



GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

BREED SHOW RULES

Revised January 23, 2024

GSDCA breed shows are open to all German Shepherd Dogs only and are judged according to the Federation Cynologique Internationals (FCI), International Standard for German Shepherd Dogs. Breed Shows may be hosted by GSDCA SV-WUSV Programs clubs or the GSDCA Parent Club. Club and Regional shows are hosted by the SV-WUSV Programs clubs. National Shows are hosted only by the GSDCA Parent Club. GSDCA show rules and national variances to be used in conjunction with the SV show Regulations and rule book.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. All dogs born in the United States must have American Kennel Club (AKC) Registration Certificate.
2. All dogs must have a four generation AKC Certified Pedigree with microchip or tattoo certified on the pedigree.
3. All dogs born outside of the USA must present SV, Canadian or other FCI recognized registration and pedigree from the dog's country of birth.
4. Original documents must be presented to the show secretary at check-in.
5. Copies of all required documents must be submitted with entry.
6. Entry fee must be submitted with entry and are non-refundable.
7. Acceptable working titles are IGP, IPO, RH2 and HGH.
8. You do not need to be a member of the GSDCA to participate.
9. The age of the dog on the first day of the show will determine the correct entry for each age class.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Dogs that are not entered in the show will not be permitted on the show grounds.
2. A Judge's decision is final and cannot be contested.
3. After a dog is presented for the "stand for examination" but later withdrawn from the show, the dog will be given an "Unsatisfactory" rating unless excused by a licensed veterinarian. A written excuse must be presented to the presiding Judge.
4. Prong collars are not allowed on show grounds.
5. Shock collars are forbidden at all GSDCA events and on all GSDCA event grounds.
6. Double handlers may not use electronic, gas or compressed air amplification devices, pistols, whips, or protection sleeves. Violations may cause the dog to be disqualified and the dog and handler ordered off the field.

7. Participants are responsible for preventing their dog from coming in to contact with other dogs. The GSDCA and any show organizer will not be responsible for injury or damage to any dog, or damage caused by any dog, or the theft of any dog.
8. False documentation for a dog will result in the banning of the dog from the competition and possible disciplinary action.
9. Misleading or deceiving a judge about the true condition of a dog may result in the banning of the dog from the competition and possible disciplinary action.
10. A judge is not allowed to judge any dog which they have owned or co-owned or which has been in their possession within the past 12 months; if owner or co-owned by them; is in the possession of close relatives (1st and 2nd generation), life partnerships, shared households, and groups of owners.

BREED SHOW CLASSES

In every class, the judge studies how well each dog conforms to the International (FCI) Breed Standard, both in character and anatomy. Judging in each class begins with the individual stand for examination. Dogs 12 months of age and older will be tested for gun sensitivity. Dogs that are impartial to the gun test will then proceed for the gaiting evaluation.

The dog's age is determined by the first day of the show. Beginning with the youngest age group classes, females are judged first followed by males.

Baby Puppy Classes, 3-6 months; **Junior Puppy Classes**, 6-9 months; **Senior Puppy Classes**, 9-12 months.

Ratings awarded are:

1. "Very Promising" (VP)
Dogs that conform fully to the FCI breed standard or have minor anatomical faults.
2. "Promising" (P)
Dogs that generally conform to the FCI breed 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.

Youth Classes, 12-18 months and **Young Dog Classes**, 18-24 months.

Ratings awarded are:

1. "Very Good" (SG)
The highest rating in the Youth and Young Dog Classes for dogs that fully conform to the FCI breed standard. Also qualified are dogs that: (a) exceed the size limitations by no more than 1 cm below or above the standard; and (b) have missing one premolar 1 or one incisor.
2. "Good" (G)
Dogs that generally conform to the FCI breed standard but with clearly observable anatomical faults. Dental faults allowed under this rating include:
 - a. Missing two premolars 1, or
 - b. Missing one premolar 1 and one incisor, or
 - c. Missing one premolar 2, or

- d. Missing one premolar 3, or
 - e. Missing two incisors, or
 - f. Missing one premolar 2 and 1 incisor, or
 - g. Missing one premolar 2 and one premolar 1, or
 - h. Missing two premolars 2.
3. "Satisfactory" (A)
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.
4. "Unsatisfactory" (U)
Dogs that are gun shy, show limitations in their temperament, react negatively to external stimuli or display other shortcomings that prohibit breeding. Also dogs that exceed size specifications by more than 1 cm below or above.

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

"Very Good" (SG) Ratings are awarded for this class, dogs are placed according to quality. The judge may critique the dogs and a Show Rating Certificate will be issued.

Veteran Classes, 6 years or older with working title(s). No ratings are awarded for this class, dogs are placed according to quality. The judge may critique the dogs but a Show Rating Certificate will not be issued.

Working Dog Classes, 24 months or older with working title(s) At the GSDCA Sieger Show, all Working Dog Class dogs must first complete a Performance Test with a performance rating of at least "Pronounced" and "Outs". *Performance Tests are optional at Club or Regional Breed Shows.* Ratings awarded are:

1. **VA, "Excellent Select** – Awarded only at the GSDCA Sieger Show to dogs that meet the following requirements:
 - a. DNA must be on file with SV or AKC (DNA needs to be submitted at the time of event start. Results may be pending so long as the sample to AKC/SV has been received.)
 - b. Have an SV HD and ED rated normal, almost normal .
 - c. SchH2 or IPO2 or IGP2 or RH2 or HGH
 - d. First Breed Survey with TSB pronounced.
 - e. Parents with breed survey
 - f. Are self-confident outgoing and indifferent to gun fire
 - g. For animals with excess or less than 1 cm of the standard
2. **V, "Excellent"**
 - a. DNA must be on file with SV or AKC (DNA needs to be submitted at the time of event start. Results may be pending so long as the sample to AKC/SV has been received.)
 - b. Have an SV HD/ED normal, almost normal or still permissible
 - c. If 3.5 years of age or older, have a SV/GSDCA recognized breed survey rating
 - d. Are self-confident, outgoing and indifferent to gun fire
 - e. Double premolar 1 is/are allowed
 - f. Have a minimum IGP1 or IPO1, or SchH1 or RH2 or HGH titles
 - g. For animals with excess or less than 1 cm of the standard

3. **“Very Good” (SG)** – Dogs in the Working Dog Class that otherwise meet the requirements for the “Excellent” rating but show minor faults in their anatomy. Also qualified are dogs that (a) exceed the size limitations by no more than 1 cm below or above the standard and (b) dogs missing one premolar 1 or one incisor
4. **“Good” (G)** – As described under the Youth and Young Dog Classes
5. **“Satisfactory” (A)** – As described under the Youth and Young Dog Classes
6. **“Unsatisfactory” (U)** – As described under Youth and Young Dog Classes

Performance Test (Applies to the GSDCA Sieger Show and optional for Club and Regional Breed Shows)

All dogs in the Working Dog Classes must participate in the Performance Test. The Performance Test rates the dog’s inherent drives, self-confidence and stress tolerance (TSB Evaluation). “TSB” describes the following characteristics: **Triebveranlagung** (instinctive behavior), **Selbstsicherheit** (self-confidence) and **Belastbarkeit** (the ability to cope with stress). Dogs that receive the results “does not release” or a DQ, do not receive a TSB rating and are not allowed to continue to the competition.

Part 1 – Attack

1. The handler reports to the judge with the dog on the leash.
2. As instructed by the judge, the handler takes a position at the marked spot 25 meters (approximately 82 feet) in front of the blind.
3. After the basic position, the dog is kept on leash for about 15 steps.
4. Handler and dog stop again in the basic position.
5. Handler removes the leash. The leash must be placed around the handler’s shoulder or in a pocket.
6. As instructed by the judge, the handler walks with his unleashed dog toward the helper’s blind.
7. The dog must stay closely at heel until the handler reaches a marked spot located 7 meters (approximately 23 feet) behind the blind. Repeated verbal commands are permitted. Touching the dog or collar is not permitted. If handler and heeling dog reach this marked spot, the helper, as instructed by the judge, will perform a straight-lined attack on the dog and handler while making threatening noises. If the dog breaks the heel before reaching the marked spot, the helper shall not attack. The handler has two more opportunities to reach the 7-meter marking with the dog at heel. Should the dog fail to heel to the 7-meter marking in all three attempts, the protection test will be discontinued due to lack of obedience and the dog will receive a DQ rating.
8. The dog must counter the attack immediately, confidently and energetically with hard and full grips.
9. When the dog has gripped the sleeve, the helper drive the dog for at least 20 steps .
10. The handler may encourage the dog verbally to counter the attack.
11. The judge signals the helper to stop the attack and the helper then stands motionless.
12. The dog must release the sleeve independently or upon the command “aus/out” and must then guard the helper intensively.

13. The judge then instructs the handler to approach his dog.
14. The handler put the leash on his dog and is instructed by the judge to step to the market point.
15. The dog must repel the attack with determination and a steady, calm grip.

Identity Control

Before leaving the field, the identified official must check the tattoo/microchip number of 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 judge instructs the handler to give up to two additional commands to the dog to release the sleeve.
4. The handler must stand still when they give 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 with the watch position, the designation "out" is entered in the report.
8. If this is not the case, even in just one phase, the dog shall be given the designation "does not out".
9. During the entire protection work the judge shall remain in the vicinity of the handler and observe the behavior of the dog and handler intensively until the handler goes to pick up the dog.
10. The dog will also receive a DQ if he/she bites the helper anywhere other than the protection sleeve.

Scoring the Drive, Self-Confidence & Resilience

The overall rating of the protection work is scored as "a" pronounced, "vh" sufficient, and "ng" insufficient.

"a" - Pronounced: Self-confidence, urgent, goal oriented, firm gripping and holding, no negative reactions to stick hits, close attention to the Helper during all phases. These dogs will proceed to the show ring.

"vh" – Sufficient/Present: Limitations in self-confidence, determination, biting, and reaction to stick hits and during the holding at bay phases. These dogs can proceed to the show ring and can be "V" rated; however, they have to be placed at the rear of all other "V" rated dogs.

"ng" – Insufficient: Lacking self-confidence, strong limitations with respect to stress tolerance and lacking interest in the Helper. These dogs will not proceed to the show ring.

Kennel Groups

Each Kennel Group must have no more and no less than 5 dogs that carry the same kennel name. The dogs must come from at least two different sires and two different dams. The maximum difficulty is four fathers and four mothers. The dogs in the Kennel Group must also be entered and shown in a class at the show. The dogs must be of the same coat variety. Breeders may enter more than one Kennel Group.

Progeny Groups

Progeny Groups demonstrate the quality of dogs produced by frequently used stud dogs and brood bitches. The genetic dominance is evaluated through the consistency of individual strengths and weaknesses in the offspring. Progeny Groups are critiqued in detail. However, no placements (first, second, etc.) are awarded.

All dogs presented in a Progeny Group must have been entered and shown in a class at the GSDCA Sieger Show. The stud dog or brood bitch is not required to be shown. A Progeny Group requires a minimum of four (4). At the GSDCA Sieger Show, a Progeny Group will be automatically scheduled for any sire or dam who meets the participation requirements. There is no entry fee to present a Progeny Group.