



*GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA-  
WORKING DOG ASSOCIATION, INC.*

**BREED SURVEY RULES AND PROCEDURES**

**1. General**

The breed survey procedures serve to promote a disciplined breeding of the German Shepherd Dog and apply to the entire breed survey activities. They are binding for all club members.

The purpose of the breed survey procedures is to select breed animals that appear particularly suited in regard to their temperament, their performances and their physical appearance.

**2. GSDCA-WDA Office**

**2.1 Breed Survey Reports**

All breed survey reports are compiled, checked for correctness and documented in the GSDCA-WDA Office. The GSDCA-WDA Office forwards all breed survey reports to the SV. The SV issues all breed survey documents and publishes the results on a yearly basis.

**2.2 Breed Survey Masters**

The SV assigns experienced breed judges as breed survey masters. Breed survey masters are not automatically entitled to judge breed surveys each year. The respective GSDCA-WDA member clubs request breed survey masters through the GSDCA-WDA Office.

**2.3 Breed Survey Districts – responsibility**

The GSDCA-WDA delegates hosting breed surveys to local clubs. At the current time there is no restriction on the location of a breed survey that a member may enter.

**2.4 Breed Survey Season**

The breed survey season lasts from January 1st to December 31<sup>st</sup>. A dog may only be presented once for the breed survey in this timeframe.

**2.5 Legal Questions**

- 1) A dog owned by a person who has been banned from SV breed registration cannot be presented by that person or by third parties at a breed survey.
- 2) The breed survey master's decision is final. Objections are not permitted.
- 3) When a dog is presented for a breed survey, or if its breed survey certificate has been revoked, the parties involved or third parties have no legal entitlements. Any damage claims made by the parties involved (owners), or third parties, against a breed survey or revocation of a breed survey certificate decision is explicitly refused.
- 4) Liability – A dog's owner is liable for any damages caused by his dog.
- 5) The use of any false information on any German Shepherd Dog entered in an authorized or sanctioned GSDCA-WDA event shall result in the banning of the German Shepherd Dog from all future events and the termination of the membership of the party or parties who falsified the information.
- 6) German Shepherd Dogs with Limited AKC Registration are not eligible for entry into a breed survey.

**3. Prerequisites for Participating At a Breed Survey**

**3.1 For the Dogs**

General:

- Breed Surveys are for German Shepherd Dogs only.
- Dogs with AKC Limited Registration are not eligible to participate.
- Dogs must be a minimum of two years old within the calendar year of the Breed Survey.
- Dogs must be identifiable by either tattoo or microchip.
- Sick dogs may not be presented.
- Females in season must be reported to the Breed Survey Master, who shall regulate their participation.

Required Documentation:

- i. Proof of a BH title awarded by an SV or SVF Trial Judge.
- ii. Proof of an AD awarded by an SV or SVF Judge. Dogs six years of age or older are exempt from the AD requirement.
- iii. Proof of at least one SchH or IP title awarded by an SV or SVF Trial Judge. A minimum of 80 points in phase C is required.
- iv. With proof of a HGH title awarded by an SV or SVF Judge, the AD, BH and SchH or IP requirements are waived.
- v. Proof of OFA, SV “a” stamp, or other SV approved hip certification.
- vi. Proof of SV or other SV approved elbow certification.
- vii. Proof of a minimum Breed Show evaluation of “Good” awarded by an SV or SVF Judge.

**4. Local Club Hosting a Breed Survey**

**4.1 Prerequisites for the Hosting Club:**

- Large training field with suitable space and sanitary facilities.
- A sufficient number of trained assistants.
- Breed survey Secretary.

**4.2 Equipment**

- Shelter for the breed survey master and breed survey secretary.
- Sufficiently large ring.
- Audio system.
- SV-breed survey measuring device (Körmass).
- Tape measure (metric).
- Scales (metric).
- 2 Blank guns (6 mm) with sufficient blank ammunition.
- Identification numbers to be worn by the dog handlers.

**4.3 The Breed Survey Secretary’s Responsibilities**

- Provide breed survey entry forms at least three weeks prior to the breed survey.
- Check submitted entry forms and documents for completeness and correctness.
- Check the breed survey master’s information on the number of entry forms received.

- Compile a numbered list of participants divided into males and females for each category of the breed survey.
- Hand over the checked original documents and forms for the individual dogs to the breed survey master before the breed survey begins.
- Affirm the owner's membership in the GSDCA-WDA.

### **5. Entries for the Breed Survey**

Entries for a breed survey must be made to the breed survey organizer at least seven days prior to the date of the breed survey event. The following original documents must be presented on the day of the breed survey.

- 1) Original certified pedigree from FCI-recognized kennel club in the country of birth.  
(Exception: Canadian registration certificates, pedigrees and scorebooks are accepted at all GSDCA-WDA events.)
- 2) Scorebook if not on pedigree.
- 3) For a breed survey renewal – original breed survey certificate.
- 4) Proof of remaining prerequisites as listed under item 3. Page 2.

The number of dogs permitted per breed survey day is 50. If more than 50 dogs are registered another day (half day) on the same weekend must be added to the day of the breed survey.

### **6. Breed Survey**

#### **6.1 Temperament Test**

The breed survey master shall conduct a temperament test for each dog. This testing may be repeated during the entire course of the breed survey. The dog must have a sound temperament, i.e., must be especially carefree, self-confident, with steady nerves and good-natured - in compliance with the standard.

#### **6.2 Gun Test**

At least two shots must be fired from a blank gun (6 mm) at a distance of at least 15 paces; the dog must remain indifferent during this test.

#### **6.3 Protection Work**

A breed survey master judges the protection work. A GSDCA-WDA Certified Helper shall be available to assist the breed survey master during the protection work. A SV Teaching Helper may also do the protection work with prior approval of the GSDCA-WDA Board of Directors.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

#### **Attack:**

- 1) The handler reports to the breed survey master with the dog on the leash.
- 2) As instructed by the breed survey master the handler walks 30 paces to a marked spot in front of the blind, stands with the dog in basic position and unleashes his dog
- 3) The leash must be placed around the handler's shoulder or in the pocket.
- 4) As instructed by the breed survey master the handler walks with his unleashed dog toward the helper's blind.
- 5) The dog must stay closely at heel.
- 6) As instructed by the breed survey master, the helper attacks the handler and dog making threatening noises when the dog is five paces from the blind.
- 7) The dog must counter the attack immediately by gripping the sleeve hard and full.
- 8) When the dog has gripped the sleeve the helper raises the soft stick and hits the dog 2 times on thighs, sides, or in the area of the wither.
- 9) The handler may encourage the dog verbally to counter the attack.

- 10) The breed survey master signals the helper to stop the attack and the helper then stands motionless.
- 11) The dog must release the sleeve independently or upon the command “aus/out” and must then guard the helper intensively.
- 12) The breed survey master then instructs the handler to approach his dog.
- 13) The handler puts the leash on his dog and is instructed by the breed survey master to step into an assigned blind.

**Countering an Attack from the Watching Position:**

- 1) The breed survey master instructs the handler to step out of the blind and then move to the centre line position.
- 2) The dog is now unleashed and held by the collar.
- 3) The dog must maintain this position until he is sent to counter the attack with the command “voran/go on”.
- 4) The breed survey master signals the helper to step out of the blind, which is located at a distance of approx. 70 to 80 paces from the handler and to walk across the field at a normal pace.
- 5) The handler verbally commands the helper to stop by shouting “stop/stand still”.
- 6) The helper ignores this command and performs a frontal attack on the handler and the dog.
- 7) Immediately following the attack on the handler, the breed survey master instructs the handler to counter the attack and send the dog.
- 8) The handler immediately sends his dog forward with the verbal command “voran/go on” and stands still.
- 9) The dog must grip the sleeve with drive, energetically and with a strong and full grip in order to counter the attack.
- 10) Once the dog has a grip on the sleeve the helper must – after a short pressure phase – stop the counter-attack, without hitting the dog with the soft stick, when the breed survey master instructs him to do so.
- 11) The dog must release the sleeve independently or when given the command “aus/out” and must then guard the helper intensively.
- 12) The breed survey master instructs the handler to approach his dog directly at a normal pace and then put the dog on leash.
- 13) The handler then reports to the breed survey master with his dog on the leash and leaves the field.

**Identity Control:**

Before leaving the field the breed survey master must check the tattoo or microchip number on the dog.

**SCORING:**

**Releasing:**

- 1) The dog must let go of the sleeve independently after the attack is stopped.
- 2) The handler may give the first command “aus/out” independently after a suitable time.
- 3) If the dog does not release the sleeve after the first command the breed survey master instructs the handler to give up to two additional commands to the dog to release the sleeve.
- 4) The handler must stand still when he gives the command “aus/out” and must not influence the dog.
- 5) If the dog’s name is used it shall be regarded as a verbal command to release the sleeve
- 6) If the dog releases the sleeve independently when the handler approaches, it can also be regarded as releasing (outing). However, the handler must be at least 5 paces away from the dog.

- 7) If the dog releases independently or by means of a verbal command during the “attack” and counters the attack from the watch position, the designation “out” is entered in the report.
- 8) If this is not the case – even in just one phase – he shall be given the designation “does not out”.
- 9) The breed survey evaluation certificate to be issued will remain unaffected.
- 10) During the entire protection work the breed survey master shall remain in the vicinity of the handler and observe the dog’s and handler’s behaviour intensively until the handler goes to pick up the dog.

#### **Scoring the Drive Disposition, Self-Confidence & Working Ability:**

The overall rating of the protection work is scored as “pronounced” (a), “present” (vh) and “insufficient” (ng).

Pronounced (a):

Self-confident, intense, goal-oriented and secure grip and holding, no negative behavior during soft stick blows, close and attentive watching in the guarding phases.

Present (vh):

Deficiencies in self-confidence, goal-oriented behavior, in grip and stick behavior, as well as in the guarding phases.

Insufficient (ng):

Lacking self-confidence, limitations with respect to hardness and disinterest in the helper.

#### **6.4 Measurements and Weight Controls**

The breed survey secretary or an appointed assistant may weigh the dogs and take measurements for chest depth and chest circumference. The breed survey master shall measure the height at the withers.

#### **6.5 Stand for Examination and Evaluation of Movement**

The breed survey master writes the breed survey report during this examination. The dog must be presented to the breed survey master without any significant help from the handler.

#### **6.6 Reports, Confirmations**

After completing the survey for each dog, the breed survey master reports the results over the audio system. The owners of the dogs receive a temporary breed survey certificate that has been signed by the breed survey master. This contains the breed survey results and proof that the required documents have been forwarded to the GSDCA-WDA Office.

### **7. Breed Survey Classifications**

#### **7.1 Körklasse 1 (Breed Survey Classification 1)**

The Körklasse 1 is the highest breed qualification, e.g., emphasizes the dogs that are recommended for breeding. Dogs that comply with the breed standard will be included in this class under the following conditions:

- 1) If size, weight and anatomy comply with standard.
- 2) If the entire behaviour is self-confident, good-natured and the dog has an energetic drive, self-confidence and working ability.
- 3) Excellent, full set of teeth; double premolars<sup>1</sup> are permitted.

#### **7.2 Körklasse 2 (Breed Survey Classification 2)**

Dogs will be included in Körklasse 2 under the following conditions:

- 1) With minor anatomical deficiencies.
- 2) If the wither height either exceeds or is under the height limit in the standard by up to 1 cm.
- 3) If the scoring for the drive disposition and working ability is “present”.

- 4) If one premolar 1 or incisor is missing; if double premolar 1 or one premolar 1 and incisor tooth or one premolar 2 are missing or in case of a slight incorrect bite of the two middle incisors.

### **7.3 Körklasse/Breed Survey Classification Improvement**

The owner of a dog registered in Körklasse 2 (first survey/renewal) has the opportunity – in the following year at the earliest – to present this dog for a breed survey improvement.

Any divergence hereto must be approved by the breed survey master who has made the decision for an improvement. A breed survey improvement may only be attempted once in both areas (first survey / renewal)

### **7.4 Deferment for One Year Is Feasible If:**

- 1) The physical development does not yet permit a breed survey but is expected.
- 2) A suitable result cannot be expected because of the dog's behaviour or as a result of testing the drive disposition, self-confidence and working ability.
- 3) The deferment in accordance with 7.4 is only possible for the same reason; if the dog fails to attain this goal twice for the same reason a breed survey certificate cannot be issued.

### **7.5 Disqualification for a Breed Survey**

A breed survey shall be excluded if the following deficiencies prevail:

- 1) Important anatomic deficiencies.
- 2) Over or undersize of more than 1 cm.
- 3) Faulty testicles.
- 4) Faulty teeth: if 1 premolar 3 or 2 incisors or 1 premolar 2 + 1 incisor  
OR if 1 premolar 2 + 1 premolar 1, twice premolar 2 are missing.
- 5) Dogs with considerable pigment deficiencies.
- 6) Dogs with long coats (with or without undercoat).

### **7.6 Term of Breed Survey**

A breed survey becomes effective on the date of the survey.

- 1) A new breed survey or a breed survey following a lapse is valid for two years; the dog must be presented for a renewal of this breed survey in the second year.
- 2) A breed survey renewal is valid for a lifetime.
- 3) A breed survey improvement does not extend the duration of the original breed survey
- 4) Females in the last stage of pregnancy with a breed survey certificate may be registered for another year (breed survey extension) without being presented in the year of their breed survey renewal by submitting to the Breed Survey Secretary a completed and signed Verification of Breeding form.

The same applies to females suckling their puppies if not more than 42 days have passed from the day the litter was born and the breed survey date.

The breed survey may not be extended for any other reasons.

### **7.7. Terminating the Breed Survey Standing**

- 1) If a dog with a breed survey rating is not presented for renewal the breed survey standing shall end at the year's end.
- 2) The breed survey standing may end with an "Abkörung" (revocation of certificate).

The breed survey master or breed judge shall submit an application to the breed survey office for this purpose. The breed survey standing may be suspended until the proceedings have been terminated.

## **8. Breed Survey Certificate and Breed Survey Register**

The SV breed survey department issues breed survey certificates for dogs having passed the breed survey. This certificate and the original papers shall be returned to the dog's owner by the GSDCA-WDA Office after they are returned by the SV. The original papers of dogs that have not attained a breed survey standing shall also be returned to their proper owners. The reason for not attaining the breed survey standing shall be specified in the pedigree papers by the SV.

Dogs having attained the breed survey standing in a certain year shall be entered by sex in the SV breed survey register and published. The breed survey register contains detailed information on the dogs that are suited or not suited for breeding in regard to their anatomy and temperament in connection with the information provided by the breed survey masters on breed recommendations and is an important and extensive reference book for serious breeders.

Violations of these guidelines by individuals and event-giving clubs may result in disciplinary action by the GSDCA-WDA.

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