

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG LEAGUE OF NSW INC.

(Affiliated with The German shepherd Dog Council of Australia)

INFORMATION SHEET



Introduction

This leaflet has been designed to welcome and introduce you to the German Shepherd Dog (GSD) and The German shepherd Dog League Incorporated of NSW (GSDL). The German Shepherd Dog has a great following worldwide and is a very versatile, all-round working and companion dog. The breed has a very large number of canine registrations, which reflects the popularity and usefulness.

As a working dog, they are used by the armed services and police for protection, herding, tracking, and rescue work and as a guide dog for the blind. However, the vast majorities are owned by Shepherd enthusiasts as beloved family pets. By producing this leaflet we hope to give you some understanding of the background of the breed's history and what the league can offer you in regards to training and general care of your German Shepherd.

Origin and History

The German Shepherd Dog is a relatively recently developed breed with the breed formally fixing its characteristics in the 1890's by Captain von Stephanitz in Germany. Captain von Stephanitz developed the breed and established the breed club (the SV), the association that gave its support to the developing and perfecting of the breed as a great all-round working dog. With the passing years the development of its physical characteristics was accompanied by a significant diversification in the use of the GSD.

The GSD character, particularly its faithfulness, courage, power of attention and acuteness of senses have made the GSD capable of carrying out the most varied of tasks. Soundness of temperament is most important, as a good looking dog with a poor temperament has little value compared to a dog physically less appealing but having a temperament enabling him to properly fulfil the tasks assigned to him. This is why the GSD is given tests to determine the stability of temperament. Trials in obedience and tracking help determine and maintain the intelligence and working purpose of the dog.

Aims and objectives

The GSDL Inc. of NSW and German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) has been established to promote the breeding, exhibition and overall improvement of the German Shepherd Dog. There are National schemes promoting these aims which include the Hip Dysplasia 'A' stamp scheme, Elbow Dysplasia 'Z' stamp scheme, Haemophilia schemes, which then tie up with the Breed Survey scheme.

Shows, Obedience, Tracking Trials

The German Shepherd Dog League Inc. holds 4 breed/obedience shows (2 open, 2 championship plus obedience), a State Breed Assessment and 2 tracking trials annually. The shows are held March/April, June, July, October and December with tracking trials in July and August/September. These shows are held to promote the exhibition and judging of GSD's

GSDL of NSW Inc. General Meetings

General Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month of March, June and September whilst the AGM is held on the 4th Monday of November each year. Both the general meetings and the AGM are held at the GSDL building, Dogs NSW Canine Complex, 44 Luddenham Rd, Orchard Hills and commence at 8.00pm. If a scheduled meeting date falls on a public holiday that meeting will be held on the 3rd Monday of the relevant month.

The Tattoo Scheme

The tattoo scheme was a nation-wide Scheme whereby all the breeders associated with the Clubs applied for and received a unique tattoo symbol for their Kennel prefix. This Kennel prefix symbol is still recognized nationally, and consists of 3 letters followed by 3 numbers indicating what number puppy is bred under that prefix. Tattooing puppies is now only optional in NSW whereas microchipping is compulsory and is now the official form of identification.

Microchipping

The tattoo number and/or the microchip is a positive means of legal identification in the event of loss, theft etc. and can be used to find dogs throughout Australia.

The tattoo and/or the microchip is used as a positive identification mark for the hip and elbow dysplasia, haemophilia and the breed survey scheme.

The Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Scheme

The GSDCA Hip and Elbow Dysplasia schemes involve the X-Raying of breeding stock over the age of 12 months. It is required that the dog be anaesthetised at the time of x-ray, and the tattoo in the right ear is checked or the microchip and noted on the x-ray plate. The plates are sent to Dr Roger Lavelle in Melbourne or Dr Richardson in Perth and are scored and graded.

'A' Stamp Scheme - Hips that have a sufficiently low score - a maximum of score 8 per hip (out of a possible 53), with no more than 3 points in any one area, receive an 'A stamp. The results are all correlated so that statistics on the breed average and that of the major producing sires can be analysed in an effort to lower the breed hip average and to avoid poor hip producing lines.

'Z' stamp Scheme - Elbows are measured for any degree of arthritic change, and are Graded as Normal, Grade 1 or Grade 2. Grade 3 and arthritic changes of 3mm or more will not pass the Scheme. Breeders avoid doubling up on the condition where ever possible.

Statistics are printed on both the hip and elbow results, encouraging breeders to use the lines that are producing the soundest progeny.

The Haemophilia Scheme

The Haemophilia scheme has virtually eliminated this bleeding disorder within the breed in Australia. The disease causes a failure of blood to clot after an accident or knock. Imported stud dogs, and sons of imported bitches are tested to prevent any affected new dog or carrier bitch from entering our bloodlines.



Breed Surveys

These events are held approximately every three months at Luddenham Rd, Orchard Hills, commencing at 11 am. dates are available on gsdl.info and Face Book.

The Breed Survey Scheme

The Breed Survey Scheme has been set up to evaluate the soundness and quality of breeding stock throughout Australia. All the presenting dogs must be over 18 months of age, Micro chipped, must possess the 'A' and 'Z' Stamp and present a 5-generation pedigree at the time of survey. The dogs are all weighed; measured and examined for correctness of dentition, construction and soundness of nerves (this involves a gun test and crowd test).

Breed Surveyed animals are considered well above the breed average. A breed survey book was produced annually. Currently they are placed on the GSDCA website which contains the results of all breed surveys within Australia as well as the dogs which have received the 'A' & 'Z' Stamp for their hips and elbows.

<i>Microchip Officers</i>		
Terry Jarvis	Metro Areas	02 4773 9364 0407 271 418
Graeme Stevenson	Terrey Hills	02 9450 1639
Dr. Robert Zammit	Vineyard	02 9627 1257
Dr. Karen Hedberg	Richmond	02 4571 2042
Or contact your Local Veterinary Surgery		

Website

The website (www.gsdl.info) is the Leagues information provider and supplies members and visitors with information in regards to meetings, shows, trials, critiques, puppy listings, branches, news etc. You can now also find us on Facebook.

Shepherd News

This electronic newsletter comes out several times a year, and as a member of this club you will receive this newsletter along with the National Council Quarterly Review.

The Quarterly National Review

The Quarterly National Review is an official magazine of the German Shepherd Dog National Council of Australia Inc. The magazine is issued four times a year with Council matters, upcoming shows, critiques from major shows, articles from various judges and exhibitors and advertisements from breeders. Its purpose is to communicate with GSD enthusiasts, state club members, breeders and advertisers nationwide.



The Main Branch of the GSDL Inc. of NSW

The main branch is located on the clubhouse grounds at Orchard Hills and is primarily concerned with obedience and show training, as well as socialisation.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of properly socialising young dogs so that they will be well behaved and socially acceptable, particularly in public areas.

There are two training sessions per week. These training sessions are announced in Shepherd News and also on the leagues website.

The following Contacts are able to assist you with any enquiries:

<i>COMMITTEE OFFICE BEARERS</i>		
President	Jessica Kada	0413 008 092
Vice President	Grant Morton	0418 618 817
Secretary	Cassie Booth, PO Box 304, Kemps Creek, NSW 2178	0414 741 578
Treasurer	Jacqueline Fabian	0403 541573
Breed Affairs	Melanie Groth	0434 427 939
HD /ED Administrator	Melissa Turoczy	0401 157 749
Merchandise	Deb Martin	0418 265 124
Membership Registrar	Nev Kirkham	0413 328 976
Point Score	Graeme Stevenson	0418 440 108
Publicity	Karen Stevenson	0422 619 995
Puppy Listings	Pam Jarvis	02 4773 9364 0407 271 418
Shepherd News	Jessica Bird	0448 935 941
Show Manager	Greg Jones	0418 399 047
Show Secretary	Kurt Morton	0410 691 873
Identification & Resource Officer	Graeme Stevenson	0418 440 108
Training Co-ordinator	Wayne Wagstaff	0409 150 464
Web Master	Fran McAdam	0407 005 990
Welfare & GSD Rescue Liaison Officer:	Pam Jarvis	02 4773 9364, 0407 271 418
Youth Officer	Chelsea Jane Bird	0488 900 532
<i>CURRENT TRAINING BRANCH</i>		
Orchard Hills Branch Manager	Terry Jarvis	02 4773 9364 0407 271 418
Chief Instructor	Tony D'Arcy	0418 618 817