



Wag 'N' Tongue

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

February 2016

Club Hot Line (314)-319-8485

Club Web Site Address: <http://www.gsdcsstl.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.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, February 19, 2016. **ANNUAL CLUB AWARDS WILL BE HELD IN MARCH.**

January 15th Election Results

Election of Club officers and board was held.

Pres: Larry Duerbeck

Vice Pres: Butch Stiefferman

Treas: Karen Schmaltz

Rec Secy: Gail Rutter

Corr Secy: Gail Stiefferman

Board: Elaine Bisbing, Marcia Hadley, Glenn Murphy, Kelly Murphy, Terry Rock, Laura Shearin, and Marilee Wilkinson

Club Dues

As a reminder, club dues are **due by March 1st each year.** **They can be paid anytime prior to that time. Please send your dues to Karen Schmaltz, Treasurer and Membership Chairman.**

February 19th Meeting

Regular Club Meeting at 8:00 P.M. **An educational program with a canine reproduction veterinarian is planned.**

Upcoming.....

Committee Chairmen are needed. Please call Larry Duerbeck to volunteer this year!

Butch Stiefferman has volunteered to temporarily answer the club's **phone**. A volunteer is needed to keep the club's phone. Soon, we will be discussing the club's **logo**. Your input and participation in its selection are needed.

There will be another report from Marilee Wilkinson about our club's **K-9 Award Program**. Please plan to attend meetings to help with a decision on the future of this event.

Marcia Hadley has volunteered to chair a **puppy match**, which is scheduled to be held in October in Arnold Park.

Larry Duerbeck is on the lookout for a restaurant for our **Christmas Party** in December. Any suggestions are welcomed.

We need to be thinking of **judges for 2017**. Please call Greg Harrison or Larry Duerbeck with your suggestions.

Attendance at regular club meetings is important for our club to stay strong ...please make an extra effort to attend the club meetings and volunteer for activities. The club meetings are held the 3rd Fridays of each month, except August and December. Thank you!

March 18th Meeting

Regular Club Meeting will begin at **7:00 P.M.** Annual Awards Ceremony will be held after a short business meeting. Please note that only dogs receiving awards are allowed to attend. **Deadline for entries will be March 4th.** A pot luck dinner is being organized by Rosalind North.

Obedience Classes

Two (2) classes will be held on Wednesday evenings. Classes are at a training building off Hannah Road in Valley Park. A begin date has not yet been established. Call Laura Shearin for more information.

Obedience/Rally Trials

A lot of thought and effort has been afforded this event. Since we cannot use Purina Farms for the May Trials, we elected to not do them. Instead, we plan to sponsor the Wednesday Obedience/Rally Trials at the GSDCA National in October at Purina Farms, much like we did in 2015. Also, we will sponsor two (2) nights of rent-a-ring at the national. These are money-making events for the club and much appreciated by the national exhibitors. Please plan to attend and help with all the events.

Spring Specialty Show

Our 2016 shows will be held on Friday and Saturday, **June 17 & 18, 2016** at Purina Farms in Gray Summit "on the grass". Conformation judges will be Bill Pettersen (Friday) and Fran Rood (Saturday). On Sunday, the GSDC of Kansas City will hold the Midwest Futurity with judge, Jerry Guzman. A BBQ at the trailers is planned for Saturday evening. We are also planning a temperament test, 50/50 raffle, and silent auction!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Gail Stiefferman, Show Chairman, needs help from every member with this show. Home phone 636-274-3292; cell phone 314-660-3305, work phone 636-461-2900, email forstknoll@aol.com.

History Lesson

Part I: In 1889 **Captain Max von Stephanitz** began the standardization of the breed. It all started at a dog show in Karlsruhe in western Germany. A medium-sized yellow-and-gray wolflike dog caught his attention. The dog was of the primal canine type, supple and powerful, and possessed endurance, steadiness, and intelligence. He was a working shepherd, born with this ability, requiring no training other than direction and finish to become proficient at the task. This dog, Hektor Linksrhein, was purchased by von Stephanitz, renamed **Horand von Grafrath**, and became the first registered German Shepherd Dog.

Von Stephanitz founded the Verein für Deutsche Sch-ferhunde, SV (German Shepherd Dog Club), becoming the first president, and in a short period of time achieved the standardization of form and type in the breed. A standard was developed based on mental stability and utility. The captain's motto was "Utility and intelligence". To him beauty was secondary, and a dog was worthless if it lacked the intelligence, temperament, and structural efficiency that would make it a good servant of man. A breed standard was developed as a blueprint dictating the exact function and relationship of

every aspect of structure, gait, and inherent attitude.

Von Stephanitz inbred heavily on Horand and also Luchs, his brother, to consolidate the bloodline. Horand's best son, Hektor von Schwaben, the second German Sieger, was mated with his half-sister as well as through daughters of his own sons, **Beowulf**, Heinz von Starkenberg, and Pilot III.

The first German Shepherd Dog exhibited in America was in 1907. Mira von Offingen, imported by Otto Gross, was shown by H. Dalrymple, of Port Allegheny, Pennsylvania in the open class at Newcastle and Philadelphia. The first championships awarded German Shepherd Dogs was in 1913. In 1913 the German Shepherd Dog Club of America was formed by Benjamin Throop and Anne Tracy, with 26 charter members. The German Shepherd Dog Club of America's first specialty show was at Greenwich, Connecticut in 1915.

In 1922 Germany introduced a system of regular breed surveys - a criticism of each dog, with a graded description and recommendation for (or against) breeding. This type of system never caught on in America due largely to the cultural differences inherent in American society. However, good dogs were still produced, as German dogs were easily available for American dollars highly sought after in inflationary Germany. (continued...)

WHAT IS A FUTURITY?

First of all, a Futurity is a Puppy Match and a Breeders show. It has come into being through the annals of horse racing. For centuries horse breeders have nominated unborn foals representing the pedigree mares and fabulous stallions from overseas.

Many, many years ago the German Shepherd Dog Futurities rules required the actual presence of the sires and dams of the individual puppies in the show. We are now only concerned with the puppies themselves. It is a breeder's show because these puppies are the result of a breeder's plan and/or breeding program. Because entire litters are nominated and generally many show, it gives a better picture of the results of the combinations of certain bloodlines (which is not always obtained in the regular show ring where generally there are only one or two of a litter shown at a time).

A Futurity is different from a regular show in many ways. Litters must be nominated for Futurities where in regular competition they need not be. Competition in Futurities is in age groups, while this is not true otherwise. There are no championship points given. Rather than Best of Breed, the winner is designated Best in Futurity.

In order to nominate a litter you must be a member of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America Inc. or apply for membership at time of nomination. A puppy may be entered in two regions, but shown in only one region even if his litter was nominated in a different region.

Puppies must be entered in their proper age class regardless of development, maturity, or personal preference of the exhibitor. The winners of each class are judged in a combined group with the best male puppy being designated Futurity Male. A Reserve Futurity Male will be designated. Then the puppies of the opposite sex are judged with like results. The Futurity Male and Futurity Female are then eligible to compete for Best in Futurity and Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Futurity.

The Maturity Section is judged after the Futurity judging is finished. This part of the show is for those dogs that have been entered, but not necessarily shown in the previous years Futurity. The Maturity is divided into two classes only - dogs and bitches. The winners of these classes compete for the title of Best in Maturity and Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Maturity. A Reserve Maturity Male and a Reserve Maturity Female is also designated.

Futurity and Maturity winners and all Futurity and Maturity Reserve winners will be eligible to compete at the GSDC National Specialty for the titles of Futurity Victor and Victrix and Maturity Victor and Victrix.

If, Futurities do indeed, "Forecast the future," this should be an all-important show. It should be important for breeder's competition, an early look at up and coming young dogs, a look at what the breeder's in your geographical location are accomplishing in their breeding programs, and a look at and into what we are doing for and to our breed.

German Shepherd Dog Standard (Part 1)

General Appearance The first impression of a good German Shepherd Dog is that of a strong, agile, well muscled animal, alert and full of life. It is well balanced, with harmonious development of the forequarter and hindquarter. The dog is longer than tall, deep-bodied, and presents an outline of smooth curves rather than angles. It looks substantial and not spindly, giving the impression, both at rest and in motion, of muscular fitness and nimbleness without any look of clumsiness or soft living. The ideal dog is stamped with a look of quality and nobility--difficult to define, but unmistakable when present. Secondary sex characteristics are strongly marked, and every animal gives a definite impression of masculinity or femininity, according to its sex.

Temperament The breed has a distinct personality marked by direct and fearless, but not hostile, expression, self-confidence and a certain aloofness that does not lend itself to immediate and indiscriminate friendships. The dog must be approachable, quietly standing its ground and showing confidence and willingness to meet overtures without itself making them. It is poised, but when the occasion demands, eager and alert; both fit and willing to serve in its capacity as companion, watchdog, blind leader, herding dog, or guardian, whichever the circumstances may demand. The dog must not be timid, shrinking behind its master or handler; it should not be nervous, looking about or upward with anxious expression or showing nervous reactions, such as tucking of tail, to strange sounds or sights. Lack of confidence under any surroundings is not typical of good character. Any of the above deficiencies in character which indicate shyness must be penalized as very *serious faults* and any dog exhibiting pronounced indications of these must be excused from the ring. It must be possible for the judge to observe the teeth and to determine that both testicles are descended. Any dog that attempts to bite the judge must be *disqualified*. The ideal dog is a working animal with an incorruptible character combined with body and gait suitable for the arduous work that constitutes its primary purpose.

Size, Proportion, Substance

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 German Shepherd Dog is longer than tall, with the most desirable proportion as 10 to 8½. The length is measured from the point of the prosternum or breastbone to the rear edge of the pelvis, the ischial tuberosity. The desirable long proportion is not derived from a long back, but from overall length with relation to height, which is achieved by length of forequarter and length of withers and hindquarter, viewed from the side.

Head The head is noble, cleanly chiseled, strong without coarseness, but above all not fine, and in proportion to the body. The head of the male is distinctly masculine, and that of the bitch distinctly feminine. The expression keen, intelligent and composed. Eyes of medium size, almond shaped, set a little obliquely and not protruding. The color is as dark as possible. Ears are moderately pointed, in proportion to the skull, open toward the front, and carried erect when at attention, the ideal carriage being one in which the center lines of the ears, viewed from the front, are parallel to each other and perpendicular to the ground. A dog with cropped or hanging ears must be disqualified. Seen from the front the forehead is only moderately arched, and the skull slopes into the long, wedge-shaped muzzle without abrupt stop. The muzzle is long and strong, and its topline is parallel to the topline of the skull. Nose black. A dog with a nose that is not predominantly black must be disqualified. The lips are firmly fitted. Jaws are strongly developed. 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 overshot jaw or a level bite is undesirable. An undershot jaw is a disqualifying fault. Complete dentition is to be preferred. Any missing teeth other than first premolars is a serious fault. Continued...

Editor News

Hopefully, you found our club's newsletter to be informative and something to help keep our club members informed and unified.

I need ideas, cartoons, educational information, brags, anything that would make this newsletter something you would look forward to getting! If anyone has software for a publishing program (i.e. pagemaker) and/or clipart, I would appreciate being able to use it to do a more professional issue of the newsletter.

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