

Information Booklet



The German Shepherd Dog Advisory Council (GSDAC) is a National Organisation involving the German Shepherd Dog and the Clubs in New Zealand.

Recognised by the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) in 1978, the German Shepherd Dog Advisory Council (GSDAC) is a body set up by Graham Brayne (von Racher Kennels) who invited representatives of the 4 GSD clubs active in those days to work in co-operation with all German Shepherd Dog clubs recognised by the NZKC.

The Council has over 25,000 tattoos registered and has breed surveyed over 1,000 animals.

The Annual Membership fee is currently \$25.00 single and \$35.00 double and is paid direct to the German Shepherd Dog Advisory Council Treasurer.

That membership fee entitles the member to:

A copy of the GSD Review published periodically throughout the year.

Participation in all Advisory Council Schemes

These schemes are:

Tattooing/Microchipping of litters and any other age animals and recording these numbers in a register. This register also records microchip numbers supplied by members when done by a vet or other microchip implanter.

Breed Surveys

Recording of HD and Elbow results

Structural Assessments

Working Qualification

Endurance Test

Tooth Certificates

Testicle Certificates

Breed Assessments

Seminars

Eduction Days

Awards

Up to date information can be seen on the GSDAC website www.nzgsdac.org.nz

TATTOOING/MICROCHIPPING

Apart from the compulsory microchipping, the GSDAC Tattooing scheme and Register is the only other identification recognised by the NZKC.

All GSDs can be tattooed either as a litter or as individual adults. The scheme has been in operation for since April 1981 when the first litter was tattooed for GSDAC and has very extensive records. Only members of the GSDAC can have litters or individuals tattooed at members rates.

The tattooing originated from a need for identification for the following reasons:

- If the animal has been lost or stolen
- Proof for an animal undergoing hip and elbow x-rays (to eliminate the chance of ring-ins)

GSDAC also records microchip numbers of all puppies in a litter, or that of an individual adult to assist with the above.

KTS REGISTRATION

Before joining the scheme, a breeder applies to the GSDAC through the Tattoo Registrar or Zone Tattoo Organiser for a Kennel Tattoo Symbol (KTS) Initial application is made on the GSDAC form and costs \$30.00, annual renewal is \$5.00 per annum. A 3-digit symbol is issued with your unique kennel symbol for your exclusive use within the scheme and remains the property of GSDAC. If you no longer require the kennel symbol it remains with GSDAC for at least 10 years before it can be re-allocated.

An application form for each litter is obtained from the Zone organiser within 3 weeks of birth and a fee of \$30.00 is payable, plus \$5 per pup in the litter. Forms are also available on the website.

TATTOOING

Litters are tattooed by trained tattooists using pliers. The pup is held firmly by a helper, the pliers are applied quickly, then the ink is rubbed into the pinprick holes.

The pup experiences only momentary discomfort, similar to what they do to each other when they 'play bite'. Each pup's tattoo has a 3-letter kennel prefix (KTS) followed by a number. Pups are numbered sequentially starting from 001 and are tattooed in the right ear between 6 and 9 weeks.

ADMINISTRATION

NZ is divided into 5 Zones for Tattooing/Microchipping purposes with 2-3 tattooists in each Zone. A National Registry is maintained by the Tattoo Registrar which allows easy access to the records, which enable dog pounds, vet clinics, police etc to quickly identify any lost or stolen dog and to verify the numbers for a breeder's next litter.

MICROCHIP REGISTRATION

The Tattoo Registrar oversees the microchip registration of numbers also. A form is available from the registrar and a fee of \$10 for a single microchip or \$20 for a whole litter accompanies this form.

Microchips must be registered with GSDAC for animals to be able to be Breed Surveyed.

BREED SURVEY

Dogs and bitches shall be surveyed and awarded either a Pass or a Fail if it is expected that they will contribute to the improvement of the breed in NZ.

Animals with a Pass will be considered to be far above the breed average, Animals with a Fail will be considered with virtues needed by the breed.

Long coated German Shepherd Dogs (Long Stock Coat) are now shown in conformation shows and are also eligible for survey.

REQUIREMENTS

Dogs/bitches must be tattooed and/or microchipped, have reached the age of 18 months, and have hips and elbows x-rayed and scored and lodged with the Registrar. The tattoo/microchip must be recorded with GSDAC and results of these x-rays must be forwarded to the HD Registrar prior to entry to the survey. If this has not been done due to time available, the original must be brought to the survey.

ENTRIES

All owners are required to be members of GSDAC for their dogs to be entered for Breed Survey. Entries close **3 weeks** (21 days) prior to the date of the survey and must be with the Registrar by this date. Entry forms are occasionally printed in the Review, are available on request from the Registrar, Secretary or can be downloaded from the website. Return the fully completed entry form to the Breed Survey Registrar along with:

- Copy of 4 generation pedigree

- Copy of Hip/Elbow results. If not already sent prior to HD Registrar, the pink copy must be sent plus a photocopy which the surveyor will sign on the day

- Any other relevant records of siblings, parents etc

- The entry fee of \$45 is payable with the entry.

- A photo of your dog to be included with your entry for publication.

It is most important that if acknowledgement of your entry is not received within 10 days you must check with the Breed Survey Registrar.

The receipt for your entry will be included in the papers that are sent to the Surveyor in charge and given to you on the day. The surveyor in charge on the day will also confirm the date, Venue and start time, when the number of entrants is known. Also required is a good photo of your dog which is for the Breed Survey book. If you have NOT received these details, contact the surveyor.

SURVEY DAY

The order of events at the survey will be:

- Movement (up to 15 mins)

- Gun test

- Temperament tests

- Measuring (height, chest depth and circumference, weight)

- Dentition/testicle check

- General evaluation of each animal

GUNTEST

The pistol fired by the surveyor, from a distance of about 10 metres, 3 shots are fired. The desired reaction is one of alert interest only. Only those dogs that stand firm during this test will be Passed. Those which are sufficiently firm will be accepted but will be recorded on the final document (see re-test). Those who show undue concern and fear and seek reassurance will be failed. The handler must not at any time give any commands verbally or by hand signal to the animal which must stand on a loose lead in a natural stance facing the surveyor.

TEMPERAMENT TESTS

A random selection drawn in public on the day will determine which of the 6 tests the dog will take. Of the 6 tests, 2 involving people will be drawn, (L shaped tunnel/line/mingle) and one test involving a specific object (towel/walk/umbrella).

These tests require that no verbal or visual signal is given to the dog by the handler. No persons known to the dog being surveyed are permitted to take part in the crowd tests.

- 1) People tests – two of these tests will be drawn at random on the day.
 - a) Walking through an L shaped tunnel of at least 10 people. The dog will walk through the tunnel and back again with no commands. On the return, the tunnel will be narrowed to no closer than one arm's length
 - b) Line of people – the animal and handler, and the line of people (of sufficient numbers) will approach each other directly at a walk, pass and return to their respective starting points. The exercise will be repeated at a faster pace. No commands to be given.
 - c) Mingle of at least 8 people if possible – the animal and handler will walk slowly among the people who will be talking, laughing etc and may carry various items with them or may be wearing a hat, coat etc, or any other object to be found in a public place. No commands to be given.

- 2) Object Tests – One of these will be drawn at random on the day.
 - a) Towel – the handler will stand with the animal on a loose lead, no commands. The surveyor will approach and place a towel over the dogs back. It will not cover the dogs head. The towel will be removed after a suitable period
 - b) Walk – The Surveyor will walk briskly beside the dog and handler for a distance then take the dogs lead from the handler and continue walking. The handler will remain where the dog was taken from him/her until the surveyor returns to the same position.
 - c) Umbrella – An umbrella no larger than a golf umbrella will be carried by the surveyor in an approach towards the dog who will be standing on a loose lead with no commands. The surveyor will stop and open the umbrella normally and raise it above their head. The umbrella will not be used in a threatening manner, opened at speed or directly over the dog.

The outcome of the survey will be made public at the conclusion of each dogs' survey and the surveyor will read out the general description, virtues and faults, recommendations and classification.

CERTIFICATE

A typed, signed and laminated Breed Survey Certificate should be received by the owner within 3 weeks. If this does not happen, contact the Breed Survey Registrar.

RE-SURVEY

This can be applied for if the animal fails at the original survey, and if the owner considers the animal has been unfairly treated, or if the Classification was deferred. The Breed Survey Chairperson in conjunction with the surveyor of the animal will approve re-survey.

RE-TEST

This occurs when a specific test only is required to be reassessed. Eg Guntest, temperament test, measurement, recording of hip/elbow scores.

RECALL TO SURVEY

This involves a request by the GSDAC surveying panel for an animal to be resurveyed or re tested due to changes occurring in the animal since the original survey eg the animal may have produced progeny to warrant an elevation to Class 1, or events in the show ring may require reclassification. This classification may be either up or down.

FAILURE

In the event of an animal failing its survey it may be represented again not less than six months later. If the animal fails with the same fault again, it shall not be accepted for any further survey. If the second survey is failed for a different reason, the animal will be accepted only once more.

HIP DYSPLASIA AND ELBOW SCHEMES

Australian forms (A and Z) forms are available for dogs whose tattoos have been registered with the GSDAC, from the HD Registrar or Secretary on payment of the fee. At this stage only GSD's that are tattooed can be accepted into the AZ scheme. If you wish to x-ray an untattooed animal, then the tattoo can be arranged at the same time the x-ray is taken. Application forms available on the website.

There is no scheme in NZ since the NZVA stopped theirs, so all x-rays must be read in Australia with one of several readers to choose from for animals that are only microchipped. The HD Registrar can advise.

At this stage PennHip is not a recognised form of recording results for Hip/Elbow Dysplasia.

STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT (ADULT AND PUPPY)

The Structural Assessment is designed for owners who may not wish to undergo a full survey with their animal but want some recognition for their GSD and are willing to help broaden breeder's knowledge of the breed and increase the information available to the GSDAC.

The Structural Assessment is open to all GSDs, regardless of whether they are spayed or neutered, have incorrect coats, ear faults etc – just so long as both parents are purebred GSD's registered with NZKC.

Preparation involves sending in an entry form (plus the fee of \$15) two weeks prior to the advertised event, then coming along with your dog. Entries may be taken on the day at the discretion of the assessor. Forms are available from the Structural Assessment Registrar or from the website. It is advisable however to ensure handler and dog are sufficiently fit to keep moving at a brisk walk for about 10 minutes and that the dog is used to being measured and having teeth checked.

It is preferred that the dog has had hips and elbows x-rayed as this increases our knowledge of the virtues and risks of the parent's lines. To ensure your dog can be clearly identified we prefer that it has been tattooed/or microchipped and the tattoo/microchip recorded in the GSDAC national register. However, neither of these are compulsory for the assessment. The x-ray does not apply to puppy assessments.

The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and involves an extended movement section of walking and gaiting. The dog is then measured (height and chest depth) his dentition checked and a short critique of his general appearance is recorded.

A laminated certificate will be forwarded to you which will contain all the information recorded on your animal. A summary of the assessment will be printed in the GSDAC Review to help breeders who are thinking of using bloodlines related to your dog.

WORKING QUALIFICATION

The exercises are done on a Pass/Fail system and are NOT designed to be judged on how well the animal works but on whether it completes each exercise as outlined.

Failure to complete each exercise means failure of the total test, however there is provision to retest a single failed exercise at the end of all tests by all the other entrants. Each animal is assessed separately with no outside interference by other dogs and or handler or spectators.

The WQ will be recognised by GSD owners as an individual award to be listed in front of the ED. Owners may have the award recorded on the animals' survey report.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The entry fee is \$15.00 and must be received with the entry form 2 weeks prior to the advertised date or on the day at the discretion of the assessor. Forms are available from the Working Qualification Registrar or from the website.

Exercises will be run in the following order:

- Temperament test
- Heelwork
- Retrieve
- Off Lead gaiting
- Stay

TEMPERAMENT TEST

The dog is to stand for brief examination. The handler is to stand 5 paces from the dog and may give as many words of encouragement as they wish. The exercise is completed when the animal has been examined. This test may be done on or off lead.

HEELWORK

A basic 3-sided box pattern away and back on lead, this is to prove control and that the dog is wanting to be with the handler without trying to race away. It is not tested for neatness, just basic control. Encouragement can be given.

RETRIEVE

Any article may be used at the handler's choice except food. The dog starts from a sit position but is not required to stay when the article is thrown. The dog must deliver the article to the handler (not run off with it) but there is no formal finish. Encouragement may be given.

GAITING EXERCISE

Two laps of the ring on lead, 1 lap off lead. The dog must gait at a speed comparable to that of the handler. Encouragement may be given.

STAY ONE MINUTE

On or off lead. Any position is allowed, handler to face the dog from 10 paces

ENDURANCE DOG

Object of this test is to prove that the dog can endure a certain degree of physical exertion without showing marked signs of exhaustion afterwards. Steady running for a length of time demands greater performance from the organs such as heart and lungs, as well as those parts that supply the motive power such as muscles and legs. It also requires a temperament of hardness and persistence. The tireless execution of the Endurance test can be considered proof of the physical health and fitness and desirable temperament that should be considered prerequisites for German Shepherds that are used for breeding.

ADMITTANCE TO THE TEST.

All purebred GSD's including desexed animals may be entered provided they are registered with the NZKC

Animals entered must be at least 20 months old and under 7 years of age on the day of the test

The animal must be elbow and hip-scored

The entry form is available from the Endurance Dog Registrar or from the website and a fee of \$20.00 must be received 20 days before the test.

On the day the assessor will take into consideration the animals hip score and any other relevant information. Only dogs in full health and well trained for the test will be accepted. A vet certificate (no older than 7 days) to attest that the animals overall condition (including heart and lungs) have been found to be in good order, is to be given to the assessor prior to the test.

Inadmissible are – bitches in season, in whelp or still nursing a litter or animals who do not have the required vet certificate.

ASSESSING

No points or marks will be awarded. Upon completion of the entire test the assessor will state whether the animal has passed and if so the animal will be awarded the GSDAC title of Endurance Dog and the appropriate certificate will be forwarded to the owner.

THE TEST

A distance of 20km over roads or tracks, but some part through traffic is to be covered at a speed of 12 – 15 km per hour (minimum is 10 km per hour). The animal must be on a lead on the left side of the handler who will be either running or on a pushbike. Slight pulling is not a fault, but continuing hanging back is a fault.

STAGE ONE

After covering the first 8km there is a compulsory 20-minute rest period. Animals to be kept on a lead and checked for soundness, excessive pad wear or tiredness. The assessor has sole discretion on whether animals may continue or not.

STAGE TWO

A further distance of 7km, then a compulsory rest of 20 minutes. Animals to be checked as in Stage One.

STAGE THREE

The final 5km, followed by a rest of 15 minutes. Animals to be checked as in Stage One.

STAGE FOUR – Workability

- a) Heel free – 250 – 300 meters as follows. Right turn, left turn, halt. About turn, right turn, left turn halt.
- b) Recall or Retrieve – item of handlers' choice, distance of 20 – 30 metres
- c) Hurdle Jump – at least 750 mm high and 1.5 metres wide to be jumped.

The object of these exercises is to demonstrate the animal's willingness to complete the tasks after the 20km run. Perfection and precision are not required.

TOOTH CERTIFICATE

These are available for dogs over 12 months old with tooth problems that can be proven to be as a result of misadventure. Contact the Registrar or Secretary urgently if any tooth damage occurs. X-rays of damage must be supplied. Surveyed animals will be accepted directly.

Forms are available on the website.

TESTICLE CERTIFICATE

These are available for dogs over 12 months old with testicle problems that can be proven to be as a result of misadventure or health related. They are not for Monorchid or Cryptorchid dogs. Contact the Registrar or Secretary urgently if any damage occurs.

Forms are available on the website.

SEMINARS AND EDUCATION DAYS

These are run periodically at the request of clubs or by the GSDAC for German Shepherd owners to enable sharing of ideas and information and help in the training of dogs for various schemes.

AWARDS

There are several awards available to Club Members

- a) **Dual Purpose Rosettes** – for GSD's obtaining both a conformation Excellent and a Test C Excellent (290 point or over)
- b) **Kennel Certificates** for –
 - 15 Hip and Elbow scored GSDs
 - 15 Breed Surveyed GSD's
 - 5 GSDs gaining CDX
 - 5 GSDs gaining ADX
- c) **Kennel Plaques** for:
 - 30 hip and/or Elbow scored GSDs
 - 30 Breed Surveyed GSDs
 - 10 GSDs gaining CDX
 - 10 GSDs gaining ADX

All dogs must carry the Breeder Kennel name but need not be owned by the breeder.

NB: The BS awards apply to current breed surveys only but include animals that have died or were neutered while a current survey was in force.

Specialist Champion Award – for dogs/bitches who have gained 8 Challenge Certificates at specialist shows. Applications to the Secretary **must** include the 8 challenge certificates.

GSD Clubs can apply for the following awards also:

GSDAC BREEDERS SASH

For breeder of Best in Show available at all club shows. Clubs to apply to the Secretary.

BREED SUPPORT AWARDS

Special award to any person considered to have given much support to the breed over a considerable time can be applied for by individuals or clubs.

Access to information within this booklet and to all forms for application to join the GSDAC and enter the various schemes can be found on the website www.nzgsdac.org.nz

This information booklet has been compiled with the intention of supplying information on how the GSDAC was formed and the intentions of the schemes and advise for GSD owners in New Zealand. For up to date accurate information on prices and requirements please contact the Secretary in the first instance. secretary@nzgsdac.org.nz