



ISSUE 42 Spring 2026 - Founded 1919 - Founders of the WUSV/GSDL British Regional Group 2010 - £5.00



- **Results and photos from the IGP FCI and WUSV World Championships**
- **The GSDL All Breeds Nationals**
- **BRG Top Tens and Gold Medallists**
- **Strategic Concept by Patrick Send**
- **GSD Evaluation by Roberto Caputi**
- **GSD Health Coordinator report**
- **And many more interesting articles**



GSD League of Great Britain  
[www.gsdleague.com](http://www.gsdleague.com)

# SHADOWSQUAD

German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers and Jack Russell Terriers  
FOR INTEGRITY AND CHARM EST 1959



A few of our ladies enjoying life, top left is Aretha- daughter of Mr Lim's Starlight Santo. Top right is Morag, lower right Miya- daughter of Crumpsbrook Hemlock. Finally, bottom left is Jeanna, by Lancelot Azier of Lyfame. I have been pleased with the quality of produce I have had by the stud dogs at the Lyfame kennels. Solid working chaps with trustworthy characters and all are



DNA clear for everything which is especially comforting when seeing what is available elsewhere. As the family goes back for seventy years, I am glad to say we still have the same loving nature and character with the intelligent brains we have always strived to produce. I intend to keep such values and type through these modern times. Our German Shepherds have good all over proportions with strong hind-ends. They are strong and sturdy able to work in various fields, as well as be great family companions and assistants. Not forgetting having a keen sense of humour. All breeding stock are health tested through the BVA schemes. We have always stood by anyone we have ever bred and continue to. Integrity to our family roots and our beliefs. We are an old-fashioned family kennel with old fashioned standards. Firmly set in the past and determined to stick to traditional style and mental ability. Our family have done well in many different directions and continue to excel with anyone who wants to stretch themselves. From a cadaver dog to PAT dogs, from Search & Rescue to Agility, they are capable but equally happy to be loved in a family home.



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The GSD League of Great Britain

The GSDL was founded in 1919 and is the oldest GSD breed society in the United Kingdom. The primary objective of the GSDL is to protect and promote the German Shepherd Dog. As a member's society, the GSDL also facilitates the participation of GSD owners in many activities which this versatile breed can excel in.

The GSDL has been at the forefront of innovation – founding the BVA Hip scoring scheme in 1978, the National Dog Tattoo Register in 1986 and the British Regional Groups in 2010 – running the first UK shows to have mandatory health test requirements on all adult dogs.

The GSDL is a KC registered society and also a member of the World Union of GSD Clubs (WUSV).

The GSDL Council is responsible for the proper running of all GSDL activities and its members are elected by its members.

Whether your interest in the GSD is purely as a companion or you want to breed, show, train, or compete with your GSD, this is the club to actively participate in to gain the most out of your love of the German Shepherd Dog.

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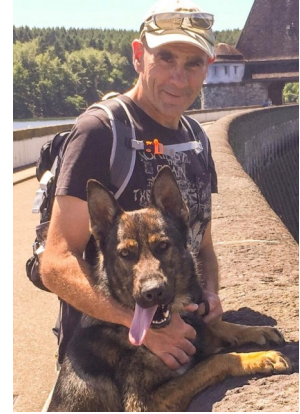
all information correct as of 6th March 2026

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## GSD League Chairpersons Report Autumn 2025



Greetings to all our Members;

I hope the end of year celebrations went well with all! So we have left 2025 behind us; a year which I am sure has had personal highs and lows for everyone.

From your Council's perspective, 2025 was a year that encompassed both success and significant challenges; challenges which have taken us into unknown territory, facing situations previously unknown to our Officers and Members.

We however weathered these difficulties and, as a consequence, I would like to mention those individuals on the Council who put a great deal of time and effort behind the scenes into resolving them, individuals who are often overlooked in terms of acknowledgment and recognition.

I thank you all sincerely.

I hope we can now put these matters behind us, and move forward into 2026 with both harmony confidence, working with, promoting and protecting our beautiful breed.

Please also remember that your Council is here to serve you, and do not hesitate to approach us on any matter you wish.

Good luck to you all; may your aspirations and dreams be realised.

Kindest regards

Chris Bows

### Patron

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Mr John Ward

### Vice Presidents

Mr Syd Farley

Mr Ron White

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Mr Chris Bows

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Henriette Bohnstedt

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Alison Lawrence

Carole Lister

Heather MacDonald

Wendy Stephens

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Alison Lawrence

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# British Regional Group



Hello and a warm welcome to the first edition of the 2026 GSDL Magazine.

2025 proved to be a busy yet highly productive year for the BRG, with several successful shows, character assessments, Koerungs, and ADs taking place around the country.

Across Europe, several British kennels achieved outstanding results in 2025, particularly at the BSZS in Nuremberg. Many congratulations to all involved—your dedication, hard work, and commitment are truly commendable. I recognise the challenges, expenses, and time required, so my genuine respect goes to everyone taking this rewarding journey. It is encouraging to see participation steadily growing.

Turning to Great Britain, on behalf of the BRG E.C, I extend sincere congratulations to the winners and participants in the BRG Top 10 results for 2025, and to those who achieved Gold Medal status—an achievement to truly be proud of.

Remember, to be eligible for the BRG Gold Medal and Annual Awards, you must be a member of the GSDL and BRG. If you wish to join, please visit the homepage of the GSDL at [www.gsdlleague.com](http://www.gsdlleague.com) and follow the prompts for membership, or find guidance on the British Regional Group Page on Facebook.

To make it easier for everyone to keep track of our upcoming events, here's a summary of what's scheduled for the next few months:

- **21 March:** National Koerung, judged by Heather Macdonald at Tuppenhurst Farm, Rugeley, Midlands
- **22 March:** Spring Show including Annual Awards and Presentations, judged by WUSV International Judge Peter Schorling (Sweden) at Tuppenhurst Farm, Rugeley
- 25 April:** Scottish Regional Event at Strathaven, judged by SV Judge Uwe Sprenger (also a selected judge for this year's BSZS in Germany)

The 2025 Annual Awards and Presentation event will take place during the show on 22 March.

If you need any further information, please contact the BRG secretary by email <mailto:gsdlbrg@gmail.com>

I am delighted to include in this magazine an article from Herr Patrick Send (SV Judge) on the current situation of inbreeding with our breed, featuring thoughtful suggestions to address ongoing challenges. My sincere thanks to Herr Send and also to Mr Roberto Caputi for his three contributions: one on assessing a GSD, one on assessing progeny groups and another on evaluating a kennel group. I hope these pieces provide valuable insights into a judge's perspective during assessments and gives you food for thought.

With February already upon us, the British Sieger Event is just around the corner, so keep an eye out for the entry form. If you are interested in sponsoring our Gold, Silver, or Bronze packages, please get in touch with me directly.

For a full calendar of our events and shows in 2026, please visit the BRG section of the GSDL website (see above)

We'd love to hear about your experiences at recent shows or your thoughts on the articles featured in this issue—please share them with us via email or on our Facebook page. Your stories and feedback help us build an even stronger community.

Looking ahead, we're excited to develop future editions with spotlights on Gold Medal winners, interviews, and features on kennels achieving notable success. If you have a story you'd like to share, or know someone who should be featured, do let us know!

I wish every one of you the best of health and success for 2026.

Heather Macdonald (Chair)



## WDG Chair report spring 2026

The organization has had another year of growth with five new clubs joining us in the last year, we now have 51 active clubs. Our activity level has reached a new all time high with significant increases in the number of trials and trial entries. This is now the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of increase in our activity level, a great measure of a healthy growing organization. Over 400 entries in 43 club trials saw our overall activity level go up by more than 20% compared to last year and we are still seeing a lot of new dogs starting their IGP journey. In 2024 more than 100 dogs did their BH which was a record for us and it is nice to see that they have been doing their IGP titles this year with the number of IGP2 and IGP3 titles at club trial up significantly. Another batch of young dogs are following them as we had a new record number of BHs in 2025 of over 120. It is also very pleasing that the new FH rules has meant that more people are doing their FH titles. We are also in a strong position with our licenced helper pool which currently consists of an impressive 52 licenced helpers: 10 A grades, 34 B grades, and 8 C for life helpers.

The most active clubs in 2025 were:

1<sup>st</sup>: Severnside

2<sup>nd</sup>: Hunsbridge

3<sup>rd</sup>: South Cheshire

The qualification trials for the FCI and WUSV World Championship again resulted in both teams being made up entirely of GSDL-WDG members.

Team GBs results from the world Championships were:

### **FCI WC 2025 – Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain**

Kat Farrants	Solarwind Power and Glory	89	85	70	244	87 <sup>th</sup>
Sally Hibbert	Avonwolf Double Dutch	77	80	80	237	94 <sup>th</sup>
Brian Keenan	Avonwolf Falco	75	88	72	235	100 <sup>th</sup>
John Williams	Avonwolf Delta Warrior	77	81	73	231	101 <sup>st</sup>
Oliver French	Catello Hex	73	83	DQ	DQ	DQ

### **WUSV 2025 – Nova Gorica, Slovenia**

Alan Wood	Vrochas Cami at Shangay	90	80	87	257	40 <sup>th</sup>
Jennie Fincham	Finchpark Ella	96	73	83	252	52 <sup>nd</sup>
Aiden Jackson	Hundenkraft Quartz	00	88	96	NQ	NQ
Jim Jackson	Hartshill Achilles	Withdrawn injured				

Unusually we were only able to send 4 competitors to the WUSV World Championships due to the 80-80-80 and minimum 250 rule. This is a WUSV rule and not a WDG rule! We would advise all members who are interested in going for the team to make sure they have this score in the book since the last World Championship before the joint selection trial.

Our Nationals was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> of October with Diane Segers from Belgium judging. This was a very well attended event, organized by Chase and Halesowen at Willenhall RFC, a very nice venue which we will also be using for the WUSV Joint Selection trial this year. Thanks to the clubs for putting on this great event and the super party Saturday night with the trip down memory lane.

Congratulations to the 2025 National Champion Edmond Kan with his homebred GSD Hohenburg Gon and to all the participant who made this a great event. Top 3 were:

1 <sup>st</sup> Edmund Kan	Hohenburg Gon (GSD)	95	93	94	282
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jennifer Fincham	Finchpark Ella (GSD)	99	94	88	281
3 <sup>rd</sup> Aidan Jackson	Hundenkraft Quartz	97	88	93	278

Thank you to everyone who works hard for the organization; my fellow committee members, our judges, helpers and all the people in the clubs who are the backbone of the organization and our sport. I hope all our member are successful with what they hope to achieve this year.

Henriette Bohnstedt




GSDL-WDG Chairperson



## GSD League Working Dog Group Executive Committee

### **Chairman**

Henriette Bohnstedt

### **Membership Secretary**

Lucy Loi

### **Major Events Co-ordinator**

Bethan Allen

### **Vice Chairperson**

Becky Lyons

### **Treasurer**

Alison Lawrence

### **Events Co-ordinator**

Aly Brooks

### **General Secretary**

Martin Davies

### **Committee**

Dean Banks

### **Helper Co-ordinator**

Claire Brown

# HEALTH UPDATE

Chris Hazell - GSD Health Co-ordinator

email:chrishazell44@gmail.com Tel: 01544

327104

## GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG HEALTH UPDATE SPRING 2026

As I write this, the rain is being pushed along on a stiff gale and my thoughts turn to our dogs who may live in kennels. A dry kennel with suitable bedding – off the floor and with some soft material – is not a problem for a healthy dog with a good coat, but over the years I have seen many dogs who live in unsuitable buildings. Please bear this in mind for the sake of their wellbeing and longevity.

The Kennel Club has moved the GSD from Category 3 to Category 2 (on the way to where it should be – Category 1).

There is now a wealth of information on the Kennel Club site for all breeds : put in German Shepherd Dog and follow the links.

The pre-breeding health screening is shown as follows: All animals being bred from should have the first three tests, with good results.

Hip Dysplasia (HD) testing (BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme)

Elbow Dysplasia (ED) testing (BVA/KC Elbow Dysplasia Scheme)

DNA test for Degenerative Myelopathy (DM)

Eye Testing for Hereditary Cataract (BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme)

It can be difficult for puppy buyers to find sensible information about what to look for and check when buying a puppy. For many owners a German Shepherd Dog is part of the family and good temperament is the No.1 priority for a long-term companion. If you are lucky, you will also get a dog with character ! The temperament of the mother and father and the puppies themselves is paramount. When you go to see a litter, always see the dogs running loose. Take note of how they approach you, they should be calm and curious. Temperament and character are not the same, as a dog with a good temperament may not have much character. If you have lived with dogs in the past, you will recognise the difference, but it is hard to explain in a short article.

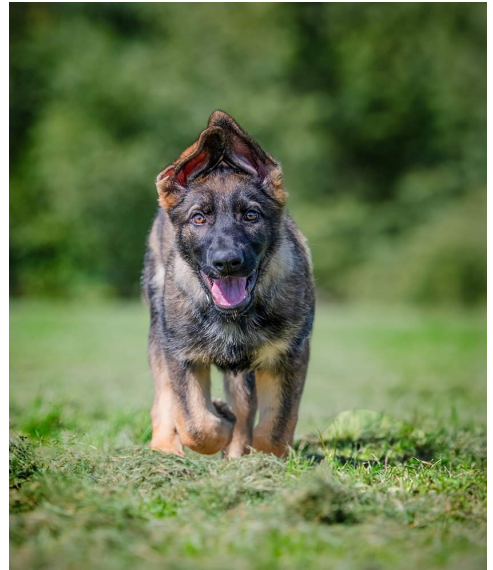
After temperament, then breed type, sex, colour, coat, etc. are all relevant. Don't be afraid to ask questions – and, no, nobody knows all the answers ! A brief word of warning about “colour”. The official and world wide recognised standard colours are listed in the breed standard, so if you see any other colour being sold as “rare” (with a price tag to match) beware! Most are just proof that someone wants to charge extra for a non standard colour , but some can carry health risks e.g. Colour dilute alopecia. They are usually “rare” for a reason and the early breeders did not consider them appropriate for the breed when drawing up the standard. Interestingly, some of the early Guide Dogs were white.

Once you have found your puppy, be it for a pet, show dog or working dog, join a club for further information. Our oldest club is the German Shepherd Dog League of Great Britain Secretary : Mrs Carole Lister – e-mail: [carolelister21@gmail.com](mailto:carolelister21@gmail.com)

Other regional clubs can be contacted via the GSD Breed Council Secretary : Ann Swift – e-mail: [monksley@btinternet.com](mailto:monksley@btinternet.com)

Two important things to remember when you pick your puppy up from the breeder – make sure that gates are shut and door to house is open BEFORE you get him/her out of the car – always.

When introducing your puppy to his new home, a quiet introduction to the occupants and a chance to investigate quietly, is preferable to a noisy reception – he/she will feel much more confident from the word go if he is not being called by everyone. Try not to keep picking him up, but go down to his level to make a fuss (for going outside to be clean and eating his food). Also practice from the beginning taking his toys away briefly when he brings them to you and praising him for that. Remember to watch him after feeding, playing and when he wakes up and take him outside IMMEDIATELY to avoid accidents. It is much easier to prevent unwanted habits than cure them. Also, please make sure that toys are safe for him – no tennis balls, especially as he gets older.



The breed is engaged in ongoing research into health issues in the breed. One of the most important at present is samples for Haemangiosarcoma (tumours affecting the organs of the abdomen (heart, liver, lungs and most commonly the spleen). Work is on-going at the University of Nottingham and I have the fixative if your veterinary surgeon needs it to send a sample to Professor Mark Dunning. Please contact me.

One aspect of dog care that is often overlooked is how they are coping with ageing as our dogs do not make a fuss about getting older. So it is a good idea check that things are normal for the age of the dog and make a note of changes in behaviour, eating, drinking, mobility, stiffness and any signs of pain. Daily/weekly checks for things such as lumps, particularly mammary tumours in bitches, nail length, coughing, scuffing or dragging the hind feet, but still enjoying walks and going out in the car. A non-slippery floor and a bed in a draft-free corner are needed now and perhaps raised food and water bowls.

One of life's true emergencies is GDV/bloat (gastric dilation and volvulus) and is usually found in older dogs, from about seven years. They are restless and not able to get comfortable – and have what I can only describe as an “inward look” and pale gums, weakness and collapse. My own two, who were a grand-mother and grand-daughter, were both 10 ½ years old at the time they became ill. Time is of the essence if there is to be any chance of an operation to relieve the symptoms before the tumour bursts. So, with older, kennelled dogs, please check them last thing at night.

As with all health problems in the breed, I have records covering many years of collecting details and owners/breeders send me the registered name of the dog/bitch, copy of the pedigree (which saves a lot of time – but I can do it) and details of diagnosis, treatment given and date of death if applicable. All information is confidential and I thank everyone who has kindly sent details for the files.

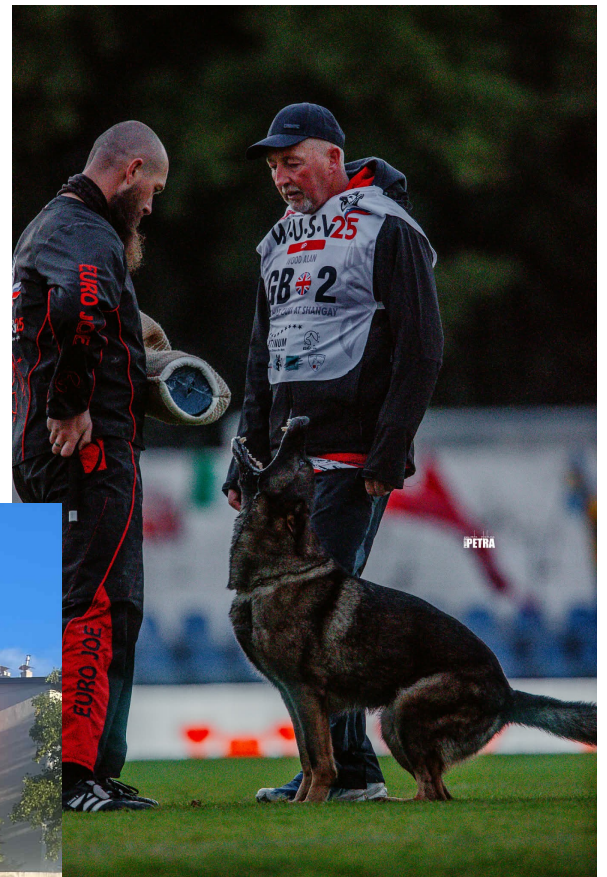
Chris Hazell (Mrs)

German Shepherd Dog Breed Health Co-ordinator Tel: 01544 327104 e-mail: [chrishazell44@gmail.com](mailto:chrishazell44@gmail.com)

# WORKING DOGS

GSDL-WDG

WUSV-World Championship IGP 2025



## WUSV-World Championship IGP 2025

Tracking judge (sport)

[Raino Fluegge](#)

 Canada



Obedience Judge (sport)


[Ilona Fornal](#)

 Germany



Protection Judge (sport)

[Jiri Tichy](#)

 Czech Republic



	GB-1 Aidan Jackson	Hundenkraft Quartz	0	88	96	184	U
40	GB-2 Alan Wood	Vrochas cami at Shangay	90	80	87	257	G
52	GB-3 Jennifer Fincham	Finchpark Ella	96	73	83	252	G
	GB-4 Jim Jackson	Hartshill Achilles	Retired Injured		0		



# WUSV-World Championship IGP

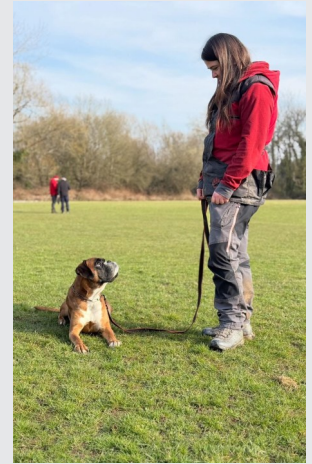


# Carony Lady In Red BH, IGP3, FH-V

By Anneka Powell

Carony Lady In Red

(Jahresjugendsieger Belgium 2018 + Best junior Karlita V. Hause Rehberg x Mch Henry Optima Grata at Porth ZVV1)



I am one proud breeder, owner, handler and trainer of my super Maggie. 4th IGP1 boxer in the UK and the only V score in tracking with the highest overall total points 241



First and only UK boxer to achieve FH-V ▶

Second IGP2 boxer in the UK with the highest tracking & protection with the highest total points 252

First UK boxer to achieve IGP3 total overall score of 238 points.

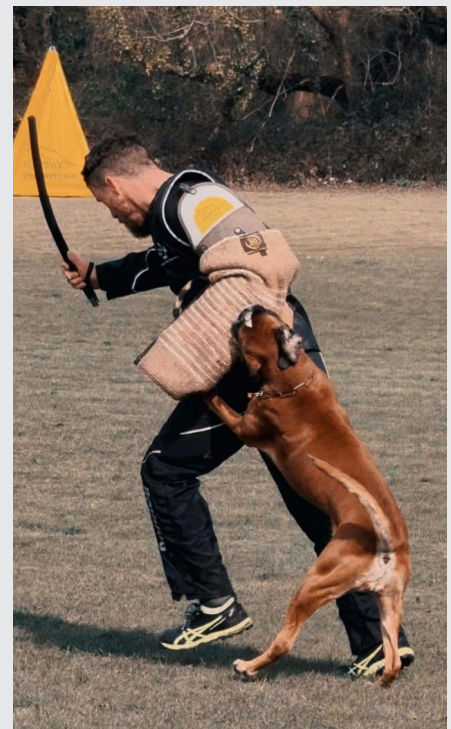
None of these achievements would have been possible without the help and support of true friends who wanted to see us succeed and stood by our side come what may! And to all at my club Severnside SDC who have supported and helped.

I am extremely proud of my beautiful girls' achievements more so being in the UK where the knowledge in IGP of this breed is extremely limited. Many forget this breed was one of the originals who's been in this from the beginning 1956 there was only ever boxers and shepherds and I'm so proud to have one of the originals.

A fantastic breed with a lot to bring to the table, trained correctly with the right methods that is suited to them you get results.

Sadly, on trial days things can happen, one thing I take from my dog is even when shit hits the fan she gives her everything and isn't afraid to make a mistake. A dog who's taught me so much, and anything is possible even when people write you off! Doing this with a breed that's bred for it, I breed I love and so passionate about makes it all the more special.

Maggie my beautiful girl who I love like a mother loves a child, you and me we've made history and when we were doubted and sometimes laughed at told we wasn't good enough we proved many very wrong. Maggie, I owe you everything and you owe me absolutely nothing in return! If you did no more, you've done enough, proven your work ability and put boxers back on the maps where they belong in IGP ♥♥♥♥



## Achieving the Impossible Dream: My World Record Making Aussie

By Kat Farrants

From the moment Gracie was born, I knew she was special. She was my third generation Solarwind Aussie pup, out of my incredibly special Shanti, Obedience Champion Solarwind Star Sapphire (the only Aussie to date to have won tickets in both a working discipline and in breed).

Shanti lost all of her pups at the vets as they were born, due to an emergency C-section gone wrong. All except Gracie. Which is why she was named Grace. We have no idea how she survived and the others didn't, against all odds, but here she was. And her registered name? Solarwind Power and Glory. Because she had all the power of all 8 pups in the litter, and her survival was simply the miraculous prayer.

As she grew, it became clear that she was no ordinary pup. An extraordinary brain. With huge spirit and resilience. And the most athletic Aussie I've ever known. Her training and learning was off the charts. She was only 7 months old when she won her first Novice Obedience Class! She won through the classes very quickly.

But there was something else about this little, powerful Aussie. I knew that although she was immensely talented in obedience, there was something more about her. During COVID, when we were taking time off shows, I took her along to an IGP club to find out if she would enjoy doing something a bit more challenging, a bit more athletic, and she just lit up! It became very clear that this was something she really wanted to do.

So I made a pact with her.

If she became an Obedience Champion, I would let her train in IGP.

Well, as soon as the shows were back on after COVID, she won her three tickets to become an Obedience Champion in as many months and at 3, became the highest placing Aussie female in the Crufts Obedience Championship.

It was on me to keep to my side of the bargain.

I started to take Gracie to protection lessons and she just relished the challenge.

I found out how courageous Aussies are. Of course, they are dogs who should be able to turn around an angry bull, so of course they have huge natural courage, grit and tenacity.

They have to escape hooves and horns and turn quickly, so they have the natural athleticism. They enjoy working independently, so unlike in obedience, protection is reading the situation of the criminal and being in charge of the situation herself, a long way from the handler. And as we all know, Aussies love to be independent workers.

When I started my IGP journey, I just decided to take it one step, one day at a time. If I felt Gracie was physically or mentally struggling, or just not enjoying herself, we'd stop immediately, after all, I was only doing this for Gracie. She found the obedience phase incredibly rewarding, she learned how to pick up the huge dumbbell, and growled with pleasure every time she did this, she was so pleased with herself. She learned how to jump, and boy, did she have a jump! even though she's only 18 inches tall she easily clears the metre hurdle. Sheer spirit launching her over.



We worked incredibly hard and quickly, I travelled the length and breadth of the country, and to Netherlands and Germany, to learn and to train this tough sport. Finding helpers to bring up Gracie's confidence wasn't easy, but every helper I worked with was friendly, kind and loved the challenge.

It was a joy seeing Gracie's confidence increase with every session, as she realised that she could always win against the helper, no matter how big or how tough they were. She loved jumping at them, loved the outlet for her barking (which is her favourite activity in the world), so that she had a place where all the barking was welcomed, and she could do things which pet dogs can't do, run, jump, bark and bite. She had a perfect outlet for her rowdy, feisty nature, and it was wonderful watching her confidence and power increase day by day. She was just loving every moment of her life.

Our first IGP trial was terrifying to me, but Gracie achieved points of mid-nineties for all three phases.

Abroad there have been some Aussies to trial IGP 2 and 3, but not here in the UK, Gracie was the first. I was intrepid, with each step up, the tests become tougher. But she kept rising to the challenge.

Well, she flew through IGP 2 and 3, she trailed in Germany where she was placed highest in trial and this year, for the World Championship Qualifying trial, I went with no expectations at all. The judge, Pierre Wahlstrom is one of the toughest and world's most respected, he's worked with the Swedish military dog programme for 30 years, in fact I nearly pulled out as I didn't want him to make fun of little Gracie.

But the opposite happened. He gave her fantastic marks for her tracking, she won the highest obedience in trial (and he commented on how hard it would be for her to achieve the power she did, and how easily she did the jumps and 2KG dumbbell retrieve), and her protection score ensured she qualified. We had achieved the dream I'd never even dared to dream.

Going to the World Championships with an Aussie was an audacious, ludicrous dream I'd never even dared to dream, especially only starting in the sport with a 4-year-old Aussie, and one who is trained positively, very differently to the normal IGP approach.

But somehow, we had done it. I was beyond excited.

The Championships were held in Spain. And I can say that Gracie and I had the adventure of our lives. Travelling to Spain, meeting her fans world-wide, it was like travelling with a celebrity! The opening ceremony was a parade of all the dogs through the town, to the central square in front of the Mayor's office, where the mayor welcomed all the dogs and handlers. 144 teams from countries from round the world, all of Europe, USA, Canada, Japan, Korea, Argentina, Brazil - dogs and handlers flown in from thousands upon thousands of miles for this huge event.

The stadium was full during her performances and the crowd roared!! The conditions were impossible. Searing heat of 32 degrees in the stadium, she was on the field during the hottest time of the day, and her obedience performance started with her long down stay in the full sunshine, immediately after which she was expected to perform with military precision and full power. She was incredible. As you know, Aussies can (sometimes!) do as they wish, and I really thought that she'd, quite understandably, opt out, with her big coat. But she didn't. She kept on going. The crowd roared. The very next day was her protection round, and she never for one moment doubted herself. The helper doing the long attack looked at least 7 foot tall and roared down the field during the test of courage, but Gracie was entirely unphased. She showed the power, courage, resiliency and athleticism that the breed was made famous for. The sheer grit and determination to keep going, and immense courage overcoming the helper.





After her performance, crowd from all round the world crowded round her to meet this tiny little dog with such a huge, brave heart and extraordinary spirit. Everyone was taking photos of her, the helpers thought she was such a celebrity, they've never known a dog like her, with her spirit.

Her final element was the track. Well, little Gracie had only started tracking 2 years ago, so this was our weakest element, and the ground was like concrete. All that early preparation — going to Spain two weeks before, training daily on local soil, track-

ing in heat and dust — it paid off. Her track was beautiful. On difficult, hard ground where many dogs struggled, she earned 89 points — an impressive score for this competition!

But she went ahead and scored 89.

When she finished, she looked up at me as if to say, "Is that all? Let's go again."

We'd done it. We'd qualified. We'd earned the highest total score on Team GB.

All from a little Aussie with the biggest heart.

And to me, that shows the true tenacity and fighting spirit that Aussies are made of. It seems that our Aussies are destined to be outsiders in sports, but she has shown that when they do play, they play with more heart, spirit, courage, guts, strength, determination and athleticism than all the others, showing up the purpose bred dogs, these little ranch dogs, made for farm chores, working independently and guarding the home really cannot be underestimated. And Gracie just lives up to her name, Amazing Gracie, she's made breed history, and I could not be more proud!

#### 20. Place - Great Britain (United Kingdom) (716 points)

Kat Farrants	Solarwind Power and Glory	244
Sally Hibbert	Avonwolf Double Dutch	237
Brian Keenan	Avonwolf Falco	235





87	GB-03	Kat Farrants	Solarwind Power and Glory	Australian Shepherd	89	85	70	244	G
94	GB-02	Sally Hibbert	Avonwolf Double Dutch	Belgian Shepherd Dog (Malinois)	77	80	80	237	S
100	GB-01	Brian Keenan	Avonwolf Falco	Belgian Shepherd Dog (Malinois)	75	88	72	235	S
101	GB-05	John Williams	Avonwolf Delta Warrior	Belgian Shepherd Dog (Malinois)	77	81	73	231	S
GB-04	Oliver French	Catello Hex	German Shepherd (Double Coat)	-	-	-	-	disq.	

# GSDL All Breed National Championship

Date: 25th & 26th October 2025

Judge: Diane Segers



	Handler	Dog	A	B	C	Total
1	Edmund Kan	Hohenburg Gon (GSD)	95	93	94	282
2	Jennifer Fincham	Finchpark Ella (GSD)	99	94	88	281
3	Aidan Jackson	Hundenkraft Quartz (GSD)	97	88	93	278
4	Gabriela Machynkova	Mimnanz Lejabulls Narcissus (MAL)	97	78	84	259
5	Lisa Armstrong	Zederhaus Azara(GSD)	88	84	84	256
6	Leeanne Frame	Finchpark Cora	91	88	75	254
7	Gary Khakhian	Hundenkraft Demon (GSD)	80	84	89	253
	Brian Keenan	Avonwolf Falco (Mal)	66	94	88	248
	Jason Clarke	Hundenkraft Digit (GSD)	67	82	82	231
	Becky Lyons	Bataro vom Drachenwolf (GSD)	60	83	82	225
	Anna Garber	Vomatschenka Vixen (GSD)	20	87	94	201
	Elena Korol	Edainia Gomorrah (GSD)	10	93	78	181
	Ellie Littlechild	Vonlisand Beerus (GSD)	0	90	83	173
	Malcolm Gamon	Vayda z Lomeckeheho Polesi (GSD)	-	-	-	DQ
	Nick Warman	Candyman ze Zeme Qwannabe(GSD)	-	-	-	DQ
	Alison Lawrence	Cato Juttnerax (GSD)	-	-	-	DQ
	Donna Waterworth	Schons Qara Vomtholou	-	-	-	DQ
	Katherine Huggins	Edamentus BeKelda Injami (MAL)	40	79	T	Terminated
	Vera Langer	Kala vom Weinbergblinck	-	-	-	DQ
	Ruth Cahill	Gangskuza Echo	-	-	-	Withdrawn injured



# Ad Van Yperen

1943—2025



*Ad van Yperen*

1943 - 2025

Just before Christmas, Jo and I received a very sad message: our dear friend Ad had passed away at his home in the Netherlands

We had only seen Ad a couple of weeks earlier, calling in and staying overnight on our way back from CACIT Netherlands.

We made rapid arrangements and, thanks to friends, were able to fly out and attend what was a beautiful, touching, and very well-attended farewell to Ad in the city of Tiel, near his home in Maurik.

It was especially lovely that dogsport friends even provided a canine guard of honour.

I am sure others in the Netherlands will pen a far more complete account of Ad's life, his significant contributions, and his many successes in the sport, both nationally and worldwide.

However, I feel it appropriate to write something myself, as over the years Ad was not only a great friend and mentor to Jo and me, but also a tremendous supporter of IGP sport in the UK.

I first met Ad around 1995 when he judged at White Rose; I was trialling my dog Jeck at the time.

I quickly formed the impression of Ad as an honest, direct individual of great knowledge and wisdom who, while unafraid to say exactly what he thought (complimentary or not!), was always more than willing to give freely of his time to offer help and advice.

That opinion has not changed over the last 30 years.

We kept in contact with Ad, and when I was selected for the UK team competing at the WUSV IGP World Championships in the Netherlands in 2004, both I and the British team were offered the grounds of Ad's superb club (VDH Kgr Riviergebied Druten), along with the use of their helper, Arno Schuurmans — Ad's great friend and one of the best helpers I have known (and my friend).

The Dutch even provided a stadium-style environment for us to train in adjacent to the club grounds, along with as much tracking land as we needed.

This support for us and the UK team became almost annual. Many of us trained there in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2017, 2018, 2022, and 2023 before heading to World Championships in various European countries. We also visited Druten on numerous occasions with others, forming lifelong friendships along the way.



Ad and Arno were also regular visitors to the UK, helping and guiding both ourselves and many other enthusiasts during those visits.

Ad's house in the Netherlands became almost a second home to Jo and me; we have so many wonderful memories.

Ad also judged many trials in the UK, at both club and national level.

Since 2004, South Cheshire has supported over 20 UK IGP teams competing at various World Championships, and has been one of the most successful clubs in the UK. I can honestly say that, without the support of Ad and Arno, it is my belief that we would not have achieved this success.

Ad taught us so much about the sport — a legacy he should be immensely proud of.

I will miss his clear thinking, encyclopaedic knowledge, remarkable memory, and forthright manner, but most of all his cryptic smile when he felt I had got something wrong ("What do you think, Chris?"), along with his great warmth and genuine friendship.

Goodnight and sleep well, old friend — a life truly well lived.

By Chris Bows



# DIARY DATES 2026

These events are subject to change

Date	Group	Event	Judge	Venue	Entry Closing Date	Contact
21/3/26	BRG	National Koerung	Heather Macdonald	Mount Farm, Stowe Lane, Hixon, ST18 ONB	11/3/26 <a href="https://forms.gle/gbNPrCRWWB9JvdLAA">https://forms.gle/gbNPrCRWWB9JvdLAA</a>	Shirley Hutchinson <a href="mailto:gsdlnationalkoerung@gmail.com">gsdlnationalkoerung@gmail.com</a>  07803 175333
22/3/26	BRG	Regional Show and Annual Awards Presentation	Peter Schorling (SV Special International – Sweden)	Tuppenhurst Farm, Tuppenhurst Lane, Handscare WS15 4HU	8/3/26	Shirley Hutchinson <a href="mailto:gsdlbrg@gmail.com">gsdlbrg@gmail.com</a>  07803 175333
TBC	National Long Coat Club	Regional Show	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
26/4/26	Scottish Progressive GSD Group	Regional Show	Uwe Sprenger	Strathaven Rugby Club	TBC	TBC
10/5/26	BRG	National Koerung	Shirley Hutchinson	Mount Farm, Stowe Lane, Hixon, ST18 ONB	30/4/26 <a href="https://forms.gle/zA4uwphkeE1LEtuA6">https://forms.gle/zA4uwphkeE1LEtuA6</a>	Shirley Hutchinson <a href="mailto:gsdlnationalkoerung@gmail.com">gsdlnationalkoerung@gmail.com</a>  07803 175333
6-7/6/26	British Sieger Working Party	British Sieger	Dirk Scheerer	Tamworth Rugby Club, Tamworth, Staffs	9/5/26	Carole Lister <a href="mailto:Carolelister21@gmail.com">Carolelister21@gmail.com</a>
24/7/26	BRG	National Koerung	Heather MacDonald	Winwick Leisure Centre	13/7/26 <a href="https://forms.gle/kkrU75b2eUGRBg8t5">https://forms.gle/kkrU75b2eUGRBg8t5</a>	Shirley Hutchinson <a href="mailto:gsdlnationalkoerung@gmail.com">gsdlnationalkoerung@gmail.com</a>  07803 175333
25/7/26	NWGSDG	Regional Show	Jens Lambertus (SV)	Winwick Leisure Centre	TBC	TBC
26/7/26	BGSDTC	Regional Show		Winwick Leisure Centre, Winwick	TBC	TBC
September	BRG	Regional Show	TBC	TBC	TBC	Shirley Hutchinson <a href="mailto:gsdlbrg@gmail.com">gsdlbrg@gmail.com</a>  07803 175333
4/10/26	Midland Region GSD Group	Regional Show	Daniel Hanswillem enke (SV)	TBC	TBC	P Cassidy <a href="mailto:Secretary.mrgsdg@gmail.com">Secretary.mrgsdg@gmail.com</a>  07708 754447
22/11/26	GSDL BRG	National Koerung	Shirley Hutchinson	Mount Farm, Stowe Lane, Hixon, ST18 ONB	11/11/26 <a href="https://forms.gle/48pHyDPXjiEejoJe6">https://forms.gle/48pHyDPXjiEejoJe6</a>	Shirley Hutchinson <a href="mailto:gsdlnationalkoerung@gmail.com">gsdlnationalkoerung@gmail.com</a>  07803 175333



Judge Presentation  
**Peter Schorling, Sweden**  
**International Specialist Judge, WUSV**

I am 49 years old and live in Jönköping, Sweden, together with my wife and children. I have been surrounded by dogs all my life, and my passion for the German Shepherd Dog began in childhood. My first own German Shepherd, Janosch von der Kahler Heide, was shown at the BSZS in Hamburg in 1995, where he placed SG21 – an experience that sparked my lifelong dedication to the breed.

Together with my family, I run Kennel Team Bern, founded in 2006. Since then, we have bred 32 litters, always focusing on correct structure, strong character, and working ability. We are proud to only use dogs with proven working titles in our breeding program. Over the years, dogs from our kennel have achieved several notable results at major events, including top placements in breeder's groups and VA titles in working classes. Our dogs have also achieved success internationally in countries such as India, Australia, the USA, and Denmark.

I became a licensed show judge in Sweden in 2019 and have since judged German Shepherd Dogs in Sweden, Finland, and Norway. In addition, I am recognized as a Breed Survey Judge (2023) and International Specialist Judge within the WUSV (2025). I have also been honoured with the invitation to judge the Finnish Sieger Show 2026, which I regard as a great privilege.

From 2020 to 2026, I served on the Central Board of the Swedish German Shepherd Club, including four years as Chairman. I have also been actively involved in various committees, as well as in district and local club work.


Beyond my passion for the breed itself, this involvement has given me the opportunity to meet dedicated German Shepherd enthusiasts from all over the world. As a handler, I have had the privilege to present dogs in almost every European country, as well as in the USA, India, China, and Australia.

The German Shepherd Dog represents versatility, working ability, and sound character, and I remain deeply committed to preserving these qualities for the future.

I am really looking forward to meet all the GSD enthusiasms in the UK and I am excited to judge your dogs.

Peter Schorling  
 Sweden

Regular Events	Group	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>Sundays 11am – 5pm</b>	North West GSD Group	Show and IGP training	NW GSD Group Wigan Lancashire	Steve Horrocks <a href="mailto:dinura@hotmail.co.uk">dinura@hotmail.co.uk</a>  07875 309136 Phil Smith <a href="mailto:nwgsdg@gmail.com">nwgsdg@gmail.com</a> 01942 709192  07979 228096





# TOP DOGS 2025



## Standard Coat Males

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Blerio Bezique @ Mascani**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Tornado Du Val D'anzin**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Siskiva Mr Brightside**
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Anton v Haus Garyn**
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Wally v Sudenville**
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Finleric Lugo at Siskiva**
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Rafaye Rikkor at Tasella**
- joint 8<sup>th</sup> **Zandamor Hova**
- joint 8<sup>th</sup> **Obi av Rostadgarden**

## Standard Coat Females

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Zahel v Amur**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Kleehuegel Holly**
- joint 3<sup>rd</sup> **Mascani Denva at Howlinwolf**
- joint 3<sup>rd</sup> **Kamilla v Nurburgring**
- joint 5<sup>th</sup> **Magic v Herbramer Wald**
- joint 5<sup>th</sup> **Hundark Christmas Spirit**
- joint 5<sup>th</sup> **Rosebud Edie of Hundark**
- 8<sup>th</sup> **Zandamor Handa**
- joint 9<sup>th</sup> **Billie v Huhnegrab**
- joint 9<sup>th</sup> **Glensmodan Eika**
- joint 9<sup>th</sup> **Glensmodan Rogue**





## TOP DOGS 2025



### Long Stock Coat Males

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Blaven v Wanakon**
- joint* 2<sup>nd</sup> **Rommel vd Templehoeve**
- joint* 2<sup>nd</sup> **Samurai Armagedonas**
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Kaizuka Bomber**
- joint* 5<sup>th</sup> **Knut vd Wilden Dreizehn**
- joint* 5<sup>th</sup> **Lorgyle Arran**
- joint* 5<sup>th</sup> **Marinita Neo**
- joint* 5<sup>th</sup> **Stelainros Meister**
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Bossenburg boss**
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Yakasimba Baloo**

### Long Stock Coat Females

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Fenya v Springberg**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Yakasimba Alohomora**
- joint* 3<sup>rd</sup> **Hope De Casa Celta**
- joint* 3<sup>rd</sup> **Kleehuegel Helga**
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Hausruma Auroura**
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Kaizuka Ausha**
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Yakasimba Bubbles**
- joint* 8<sup>th</sup> **Berra v Springberg**
- joint* 8<sup>th</sup> **Marinita Niki**
- joint* 8<sup>th</sup> **Wolf Empire Tanita**





## TOP JUNIOR HANDLERS 2025



**Age 6 years - 11 years**

**1<sup>st</sup> Hailey Olianka**

**joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Alexander Williams**

**joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Lia Stevenson**

**4<sup>th</sup> Evelyn Hardy**



**Age 12 years - 16 years**

**1<sup>st</sup> Brianna Hall**

**joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Alexxa Cowan**

**joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Cara Henderson**

**4<sup>th</sup> Lacey Dow**

**joint 5<sup>th</sup> Julia Sobolweska**

**joint 5<sup>th</sup> Smilte Jacunskyte**





## TOP UK KENNELS 2025



**1<sup>st</sup> Yakasimba**      **Rebecca Landgren**

*joint 2<sup>nd</sup>*      **Kleehuegel**      **Paul Bradley & Judy Hallsworth**

*joint 2<sup>nd</sup>*      **Zandamor**      **Craig Rice & Hazel Docherty**

**4<sup>th</sup> Kaizuka**      **Tanya Gray**



**5<sup>th</sup> Mascani**      **Maureen Lakin, Zep Zizzi & Shirley Hutchinson**

**6<sup>th</sup> Marinita**      **Anita & Melissa Guy**



**7<sup>th</sup> Glensmodan**      **Michael Hurley**

**8<sup>th</sup> Shernaa**      **Rhilip Prince & Kerry Ayling**

**9<sup>th</sup> Bossenburg**      **Ali Raza**



**10<sup>th</sup> Rafaye**      **Joe Summerhill & Jackie MCGough**



## GOLD MEDALISTS 2025



**Fenya vom Springberg**



**Blerio Beziue @ Mascani**



**Kaizuka Bomber**



**Finleric Lugo at Siskiva**



**Berra vom Springberg**



**Tornado Du Val D'anzin**



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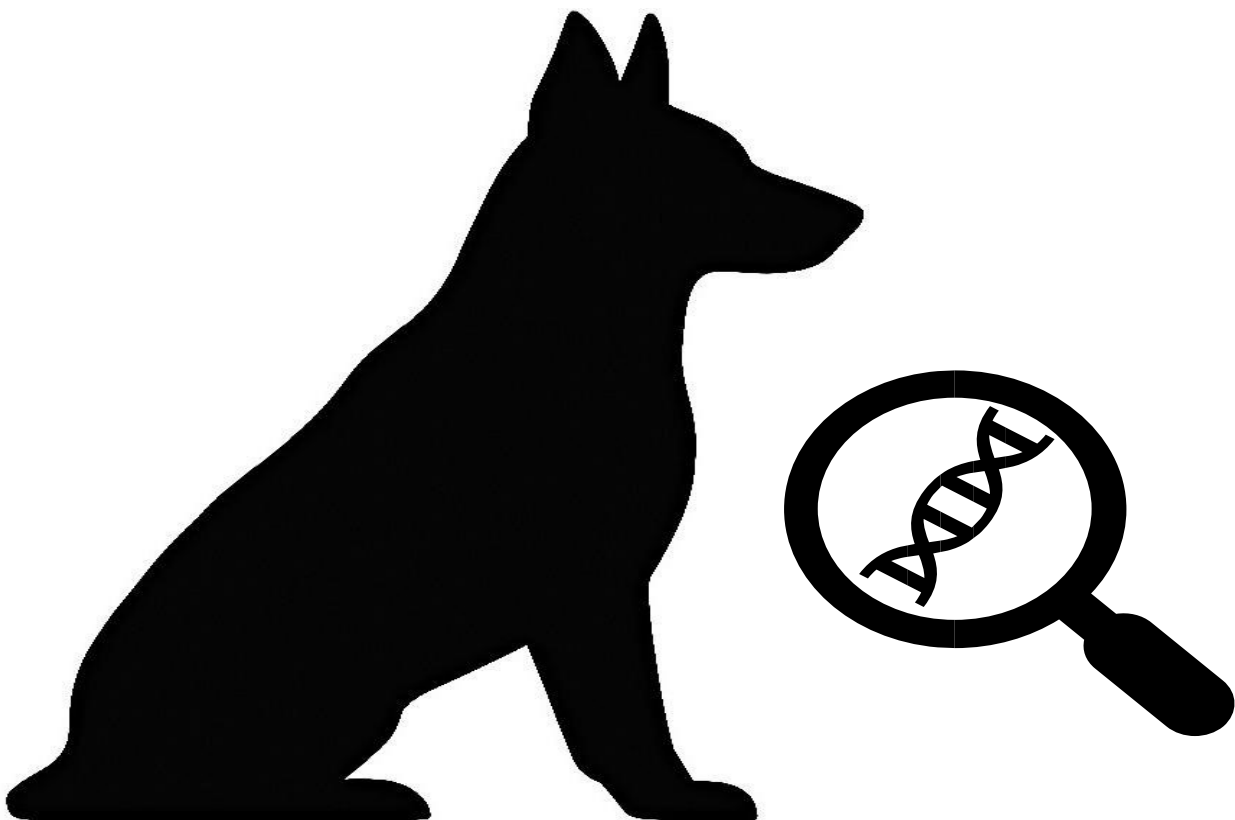
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# SHOWING DOGS

GSDL-BRG

## Strategic Concept



Introduction of a long-term breeding program to overcome the genetic bottleneck in the German Shepherd

**PATRICK SEND, 14.09.2025**

### Keywords

*German Shepherd, Genetic Bottleneck, Inbreeding Coefficient (IK), Ancestry Loss Coefficient (AVK), Genetic Diversification, Outcross Breeding, Popular Sire Syndrome, Breeding Strategy, Breeding Hygiene, Breed Standard, Dog Health, Genomic Inbreeding Coefficient (gIK)*

## Abstract

The breeding of the German Shepherd is facing a genetic crisis caused by overtyping, inbreeding and limited genetic diversity. The present strategic concept proposes a three-phase, long-term breeding program based on scientifically sound key figures and aimed at controlled genetic diversification. The aim is to maintain and promote the vitality, health and usability of the breed. Targeted measures such as outcross breeding, the introduction of genetic indicators and international cooperation are intended to overcome the genetic bottleneck and ensure the future viability of the breed.

## Current situation in the breeding of the German Shepherd

The systematic breeding of the German Shepherd began in 1899 with the aim of creating a versatile, healthy and nerve-wracked working dog that is predisposed to high performance. The clearly defined breeding goals place great emphasis on functionality and a balanced character, which has established the breed worldwide as a service, rescue and family dog. Over time, however, breeding split into two main lineages, which pursue different emphases due to two driving interest groups:

**Exhibition („Show line“):** This line focuses primarily on aesthetic and exterior-related features that are relevant to exhibitions. Dogs from this line are usually criticized for a strongly sloping topline, a tense or reared back, an excessively angled hindquarters with a heel-tight gait and an overall unstable hindquarters with disproportionately long lower legs.

**IGP-Sport („Working line“):** This line focuses primarily on performances that are relevant in IGP sports. For example, these would be work skills, drive characteristics and resilience. Points of criticism here are exaggerated demonstrations and an unbalanced nature.

Sharply sloping topline and unstable, angled hindquarters within breeding are criticized in the public and veterinary debate as a "torture breeding trait". In general, these overtypifications endanger not only the usability of the breed, but also the continued existence of the entire breeding of German Shepherds, since the public does not distinguish between the lines. Thus, the current situation represents not only a cynological crisis, but also an ethical one. Although the German Animal Welfare Act (§ 11b TierSchG) prohibits the breeding of animals that suffer from breeding characteristics, the enforcement of this paragraph is difficult because there is a lack of a concrete, legally reliable definition of torture breeding. This makes an urgent selfcorrection of the breed club all the more necessary in order to protect the breed from any overtyping and from state breeding bans.

However, the German Shepherd, which has been one of the most popular and versatile dog breeds in the world for decades, is also an excellent example of the importance of pedigree dog breeding. Originally bred in Germany to work with flocks of sheep, it has developed over time into a versatile companion for many areas such as police, military, rescue service or sports. Breed standards and versatile breeding regulations set the framework conditions to ensure the health and well-being of the dogs. By raising awareness and strictly implementing the existing guidelines by those responsible for breeding, the described undesirable developments can be stopped in breeding. As with any pedigree dog breeding, genetic problems such as hereditary diseases can develop due to too close inbreeding, which is used due to the possibility of homozygous of the desired traits. The health situation of the German Shepherd is characterized

by a number of poly- and monogenetic hereditary diseases. The best-known polygenic diseases are hip dysplasia (HD) and elbow dysplasia (ED). Other genetic problems can include susceptibility to allergies, epilepsy, cauda equina syndrome or gastric torsion. This is also intended to illustrate the genetic challenge in breeding in order to counteract the overtyping that is currently in the public eye. Unfortunately, the current data situation provides clear indications of an already advanced genetic bottleneck in the German Shepherd, so that there is an urgent need for action.

### The genetic bottleneck

A genetic bottleneck occurs when the genetic diversity of a population drastically decreases, resulting in an irretrievable loss of genetic variants. This is done by reducing them to a few breeding animals, intensive line breeding, inbreeding or by selecting them for certain characteristics (e.g. appearance, behaviour). The goal in dog breeding is to consolidate certain breed-typical, positive characteristics. The impoverishment of genetic diversity within a population is accepted and negative consequences are theoretically eliminated through strict selection. This bottleneck effect in pedigree dog breeding is intensified by two causes:

- **Closed studbooks:** Since the gene pool is not refreshed from the outside by crossbreeding other populations, genetic material is lost with each generation, leading to a steadily increasing level of inbreeding. An annual reduction in the number of studbooks reinforces this effect. A decline in the number of studbooks not only means fewer breeding animals per se, but also a smaller selection of breeding partners (limited combinatorics) and fewer active breeders or breeding facilities (less genetic diversification). Looking at the SV studbook numbers from 2012 to 2024, the annual reduction is 4.6% on average:

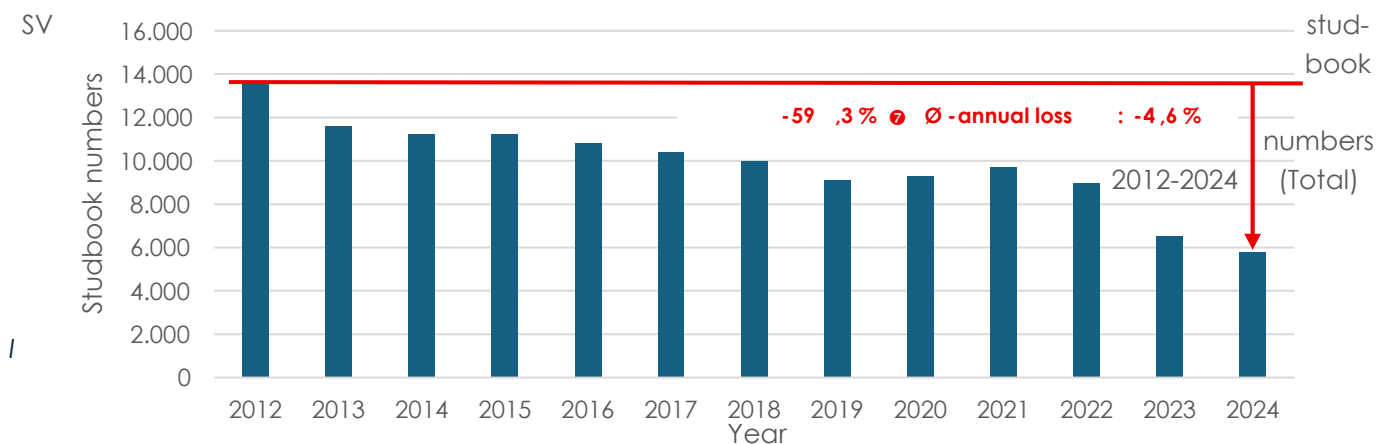


Illustration 1: Development of the SV studbook numbers from 2012 to 2024

- The **"Popular Sire" syndrome:** The disproportionately frequent use of single, successful stud dogs means that many offspring in the first generation are at least half-siblings. This not only enriches desirable traits, but also undesirable genetic defects, and also

increases the degree of inbreeding of the entire population. This effect can also be found in the breeding of German Shepherds:

Table 1: Litter frequency 2020-2024

Year of registration	Number of fathers ( $\leq 5$ Litters)	Number of fathers ( $> 5$ Litters)	Number of fathers (Total)	Number of mothers (Total)	Number of litters (Total)
2020	458	72	530	1.481	1.687
2021	468	82	550	1.528	1.720
2022	494	66	560	1.432	1.610
2023	400	40	440	1.062	1.155
2024	348	40	388	956	1.028

### Litter frequency of father males 2024

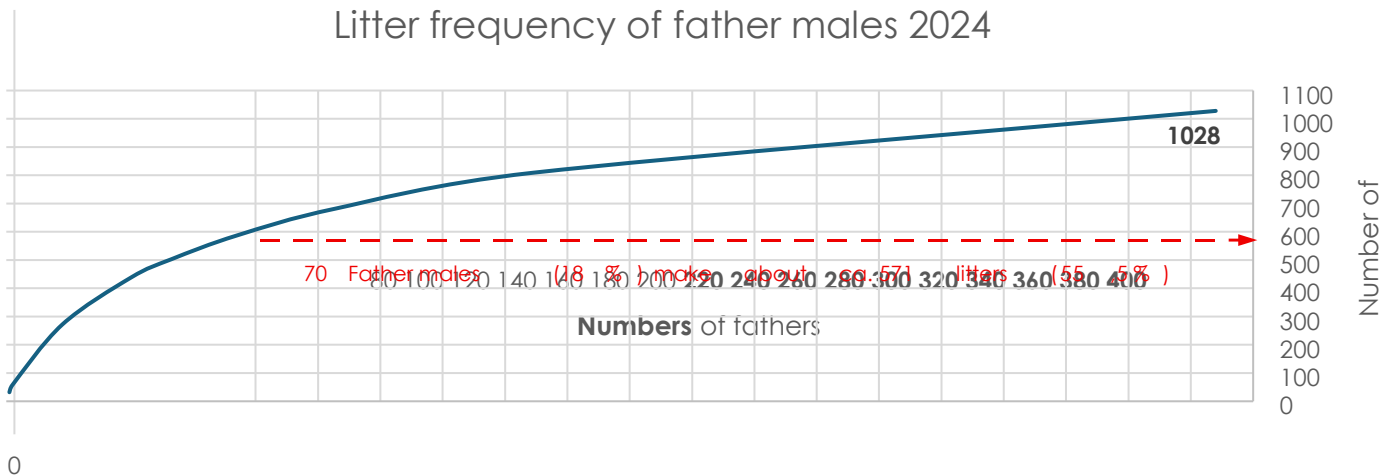


Illustration 2: Litter frequency of father males 2024

In addition to closed studbooks and the excessive use of individual stud dogs, the speed of the succession of generations also plays a decisive role in genetic stability. The faster new generations emerge within a lineage, the more often certain inheritances are repeated and the more strongly a genetic narrowing can manifest itself. This is particularly noticeable in the case of the high-breed line, whose succession of generations is significantly faster than that of the working line. This can be illustrated by the genealogical analysis of the champion dogs of the BSZS and BSP of 2019, Willy vom Kuckucksland (year of birth 2013) and K'nox vom Tollhaus (year of birth 2015): If you look exclusively at the sire line, there are 31 years between K'nox and his great-great-great-grandfather (Olf Heidetal) and 13 years between Willy and his great-great-great-grandfather (Hill Farbenspiel). In Willy's case, the 8th generation (Cello Römerau) can already be found 30 years ago within the paternal line. It can therefore be assumed that the highbreeding line tends to have more inheritances over the same

For this reason, for further analysis of the current situation, the highly placed males from youth, young and working dog classes in the Stockhaar variety of the BSZS 2025 were examined more closely. All first 20 of the respective classes as well as the dogs rated with V-selection (a total of

69 males) were tested according to three sire lines – Vegas du Haut Mansard, Remo vom Fichtenschlag, as well as the combination of these two lines from the O-litter Radhaus – up to the 5th generation (maternal and paternal) binary (present, not present):

Table 2: Binary analysis of a sample of males of the BSZS 2025 with regard to three selected sire lines

Sire line	Number [Stk.]	Percentage [%]
Vegas	3	4,3
Remo	1	1,4
O-Wurf Radhaus	0	0
Vegas+Remo	5	7,2
Vegas+O-Wurf	3	4,3
Remo+O-Wurf	19	27,5
All three	37	53,6
Free	1	1,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100</b>

This binary sample analysis shows that 98.6% of the selected, highest-ranked males contain three of the selected sire lines in terms of quality. A frequency count of these was not initially taken into account, but this would further exacerbate the already worrying prognosis of a genetic narrowing of the bloodlines. If no countermeasures are taken, an increase in health problems, a fundamental decline in performance and a decreasing quality of life of the animals can be expected in the medium term (5 to 10 years). In the long term (10-20 years) even the loss of functional characteristics including a decline in popularity or a possible complete splitting of the breed with regard to the two main lineages. In the worst case, the entire German Shepherd dog breed is no longer sustainable in its current form.

The data presented provide clear indications of an already advanced genetic bottleneck, whereby the high-breeding line is highly likely to show a greater loss of genetic diversity compared to the working line. In order to optimize or at least maintain the vitality of the entire breed, the consequence of this finding is to apply countermeasures with the aim of genetic diversification. In theory, there are the following countermeasures, of which there are already successful case studies:

Genetic diversification: Targeted crossbreeding of less related lines ("outcross breeding") or even other herding dog breeds (controlled by e.g. phenotype assessment).

Breeding strategies with a focus on heterozygosity: Use of genetic tests to avoid close matings and their monitoring.

Promotion of smaller breeding lines: Targeted support for breeders who work outside the dominant bloodlines.

International cooperation: exchange of genetic material across national borders.

Various measurable indicators are used to assess genetic health, based either on pedigrees or genomic data:

Table 3: Measurable indicators of breeding hygiene and genetic diversity

Indicator	Basic	Description	Possible target value
<b>Inbreeding coefficient (IK)</b>	Pedigree	Indicates the probability that both alleles at a gene locus originate from a common ancestor.	≤ 6,25% (Inbreeding 3-3: IK = 6,25%)
<b>Ancestral loss coefficient (AVK)</b>	Pedigree	Measures the percentage of actually different ancestors in the family tree	≥ 85 %
<b>Genomic inbreeding coefficient (gIK)</b>	Genomicbased	This modern method is considered the gold standard because it measures the actual genetic similarity of a dog by analyzing hundreds of thousands of genetic markers. In contrast to traditional IC, gIK also records inbreeding in distant generations and provides a more precise picture of genetic diversity. The value of the gIK correlates directly with vitality, fertility and susceptibility to diseases.	< 5% (Assumption)

The aim of these measures should always be to maintain the breed-typical characteristics according to breed standards with improved, long-term genetic health and performance. In the following, a concept strategy of a breeding program will be put up for discussion, which should enable targeted, controlled and scientifically accompanied genetic diversification in the German Shepherd.

Concept Strategy: Breeding Program to Overcome the Genetic Bottleneck in German Shepherds

The program is divided into three phases and is based on the generation time of the German Shepherd, which is assumed to be about 2.5 to 3 years. It spans several generations to have a lasting impact on breeding.

Phase 1 (Years 1-5 | approx. 1-2 generations): Introduction

Create a database: The breed association makes the calculation of the inbreeding coefficient (IK) and ancestor loss coefficient (AVK) mandatory for all breeding animals. These values are recorded in the central database (SV-DOxS) and made transparent for breeders. An IK of less than 6.25 % and an AVK of over 85 % are considered to be reference values. Shortly before the end of this phase, practicable values should be introduced on a mandatory basis.

Training and information: Compulsory courses for breeders, breeding wardens and judges are introduced, explaining the meaning and application of IK and AVK as well as their limitations. The campaign focuses on the fact that these initial measures are a necessary and cost-effective first step to raise awareness of breeding hygiene.

Reward system for genetically responsible breeding: A reward system for breeders and exhibitors can be an effective tool to promote genetically sustainable breeding practices – without coercion, but through incentives. Breeders could earn "breeding credits" if they

demonstrably contribute to genetic diversification, such as the use of genetically rare parents to avoid popular sire effects or include desirable, pedigree-based indicators in their litters. These credits can have a variety of applications. For example, you could pay these in order to receive reduced fees at breeding club events or you could develop a certificate "Genetically Sustainable Breeders" to increase the visibility of these breeders and thus develop a signal effect for the public image.

Start of an SV outcross program – identification of "bridge dogs": The core strategy is line merging with the clear goal of preserving breed-typical characteristics according to breed standards with improved, long-term genetic health and performance. Dogs of the high breeding line are mated with genetically diverse dogs of the performance breeding line in order to broaden the genetic basis. This approach is implemented by identifying so-called "bridge dogs". A bridge dog is a specifically selected breeding dog from the working line of the German Shepherd Dog, which meets the breed standard in terms of health, character and conformation. It serves as a genetic connection ("bridge") to the high breeding line in order to increase genetic diversity through controlled mating without losing the breed-typical characteristics. The selection is independent of event successes and is based on breeding-relevant quality criteria. The identification of suitable dogs is determined by a committee of breeding committee and experienced, high-profile breeders of both lines, with many years of line breeding (motto: "How can we preserve genetic diversity together?"). If necessary, it makes sense to involve scientific support in order to lay the foundation for the latest development of veterinary genetics. The procedure is less radical in its execution, as it relies on an internal merging of the two already existing lines, instead of crossbreeding similar hut dog breeds, which should facilitate acceptance by breeders and breed representatives. The project should therefore not be carried out in isolation, but network-based to promote acceptance, i.e.

with regular and understandable status reports. The goal should be to have at least completed the planning of the program at the end of the phase (e.g. selection of breeding parameters, backcrossing strategies), ideally the first crossing is already available.

Establishment of an international genetics bank under the leadership of the WUSV (World Union of German Shepherd Dog Associations): The establishment of an international genetics bank under the leadership of the WUSV is a strategic extension of the SV Outcross program. The aim is to centrally collect genomic data from different countries, analyze them and make them usable for targeted genetic diversification. Germany, as the motherland of the German Shepherd, should play a pioneering role in this – both in technical implementation and in ethical and scientific design. Such a genetics bank would expand the gene pool with international lines, promote genetically valuable but less common breeding lines and create a transparent, comparable database. It could also serve as a basis for population genetic research and the development of new markers of health, behavior and performance. At the same time, challenges arise such as the clarification of data protection and property rights, the need for international standardization of genetic tests, the establishment of a secure and scalable database infrastructure, and long-term financing and acceptance by breeders and national clubs. The genetics bank can serve as a lighthouse project that sets international standards and creates trust. While WUSV's genetics bank can be a valuable tool for international genetic diversification in the long term, the associated costs and infrastructural requirements should not be underestimated. In comparison, the SV Outcross program is much easier to implement, more cost-effective and more effective.

Therefore, the genetics bank should be considered as a complementary but not a priority measure.

Introduction of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Key performance indicators are valuable instruments for controlling, quality assurance and further development of dog breeding. In the best case, these key figures are assigned to so-called SMART goals in their objectives. The acronym SMART stands for Specific, Measurable,

Accepted/Attractive (or Executable), Realistic and Time-Bound. The following KPIs are proposed: Genetic key figures (e.g. annual  $\emptyset$ -IK or AVK), health key figures (e.g. proportion of HD/ED-free dogs), breeding performance indicators (e.g.  $\emptyset$  litter size, litter frequency), IGP key performance indicators (e.g. success rate in IGP tests) and network key figures (e.g. number of active breeders).

## Phase 2 (years 5-10 | approx. 2-4 generations): Optimization

Monitoring and evaluation: Breeding is monitored in more detail and constantly analyzed by the above-mentioned key figures. Realistic target values must be defined on which breeding can orient itself. Measurable improvements must be detected on the basis of the key figures and measures from phase 1. Measures may have to be adapted or discarded ("try often, fail fast").

SV Outcross Program – Recognition of Stabilized Lines: The program is in full swing and subject to regular monitoring. Through appropriate documentation and publication of the data, adjustments can be made quickly. The integration into regular breeding practice is completed at the end of this phase.

Differentiated limitation of mating acts: The blanket limitation to 90 mating acts is in principle a good basis, but cannot apply equally to all males, but must be designed depending on their genetic composition. This can be substantiated by the data obtained from phase 1.

Introduction of the gIK: After establishing the pedigree-based indicators, the genomic inbreeding coefficient (gIK) can be introduced as the primary breeding indicator and replace the previous indicators. This results in a far more accurate statement about the actual genetic diversity that meets than pedigree-based values. Breeders are encouraged to specifically look for matings with the lowest gIK value in order to broaden the genetic basis of the breed in the long term.

## Phase 3 (from year 10 | approx. 4+ generations): Long-term establishment

SV Outcross Programme – Consolidation: The aim is to secure genetic diversity in the long term through continuous monitoring. The new breeding philosophy must be anchored as the standard of the breed and "new" bloodlines that combine the best characteristics of both lines must be actively promoted.

Latest innovations: AI could be used to continuously improve monitoring and evaluation and develop forecasts in order to initiate preventive measures against any undesirable developments at an early stage.

Recurring diversification based on individual interest groups: Everyone should be aware that the breeding of specific interest groups can never be eliminated and preventive measures against negative effects should be taken for this purpose. The specific breeding goals must differ in principle, but not isolate – exchange must remain possible. On the basis of the instruments developed above, it should be possible to maintain the entire population by regularly returning individual animals to other lines. It is also helpful to establish and maintain breeder networks in cooperation with veterinary experts, especially in the context of diversification of breeding goals for German Shepherds (e.g. regular meetings, online forums, etc.).

The successful implementation of the strategy requires a radical rethink and a clear assignment of tasks to all parties involved:

**The breed club (SV, WUSV): The driving force**

The leading role of the breed club is decisive and guarantees success. It is responsible for setting rules, enforcing the new criteria and sanctioning violations. The association must take on the critical task of protecting the breed, even against the resistance of individual interests. The association must build and maintain a central genetic database. By creating incentives, such as premiums or special breeding permits, he can provide targeted support to breeders who work according to the new guidelines.

**The breeders: the guardians of the genetic material**

Breeders are the primary players and must be willing to change their breeding philosophy. They must put the scientific findings into practice by using genetic testing and planning matings based on the current state of the program. By participating in the training courses offered by the association and cooperating with breeding wardens and scientists, they become guardians of the genetic health of the breed.

### Breeding Wardens and Judges: Quality Control and Consultants

Their role shifts from the pure evaluation of the phenotype to a holistic view of the dog. They must learn to include genetic data and behavioral assessments in their decisions in addition to conformation. Their task is to advise breeders on the selection of the right breeding animals or to monitor or document the implementation of the program on site.

### Science: The basis of progress

Scientific institutions and genetic laboratories provide the basis for this program. Their task is to continuously research the genetic diversity of the breed and to accompany the breeding program through population genetic analyses and the validation of new genetic markers.

### The puppy buyer: The conscious consumer

Puppy buyers play an important role in breeding. They must be informed about the risks of torture breeding and explicitly support the breeding practices that have been developed, which prioritize health and vitality, through their purchasing decisions. By specifically looking for dogs with transparent health and genetic data, they can directly influence breeding.

The cornerstones of this pragmatic concept show that genetic diversification is possible if it is carried out in a controlled, targeted and scientifically supported manner. For the German Shepherd, opening up the gene pool – for example by specifically crossing its existing lines or international lines – would be a viable way to keep the breed healthy and productive in the long term.

### Summary and outlook

The document analyzes the current situation of the breeding of the German Shepherd Dog, which is characterized by a split into high breeding and working line as well as by genetic narrowing. Critical points are:

- Genetic bottleneck due to closed studbooks and the "Popular Sire" syndrome.
- Health risks such as HD, ED, epilepsy and other hereditary diseases.
- Loss of genetic diversity, especially in the high-breeding line.

To solve these problems, a **three-stage breeding program** is proposed:

#### *Phase 1: Introduction (Years 1–5)*

- Establishment of a genetic database (IK, AVK).
- Training of breeders and judges.
- Reward system for genetically sustainable breeding.
- Start of an outcross program with "bridge dogs" including an international WUSV genetics bank as a strategic addition.

#### *Phase 2: Optimization (Years 5-10)*

- Monitoring using KPIs.
- Introduction of the genomic inbreeding coefficient (gIK).
- Differentiated limitation of mating acts.

#### *Phase 3: Establishment (from year 10)*

- Consolidation of the new breeding lines.
- Use of AI for forecasting and control.
- Promotion of breeder networks and international exchange.

The implementation of the concept requires a rethink of all those involved - from breed clubs to breeders to puppy buyers. Genetic diversification is not only possible, but necessary to keep the breed healthy, productive and socially accepted in the long term. The combination of scientific support, targeted breeding strategy and international networking offers a realistic chance of protecting the German Shepherd from genetic impoverishment and ethical conflicts.

### About the author



### **About the author**

Patrick Send is the third generation of the Send family dedicated to the training and breeding of the German Shepherd. After studying mechanical engineering at the Mannheim University of Applied Sciences, he moved from Viernheim (Baden regional group), where he grew up, to Lower Bavaria (Bavaria-South regional group) and works there as a technology and innovation manager at Liebherr. He is married and the father of a daughter.

Since 1993 he has been a member of the Association for German Shepherd Dogs (SV) e.V. and has successfully presented numerous dogs at various breeding events. In addition to his various honorary board activities in local groups, he is SV breeding judge, SV judge and since 2024 SV licensing champion.

His motivation for the creation of this document is to constantly optimize the quality of pedigree dog breeding and to promote the long-term well-being of the dogs, so that future generations also have the opportunity to experience the extraordinary joy of the German Shepherd and its different applications. This is his incentive to develop innovative approaches to improve the quality of breeding and to introduce them to the cynological community. For questions or feedback, you can contact Patrick Send directly at [patrick.send@web.de](mailto:patrick.send@web.de).

**Don't forget to join the British Regional Group when you renew your GSDL membership this year. When you receive your renewal email - follow the link to login to MemberMojo. Before going to checkout, you get the option to edit your details - click on Membership and select an option including BRG.**

As approved at the 2024 BRG AGM, from 1st January 2026, BRG Gold Medals, Certificates of Excellence and Top Ten Awards will only be awarded to paid up BRG members.

## \* Guidelines for the Preparation of a German Shepherd Dog Evaluation Summary (Report / Beschreibung / Smula )\*

By: Roberto Caputi

The Report is a formal technical document prepared by a qualified specialist judge. Its purpose is to provide a structured, objective, and detailed description of an individual dog, evaluated strictly in accordance with the official breed standard. For the German Shepherd Dog, this corresponds to FCI Standard No. 166.

The Report serves not only as an evaluative record but also as an educational and reference tool, allowing breeders, judges, and students of the breed to understand the strengths, limitations, and overall conformity of the specimen with the ideal standard. In general, when something is not mentioned, it is because the judge considers it to be average.

### \*Methodological Framework for Evaluation\*

The evaluation must be carried out systematically, starting with the dog in a natural standing position and continuing with the evaluation of movement and behaviour.

#### I. \*Static Evaluation (Standing Position)\*

The dog should be presented in a relaxed and natural posture, without forced positioning.

- \*General Appearance\*: Evaluate the overall physical impression of the dog, including: breed type and harmony, sexual dimorphism (clear differentiation between male and female), size and proportions, balance between bone structure and musculature (substance), coat quality and pigmentation, general presence, expression, and nobility. This section establishes whether the dog immediately conveys the correct breed image.

- \*Development\*: Evaluate the dog's physical development in relation to its chronological age. The evaluation should reflect age-appropriate expectations, recognizing that a young adult, a mature dog, and a fully developed specimen cannot be judged using identical criteria.

- \*Head\*: Examine the head in terms of: cranial structure and proportions, expression and breed character, shape, size, and colour of the eyes, carriage and firmness of the ears, intensity and definition of the mask, craniofacial stop, lips, and dentition. The head should reflect both functional efficiency and breed identity.

- \*Topline\*: Evaluate the continuity, firmness, and correctness of the topline from: the neck, through the withers, the back, the croup, and to the tip of the tail. Any interruption or weakness should be clearly described.

- \*Underline\*: Analyze: development of the chest and fore chest, depth and length of the chest, abdominal length, and tuck-up. This evaluation contributes to understanding endurance and functional capacity.

- \*Body / Thorax\*: Examine the thoracic structure and development of the ribcage, evaluating the form and proportions viewed from both the front and in profile, with attention to adequate volume and correct shape.

- \*Limbs and Angulation\*: Evaluate: front and rear angulation. Straightness and correctness of the limbs (aplombs), strength and inclination of the metacarpals, rear assembly, and stability. Correct limb structure is essential for efficient movement and durability.

#### II. \*Evaluation in Movement\*

Analyze the dog's movement: from behind, to evaluate stability, from the front, to evaluate alignment and convergence. In profile, observing the trot to assess rear propulsion, front reach, coordination, and the ability to maintain a firm and harmonious topline during movement. Movement should confirm the structural findings observed in the static evaluation.

#### III. \*Temperament\*

Evaluate the dog's mental and behavioural qualities, including: psychological stability, self-confidence, attentiveness, reactions to environmental stimuli. Temperament is an integral component of breed type and should always be addressed in the Report.

#### IV. \*Technical and Didactic Recommendations\*

- \*Terminological Precision\*: Use the official breed terminology consistently (e.g., pronounced withers, fluid gait, well-positioned and sufficiently long croup) to ensure clarity, precision, and professional consistency.

- \*Descriptive Precision\*: The Report should be sufficiently detailed to allow the reader to form a clear mental image of the dog without direct observation.

- \*Reference to FCI Standard No. 166\*: All observations should be explicitly or implicitly contrasted with the official standard, clearly identifying virtues and faults in relation to the ideal model of the German Shepherd Dog.

**Note:** There is no perfect dog, therefore, describing a dog as it is, pointing out what needs to be improved, does not necessarily mean demeriting the dog as a whole, but rather providing the reader with a clear written image of what the dog really is, with the purpose of knowing it technically for future breeding's, for example.

## \*Evaluation of Breeding/Kennel Groups in a Sieger show: A Technical Tool to Assess the Genetic Consistency of a Breeding Program\*

By Roberto Caputi

In specialized German Shepherd Dog exhibitions, the presentation of breeding groups represents one of the most significant instances to evaluate the selection work of a breeder. Unlike individual evaluation, which reflects the quality of a particular specimen, the breeding group allows analyzing the consistency of the breeding program of a kennel and its impact on the breed population.

### \*Purpose of the Evaluation\*

The evaluation of breeding groups in a Sieger show aims to determine:

- The average quality of the stock produced by the kennel.
- The phenotypic uniformity of its specimens
- The coherence in the applied genetic selection
- The ability of the breeding program to fix breed type and functionality

### \*Registration Data\*

The evaluation sheet includes basic information that contextualizes the presented group, including:

- Name of the breeding program (Kennel)
- Variety presented (coat)
- Number of males and females
- Working class dogs
- Age categories (very young, young, adults)
- Date and acting judge

### \*Evaluation Criteria according to the SV (Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde) Regulations of Germany\*

The technical evaluation of the breeding group is structured in three main areas, in accordance with the regulations of the SV (Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde) of Germany:

- \*A. Quality (up to 40 points)\*: Evaluates the individual quality of the specimens within their respective categories.
- \*B. Homogeneity (up to 40 points)\*: Measures the degree of uniformity among the specimens in the group. It is important to note that the pursuit of type uniformity should not lead to the abuse of inbreeding, as this can compromise the health and genetic diversity of the breed. The minimum recommended inbreeding is 3-3, but it is essential to consider the risks associated with excessive inbreeding.
- \*C. Degree of Difficulty (up to 20 points)\*: Considers the diversity of parental combinations involved in the group.

### \*Result and Classification\*

The sum of the three sections determines the final score out of 100 points, from which the classification of the breeding group emerges.

### \*Importance for German Shepherd Dog Breeding\*

The evaluation of breeding groups in the Sieger show fulfils a strategic function:

- Encourages planned breeding programs
- Incentivizes genetic consistency
- Promotes sustained breed improvement
- Recognizes the serious work of the breeder

A great breeding program is not defined by an outstanding specimen, but by the ability to produce quality dogs consistently, without compromising the health and genetic diversity of the breed. The presentation of breeding groups in a Sieger show is, in essence, the public exhibition of the genetic direction of a kennel. Because in German Shepherd Dog breeding, excellence is not an isolated event, but the result of a program sustained over time that balances the pursuit of quality with the preservation of health and genetic diversity.



## **\*Evaluation of Progeny Groups: The Genetic Legacy of the Producer in German Shepherd Dog Breeding\***

**By Roberto Caputi**

The evaluation of an individual in German Shepherd breeding is not limited to the show ring or the acquisition of working titles. The true dimension of a breeder is revealed in their offspring. The analysis of progeny groups is a fundamental pillar in responsible selection and the preservation of the breed standard.

### **\*Evaluating the Producer through their Offspring\***

A progeny group brings together several offspring of the same sire, usually from different dams, presented together for analysis. This approach provides an objective view of the breeder's genetic heritage, revealing which traits are fixed in the offspring and which appear variably.



### **\*Technical Evaluation Criteria\***

The observation of a progeny group focuses on the characteristics of the offspring in relation to the sire and the breed standard. The most relevant aspects include:

- Confirmation that the offspring represent or do not represent the type of the sire
- Homogeneity: Uniformity among the offspring is a direct indicator of genetic strength.
- Sexual Differentiation: Correct expression of masculinity in males and femininity in females reflects hormonal balance and adequate transmission of secondary sex characteristics.
- Proportions and Size: Body balance and adjustment to the ideal size are essential to preserve the utility and harmony of the German Shepherd.
- Limb Alignment and Angulations: Correct alignment of limbs and adequate anterior and posterior angulation determine the efficiency of movement and the functional longevity of the individual.
- Overall Firmness: Structural solidity, both in static and motion, speaks to anatomical integrity and working capacity.
- Health: The presence of hip and elbow dysplasia radiographs in the offspring is essential to evaluate the health of the bloodline.
- Working Ability: The number of offspring that have passed the tests to belong to the working class is an indicator of the breeder's ability to transmit skills and characteristics necessary for work.
- Conformity with FCI Standard 166: The evaluation of the offspring must be in conformity with the breed standard of the German Shepherd established by the FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale), which describes the ideal characteristics of the breed.

### **\*A Selection Tool, not an Exhibition\***

The progeny group is a technical genetic selection tool that allows identifying improving producers, detecting recurrent defects, and guiding breeding decisions based on objective evidence. It is a strategic guide for the serious breeder and an opportunity for the specialized judge to assess the real influence of an individual on the population.

### **\*Responsibility and Vision for the Future\***

The history of the German Shepherd has shown that great bloodlines are not built by chance, but through rigorous selection and long-term vision. Evaluating progeny groups is, in essence, evaluating the direction of the breed. Excellence is not measured by what the dog is today, but by what its offspring will be tomorrow.





## Step Into the Ring: Become a GSDL-BRG Apprentice Judge!

Are you passionate about German Shepherd Dogs and eager to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the breed? The GSDL-BRG (German Shepherd Dog League – British Regional Group) is inviting dedicated enthusiasts to embark on a rewarding journey as Apprentice Judges. If you've ever dreamed of stepping into the judge's ring, now is the perfect time to turn that ambition into reality.

### Why Become a GSDL-BRG Apprentice Judge?

Judging is more than evaluating dogs—it's about upholding breed standards, fostering sportsmanship, and contributing to the legacy of the German Shepherd. As an Apprentice Judge, you'll gain hands-on experience, mentorship from seasoned experts, and the satisfaction of giving back to the community. The GSDL-BRG offers a structured, supportive pathway to help you develop your skills and confidence.

### What Does the Pathway Look Like?

The GSDL-BRG has established clear, achievable criteria for aspiring Apprentice Judges:

- **Membership & Experience:** You must be a GSDL-BRG member, have served on a breed club committee for at least three years within the last decade, and have bred or owned three German Shepherds that achieved SG or V at a GSDL-BRG event.

**Knowledge & Integrity:** Passing an approved breed specialist judges exam is essential, and you must have at least five years of active involvement with the breed. Only those of good standing are eligible.

### The Apprenticeship: Learning by Doing

Once accepted, Apprentice Judges participate in at least two supervised judging appointments, each under a different GSDL-BRG approved Training Judge. You'll assess a minimum of 50 dogs (including at least 10 in Working Classes), submit detailed reports, and receive constructive feedback from your mentors. This hands-on approach ensures you're well-prepared for the responsibilities ahead.

For those who already hold RKC Championship Status, the process is streamlined—just one apprenticeship is required, provided the 50-dog minimum is met.

### Ongoing Support and Community

The GSDL-BRG is committed to your growth. Training Judges are appointed by the Executive Committee, ensuring you learn from the best. The active Judges List is carefully maintained, and ongoing practice is encouraged—if you haven't officiated in three years, a refresher apprenticeship keeps your skills sharp. Plus, annual Judges Panel meetings foster camaraderie and keep everyone up to date with rule changes.

### Ready to Apply?

If you're ready to take the next step, contact the GSDL-BRG Secretary to begin your application. This is your chance to make a lasting impact on the breed you love, join a network of passionate peers, and develop expertise that will serve you—and the German Shepherd community—for years to come.



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