



Wag 'N' Tongue

A publication for the
German Shepherd Dog Club of St. Louis, Inc.
June, 2015

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.

Club Committee Chairmen

If you'd like to continue chairing a committee from last year, call President Larry Duerbeck. Everyone, please volunteer to chair or co-chair a committee this year!



June 19 - Regular Club Meeting at 8:00 P.M. at the American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog (1721 S. Mason Rd.)

Spring Conformation Shows

June 13 & 13 & 14, 2015

NOTE: Two Shows Saturday and One Show Sunday

Outdoor Specialty Shows at Purina Farms (Tent Area) in Gray Summit, MO. CLOSING: Friday, May 29, 2015 AT 6 PM.

Conformation Judges and Junior Showmanship Judges:

Dean Wylie (Saturday Morning: 6-13-15 GSDCStL);

Joe LaRosa (Saturday Afternoon: 6-13-15 GSDCA);

Jerry Guzman (Sunday: 6-14-15 GSDCStL)

For more information contact the show chair:

Gail Stiefferman PHONE: 636-274-3292

email: forstknoll@aol.com

SHOW SECRETARY:

Judy McDowell

421 North Stone Street

Centralia, MO 65240

(573) 682-5774

email: JudyMcDowell

Volunteers are needed!!!!

GSDCA TEMPERAMENT TEST AFTER THE SATURDAY SHOWS! PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP PUT ON THIS EVENT



Plan to bring a dish to share after the show on Saturday. We'll have a BBQ at the RV parking lot!

August 15, 2015 - Annual Club Picnic

This will be held at the American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog (1721 S. Mason Rd.) Starts at 11 AM; Lunch at Noon. Meet the Breed will be there, too, starting at 10:30 am. Please contact Elaine Bisbing for information about Meet The Breed. Remember, there is

no regular club meeting in August, only the picnic. Please call Roz North to let her know what side dish you plan to bring. The club will have BBQ sandwiches available. Don't forget to bring something to drink! Hope to see everyone there!

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



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 fur Deutsche Schaferhunde*, 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. 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.

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

ROSTER

The Club Roster is in the process of being created and published. If you have a change to make, please call or email me right away. Thanks!

Sunday, September 13, 2015 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 contact Marilee Wilkinson for more information.

The next Board Meeting of the GSDCA will be held in St Louis on Saturday July 25 and Sunday July 26.

2015 GSDCA National Specialty

October 9 thru 17, 2015 at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, MO. German Shepherd Dog Club of America National Specialty Show.

2015 German Shepherd Dog Club of America Sieger Show

October 16-18, 2015
Purina Farms
Gray Summit, MO

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Gail Rutter, Editor



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