

German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia



W: gsdcouncilaustralia.org E: secretary@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

24 September 2021

Professor Dr H Messler
President
WUSV
BY EMAIL: helgaseidel@schaefershunde.de

Dear Professor Messler,

On 5 August 2021 the Executive of the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA), held a digital meeting with the WUSV Continental Director for Australia and New Zealand, Ms Heather MacDonald.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight that in February 2021 at our AGM, a change occurred in the office bearers of the GSDCA Executive. While they are experienced and active members of their respective State organisations, they are new to their Executive positions and have not been a party to previous direct conversations between the CDO and our organisation. We advise that this is the first conversation the current GSDCA Executive has had with your representative.

Subsequent to the meeting with Ms MacDonald, The GSDCA requested written confirmation of a number of points that materially impact our operations in Australia.

As at the date of this letter, the GSDCA has not received any written response to our questions.

The GSDCA recently hosted a digital meeting on 4 September 2021 with all the Presidents of our State Affiliate clubs.

It was unanimously decided that in the interest of clarity, the GSDCA seek confirmation of the WUSV requirements and policy implementation that will be expected of our organisation that will allow us to remain a member of WUSV.

Given our lengthy membership of the WUSV and the loyalty we have demonstrated over the decades, this confirmation would be seen as the minimum level of respect for the GSDCA and is essential so we as an organisation can fully appreciate what is being asked of us.

The Presidents have all confirmed that their State Canine Body would disaffiliate the German Shepherd Club in that State should they be involved in any way with unsanctioned activities, or unsanctioned organisations.

Given our well documented barriers to participation in any form of dog sport at both State Government, State Canine controlling bodies and our umbrella organisation the ANKC, the GSDCA asks for your written advice on the following points:

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- 1) What is the minimum level of character testing that meet the requirements of the WUSV Harmonisation Policy?
- 2) Can you confirm the requirements regarding Hips, Elbows and DNA testing as the GSDCA already has excellent procedures in place for hip and elbow x-rays?
- 3) Ms MacDonald advised the GSDCA executive that no SV judge officiating at Australian Conformation events will be permitted to award an Excellent grading to an animal not holding a Working Title.
 - a) Please confirm that this is the case.
 - b) If the above is confirmed, does this extend to Foreign listed SV judges?
- 4) It is a well stated WUSV policy that any country not complying with the requirements of Harmonisation by 2025 will be expelled from the WUSV.

Please confirm if this is the case or will there be exceptions to that policy?

Professor Messler, the German Shepherd fraternity in Australia has over the decades proven its dedication and commitment to the breed. Our fraternity has had to fight long and hard to have the privilege of owning a German Shepherd in Australia, probably more than any other country in the world. Firstly, to overcome an importation ban, then the implementation of the numerous schemes, instigating LRL's through the ANKC which controls all litter registrations, the German Shepherd is, as a result, a valued and respected member of our canine community.

As an organisation we are deeply saddened that such a valued relationship is being undermined through the negative and frequently untrue assertions of a group which is unrecognised by our Australian controlling body the ANKC.

The GSDCA, and its member clubs feel it is time for some very serious decisions and we respectfully request that the WUSV respond to our queries before our next meeting in October 2021.

Kind regards,

Sean Lynch

Sean Lynch
President
German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc.

c.c GSDCA Executive

c.c GSDCA Member Club Presidents

cc. WUSV Board

cc. WUSV members

cc. Continental Director Ms MacDonald

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