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## Proposal to the General Annual Assembly of the WUSV

Name of Club/ Proposer & Date: German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa & German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc. 24 May 2022

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### Proposal regarding the WUSV Statutes or other Regulations

Titel:  
(Paragraph and Headline) Allowing Country Based VA-type Gradings with Country-Based Rules

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Old Version: Awarding of VA Gradings as per decision taken by the WUSV General Annual Assembly in September 2019 and as per circular dated December 2021

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New Version: No change to the existing version, but with the following addendum:  
"The resolution that SV Judges may not award VA gradings unless compliant with the WUSV harmonization rules regarding VA gradings should be limited to stand-alone VA gradings only as put to the WUSV General Assembly Meeting of 2019 and not include special country specific gradings such as the VA(SA) grading awarded in South Africa under separate rules."

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Rationale: See attached motivation:

#### Motivation

In principle we have no problem with the resolution to comply with essentially the same rules as the SV to give a "VA" grading as a *stand-alone* "VA" grading. However,..... See attached for balance of motivation

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Confirmation of Club Presidents

  
Frikke J van Kraayenburg, President GSD Federation of SA

  
Sean Lynch, President GSD Council of Australia

## Proposal

The resolution that SV Judges may not award VA gradings unless compliant with the WUSV harmonization rules regarding VA gradings should be limited to VA gradings only as put to the WUSV General Assembly Meeting of 2019 and not include special country specific gradings such as the VA(SA) grading awarded in South Africa under separate rules.

## Motivation

In principle we have no problem with the resolution to comply with essentially the same rules as the SV to give a "VA" grading as a *stand-alone* "VA" grading. However, this should not include lesser special or elite gradings such as South Africa's VA(SA) grading. Many countries have developed such special gradings because they are unable to comply with the VA rules as currently published.

It would never be possible in the countries we represent in this proposal to adhere to the conditions for a VA grading as recently circulated in respect of locally bred dogs. Only imported dogs will qualify, and this will not be good for our sport.

The original proposal which was voted on gave no hint that all elite gradings higher than "V" would be included. And the ultimate aim of the Harmonisation Program that even a V grading will not be allowed to be awarded if *inter alia* DNA, HD and ED *was not submitted via Germany* has not been made clear at General Assembly level.

It is in the interests of the GSD and the WUSV that all its members be allowed to identify the superior breeding dogs in each country by an elite grading higher than "V". This is a basic component of successful breeding within the WUSV and SV systems. Less knowledgeable members would be unable to breed successfully without such a guiding principle to aid in breed selection.

Not being allowed to issue an elite grading will without doubt also strengthen the Kennel Club based Challenge Certificate (CC) / Championship system. This is still the dominant elite indication system in many Kennel Club based countries like the United Kingdom and is unlikely to change.

For breeders to sell their puppies is of utmost importance. If they cannot sell their puppies, they cannot breed. And to sell their puppies, they need for the sire they use to have an elite grading to indicate to the buying public the quality of the stud dog they have used. If the VA or lesser local derivative is not available, they may well opt out of the WUSV club and join the local Kennel Club where the title of Champion is available. This is not in the interests of the GSD or the WUSV.

In England and other Kennel Club based countries, the CC / Championship system is held in higher regard than the VA grading by the ordinary members and the general public, simply because it is more attainable and better marketed. The Crufts show with its Kennel Club Championship system is broadcast to hundreds of thousands of TV viewers each year. In contrast the SV/WUSV supported British Sieger Show where VA gradings are awarded to small groups of GSD's is much too small to attract much notice. A class of less than 10 dogs where sometimes more than 33% of entrants are graded VA is simply not going to capture the imagination of the public.

The reason for this is that most of their members cannot achieve the VA grading within the GSD League, which is the level the WUSV is now demanding. The British Sieger Show consistently has less than 10 dogs in the Working Classes. To date only 2 or 3 dogs bred and trained in Britain has received a VA grading, and these were apparently trained by professionals. Because of the low entries, the ridiculous situation exists where almost 40% of dogs that pass the protection work receive VA gradings.

In such circumstances the VA grading is never going to get broad-based support among the ordinary members. And the ordinary members are not going to promote something to the public they are unable to attain themselves.

The Kennel Club based Champion system is not compatible with the SV/WUSV system as most SV Judges who have had to award CC's will testify. It is not in the interest of the GSD and the WUSV to herd ordinary members towards the Kennel Club CC/Championship system, which is exactly what will happen as matters currently stand.

What we also oppose is the real possibility that VA gradings may be given to mediocre dogs imported from Germany simply because they technically qualify meeting the WUSV criteria while superior dogs bred locally would not.

An example would be if the grandmother or grandfather did not have a required qualification recognised by the SV.

The resolution to ban the awarding of VA gradings was taken without being on the agenda. There was no proper explanation, consultation and/or discussion. There was no examination of negative unintended consequences. Essentially the proposal was presented simply on the whim of the President as a lever to try and force member countries to implement the proposed harmonization rules.

Most delegates representing their country just sat there and did not vote at all. Not more than about 20 delegates actually raised their green voting cards to vote FOR it. This was not surprising as over the years individuals opposing issues/proposals presented from the podium were bullied into submission by the Chair. Accordingly, no delegate was going to risk being the only one in that meeting actually raising a red "No" vote card, for fear of reprisal or victimisation.

Now, without further consultation or explanation, this resolution has been extended to include special gradings like the VA(SA) in South Africa and it was forbidden for the SV judges to give any grading "*higher than a V*". Are SV judges also going to be prohibited from awarding CC's at Kennel Club based shows? Afterall, the "CC" award is regarded in most organisations issuing it as higher than a "V".

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