

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG LEAGUE INC. OF NSW

(Affiliated with the Dogs NSW and the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc.)

INFORMATION SHEET 2009



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 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 Tattoo scheme, 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) and 2 tracking trials annually. The shows are held March/April, June, 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 Inc. of NSW General Meetings

These are held monthly on the second Monday at the GSDL building, NSW Canine Complex Luddenham Rd, Erskine Park and commence at **8.00pm**. If a meeting date falls on a public holiday the meeting will **be held on the 3rd Monday**

The Tattoo Scheme

The tattoo scheme is a nation-wide Scheme where by all the breeders associated with the Clubs applies for and receives a unique tattoo symbol for their Kennel prefix. This Kennel prefix symbol is recognized nationally, and consist of 3 letter followed by 3 numbers indicating what number puppy it is bred under that prefix.

The puppies are tattooed at 7-9 weeks of age in the right ear. This tattoo 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 is also used as the positive identification mark for the hip and elbow Dysplasia schemes, haemophilia scheme and the breed survey scheme.

The Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Scheme

The GSDCA Hip and Elbow Dysplasia schemes involves 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 and noted on the x-ray plate. The plates are sent to Dr Roger Lavelle in Melbourne or Professor Wyburn 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 4mm 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, Erskine Park, commencing at 11 am.

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, tattooed, 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).

Class One animals are considered well above the breed average; Class Two animals are considered above average which may have minor constructional faults, dentition faults. A breed survey book is produced annually which contains the results of all breed surveys within Australia as well as the dogs which passed the 'A' & 'Z' Stamp.

The Branches of the GSDL Inc. of NSW

The GSDL has various branches across NSW. The branches are 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.

Each branch holds one or 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

TATTOO & MICROCHIP OFFICERS

Terry Jarvis	Liverpool	M/chip	02 9606 5351
Graeme Stevenson	Terrey Hills	M/chip	02 9450 1639
Robert Zammit	Maroota		02 9627 1257
Karen Hedberg	Richmond		02 4571 2042
Grant Morton	Mittagong		02 4883 9578
Deborah Muir	Lismore		0414 878 079
John Tyrrell	Nowra		02 4423 2101
Lyn Gregor	Grafton		02 6647 3185
Craig Babbage	Blacktown	M/chip	02 9628 7064
Marnie Page	Bathurst		02 6337 3858
Les Francis	Congewai		02 4998 1513
Scott Slavin	Tamworth		02 6760 5557

Website

The website is the Leagues information provider and supplies members and visitors with information in regards to meetings, shows, trials, critiques, puppy listings, branches, news etc.

The GSDL Inc. of NSW 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, and 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.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS OFFICE BEARERS

President	Graeme Stevenson	02 9450 1639
Vice President	Terry Jarvis	02 9606 5351
Secretary	Fay Stokes	123 Whitegates Road Londonderry 2753 02 4777 4241 0401 019 213
Treasurer	Karen Eaton	02 4375 1292
Show Manager	Tony D'Arcy	02 9670 1971
Show Secretary	Ann Mackenzie	02 4579 9383
Marketing	Alan Connors	02 4577 2329
Point Score	Greg Jones	02 4753 6073
Training Coordinator	Karen Eaton	02 4375 1292
Shepherd News	Craig Babbage	02 9628 7064
Publicity	Angela Snedden	02 9606 4049
Puppy Listing	Pam Jarvis	02 9606 5351
HD Administrator	Jodie Carroll	0412 980 580
Membership Registrar	Lee Baker	02 9627 3310
Web Master	Fran McAdam	02 9684 1252
State Tattoo Administrator	Graeme Stevenson	02 9450 1639

BRANCHES

Campbelltown	Allan Phillips	02 9606 6484
Cumberland	David Kilner	02 9622 0775
Erskine Park	Terry Jarvis	02 9606 5351
Northern Rivers	Debbie Muir	02 6687 8294

