

German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia



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Mrs. T Barry,
ANKC Administrator,
P O Box 309,
Carina QLD 4152

BY EMAIL: tbarry@ankc.org.au

Dear Tracey,

ANKC Regulations

We are aware of the regulations Section 4 Exhibitors 4.1.2 which states:-

A person may not enter, exhibit or handle under a judge officiating at a conformation show where

- b. The judge has or has had any proprietary interest in a dog or dogs solely or in partnership with the member within a period of 12 months prior to the conformation show.*
- c. Where the judge has handled any dog owned, leased or part leased by the person within a period of 12 months prior to the conformation show.*
- d. The person has handled any dog owned or part owned or leased, or part leased by the judge in a period of 12 months prior to the conformation show.*
- e. The person has accommodated the judge or been accommodated by the judge within a period of 12 months prior to the conformation show or intends to accommodate the judge within 24 hours after the conformation show.*
- f. The judge has trained or groomed for reward, for gift or favour a dog owned, or part owned, leased or part leased by the person in a period of 12 months prior to the conformation show.*
- h. Either the exhibitor or the judge has used a stud dog belonging to the other within the last 6 months.*

Given the relatively small number of enthusiasts who are involved in the showing of German Shepherd Dogs in Australia and that a substantial number of them are judges, breed surveyors, trainers, handlers and stud dog owners who are constantly in contact with the general members of the GSDCA member clubs there are aspects of the regulation that are unduly prohibitive.

We have removed a. and g. as they relate to family members and as such are not in question.

All Breed or Group Judges have the opportunity to judge other breeds whereas the GSDCA Specialist Judges are, in the majority, single breed judges.

In order to become an ANKC Judge, then complete the GSDCA Extension Course to become a Specialist German Shepherd Judge, then a GSDCA Breed Surveyor, one has to be a successful breeder, exhibitor, become very actively involved in the breed at all levels from local branches to state clubs and possess extensive breed knowledge. Yet once becoming a Judge those very prerequisites become a disadvantage as they limit the ability of many to enter under that single breed Judge. These restrictions have the capacity to discourage younger members of our fraternity from becoming GSD judges, as they like to be able to breed, handle and exhibit and obviously socialise with like-minded enthusiasts. We need to promote our youth to carry our sport into the future without additional rules and regulations that will restrict those that wish to take that next step.

Furthermore, the technique of judging the GSD at these shows requires the dogs to be evaluated over extended periods of walking and gaiting. This requires a fair degree of fitness of both the handlers and the dogs. Normal practice often sees numerous handlers utilised for one animal. Many of our judges are active in handling for themselves and others in the show ring. If multiple dogs are exhibited by the one exhibitor or a judge and/or handlers are handling multiple dogs, the impact of this regulation on our show entries cannot be underestimated.

It also needs to be noted that the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme is directly linked to the show ring as the Excellent grading can only be given to successfully classified dogs. As stated earlier to become a Breed Surveyor one must be an ANKC judge and have completed the Specialist GSDCA Judges Extension Course. Our Breed Surveyors are required, indeed are expected to have an intimate knowledge of our adult dogs. As an example the Surveyor is required during the Breed Survey process to critique, classify and offer breeding advice on the dog being presented and then as a Judge, having this intimate knowledge may judge the same animal the next day or in the near future. This can often be the case in states where there are limited numbers of GSDCA Breed Surveyor/Judges or as is the case in Tasmania for example there are none, and a show and survey may be held on the same weekend.

Often multiple owners are required to cover the expenses involved when importing GSD stud dogs and quality females. It is often Judges involved as they have the breed knowledge and dedication. Regulation *h*, will limit studs &/or impact entries for a judge.

Clubs constantly assist with accommodation and transport by billeting and/or hosting judges to reduce the ever increasing costs of using interstate Judges. It does not mean it will influence the judging. It has the potential to decrease the number of specialist shows, as judges may not accept appointments in their home state and smaller clubs are unable to fly/accommodate judges without adequate entries.

As noted earlier there are German Shepherd clubs in all states that meet at least once and often twice or more weekly to train, socialise, educate and simply "talk dogs." All Specialist Judges are members.

We are all German Shepherd enthusiasts, that are all well acquainted with each other on a multitude of levels. We cannot afford regulations that restrict our ability to exhibit our breed, particularly in these times of declining numbers.

With this in mind and as ours is a unique method of exhibiting our animals, already ANKC approved, coupled with the fact that our GSDCA Specialist Judges have an intimate knowledge of many of the animals exhibited, the GSDCA seeks support from the ANKC in considering amending the regulation 4.1.2 to reflect this unique position or perhaps enabling an exemption in the following circumstances -

GSDCA Conformation Shows where a GSDCA grading may be awarded by GSDCA approved Specialist GSD judges.

All Breed GSD Specialty feature shows where GSDCA Gradings are awarded by GSDCA approved Specialist GSD judges.

Kind regards,

Jenny Yuen

NBC Chairperson GSDCA

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For and on behalf of the GSDCA Executive