



Wag 'N' Tongue

*A publication for the
German Shepherd Dog Club of St. Louis, Inc.
August, 2013*

Club Hot Line Number (314) 772-8885
Club Web Site Address: <http://www.gsdctl.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.

Club Meetings and Educational Program

September 11, 2013 - Regular Club Meeting at 8:00 P.M. at 1721 S. Mason Road in Queeny Park, home of the AKC Dog 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 We will feature guest speaker Charlotte Mielziner, author, dog trainer and AKC

judge. She will talk about dog aggression and kids training dogs, the subject of two of her books...Good Dogs Bite, Too and Kids Training Dogs: Lessons from Both Ends of the Leash. This event is free and open to the general public.

The October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 09, 2013 or Friday October 18, 2013. TBD- Regular Club Meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Club Obedience Training

There will be TWO sets of training classes. Beginning August 22, 2013, there will be a training session done on Thursdays. The next Tuesday training session will begin September 17, 2013.

Puppy Match

The Fall 2013 puppy/fun match is scheduled for Sunday, October 20, 2013 in Arnold, MO at Arnold City Park. Chris Kimerer from the Kansas City area has agreed to judge.



Club Website

<http://www.gsdctl.org/> We are in need of GSD pictures for the website. Please send to Steve Dobbins Cimarrongsd@ktis.net.

Annual K-9 Awards

Sunday, September 15, 2013 Annual K-9 Awards. The German Shepherd Dog Club of St Louis will be hosting its Annual Metropolitan K9 Awards at the AKC Museum of the Dog located at 1721 South Mason Road. Awards will begin around noon. We will be honoring the K-9's for outstanding service around the metropolitan St Louis area. The public is welcome.

PLEASE-NO OTHER DOGS BESIDES THE AWARD RECIPIENTS!



In Memorium

Helene Bridges 08-18-13
Tom LaBruyere, Jr. 08-05-13

What's My Dog Sayin'?

Have you ever wondered what your dog was trying to say to you when he began barking incessantly? Dogs use a variety of sounds—barking, howling, and growling—to convey different things. Your pup may be barking for attention, or growling to protect his bone. Whatever noise Fido is making, he's trying to tell you something.

- **Stranger Beware!** Your puppy will defend himself and his space against strangers by emitting a deep, explosive series of barks. This signals to the approaching person to stay away.
- **Hey, I'm over here!** Barking is also used to get attention. Once you give him what he's looking for, he'll stop. If you ignore him further, he will most likely keep going!
- **Keep away!** Growling is designed to keep opponents away, especially if your puppy has a treat he is protecting. He will let out a deep growl that signals to anyone coming close that it is dangerous to approach.
- **Is anyone out there?** Dogs can communicate with others far away by howling. When dogs travel in a pack and one gets separated, the lost dog will begin howling and wait for the others to respond. That way, he will know which way to travel to be reunited with his pack. Sometimes, dogs hear sounds such as a siren that they perceive to be another dog calling to them, and they'll start howling in response.

GSD Standard (Cont'd)

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 hags 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.

Passing Thoughts)

If a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:

- * When loved ones come home, always run to greet them;
- * Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride;
- * Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure Ecstasy;
- * Take naps;
- * Stretch before rising;
- * Run, romp, and play daily;
- * Thrive on attention and let people touch you;
- * Avoid biting when a simple growl will do;
- * On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass;
- * On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a

shady tree;

- * When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body;
- * Delight in the simple joy of a long walk;
- * Be loyal;
- * Never pretend to be something you're not;
- * If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it;
- * When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently



HEALTH MATTERS: Keeping your Dog "Cool"

Dogs cool by evaporation. Put your thumb down in the middle crease of the dogs' ear. That gives you a pretty good idea of how hot your dog is. Your dog's "thermostat" is at the base of the head. So cooling the back of the head is a critical area. Other important locations are underbelly, inside of the front legs (especially the armpit), and inside of the hind legs (especially the groin). So spraying or wiping down the belly and inside of the legs is key.

When you have humidity added to the heat, add 1/4 cup isopropyl alcohol to a large bowl of cool (**never cold**) water and use a washcloth to wipe down locations. Dilute additionally if you need to use around the rectum. Using extreme water temperature can cause shock and catapult a dog into crises.

Soaking down a heavy coated dog can put them into heat crises especially in humid areas. The wet coat traps heat in. Belly clips are really useful to heavy coated dogs. Aging dogs can have more difficulty with heat dispersal! Getting that undercoat out increases air circulation and evaporation. Loosen collars in summertime to make sure there is air flow underneath. During daily grooming make sure you are really getting hair loosened down to the skin, and separate hair in deep areas to check skin. Pink spots are not good.

If you think your dog is too hot and you cannot do anything to cool him, **CALL YOUR VET!**

ANIMAL SAFE WEED KILLER

2 1/2 litres (2/3 gallons) white vinegar
1 cup salt
2 good squirts of DAWN BLUE Dish soap

Parent Club News

NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW –

October 7 - 12, 2013

Dream Park - Gloucester County New Jersey

On 10/11/13 at 7 pm in the at the Host Hotel ballroom, the Centennial will celebrate the founding of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America in 1913. <http://www.germanshepherd100years.com/>

GSDCA members, guests, fanciers, state and local dignitaries, lovers of the German Shepherd Dog and the press will gather at the National Specialty in Swedesboro, NJ to honor and celebrate our great breed.

The Conformation and Performance Events will be held at Dream Park, Gloucester County, NJ, conveniently located within 8 minutes of the host hotel. The Annex Room at Dream Park will feature a historical display entitled “The Early Years”. You will be introduced to the founders of our National Club and interesting historical data surrounding our founding in 1913. Historian Tom Brown, has gathered letters, documents, and pictures which will be featured in a Historical Booklet!

**THE GSDCA NATIONAL WILL BE HELD AT
PURINA FARMS IN GRAY SUMMIT, MO**

2014 - October 3 - 11

2015 - October 9 - 17

2016 - October 14 – 22



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