We had a number of members and their dogs talking with the general public about our great breed. The day was blessed with lovely weather and the public took advantage of it. Hopefully we will have a few new members joining the club (and some ex-members rejoining) and some puppy sales as well.

Our next big event is the **Fun Day** on Saturday, 4th July. Please come along with your dog or puppy and publicise this event to your family, friends and work colleagues. If you can print off the poster in this Shepherd News and



**Bret with 2007 German Sieger, Pakros d'Ulmental**

put it around a few places, that would be great. We will have the canteen open and lots of prizes can be won during the day's events and games.

Dr Robert Zammit is joining us as our celebrity judge and he will also be collecting DNA from dogs for his study on Canine Hip Dysplasia—please see article inside for full details.

Don't forget that NBC Chairperson, Joylene Neddermeyer, is presenting her **seminar on Current Stud Dogs** following the Breed Survey on the 5th July. We will have food and drinks available. Anticipated start time is around 1.30pm, depending on the number of dogs presented at Breed Survey.

The **July General Meeting** is an important one—there are a number of motions to assist the members that need to be looked at, so if you can drag yourself away from the heater, please come and vote!

Until next edition .....

**Bret Adams**