



GUIDELINES FOR GSDCA-WDA BREED SHOWS

Rev. July 11, 2009

The GSDCA-WDA has adopted the following “Guidelines for Breed Shows” for the purpose of:

- a. The preservation and further enhancement of the breed;
- b. The adherence to the goals of the association;
- c. And in particular for the procedures to be followed at breed shows that are indispensable for breeding the German Shepherd Dog.

These “Guidelines for GSDCA-WDA Breed Shows” are binding.

There are three kinds of breed shows:

1. Club breed shows
2. Regional breed shows
3. The North American Sieger Show

Definitions and Responsibilities

Club and Regional breed shows are hosted by GSDCA-WDA Member Clubs and are responsible for:

- a. The organization of all arrangements.
- b. Obtaining prior receipt of permission from the Regional Director and the GSDCA-WDA Office as to the reservation of date(s).
- c. The selection and remuneration of judges.
- d. Proof of liability insurance covering the event and provide proof of insurance to the GSDCA-WDA Office.
- e. The correct operation as well as adherence to all relevant GSDCA-WDA regulations. This includes setting up the ring(s) of sufficient dimensions for expeditious judging and conferring of awards.
- f. Provide all judging results to the GSDCA-WDA Office within ten (10) days of the event.

The deadline for receipt of entries is left to the discretion of the hosting club.

Organization of Club and Regional Breed Shows

All dogs born in the United States of America (USA) are required to be registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC). Dogs born outside of the USA are required to be registered with a FCI recognized breed registry recognized by the AKC for registration purposes.

1. A printed Show Catalog is obligatory and must contain the following:
 - a. List all dogs entered by name, registration number, tattoo or microchip number, date of birth, sire and dam, name of breeder, and name and address of owner.
 - b. Next to each entry there shall be space for the show secretary to mark the judge’s placing.
 - c. Next to each entry there shall be a box or line to check indicating the dog was measured. The measurement is not to be noted.
 - d. At the bottom of each page that contains classes, there should be a signature line for the show secretary and a signature line for the judge.
 - e. For dogs to be entered in breed shows and to be listed in the show catalog they must:
 - 1) Be identified by a tattoo or microchip number. If dog was born in the USA, AKC registration and AKC certified 4-generation pedigree with tattoo or microchip certification through GSDCA-WDA or USCA is required as of 12 months of age. Tattoo or microchip certified 3-generation AKC pedigrees for dogs born prior to January 1, 2005 will continue to be accepted for entry into breed shows.
 - 2) Be free of indications of illness and must submit proof of all current vaccinations with entry.
 - 3) Not be owned or co-owned by persons subject to a legally valid exclusion from show participation.

2. Exhibitors are advised that they must present at check-in the following original documents: proper pedigree and registration papers; proof of working titles (scorebook), if applicable; breed survey papers; and hip and elbow certification, if applicable or awarded. Complete copies of the foregoing documents must accompany the submission entry form together with remittance of the required entry fees. An entry is not complete until the foregoing documents are received by the hosting club. Acceptable working titles are SchH/VPG, HGH and IPO.
3. The use of any false information on any German Shepherd Dog entered in an authorized or sanctioned GSDCA-WDA event shall result (a) in the banning of the German Shepherd Dog from all future GSDCA-WDA events and (b) the termination of the GSDCA-WDA membership of the party or parties who falsified the information.
4. When entering a dog in a GSDCA-WDA sanctioned conformation show, the participant, including without limitation the dog's owner, the owner's representative and the exhibitor expressly grants permission to the GSDCA-WDA to take, examine and analyze samples of the dog's coat to determine whether the color or pigmentation of the dog's coat has been manipulated or altered. The sample may be taken by the judge or any person designated by either the judge or the GSDCA-WDA. Such samples shall be sent to the GSDCA-WDA Office for examination and analysis. If it is determined that the pigment of the dog's coat has been manipulated or altered in any manner, then the cost of the examination and analysis shall be borne by the owner and the show rating awarded to the dog at the show shall become null and void ab initio. A Disciplinary Complaint shall be lodged automatically against the responsible parties, including without limitation the dog's owner, the owner's representative and the exhibitor. If it is determined that the pigment of the dog's coat has not been manipulated, then the cost of the examination and analysis shall be borne by the GSDCA-WDA.
5. No dog that has had any procedure performed upon it or any device that has been applied to it may be presented in any GSDCA-WDA conformation show, if such procedure or device misleads or deceives a judge about the true condition of a dog at a conformation show. If it is determined that any dog entered into a GSDCA-WDA sanctioned conformation show has been unacceptably altered, then (a) the show rating awarded to said dog shall become null and void ab initio and (b) a disciplinary complaint shall be lodged automatically against the parties who are responsible for the unacceptable alterations, including without limitation the dog's owner, the owner's representative and the exhibitor. In such an instance, (a) the dog shall be banned from all future GSDCA-WDA events and (b) the GSDCA-WDA membership of the parties responsible for such unacceptable alterations, including without limitation the owner, the owner's representative and the exhibitor, shall be terminated. For purposes of this provision, temporary ear forms applied to or used on a dog's ears shall not disqualify the dog from presentation in any GSDCA-WDA conformation show.
6. Should a dog entered in classes 12 months and older become sick after the stand for examination, it must be presented to the show veterinarian or show chairperson for examination. A written note from the show veterinarian or show chairperson is required for withdrawal from the show. Without exception, this written note is to be delivered to the presiding judge of the appropriate class. Dogs that are withdrawn from the show without explicit permission of the presiding judge must be given the rating of insufficient.
7. Participants must be alert to prevent their dogs from coming into contact with other dogs. The GSDCA-WDA and any show organizer are not responsible for (a) any injury or damage to any dog(s), (b) any damage caused by any dog(s), or (c) the theft of any dog.
8. All dogs at or over 12 months of age shall be measured. A check mark shall be placed in the show catalog next to the dog's entry to indicate that the dog was measured. The measurement, however, shall not be noted.
9. A judge's decision at a breed show is final. A protest concerning a judge's decision, including a judicial complaint or challenge, is not permitted.

10. The entry fee for any dog entered, whether or not presented, is due and payable upon submission of the entry form, regardless of whether said form is complete. All entry fees are non-refundable.
11. All participants, including the dog's owner, the owner's representative and the exhibitor are responsible for sportsmanlike behavior and presentation. The rules and the related penalties, as provided herein, shall apply equally to all participants and shall include, without limitation, disqualification of the dog, expulsion from the show grounds and/or the initiation of a disciplinary procedure.
12. Shock collars are strictly forbidden at all GSDCA-WDA events on all GSDCA-WDA event grounds. This will be strictly enforced and includes any days prior to or after the actual show including any practice held at the show grounds.
13. Prong collars are not allowed on the show grounds.

Breed Show Classes

Baby Puppy Classes 3-6 months

Junior Puppy Classes 6-9 months

Senior Puppy Classes 9-12 months

Ratings awarded are:

VP - Very Promising

P - Promising

LP - Less Promising

Youth Classes 12-18 months

Young Dog Classes 18-24 months

Ratings awarded are:

SG - Very good (Sehr Gut)

G - Good (Gut)

A - Satisfactory (Ausreichend)

U - Unsatisfactory (Ungenügend)

Open Classes 24 months or older without working title(s)

No ratings are awarded for this class but dogs are ranked and placed according to quality. This class is not offered at the North American Sieger Show.

Veterans Classes 6 years or older with working title(s)

No ratings are awarded for this class but dogs are ranked and placed according to quality. Dogs entered in the Veteran's Class may not be included in a Kennel Group.

Working Dog Classes 24 months or older with working title(s)

Ratings awarded are:

V – Excellent (Vorzüglich)

SG - Very good (Sehr Gut)

G - Good (Gut)

A - Satisfactory (Ausreichend)

U - Unsatisfactory (Ungenügend)

The judging in each class starts with the stand for examination. The judge carefully studies the anatomy and character of the dogs. During the entire competition, the judge will continue to evaluate and to observe the dog in this respect.

There will be a test for gun sensitivity steadiness in the rings. Puppy Classes are excluded from this test. Once this judging has been completed, the dogs will be required to start gaiting. The function of the bones and muscles, firmness of the ligaments and joints, rhythm of movement, strength and endurance as well as liveliness are now very carefully evaluated.

Kennel Groups

Each Kennel Group must have no more and no less than (5) five dogs that possess the name of the kennel. These dogs must come from at least two different mothers and two different fathers. Dogs entered in the kennel group must also be entered and shown in a class. The most possible uniformity, the most possible combinations of parents and the quality of the individual dogs in each group are the basis for the judging of the Kennel Groups. Notwithstanding, a dog shown in the Veteran's Class may not be included in the Kennel Group.

Progeny Groups

Each Progeny Group requires a minimum of at least six (6) dogs. Dogs exhibited in a Progeny Group must also be entered and shown in a class. There is no entry fee for the Progeny Groups. The judging of the Progeny Groups shows the quality of the progeny produced by the often used stud dogs. It also shows which positive and negative factors may have been inherited by their offspring and what to look for in the future breedings of these dogs. Therefore, all dogs shown in the conformation show and which belong to a stud dog's progeny must be included and shown in the Progeny Group. It is not necessary that the stud dog be shown in any class of the conformation show.

Explanation of Conformation Assessments and Ratings

Puppy Classes

For the purpose of supporting the advancement of the breed, Puppy Classes for dogs, ages 3 month to 12 months without receipt of breed evaluation may be organized. (At the North American Sieger Show, all puppies must be tattooed or microchipped). The following evaluations are used:

1. "Very Promising" (VP) - Dogs that conform fully to the standard of the breed or show merely minor faults in their anatomy
2. "Promising" (P) - Dogs that conform to the standard, but with clearly observable anatomic or developmental faults
3. "Less Promising" (LP) - Dogs that react negatively to external stimuli and/or have faults that would exclude them from breeding.

Working Dog Classes

The following ratings can be awarded:

1. "Excellent" (V) – Dogs in the Working Dog Class which, applying strict criteria, (a) conform to the standard of the breed; (b) present themselves self-assured and calm; (c) are gun sure; (d) are hip rated with either (i) the "a" stamp from the SV, (ii) an excellent, good or fair rating certified by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), or (iii) other SV recognized hip certification; (e) If born after January 1, 2004, have an ED stamp from Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands or Spain with the result of "normal", "fast normal", or "noch zugelassen" recorded on the pedigree; and (f) if 3 ½ years or older, must have a recommendation rating for breeding (Angekört). Double premolars 1 are allowed.
2. "Very Good" (SG) – This is the highest rating in the Young Dog and Youth Class for those dogs that conform fully to the standard of the breed; and in the Working Dog Class for dogs that meet the requirements for the "excellent" rating, but show minor faults in their anatomy. Also qualified are dogs that exceed the size limitations by no more than 1 cm below or above the standard or missing one premolar 1 or one incisor.
3. "Good" (G) – This rating is for dogs that conform to the standard but with clearly observable anatomical faults. The following are allowed for this rating: Missing two premolar 1 or one premolar 1 and one incisor, or one premolar 2 or one premolar 3, or two incisors or one premolar 2 and 1 incisor; or one premolar 2 and one premolar 1 or two premolar 2.

4. “Satisfactory” (A) – This rating is for dogs which, on the day of the show, are gun sensitive or react negatively to external stimuli or which do not permit a higher rating due to their total condition including anatomical factors.
5. “Unsatisfactory” (U) – This rating is for dogs that are gun shy, show limitations in their temperament, react negatively to external stimuli or display other shortcomings that prohibit breeding. Also, this rating is for dogs that exceed size specifications by more than 1 cm below or above.

Other Regulations

1. For dogs that have been entered, yet did not participate, the entry fee is not refundable.
2. Handlers are bound to sportsmanship in their bearing and in the presentation of their dogs. Violations can lead to a disqualification of the dog and to ordering handler and dog off the field. Deliberate failure to provide required information or providing misinformation, commits or tolerates actions that are apt to deceive the judge will result in the forfeiture of any recognition or achievement already obtained at the show. The severity of the case will determine a possible exclusion from further shows or the imposition of a penalty by the GSDCA-WDA.
3. It is not permitted to judge dogs at a show that are owned by (or are in the possession of) a participating judge at that show. Extreme restraint is advised in the case of dogs that belong to (or are in the possession of) close relatives. This is true also with regard to companion/partners, common breeding programs, co-ownership, communal living arrangements, and so forth.
4. Upon presenting dogs for standing examination the dogs are to be shown to the judge without substantial assistance (natural posture) by the handler.
5. It is not permitted to call or give commands to dogs assisted by any device of amplification, be it electronic, by gas or by compressed air. Likewise, it is not permitted to use pistols, whips, or protective arm sleeves. Violations can lead to disqualification of the dog; ordering the caller off the field; and the initiation of internal proceedings by the GSDCA-WDA against owner and caller.