



Wag 'N' Tongue

A publication for the
German Shepherd Dog Club of St. Louis, Inc.
APRIL, 2012

Club Hot Line Number (314) 772-8885

Club Web Site Address: <http://www.gsdcstl.org/>

Mission Statement

The object of the Club shall be to encourage and promote the breeding of purebred German Shepherd Dogs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection, to urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as adopted by the German Shepherd Dog Club of America and approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which the German Shepherd Dog shall be judged. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials, and tracking tests, to aid with every possible means in demonstrating the German Shepherd Dog's conspicuous ability as a companion, war, Red Cross, police, herding, rescue dog, and lead dog for the blind. To conduct shows, obedience trials, demonstrations, etc., under the rules of the American Kennel Club, to publish literature and periodicals in the interests of the German Shepherd Dog. The Club shall not be conducted or operated for a profit, and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

To be considered for membership, turn in an application. Yearly dues (\$20 for individuals & \$30 for families) must accompany application.

Meeting Information

Meetings begin at 8 pm on the third Friday of each month at the American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog, 1721 S. Mason Road in Queeny Park, home of the Museum. It is accessible from Interstate 40/64 at the Mason Rd. exit or from I-270 by taking the Manchester exit to Mason Road.

Obedience Classes

For more information on our club's obedience classes contact: Danny Rosemann (314) 772-8885
Stlmickey2@charter.net
http://gsdcstl.org/html/obedience_classes.html



Club Committee Chairmen

There are several committee chairmen needed. Listed are some of the committees and their chairmen (known to have accepted their assignment). If you'd like to continue chairing a committee from last year, call President Butch Stiefferman. Everyone, please volunteer to chair or co-chair a committee this year!

Website (*Steve Dobbins*), newsletter (*Gail Rutter*), Judge Selection (*Greg Harrison*), Membership (*Marilee Wilkinson*), club phone line (*Danny Rosemann*), Obedience Training (*Danny Rosemann*), Property (*Roz North and Butch Stiefferman*), Video/Library/Historian (*Kathy Redford*), Jr. Handlers (*Elizabeth Stiefferman*), Annual Awards (*Marcia Hadley*), Specialty Shows (*Gail Stiefferman*), K-9 Buffet (*Roz North*), K-9 Awards, Audit, Meet The Breed, Ways & Means, Monthly Refreshments/Hospitality, Christmas Party, August Picnic, Education, Cards & Flowers, Video, Trivia Night, Breed Rescue, Club Bylaws etc.

Annual Club Dues

Membership dues of \$20 for single or \$30 for family membership are payable to treasurer before **March 1st**. Please mail to GSDC of St. Louis, c/o Marilee Wilkinson, 2767 Hwy Z, Pevely, MO 63070

Spring Specialty Show

Our 2012 shows will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 12 & 13, 2012 at Purina Farms in Gray Summit. Conformation judges on Saturday morning is Tony Monk and on Saturday afternoon is John Bemont. The GSDCA is sponsoring the afternoon show. Sunday's conformation judge is Charles Mardecz. Junior showmanship judging will be held both days.

All-Breed Rally and Obedience will be held Saturday with Gail Brown and Mrs. Jamie Jo Sieveking judging. Obedience judging on Sunday will be by Don Schempp and Gail Brown, and Rally judging will be by Mrs. Charlotte A. Mielziner.

For a premium list, go to our website <http://gsdcstl.org/GSDC%20of%20St%20%20Louis%20Specialty%20Premium%202012.pdf>

Call Gail Stiefferman, Show Chairman, to **offer your help - let's make this weekend a great success!**

More later.....

Educational Programs

At our April 20th regular meeting, Obedience Ring Stewarding will be the educational program, given by a Mrs. Charlotte A. Mielziner, an obedience judge.

Club Member Reminders.....

April 20 - Regular Club Meeting.

May 12-13 - Club Conformation, Obedience, and Rally Trials at Purina Farms - Gail Stiefferman, Chairman.

May 18 - Regular Club Meeting

June 15 - Regular Club Meeting

July 20 - Regular Club Meeting

August 18 - Club Picnic at AKC Museum of the Dog - *Chairman is needed (in lieu of regular club meeting).*

September 21 - Regular Club Meeting

2012 Futurity/Maturity Shows

1. **South Pacific**, GSDC San Diego County, Sunday, March 25
2. **Mid-Pacific**, GSDC Reno, Friday, March 30
3. **Great Lakes**, GSDC Central Indiana, Friday, April 06
4. **Southwest**, GSDC San Antonio, Sunday, April 22
5. **Southeast**, GSDC of Memphis, TN, Sunday, May 6
6. **Northeast**, GSDC of S. New Hampshire, Thursday, May 10
7. **Mid Atlantic**, GSDC East Virginia, Monday, May 28
8. **Midwest**, GSDC- Wisconsin, Sunday, June 03
9. **Northwest**, GSDC Pacific Northwest, Sunday, June 17



GSD Standard

Teeth: - 42 in number - 20 upper and 22 lower - are strongly developed and meet in a scissors bite in which part of the inner surface of the upper incisors meet and engage part of the outer surface of the lower incisors. An over-shot jaw or a level bite is undesirable. An under-shot jaw is a disqualifying fault. Complete dentition is to be preferred. Any missing teeth other than first premolars is a serious fault.

Neck: The neck is strong and muscular, clean-cut and relatively long, proportionate in size to the head and without loose folds of skin. When the dog is at attention or excited, the head is raised and the neck carried high; otherwise typical carriage of the head is forward rather than up, but a little higher than the top of the shoulders, particularly in motion.

Forequarters: The shoulder blades are long and obliquely angled, laid on flat and not placed forward. The upper arm joins the shoulder blade at about a right angle. Both the upper arm and the shoulder blade are well muscled. The forelegs, viewed from all sides, are straight and the bone oval rather than round. The pasterns are strong and springy and angulated at approximately a 25° angle from the vertical.

Feet: The feet are short, compact, with toes well arched, pads thick and firm, nails short and dark. The dewclaws, if any, should be removed from the hind legs. Dewclaws on the forelegs may be removed, but are normally left on.

Proportion: The German Shepherd Dog is longer than tall, with the most desirable proportion as 10 to 8½. The desired height for males at the top of the highest point of the shoulder blade is 24 to 26 inches; and for bitches 22 to 24 inches. The length is measured from the point of the

posternum or breastbone to the rear edge of the pelvis, the ischial tuberosity.

Body: The whole structure of the body gives an impression of depth and solidity without bulkiness. Chest - Commencing at the posternum, is well filled and carried well down between the legs. It is deep and capacious, never shallow, with ample room for lungs and heart, carried well forward, with the posternum showing ahead of the shoulder in profile. Ribs - Well sprung and long, neither barrel-shaped nor too flat, and carried down to the sternum which reaches to the elbows. Correct ribbing allows the elbows to move back freely when the dog is at a trot. Too round causes interference and throws the elbows out; too flat or short causes pinched elbows. Ribbing is carried well back so that the loin is relatively short. Abdomen - Firmly held and not paunchy. The bottom line is only moderately tucked up in the loin.

Topline: Withers - The withers are higher than and sloping into the level back. Back - The back is straight, very strongly developed without sag or roach, and relatively short. The desirable long proportion is not derived from a long back, but from over-all length with relation to height, which is achieved by length of forequarter and length of withers and hindquarter, viewed from the side. Loin - Viewed from the top, broad and strong. Undue length between the last rib and the thigh, when viewed from the side, is undesirable. Croup - Long and gradually sloping. Tail - Bushy, with the last vertebra extended at least to the hock joint. It is set smoothly into the croup and low rather than high. At rest, the tail hangs in a slight curve like a saber. A slight hook, sometimes carried to one side, is faulty only to the extent that it mars general appearance. When the dog is excited or in motion, the curve is accentuated and the tail raised, but it should never be curled forward beyond a vertical line. Tails too short, or with clumpy ends due to ankylosis, are serious faults. A dog with a docked tail must be disqualified.

Hindquarters: The whole assembly of the thigh, viewed from the side, is broad, with both upper and lower thigh well muscled, forming as nearly as possible a right angle. The upper thigh bone parallels the shoulder blade while the lower thigh bone parallels the upper arm. The metatarsus (the unit between the hock joint and the foot) is short, strong and tightly articulated.

Gait: A German Shepherd Dog is a trotting dog, and its structure has been developed to meet the requirements of its work. General Impression - The gait is outreaching, elastic, seemingly without effort, smooth and rhythmic, covering the maximum amount of ground with the minimum number of steps. At a walk it covers a great deal of ground, with long stride of both hind and forelegs. At a trot the dog covers still more ground with even longer stride, and moves powerfully but easily, with co-ordination and balance so that the gait appears to be the steady motion of a well-lubricated machine. The feet travel close to the ground on both forward reach and backward push. In order to achieve ideal movement of this kind, there must be good muscular development and ligamentation. The hindquarters deliver, through the back, a powerful forward thrust which slightly lifts the whole animal and drives the body forward. Reaching far under, and passing the imprint left by the front foot, the hind foot takes hold of the ground; then hock, stifle and upper thigh come into play and sweep back, the stroke of the hind leg finishing with the foot still close to the

ground in a smooth follow-through. The overreach of the hindquarter usually necessitates one hind foot passing outside and the other hind foot passing inside the track of the forefeet, and such action is not faulty unless the locomotion is crabwise with the dog's body sideways out of the normal straight line. Transmission - The typical smooth, flowing gait is maintained with great strength and firmness of back. The whole effort of the hindquarter is transmitted to the forequarter through the loin, back and withers. At full trot, the back must remain firm and level without sway, roll, whip or roach. Unlevel topline with withers lower than the hip is a fault. To compensate for the forward motion imparted by the hindquarters, the shoulder should open to its full extent. The forelegs should reach out close to the ground in a long stride in harmony with that of the hindquarters. The dog does not track on widely separated parallel lines, but brings the feet inward toward the middle line of the body when trotting in order to maintain balance. The feet track closely but do not strike nor cross over. Viewed from the front, the front legs function from the shoulder joint to the pad in a straight line. Viewed from the rear, the hind legs function from the hip joint to the pad in a straight line. Faults of gait, whether from the front, rear or side, are to be considered very serious faults.

http://gsdcstl.org/html/breed_standard.html



Braggs ~ Win*Place*Show ~

Joan Senyard's dog "Leader" placed first German Shepherd in the AKC 2011 National Obedience Invitational held in Orlando, Florida December 17 & 18, 2011. Kudos to Joan!!!

German Shepherd Dog 1299.5 305 Evermore's Grand Leader UD OM1 RA NA "Leader" Joan Senyard 1244.5 306 OTCH Zita Vom Krummenhager See UDX4 OM5 RN "Zita" Shannon Shepherd 762.5 269 Zephyr's Adelaide Princess UD "Addie"

4-8-2012 for Judy DeRousse: CH DeRousse's Ozark MTN DareDevil, bred and owned by Judy DeRousse, went Best of Breed on Saturday, 4-7-2012 under judge B. Drescher and went Select on Sunday, 4-8-2012 under judge K. Casteel. Both of these shows were for the German Shepherd Dog Club of Central Indiana.

Winsome's Bearandon Fraser was graded OFA Excellent Hips, normal elbows in March, 2012! Breeders are Kris and Frank Fasano. Owners are Gail Stiefferman, Gail and Megan Rutter, and Carolyn Martinez. Sire is AOE SelCh. Kaleef's Joshua v Kenlyn ROM CHIC and dam is Ch. Winsome's Bearitney Spears, ROM, both OFA Hips & Elbows.

4-1-2012 by Steve Dobbins: This past weekend, my little girl Ch Cimarron's Lovin', Touchin', Squeezin went Best of Breed on Saturday under judge Chris Neale and on Sunday,

Charmin took select under judge Michael Woods. At the same shows her brother took Reserve Winners Dog from the Bred By class both days.

3-25-2012 By Glen Murphy: This morning in Dubuque IA our Devine's Rockstar aka Star went WB and BOW for her first pts and her first Major. Star was handled once again by Elizabeth Stiefferman who did her usual great job handling her. Star is out of CH Winsome's Rocky Bearboa II V Devine's Heavenly Elevation

3-11-2012 by Judy McDowell: *Mari-Fiori's RamjeTeko of PrairieHome took Reserve Winners' Dog under Judge Leah James at the Columbia MO Kennel Club Show Sunday March 11, 2012. Thanks to Elizabeth Stiefferman for her excellent presentation of Teko in just his third show, and thanks also to Fran Foster for handling Teko in the WD class.*

Health Matters

Breeders and the OFA: Progress in hip joint phenotype of dogs in the United States between the 1970's and early 1990's has been shown through results of a retrospective study using the OFA data base. This improvement was evident as an increase in the percentage of dogs classified as having excellent hip joint phenotype and a decrease in the percentage of dogs classified as having hip dysplasia (HD). The increase in percentage of dogs classified as having excellent hip joint phenotype was greater for German Shepherd dogs, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, and Rottweilers than for all dog breeds combined. In addition, the submission screening rate for these four breeds was higher than the screening rate for all dogs. Within these four breeds, the improvement was greatest for Rottweilers, which also had the highest screening rate.

Overall, low screening rates for breeds found in this study offer some insight into the problems involved with reducing the incidence of HD. The typical dog breeder is involved in breeding dogs for about five years. Thus, informed, experienced breeders are continually replaced with uninformed, inexperienced breeders who may not be as aware of the problems associated with HD or of the importance of participating in a screening program. In addition, many breeders choose which dogs they breed on the basis of the hip phenotype of individual dogs without knowledge of the phenotype of related dogs or previous offspring. It can be very difficult to get hip information on siblings and previous offspring due to the overall low number of dogs radiographed in a given litter (most dogs in a litter end up in pet homes). This is the slowest method of reducing the incidence of an undesirable trait or increasing the incidence of a desirable trait. The use of preliminary radiographs as early as 4 months of age can be used by breeders to add valuable information on the hip status of dogs they choose to use in a breeding program.

What can breeders do?

Hip dysplasia appears to be perpetuated by breeder imposed breeding practices, but when breeders and their breed clubs recognize HD as a problem and establish reduction of HD as a priority, improvement of the hip status can be accomplished without jeopardizing other desirable traits. Prospective buyers should check pedigrees and/or verify health issues with the breeder. If suitable documentation is not available, assume the worst until proven otherwise.

Do not ignore the dog with a fair hip evaluation. The dog is still within normal limits. For example; a dog with fair hips but with a strong hip background and over 75% of its

brothers and sisters being normal is a good breeding prospect. A dog with excellent hips, but with a weak family background and less than 75% of its brothers and sisters being normal is a poor breeding prospect.

OFA's Recommended Breeding Principals

- Breed normals to normals
- Breed normals with normal ancestry
- Breed normals from litters (brothers/sisters) with a low incidence of HD
- Select a sire that produces a low incidence of HD
- Replace dogs with dogs that are better than the breed average

http://www.offa.org/hd_guidelines.html

History Lesson

Derived from the old breeds of herding and farm dogs, and associated for centuries with man as servant and companion, the German Shepherd Dog has been subject to intensive development. Sponsored by the *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde*, the parent club of the breed founded in 1899 in Germany, the cult of the Shepherd spread rapidly from about 1914 onward in many parts of the world. Interest in the breed has been fostered by specialty clubs in many lands as it has been in the United States by the German Shepherd Dog Club of America.

Considering first the more important side of the dog, its character, the Shepherd is distinguished for loyalty, courage, and the ability to assimilate and retain training for a number of special services. He should be of equable disposition, poised, unexcitable, and with well-controlled nerves. For his typical work as a herding sheepdog, he must not be gun-shy and must have courage to protect his flock from attacks, either animal or human. For his work as a police dog, a development which followed upon his natural aptitude for training, he must have this courage and in addition must be able to make use of the excellent nose which he usually possesses. In his work as a leader of the blind, the Shepherd must and does exhibit a high order of intelligence and discrimination involving the qualities of observation, patience, faithful watchfulness, and even, to a certain degree, the exercise of judgment.

These qualities, which have endeared the German Shepherd Dog to a wide public in practically every country of the globe, are those of the companion, protector, and friend. The German Shepherd is not a pugnacious brawler, but a bold and punishing fighter if need be. In his relation to man he does not give affection lightly; he has plenty of dignity and some suspicion of strangers, but his friendship, once given, is given for life.

On the physical side, the German Shepherd Dog has been developed to a point of almost ideal fitness for the work he is called upon to do. He is a dog of middle size with enough weight to be effective as herder or patrolman, but not enough to be cumbersome or unwieldy.

The impression of the dog as a whole is one of ruggedness combined with nobility, of power combined with agility. There should be a sense of balance, forequarters and hindquarters compensating each other in their development. The outline should be smooth and flowing, and the topline of the dog, from the ear to the tip of the full tail, a single sweeping succession of unbroken curves. The German Shepherd Dog is a natural dog, unchanged for any whim of the show ring.

http://www.akc.org/breeds/german_shepherd_dog/history.cfm



AKC News

--Realignment of Divisions Creates More Equitable Distribution of Majors--

New York, N.Y. – As of May 16, 2012, the new Schedule of Championship points for Conformation events will go into effect with a new realignment of divisions. The number of divisions will also increase for 2012 from 13 to 15 to enhance the ability of exhibitors to have "majors" in their own divisions. The schedule, released annually, sets the number of points needed by each of the 174 AKC-recognized breeds by geographic division. For the complete schedule of championship points visit: http://www.akc.org/events/conformation/point_schedule.cfm

"Prior to computing this year's conformation championship points, we listened to customer input and feedback and took positive action that will create more equitable distribution of entries," said AKC Director of Event Operations Bobby Birdsong. "The Board and staff make these changes for breeders and exhibitors to find majors closer to home. AKC is dedicated to working with fanciers to enhance their dog showing experience and will continue to constantly monitor the point schedules and make further improvements."

This year's change, coupled with additional enhancements made last year, was the result of ongoing communication with exhibitors. Last year saw AKC reduce the point computations from a calculation using a 3-year average to a single-year calculation. In addition, all independent and designated specialties held by Parent Clubs as well as the local shows held three days prior to the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship were removed from the calculation database for a fairer distribution of majors. For a complete explanation of how the point schedules are calculated please visit

<http://www.akc.org/events/conformation/faqs.cfm> and scroll down to Point Schedule, Calculations for the New Year.

Here's another article of interest:

-- AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence Opens 2012 Nominations to All Dogs--

Heroes, like dogs, come in all shapes and sizes. Since 2000, dog lovers have nominated hundreds of special canines for the [AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence \(ACE\)](#). This year's ACE nominations are open to all dogs, including purebreds and mixed-breeds. The submission deadline is June 1, 2012.

"All dogs do great things and make meaningful contributions to our lives, so we're happy to open this year's awards to nominations for all dogs," said Lisa Peterson,

AKC Spokesperson. "We've seen what All-American dogs can do in the competition ring through the [AKC Canine Partners](#) program and we're proud to welcome them to ACE. We encourage anyone that owns or knows of a life-changing canine to submit a nomination as a way to pay tribute to the animals that make our lives better."

The American Kennel Club will select five dogs that have performed an exemplary act or series of acts to receive an Award for Canine Excellence in the categories of **Companion, Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue, Therapy, and Service**. The dog's heroic acts can be large or seemingly small, but must have significantly benefited a community or individual. Honorable Mentions are awarded to outstanding entries in each category.

ACE nominees range from [skilled assistance dogs and law enforcement K-9s that keep U.S. citizens safe to Search & Rescue dogs who have participated in rescue missions in Haiti and Japan](#). Equally important are the [therapy dogs that provide much needed comfort in the wake of tragedy](#) as well as the [companions who save lives or raise money and awareness for important causes](#).

Each of the five honorees will receive a cash award of \$1,000, an engraved sterling silver medallion and an all-expenses-paid trip for dog and owner to Orlando, Fla., to be honored at the twelfth annual *AKC/Eukanuba National Championship* in December 2012. The names of the five recipients will also be added to the ACE plaque that is on permanent display in the AKC Humane Fund Library at AKC's headquarters in New York City.

Dogs receiving honorable mention will be awarded an engraved bronze medallion and all entrants will receive an ACE Certificate of Recognition in acknowledgement of their nomination.

Anyone, including the dog's owner or handler, may submit a nomination. Submissions for the **AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence for 2012** must include:

- A non-returnable, original print or digital photograph of the dog. All digital photos must be larger than 1MB in size. The photo should feature solely the nominated dog.
- A 500-word-or-less description of how the dog has demonstrated excellence.
- Dog's call name, breed, age and sex.
- Owner's/Nominator's name(s), address and phone number. E-mail address if available.

Nominations will be accepted by mail or email until June 1, 2012 and should be sent to:

Aliza Burns: **ACE Awards 2012**
The AKC Humane Fund
260 Madison Avenue, 4th Floor
New York, New York 10016

akchumanefund@akc.org

For more information about the ACE awards or to download a nomination form visit

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<http://www.akc.org/news/ace/>

Reservations at the 2012 Host Hotel

GSDCA has a block of rooms at the Embassy Suites Loveland Hotel & Conference Center, right on the show grounds. The rooms are all 2-room suites ('great' room & bedroom) and include extras:

- A Complimentary Managers Reception each evening with cocktails and light snacks for every guest
- A Complimentary Cooked-to-Order Breakfast each morning for every guest
- The suite bedroom has either 2 queen beds or a king bed and there is a pullout sofa sleeper in the 'great' room
- A mini-fridge, microwave, and coffee maker

When you factor in breakfast each morning and the evening reception for each person, it's an amazing deal:

- 1 or 2 people in the room - \$114 per night
- 3 people in the room - Only \$15 more (\$129 per night)
- 4 people in the room - Only \$30 more (\$144 per night)

[Check out the guest amenities and see room pictures](#)

Call 1-970-593-6200 for reservations and tell them it's for the 'National Specialty GSD'.

New Members

Welcome to the new members of the GSDC of St. Louis, Inc! *(And if I've missed someone, please let me know!)*

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Parent Club News

Next Regular Board Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will be conducted using GoToWebinar on April 28, and then continued on May 3, 2012. Detailed instructions will be provided to all members via Constant Contact before the meeting.

GSDC of St. Louis, Inc.
Gail Rutter, Editor
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Editor News

If some members prefer to have the newsletter e-mailed, please send me permission at ruttergsd@hughes.net or call (573) 470-3505. Also, Steve Dobbins will be putting it on the club's website. If you would prefer simply to look at it on the website or print a copy for yourself there, this would save the club the cost of printing and postage. Please let me know if the alternate methods of delivery would be permissible. I look forward to a having lots of fun with this.

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Gail Rutter, Editor

