



GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC

JUDGES COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Saturday 13th July 2024

Time: 11.00 am to 3.30pm

Venue: Best Western Airport Motel & Convention Centre
33 Ardlie Street Attwood Victoria 3049

AGENDA

1. Opening & Welcome:

Chair Mrs. Jenny De Lucia - GSDCA Judges Committee Chair

Meeting opened at

2. Present & Apologies: As per the signature sheet.

"That apologies be accepted".

Moved:

Seconded:

3. Adoption of the Agenda:

3.1 Adoption of the Agenda for the Judges Committee meeting.

"That the Agenda for the Judges Committee Meeting as circulated, be adopted".

Moved:

Seconded:

4. Confirmation of the Minutes:

4.1 **"That the minutes of the Judges Committee Meeting held on Saturday 19 August 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record".**

Moved:

Seconded:

5. Business Arising from the 2023 Minutes and 2024 AGM:

5.1 Gun Testing

Regulation 2.14.2 to be amended to include use of the clapper board in situations where use of starting pistol is not approved (Action from 2024 AGM)

5.2 Updates to National Show Manual

- Include A5 plaque and sash for Reserve Challenge (Motion carried at 2023 Judges Committee meeting) - Manual to be amended.
- Correct wording of Joylene Neddermeyer Trophy (award to SC Intermediate Dog) - noted at 2023 meeting but not completed.

5.3 Working Party for rationalising costs at National Show and Trial

Working party from GSDCV, GSDCQ, GSDL and GSDCSA appointed at 2024 AGM - any updates?

5.4 Extending the National Show Judges List

See updated list attached (with inclusions post AGM 60 Day Motions)

5.5 Judge for Breeders Groups

Motion from last JSC meeting approved at AGM - to be added to National Manual

6. Judges Committee Reports

6.1 Judges Committee Chair's Report - Mrs. Jenny De Lucia

6.2 GSDCA National Show

6.2.1 National Show Liaison Officer Report - Ms Jess Lynch

6.2.2 Report from SA - 50th GSDCA National Show and Trial

6.2.3 Progress Report from Queensland - 51st National Show and Trial

6.2.4 GSDL - dates for 52nd National NSW, proposed judges list (NBC Executive)

7. Matters Referred to the 2023 Judges Committee Meeting from GSDCA Member Clubs, Breed Surveyors and Judges

7.1 Submitted by Jenny De Lucia

Discussion Item:

Allowing of animals to enter Intermediate and Open classes at German Shepherd Specialist shows that have failed the HD and or ED official scheme.

The ruling could be under the following ANKC reg:

Regulations, Part 5

Conformation Show

SECTION 2 Conformation Show

Add the following:

2.3 Entries

2.3.8 For German Shepherd Dogs (both varieties only) at Specialty Shows only.

a) To be entered in the Intermediate and Open Classes animals must have been screened for Hip Dysplasia through an official Hip Dysplasia Control Scheme. To be entered, they must have a score of no more than eight (8) on either hip, with no more than three (3) in any one area, or in the case of imported dogs, a grading that is deemed to be acceptable for breeding in their country of origin.

b) To be entered in the Intermediate and Open Classes animals must have been screened for Elbow Dysplasia through an official Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme. To be entered, they must record a grading of Normal, Near Normal or Grade One on both elbows, and must be free from the condition of UAP (Ununited Anconeal Process).

c) All entries in the Intermediate and Open Classes will be verified against the GSDCA Database and or ORCHID (Officially Registered Canine Health Information Database) by the Show Secretary.

d) ORCHID Database - Where a result is marked "Not for publication" or there is no record, the owner of the animal will need to forward a copy of the results with the entry to the Show Secretary.

e) GSDCA Database - Where a result cannot be attained from the GSDCA Database, the result can be verified with the HD Registrar and/or the owner of the animal will need to forward a copy of the results with the entry to the Show Secretary

7.2 Submitted by GSDCO

For Discussion

This year we had incidents of dogs winning and highly placing in senior classes either without a BS or had failed hips and Elbows.

Is there any restrictions regarding this or not, according to our rules or the ANKC?

Is it widespread? No, but has happened at various Nationals over the years, and at times causes angst with the judges.

Can we lobby ANKC ?

Do we put conditions on entering the Intermediate and Open Classes ? e.g. to show in the Intermediate class a dog must be over 18 months and have obtained an AZ stamp.

And to show in the Open Class a dog must be over 24 months and must be breed surveyed. (As opposed to BS to obtain an excellent)

Do we leave as is, and just let it happen?

There are currently no rules in the National Show and Trial Manual regarding this subject.

We do have criteria for State Breeds but not for our premium event the National.

7.3 Retirement Laps at Nationals - three submissions for discussion

Submitted by GSDCO

Retirement laps at a National have been a chance to acknowledge a dog's career after they have won at the National, with the presumption that the dog/bitch will no longer be shown. But there is no ANKC rule that enforces this.

So, do we stop this? Yes, it would save time, but is it giving the animals the credit they deserve.

Do we restrict it to medal winners and not just class winners?

We do need to include obedience medal winners?

How do we make it that a dog who retires can no longer enter the National show?

Can we put it on the schedule as a condition of entry.

Can we lobby ANKC in relation to this, or do we do away with it?

Submitted by GSDCV

Motion: That National Dual Performance Trophy winners be allowed to retire at the National: this has been overlooked in original motion.

Amend Regulation by adding **and National Dual Performance Trophy Winners.**

5.5.3.5 Criteria for Retirement of Animals at Nationals

The following criteria will apply for any animals that wish to retire at the National Show & Trial:

a) Animals eligible to retire at the National GSD Show & Trial will be: Gold, Silver & Bronze medal winners, National Challenge and Reserve Challenge winners, **and National GSD Show & Trial Class winners and National Dual Performance Trophy winners.**

b) Owners must advise and supply retirement commentary to the GSDCA Secretary prior to the closing date of entry at which the animal will be retired: the commentary must include name of commentator, major achievements and will not be longer than 350 words;

c) The application will be accepted on the understanding that the animal will not be exhibited and or trialled again;

d) The retirement, provided the animal to be retired is not to be exhibited at the National, will be conducted at the conclusion of Breeders Group, otherwise the retirement will take place at conclusion of Open Dog

Submitted by Jane Pike

Can we put forward a motion to abolish retirement laps at nationals?
They really need to be done at state shows.

Suggestion from Executive

If the rule were changed so that an animal cannot apply to retire at the same National where they are being exhibited, that should solve the perceived problems, where an animal that previously retired can enter again. It would also alleviate the problem with conducting further retirement laps after the Open Dog class. The owner should give an undertaking that the animal will not compete again.

7.4 Discussion Items - GSDCV

Male Dog Entries at Shows

Current entries for male dogs at shows have been significantly reduced in recent years, which is of concern.

Discuss reasons why and what the fraternity can do to arrest this trend.

Male entries underpin the success of a show, i.e. a SBE without males and male progeny is of limited value. At a State Breed Exhibition, a lack of representative progeny across males and females does not do justice to 'breed evaluation' *What would encourage people (including newcomers) to keep or campaign more males for showing?*

What is the value of State Breed Exhibitions at State level?

Current entries for SBE's where the majority of entries are confined to that state are not expansive enough in progeny numbers for an evaluation to be worthy.

The males that do have progeny groups have usually been presented at a National show, where the notes on the dog and the broader progeny produced are already published, well known and based on more expansive numbers and a broad cross section of progeny. What is the point or relevance at state level where any judgement may be limited?

Q. Should State Breed Exhibitions still be held at state level?

Discuss the value of conducting the Gun Test at Shows

Is there value in conducting the Gun Test and how do we make it consistent??

Issues for reflection and discussion:

- How does the gun test effect entries?
 - Half of states are not conducting gun tests and rules are not enforced.
 - What is the ramification if the reaction if not called properly.
 - How is the credibility of judges who do and don't make hard calls on dog's reactions impacted?
 - Removing the gun test would suit unsound dogs and continues to dilute our character testing.
1. Should the gun test should be conducted uniformly and consistently across the country at all events. How can this be achieved?
 2. What is meant by 'sufficiently firm' ?
 - a. Is this assessment needed?
 - b. Discuss interpreting the reaction.
 - c. What is 'firm' and 'sufficiently firm'?
 - d. How to assess a dog's reaction and interpret the reaction to the gun, to gain consistency in assessment
 - e. How do we get all judges/surveyors/clubs on the same page?

7.5 Discussion items from Jenny De Lucia

The Gun Test

- When an animal shows a reaction to the gun, what constitutes a failure and what is sufficiently firm?
- Judges need to be more united in their approach and not use bias due to their knowledge of an animal's past winnings.
- When should there be a drop in the grading and when is it a failure? Does the owner have a choice to withdraw and if they chose not to, where does the judge place the animal?

Dentition

- We have a GSDCA Gradings - Information for Judges sheet that has been distributed to all judges.
- It lists the gradings for animals from Junior upwards but does not include the grading in Puppy Class (9m - 12 months) Very Promising and Promising, where animals should have their full set of adult teeth.
- Judges need to be mindful of what the dentition faults are and when this affects gradings at specialist shows.

8 Any Other Business:

Presentation/Workshop - Critiquing - Melanie Groth and Jane Pike (after lunch break)

9. Date & Venue for 2024:

Date and Venue for the 2024 Judges Committee Meeting

10. Close of Meeting:

Meeting closed at: