

General Guidelines for the Breeding of German Shepherd Dogs within the WUSV

Proposal dated May 16, 2018

Preamble

The systematic and methodical breeding of German Shepherd Dogs began in 1899 after the foundation of the *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.*

The physical composition and properties in terms of nature and character of the German Shepherd Dog Breed are laid down in the breed standard which is defined by the founding association in the mother country of the breed.

The *Weltunion der Vereine für Deutsche Schäferhunde (WUSV) – the World Union for the Associations of German Shepherd Dogs* – and its member organizations aim at the breeding of German Shepherd Dogs that are healthy, well socialized, and highly performing as well as resilient working and service dogs in compliance with the philosophy of the founding father, Cavalry Captain Max von Stephanitz, and thus preserve his heritage.

In order to pursue these requirements the WUSV issued the following General Guidelines for Breeding of German Shepherd Dogs for the varieties stock hair and long stock hair with undercoat. The General Guidelines are an integral part of the WUSV Statutes and legally binding for all WUSV member organizations.

All member organizations are obliged to issue and establish breeding regulations in their respective countries.

All member organizations are obliged to pass their breeding regulations in a timely manner – however, two years at the latest after these General Guidelines enter into force. The breeding regulations of the member clubs have to at a minimum include the provisions as laid down in these General Guidelines.

The member organizations are free to impose stricter provisions respectively standards that exceed the requirements of the WUSV General Guidelines if considered appropriate to cover necessities in accordance with their local respectively national background.

General Guidelines for Breeding

§ 1 – General

1. The General Guidelines for Breeding of the WUSV define the minimum requirements for the breeding of German Shepherd Dogs under consideration of animal welfare as well as the stipulations in terms of the breeding regulations of the *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.* in its current version which have to be complied with by the WUSV member organizations.
2. In addition to the General Guidelines, implementing rules can be issued. Those will be decided respectively changed by the WUSV Board of Directors in coordination with the SV Board of Directors and take effect as scheduled after the presentation at the general annual assembly of the WUSV.

§ 2 – Member Organizations / Breed Clubs

The member organizations of the WUSV

- are responsible for the guidance, consultation and control of breeding as well as the keeping of a studbook and of a register for German Shepherd Dogs;
- are obliged to amend and change their regulations in accordance with the WUSV Statutes;
- have to ensure that commercial dog traders and breeders have no access to the studbooks;
- are responsible for the appropriate training, the appointment, further education, and activities of their respective breed wardens. The above mentioned is to be laid down in adequate regulations;
- are responsible for the verification of the expertise and training of their breeders, the examination of the breeding sites, and the control of proper keeping and raising of the dogs;
- have to ensure a proper procedure for the registration and protection of kennel names.

§ 3 – Studbook and Register

1. Studbook

- 1.1. The studbook documents the ancestry of the dogs. Only those dogs may be registered who were bred under the control of the WUSV and/or the FCI, and for whom at least three continuous generations of ancestors can be verified.
- 1.2. Pedigrees are excerpts from the studbook and need to show at least three generations in terms of a dog's ancestry.

Details in terms of the keeping of the studbook and the register are provided for in the implementing rules.

2. Annex

- 2.1. The WUSV member organizations are obliged to keep an annex. Dogs without a pedigree or with a pedigree that is not recognized by the WUSV and/ or the FCI can be entered into that register after a positive phenotype evaluation by a recognized breed judge for German Shepherd Dogs.

In order to qualify for a phenotype evaluation dogs have to complete the minimum age of 12 months, and after having reliably been identified by means of a microchip or a tattoo number.

- 2.2. Furthermore, dogs can be entered into the register, who descend from dogs who were already registered accordingly. Dogs whose ancestry can be verified for three continuous generations can be admitted to the studbook from the fourth generation on.

3. Responsibilities of the WUSV Member Organizations

- 3.1. The clubs are obliged to submit their national studbooks and the register once per year to the WUSV Secretariat General in Augsburg until July 01 of the following calendar year at the latest.

- 3.2. The clubs have to grant their members access to their studbook.

§ 4 – Minimal Requirements for Breeding

1. Purpose of Breeding

The systematic and methodical breeding of German Shepherd Dogs serves the following purposes

- the maintenance of the characteristics as specific for the breed and as specified in the breed standard *German Shepherd Dog*,
- the maintenance of the breed basis under consideration of the highest possible variances,
- the support of the performance characteristics and vitality (health/ age) for the individual animal, and for the breed as such,
- the control of hereditary defects by means of suitable breeding programs.

2. Control of undesired Symptoms in Breeding

Undesired symptoms in breeding could be – for instance – hereditary deficiencies on the one hand, or over-typing on the other hand in terms of the phenotype or character which affect the performance characteristics and/ or the vitality of the German Shepherd Dog Breed. In order to efficiently combat those symptoms a program consisting of different phases needs to be implied, based on the definition of a strategy for breeding in close cooperation with scientific experts.

3. Breeding Procedures

3.1. Inbreeding

Inbreeding of relatives in the first degree (parents x children/ siblings) is not permitted. In case of half-siblings the permission of the WUSV Secretariat General needs to be obtained for this kind of mating.

3.2. Pure Breeding

Pure Breeding means the mating of animals of the same breed which automatically leads to the utilization of the given hereditary respectively genetic material through mating among family members or inbreeding.

3.3. Inbreeding

Inbreeding describes a kind of breeding that is based on close consanguinity which implies that one particular ancestor is at least in one case represented on the father's or on the mother's side. Inbreeding means breeding with relatives and includes breeding with siblings, too. The term inbreeding is – however – limited to the first five lines of ancestry. Inbreeding that is closer than 2 – 3 is not permitted. That applies for siblings as well.

3.4. Variances / Blood Basis

In order to maintain the broadest possible blood basis the WUSV member clubs are advised to implement a limitation of mating.

For clubs with up to 2,000 litters in one calendar year, a male should be used 60 times for mating at a maximum; for clubs with more than 2,000 litters 90 times of mating are admitted at the most.

3.5. Breeding Recommendation

Breeding recommendations for individual dogs should only be granted in case of a positive evaluation of a minimum of 60% of the entire offspring or in case of two dogs that were selected based on a controlled and reliable random principle of each litter.

3.6. Artificial Insemination

Semen collection for the purpose of artificial insemination, artificial insemination as such as well as cloning is not permitted. Puppies that were sired under those conditions may not be entered into the studbook or the annex of a WUSV member organization.

3.7. Foster Rearing

The rules for foster rearing and the monitoring hereof are determined by the WUSV member organizations.

3.8. Breeders/ Owners of the stud dogs

For the owners of German Shepherd Dogs who wish to participate in the studbook of a WUSV member organization (owners of males- and females) the membership within that same club is mandatory.

A breeder of a litter is either the owner or the contractor of a loan agreement for female dogs by the time of the mating. However, the rights of the breeder can be transferred in case of the sale of the pregnant female. In this case a certificate of the purchase is to be presented at the relevant studbook department until the 49th day of pregnancy at the latest. Exceptions are not admitted.

3.9. Responsibilities of the Breeders

- a) The requirement to obtain a license for a breeding site and for breeding are as follows:
 - The applicant has to be major of age and prove the necessary expertise.

- Successful on-site inspection of the breeding site,
- Certificate of Kennel Registration (FCI)

The national member organization of the dog owner is accountable for the verification of the requirements as listed above.

b) Breed Loan Agreement

The requirements for breed loan agreements are specified by the national member organizations.

c) Litter Registration

The breeders are obliged to report their litters to their member clubs four weeks at the latest after the puppies were born and either chipped or marked with tattoos.

They have to allow for the inspection of the litter, the mother dog, the conditions and overall situation of the breeding site by either the breed warden of the member club or a third party that was authorized accordingly.

d) Vaccination of the Puppies

Before the puppies are sold they have to be vaccinated by a veterinarian doctor. The vaccine information is to be recorded on the litter registration sheet. The chip number is to be entered into the vaccination certificate.

e) Documentation

The breeder is obliged to document all relevant information in terms of his or her kennel (*kennel record*).

3.10. Responsibilities of the Stud Dog Owners

The owners of the stud dogs are obliged to immediately report the mating to their member organizations and to keep the relevant documentation.

3.11. Maximum Number of Pregnancies & Matings

Females:

Females may not raise more than three litters in a period of 24 months (provided that legal stipulations regarding the number of puppies and foster rearing do not require a longer period of restriction). Relevant is the date of birth of the puppies. Females in their heat may not be subjected to multiple mating by different males.

Males:

Males who comply with the stipulations under § 5 of these General Guidelines may be used for a maximum of 90 matings in one calendar year. The owners are free to decide about the ratio of the number of matings on national territory or abroad.

However, the male may only be used for 60 matings in total on national territory in terms of the domicile of the dog owner.

The matings are to be divided in an even fashion.

Multiple acts of mating between the same male and the same female within a period of 28 days are counted as one.

In case that a male dog reaches the minimum age for mating during the course of the relevant calendar year, only a proportionate number of mating acts is admitted counted from the day on which the dog reaches the minimum age.

If a male dog shall be sold only a proportionate number of mating acts is admitted, counted back from the official date of the purchase.

In case that a male dog is temporarily banned from mating the number of mating acts is to be reduced in a proportional manner.

Several mating acts within a relatively short period of time are to be avoided for the sake of the physical constitution and for an improved guarantee for conception.

§ 5 – Admission for Breeding

1. Only healthy and mentally stable dogs with typical features of the breed shall be admitted and used for breeding.
2. The following minimum requirements have to be met on the day of mating:
 - a) The dog has to be registered in the national studbook;
 - b) No inbreeding closer than 2-3 / 3-2 (applies for dogs born on and after January 01, 2019)
 - c) Both parent dogs obtained an SV/ WUSV recognized HD/ ED diagnostic showing the status *normal, almost normal or still admitted*;
 - d) Identification by microchip and/ or tattoo, and explicitly DNA verified (procedure according to requirements of the founding association) – applicable for dogs born on or after January 01, 2021
 - e) Compliance with the minimum requirements for health conditions as defined by the WSUV;
 - f) Compliance with the minimum age for males and females in terms of mating;
 - g) Successful passing of a character test and verification of breed disposition according to the stipulations of the SV (applicable for dogs born on or after January 01, 2019) or a working trial title according to the examination regulations, passed under the supervision of a WUSV recognized judge (IPO/IGP-ZTP, SV-ZAP, IPO/IGP 1-3, passed with at least 80 points in section C, HGH, RH2 in section B (IPO-R, -F, -FL, -T, -L or -W plus initial breed survey of the dog) or a comparable working trial as recognized by the WUSV;
 - h) Successful presentation of the dog at a breed show supervised by a SV/ WUSV recognized judge with GOOD as a minimum evaluation.
3. Exclusion Criteria for Breeding:
 - a) Dogs who do not comply with the stipulations under § 2., a) – h) do not qualify for breeding;
 - b) Dogs of the variety stock hair that are only recorded in the annex;

- c) Dogs with the following deficiencies do not qualify for breeding
 - Dogs with weak character, vicious dogs or dogs with weak nerves
 - Dogs diagnose with mild or severe HD
 - Dogs diagnose with mild or severe ED
 - Monorchids and Cryptorchids
 - Dogs with disfigured ears or deficiencies in the tail;
 - Dogs with malformations
 - Dogs with missing teeth (1 premolar 3 and 1 further tooth or 1 fang or 1 premolar 4 or 1 molar 1 or 1 molar 2 or in total 3 teeth or more)
 - Dogs with considerable pigmentation disorders and so-called *Blue Puppies (Bläulinge)*
 - Dogs with long stockhair without undercoat
 - Dogs with long stockhair
 - Dogs with deficiencies in their jaws (more than 2 mm overbite or overshot/ undershot bite or bite from edge do edge in the entire incisor region
 - Oversized or undersized dogs amounting to more than 1 cm (suspended until December 31, 2020)
 - Females after three cesarean sections
- d) Surgical interventions that could affect the phenotype development of a dog or which are of importance in terms of a dogs breeding qualification are to be reported to the relevant studbook department. The studbook department decides on an individual basis whether the dog in question shall be further admitted for breeding. In case of non-compliance the dog can be excluded from breeding as soon as the infringement becomes known.

§ 6 – Hip-Dysplasia (HD) – Procedure

1. General

A hip-dysplasia is a pathological change of the hip joints in the area of the joint socket and the femoral head. The development of this disease can vary from a mild to a severe form.

In 1966 the *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (sV) e.V.* implemented a procedure to combat the disease and which is still being applied. The results in terms of breed selection are outstanding to this day.

Also, the *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.* implemented a mandatory breeding program with the aim to prevent and combat hip-dysplasia which is based on the so-called breeding value estimation.

2. Diagnostics Procedure

Modern x-ray methods are applied to ascertain the status of the hip joints.

As a matter of principle, a dog can only once be subjected to a radiographic examination for which the minimum age is twelve months.

The details of the procedure are laid down in the implementing rules for HD/ ED examinations.

Off-spring of dogs who were diagnosed with mild or severe HD is banned from breeding.

§ 7 – Elbow-Dysplasia (ED) – Procedure

1. General

An elbow-dysplasia is a pathological change of the elbow-joints which can be caused by different underlying diseases and which can lead to arthrosis in the joints. The development of this disease can vary from a mild to a severe form.

2. Diagnostics Procedure

Modern x-ray methods are applied to ascertain the status of the elbow-joints.

As a matter of principle, a dog can only once be subjected to a radiographic examination for which the minimum age is twelve months.

The details of the procedure are laid down in the implementing rules for HD/ED examinations.

Off-spring of dogs who were diagnosed with mild or severe ED is banned from breeding.

Final Provisions

These General Guidelines are based on the breed regulations of the SV. In case of doubt or dissonance in terms of the interpretation of these General Guidelines the SV breed regulations shall apply in a complimentary fashion.

The implementing rules for these General Guidelines as described under § 1, paragraph 2 are mandatory.

Infringements in terms of breeding and non-compliance with these General Guidelines can lead to a ban of the WUSV member organization or affiliated institutions. All decisions in this respect will be taken by the WUSV Board of Directors.

These General Guidelines shall enter into force on January 01, 2019.