

SOUTH ISLAND
GERMAN SHEPHERD LEAGUE INC

NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2014



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SOUTH ISLAND GERMAN SHEPHERD LEAGUE

GENERAL INFORMATION

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: (including newsletter)

Subscriptions due 31st March each year

New Single membership: \$45.00 Renewal: \$40.00

New Double/Family Membership: \$50.00 Renewal: \$45.00

TRAINING: Breed Presentation
 Obedience,
 Agility

TRAINING: Canterbury Agricultural Park, Wigram Road

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FROM 6.00PM

Sundays 10.00am At Sigsl clubrooms

Contact Blue Gardiner for further information Ph 03 344 0390

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

STUD DOG DIRECTORY: \$5.00 per year

BREEDERS DIRECTORY: \$5.00 per year

CLUB MEMBERS:

Quarter Page: \$25.00 per year

Half Page: \$50.00 per year

Litter and Vale Notices Free to club members

COMMERCIAL:

Quarter Page: \$50.00 per year

Half Page: \$100.00 per year

NOTE

ALL FEES MUST ACCOMPANY THE ADVERTISEMENTS OR FOR DIRECTORIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

EDITORIAL

Hello members,

In this issue I have included a couple of articles of interest one being 'why should you title your dog' – as you will read there is more to this than the letters Ch at the beginning of your dog's names.

There is also an article about bone problems in young dogs.

I have started a new section for the Child/Junior handlers which will include new exercises in each newsletter.

Parents you will see that you are now responsible for keeping track of your Childs points and may apply for the trophy to be awarded at the AGM.

Also a little bit on the proposed NZKC regulations for Long stock coat recognition

A wee note from the 50th Jubilee president is further on and we will bring you further updates as time goes on.

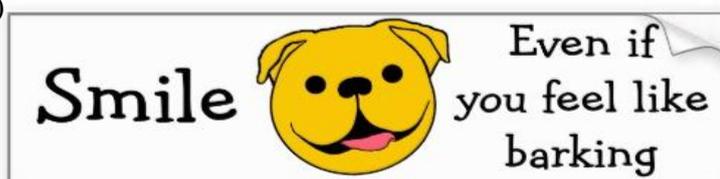
Also a reminder of the clubs Blue Ribbon policy – My dog Ellie wears a blue ribbon at club, I see it as a way of protecting **her** from compromising situations. It doesn't mean she will rip your head off if you get too close but she is a dog who has to be approached slowly and she can also be a bit cranky about other dogs getting too close too.

I have also included the clubs **NEW** dog aggression policy.

There is an article on good sportsmanship at dog shows – there's nothing worse than going to a show and hearing swearing and raised voices between handler and double handler. (Don't make the committee introduce a BAD sportsmanship award.)

Enjoy reading and as always let me know what you think and/or what you would like to see.

Jane Dalzell (Editor)



Webster dictionary defines *sportsmanship* as "qualities and behaviour befitting a person who can take loss or defeat without complaint, or without gloating, and who treats his opponents with fairness, generosity, courtesy, etc." Simply put, sportsmanship is another word for good manners

The committee would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members – Rachel and David Ford, Brad Smith and Kellie Haines, Jan Evans-Freeman, Helen and Peter Tatham, Jorg and Tim Plucker, David Manuel, Josh and Tania Hill, Matt and Ady Leigh, Stephen Brown-Thomas, Oksana and Valdineir and Andrei Golovko, Andrea Sweetman.

PRESIDENTS PEN

A Happy New Year and I hope the Festive Season was enjoyed by all.

As we move into 2014 we experience a major change in our breed with the introduction of the long stock coat as a recognised variety. These have been recognised elsewhere in the world and Australia for some time and the introduction into New Zealand has been the subject of discussion.

Many of you are aware that there has been much correspondence over the past month concerning the implications of the introduction of a new variety with regards to our status as a specialist breed club. NZKC sees the introduction of a new variety to mean that the German Shepherd clubs take on a new status of Multi Breed. This change in status would have the impact of many changes to club constitutions but also would remove from us the right to run a Specialist Breed National. At the end of the day common sense seems to be prevailing and NZKC are proposing a rule change to enable us to retain our specialist single breed status. The rule amendment and an explanation is on the NZKC home page for all members to read and it is open for submissions. All SIGSL members were sent information about this potential rule change and we welcome any comments which we can forward to NZKC on your behalf. The proposed rule change will still need to be voted on at the Annual Conference of Delegates in June and we hope that common sense will prevail and that it will be passed.

It is unfortunate that this issue was not identified at the time of the initial proposal to introduce the second variety to New Zealand. Everyone including NZKC was totally focussed on the rules about how the variety was to be introduced, judging standards etc. It demonstrates how carefully proposals for change need to be written and then reviewed by those affected by such change. We will be going through the SIGSL constitution and any required rule changes will be put to the AGM.

The Otago show will be the first specialist show in the South Island to include the long stock coat. The team in Otago have been working with the Breed Judges Association and NZKC over the format of our shows moving forward.

The first show for the year for SIGSL is in April – Natalie Humphries and Joylene Neddermeyer are our judges. The schedule is in the February Dog World. I urge you all to get your entries in on time. Late entries create a lot of work for the show secretary and they impact on the timeliness of sash orders and the production of the catalogue.

My best regards to you all.

Liz

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Committee organised for a working bee on the Saturday the 25th Jan in order to start painting the interior of the clubrooms and various other jobs.

A huge THANK YOU to the five people who turned up and worked really hard and made progress on sprucing up our clubrooms. Still a wee way to go yet tho, I'm sure there will be more working bees coming up soon – so don't fret if you missed this last one – there will be more opportunities.

AND another huge Thank you to Gibson Decorators for donating the paint



Michael - Sealing the water leaks on the ceiling
Good job Michael – (the shorties couldn't reach that high even with the ladder)

Another job on the agenda is the resurfacing of the agility equipment – we already have the rubber chip and the epoxy. So just need to give the equipment a good scrub down a fresh coat of paint and apply the chip – just need some helpers and some time.

We have also just found out that our agility jumps are no longer the correct size so we will be looking at either buying new ones or making some.

HONOURS BOARD – we just recently added 34 new plaques to the honours board for breed showing. I am in the process of getting some added to the trials board and the obedience board as well as some more to the breed board, if you have any to add let me know very soon and I will add them to my list. (Email mjdzell@xtra.co.nz) Cost is \$10.00 per plate

FACEBOOK – SIGSL has its own Facebook page so if you are a Facebook user don't forget to add us as a friend – South Island German Shepherd League.

<https://www.facebook.com/SIGSL>

COMING UP – We have a sausage sizzle coming up on April 26th – we need helpers for this - volunteer slots fill up really fast so be quick to put your name down to help. Please email info@sigsl.org.nz to secure your place to help out for two or three hours.



JUST BEEN – We have just taken part in a fundraiser, helping with car parking for a recent event at the show grounds. We are hoping that this may be an ongoing yearly fundraiser for SIGSL. I'm told it was a lot of fun especially in the rain so big Kudos to those who did this.

SHOWS – Did you get your entries in for Aprils shows - Natalie Humphries and Joylene Neddermeyer are our judges.

Junes shows – THE TRIPLES Judges will be *Saturday* Tony Gibson, *Sunday* Vince Tantaro, *Monday* Graeme Stevenson.

Below is the clubs BLUE RIBBON policy – Committee is in the process of looking over this policy as it hasn't been reviewed since 2003. We were quite surprised to find a lot of members are not aware of this policy and we have to admit maybe we have been slack in the education of the policy.

We need to point out that any dog wearing a blue ribbon does not automatically mean that they are an aggressive dog. Some dogs' need a larger area of personal space and all the ribbon is intended to do is make others aware of this, and to check with the handler before approaching further.

Dogs in need of space is a very real thing and more information can be found on the websites below
<http://dogsinneedofspace.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/DINOS-Dogs-in-Need-of-Space/251550661567160>



South Island German Shepherd League Blue Ribbon Policy

- The owner/handler of any dog which has a larger than normal personal space. And /or is unhappy with other dogs coming in close proximity to it, will be asked to wear a fluro-blue arm band and attach a fluro-blue ribbon to their dogs lead approximately 12 – 24cm from the slip chain or collar.
- The owner/handler is responsible for obtaining from their instructor, and displaying the blue (fluro) ribbon and arm band.
- S.I.G.S.L will carry a stock, and will issue these if the situation requires this.

The purpose of the blue ribbon is :-

- To warn other handlers and individuals, that the dog objects to being approached by people and or other dogs.
- To minimize the possibility of physical damage to owners/ handlers and others and / or to other dogs.
- The S.I.G.S.L policy – which is based on a generally accepted standard that has been adopted by many dog clubs around New Zealand will be included in our members packs that are presented to all members on acceptance of their membership application by S.I.G.S.L.
- The policy will be displayed in the clubhouse – on the noticeboard, explained at class level, and will be featured as a standard presentation – in our regular newsletters to members and also on the clubs website www.sigsl.org.nz
- The policy will also apply to any show or event managed by S.I.G.S.
- Any owner/handler, who despite repeated requests to display a blue ribbon / arm band will be asked by a class training convener or club committee member for the reason for any such refusal. Their response will be referred to the club management committee for further appropriate action, with any final decision to be conveyed – both verbally and in writing by the club president, to the owner / or handler of the dog (s) in question.
- S.I.G.S.L reserves the right to ban any dog(s) from the club, or to require any dog to be muzzled, that makes repeated dangerous approaches to other dogs or individuals.
- Any dog that bites a person will be immediately suspended from the club – pending an investigation. The results of any investigation will be presented to an ordinary club committee meeting by the training coordinator(s) involved, for a decision regarding that dog's future at the club.

S.I.G.S.L Nov 2003

Below is the clubs dog aggression Policy – this has been worked on by committee throughout the past year and was 'passed' by into effect last month –

We do not live in a perfect world and sometimes things happen, our dogs may react to someone or something and an incident occur.

This policy is not about apportioning blame for such an incident but it is about taking steps to ensure it doesn't happen again and to help both parties resolve any subsequent issues e.t.c



SOUTH ISLAND GERMAN SHEPHERD LEAGUE

Dog Aggression Policy:

Rationale/Background

Health and Safety Regulations stipulate that all registered NZKC dog clubs need to take all reasonable steps to promote the safety of all participants that are either members or visiting the South Island German Shepherd League grounds which are situated at the rear of Canterbury Agriculture Park. Specifically the grassed area surrounding our clubrooms, bounded by the motorway and tree lined grass bank, as well as any area that formal training is taking place alongside a trainer that is recognized by the South Island German Shepherd League committee, including the RDA building.

As a Club we are committed to supporting all members with an aggressive dog and we will work to the best of the committee, and trainer's ability to attempt to retrain aggressive dogs. We also aim to provide opportunities for owners and dog/s to return to club events **under supervision if necessary.**

Purpose:

The South Island German Shepherd League will provide a safe and supportive environment for all members where everyone is protected from harmful events of dog aggression.

Definition:

Dog aggression is when a dog shows any of the following indications to another dog or human, while on South Island German Shepherd League grounds (as described above).

- Snapping
- Growling
- Raising Hackles
- Biting

Policy:

1. Club Captain or class trainer will take all members through the Dog Aggression policy on their initiation day.
2. A Disputes committee will be elected annually by the South Island German Shepherd League committee at the first meeting following the AGM.
3. This Policy will be on display in the clubrooms of the South Island German Shepherd League for all to view.
5. All dogs on The South Island German Shepherd League grounds at club organised events are required to be on a lead except when they are under the direction from an instructor or competing in official events which require off lead activity.
6. Show notices will contain information regarding expectations.

Procedure:

1. Dog biting
2. Incident is reported to a committee member or referred by instructor (Committee members contact list displayed in club rooms and on our website).
3. Incident form is to be filled in by complainant (forms available in the clubrooms and on the website).
4. Is Dog owned by South Island German Shepherd League member attending training?
5. Committee member whom incident was reported to is to contact a member of the disputes committee.
6. Owner of the dog in question will be told by the committee member who the incident was first reported to that someone from the disputes committee will be in touch within one week to discuss and assess the situation. Owner will also be advised they should keep their dog away from the South Island German Shepherd League training sessions until the incident has been assessed.
7. The member of the disputes committee who was first notified of the incident will contact the other two disputes committee members and arrange for someone to be in touch with the owner of the dog in question.

8. A meeting is arranged with the three members of the disputes committee and the owner of the dog in question. This meeting is to be held within seven days of the date of the incident. The owner is to be advised in writing of the details of the meeting and offered the opportunity to bring a support person to the meeting.
9. A member of the disputes committee will get in touch with the complainant to document their version of the event in question prior to the aforementioned meeting. The complainant will be informed of the outcome of the meeting once the situation has been fully assessed.
10. A meeting will be held between the three disputes committee members and the owner of the dog in question – preferable that the dog is able to be assessed at the same time. The meeting will be documented with minutes taken
11. An agreed plan will be put in place between disputes committee and owner – plan will be actioned
12. A disputes committee member will contact and inform complainant of the outcome.

Other Policies

The blue ribbon policy.

To Refer To:

Training policy.

CCC Dog Aggression Policy.

To Be Reviewed

Every two years.

Next Review Date:

February 2016



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BONE PROBLEMS IN YOUNG DOGS – FACT SHEET

Puppies continue to grow and develop for months or years after birth. Giant breeds may not reach full adult size for 18 months or 2 years. During this growth period they are at particular risk from bone and joint disorders. Some of these are inherited such as hip and elbow dysplasia. Damage can also result from traumatic injury.

Why is bone injury in pups serious?

Puppies and young dogs have enormous healing potential and bone fractures, once treated, can heal rapidly and completely. When a puppy is born the ends of each bone are soft and it is from these soft parts that the bone continues to extend as the puppy grows. These areas are called the *growth plates*. Because the growth plates are softer they are a weak point of the bone in the growing animal. Once a dog reaches adult size the growth plates close and become bony. Any damage to the growth plates of bones prevents the bone from growing normally. If this happens to the bones in the leg this can have severe consequences and limb shortening or deformity can result.

What damages growth plates?

Sometimes, surprisingly mild trauma, eg a knock or bang to the leg that does not break the skin can cause injury to the growth plates. For this reason, traumatic injury to the bones or joints of puppies and young dogs should always be reported to the veterinary surgeon. It may be necessary to monitor the injury over weeks and months to ensure that limb deformity is not occurring. If growth plate damage is suspected treatment must be started early to limit the adverse effects of interruptions in bone growth. The area most at risk is towards the lower end of the front limbs, around the carpus (or wrist) joint, above the paw. This is an important growth plate responsible for increasing the length of the forelimb is present just underneath the skin where it is very vulnerable to injury.

Can diet affect bone growth?

A balanced diet is very important for the development of healthy bones. Dogs fed a diet which does not contain enough calcium do not develop strong bones. Puppies fed an all meat diet may develop bone disease (also known as 'Butcher's dog disease' and sometimes incorrectly called 'rickets'). However, it is important to stress that a balanced diet is the key to a healthy puppy and feeding excess calcium supplements can be as dangerous as not giving enough. Puppies with weak bones caused by poor diet have painful legs and are often lame and miserable. Sometimes their bones are so weak that they fracture easily. The condition can be easily managed by changing to a healthy balanced diet and keeping the puppy rested for several weeks to prevent further damage to the bones before they get stronger. Unfortunately if the disease is not recognised early significant damage may be done to the bones and this may limit the animal's ability to develop normally even when the diet is corrected.

What is panosteitis?

Panosteitis is a painful condition of bones which most often affects German shepherd dogs but can affect any growing dog. Typically a puppy will be lame on one leg for a week or so and then gets better only to develop problems with another leg a short time later. The condition can be diagnosed on an x-ray and most cases get better on their own with medication to relieve pain. Puppies grow out of the condition and by 1 year of age it would be unlikely to cause problems.

What other diseases affect growing puppies?

Some puppies are born with genetic conditions passed from their parents. These conditions are often more common in some breeds than others. There are few genetic diseases that just affect the bone but several affect the development of the joints. The best known inherited joint disease is hip dysplasia. Special scoring schemes for hip and elbow dysplasia have been developed -

these allow the early detection of the condition so that the individual can be treated and to prevent the affected animal from being used for breeding and passing the condition on to its puppies.

The early months of a puppy's life are important for its later development. A healthy diet and regular exercise are essential to development. If you are getting a puppy for the first time discuss your concerns with your vet and they will be able to give you advice on all aspects of your puppy's care.

Ch Brojan Ultimate Storm – aka Storm - (Owned by AJ and Deb Renga) First Long Stock Coat Champion in New Zealand



1: Proposed NZKC regulations for German Shepherd Dog Long Stock Recognition

More information can be found at -

http://www.nzkc.org.nz/pdf/members/proposed_gsd_standards_updated.pdf

10.10 German Shepherd Dog (Stock Coat – Stockhaar) and German Shepherd Dog (Long Stock Coat – Langstockhaar).

10.10.1 Both coat varieties are to be judged separately with each variety receiving separate Challenge Certificates.

10.10.2 Inter-variety breeding is NOT permitted and will not be approved for Registration purposes on either register

10.10.3 Reclassification (*1see below) on coat type for animals born before 1st June 2012 is permitted up until 1st June 2015.

10.10.4 German Shepherd Dogs (Long Stock Coat - Langstockhaar) that have been registered on the NZKC “Part 3 Restricted Register” can be upgraded to the NZKC “Part 1 Main Register” by using the normal procedure provided they have been reclassified or classified as Long Stock Coat.

10.10.5 Progeny that are Stock Coat (Stockhaar) bred from two [2] Stock Coat (Stockhaar) dogs will be registered on the NZKC Part 1 Main or Part 3 Restricted Register and marked with a Stock Coat (Stockhaar) identifier/number.

10.10.6 Progeny that are classified (*2 see below) as a Long Stock Coat (Langstockhaar), being bred from two [2] Stock Coat (Stockhaar) dogs will be registered on the NZKC Part 1 Main or Part 3 Restricted Register and marked with a Long Stock Coat identifier/number

10.10.7 Progeny bred from two [2] registered Long Stock Coat (Langstockhaar) dogs will be registered on the NZKC Part 1 Main or Part 3 Restricted Register and marked with a Long Stock Coat (Langstockhaar) identifier/number.

10.10.8 All existing GSD Litter Registration Limitations (LRLs) apply to both coat varieties.

*1Reclassification for animals born before 1st June, 2013.

- Proof of NZKC registration in owners name is required. Identification by Microchip or Tattoo must be checked and confirmed.
- Long Stock Coat (Langstockhaar) dogs are to be submitted for an examination and verification by three [3] current German Shepherd Dog Championship Specialist judges.
or:- two [2] current German Shepherd Dog Championship Specialist judges and one (1) current licenced NZKC Group 5 Judge.
or:- one [2] current German Shepherd Dog Championship Specialist judge and two (2) current licenced NZKC Group 5 Judges.
- Confirmation that a dog is a Long Stock Coat (Langstockhaar) is submitted to the NZKC on the prescribed form.

JOKE

~~~~~  
A dog had followed his owner to school. His owner was a fourth grader at a public elementary school. When the bell rang, the dog sidled inside the building and made it all the way to the child's classroom with him before a teacher noticed him and shooed him back outside, closing the door behind him. The dog sat down outside the door, whimpering and staring at the closed doors and not understanding in the least as to why he was refused entry. Then God appeared beside the dog, patted him on the head to comfort him and said, "Don't feel bad fella'...they won't let ME in there either."  
~~~~~

THE DAY BLUE WENT TO PRE SCHOOL

Blue Gardiner and Nushka went to visit the children at preschool. Nushka showed off her agility and obedience skills and sat patiently while the children patted and stroked her. I think you will agree she is a great ambassador for our breed.



14

CHILD/JUNIOR HANDLERS CORNER

Parents Please Note -

Committee decided that the easiest way of tallying up child and junior handlers points for end of year trophies was for the parents to keep track of their child's placings and the trophy is to be applied for by way of application as is the way with our other trophies before the AGM

JUNIOR DOG HANDLER CLASS

This class is for young persons twelve years of age and under seventeen years of age on the day of the show.

- (i) The ability of the handler to control the exhibit.
- (ii) The ability of the handler in 'setting up' the dog as an exhibit.
- (iii) The ability of the handler to 'gait' the dog at a desirable pace for the Judge.
- (iv) The dress and ring demeanour of the handler.

The quality of the dog will not be taken into account by the Judge.

Junior Dog Handler Class may be judged by a person or persons other than a Judge on the official list of Judges for the particular Recognised Show.

Child handler class for children aged seven and under twelve years may be organised by clubs under conditions laid down by the club.

ADVICE FOR JUNIOR HANDLERS

Juniors must not take bitches in season into any Junior Showmanship competition.

Be clean and suitably dressed for the show ring. Avoid clothing and accessories that will detract from your dog and your handling abilities. Footwear should be suitable for moving around the ring. NO thongs or scuff type footwear allowed.

Never place yourself between your dog and the Judge.

Have a lead that is suitable and not too long as it will encourage you to fiddle with the lead.

Make sure the lead is not too short to enable you to step around your dog comfortably without stepping over the back of your dog, as this will be penalised.

Keep the lead coiled in your left hand. Never dangle or drop any part of it.

Choose a dog carefully; make sure it is one that you feel comfortable with.

The judge will place a lot of emphasis on your ability to bond and work with the dog you are handling. It is important that you can demonstrate this in the way you interact with the dog.

Exhibitor number to be on your left-hand side where it can be clearly seen.

Get to know all about the breed of dog you are showing. E.g. what breed it is? How old is the dog you are handling?

Listen to the Judge's instructions carefully. If unsure of the instruction, politely ask the Judge to repeat it.

Learn how to show a dog's bite, both front and side views of the mouth

When returning to the Judge set up or free stand your dog as requested.

Be sure not to set your dog up too early, as your dog may become unsettled. The best time to set your dog up for final placing is when the last dog is moving around the ring.

When returning to your position, do not obstruct the view of other handlers from the judge.

If necessary, walk behind the other handlers. If the Judge requests you to return to the line at the rear of the other handlers and dogs, take care not to crowd or upset the other dogs.

ENTERING THE RING

- Look before entering the ring to see where the Judge is standing.
- Listen to either the steward or the Judge as to where they want you to go.
- Make sure not to crowd the handler in front, leave plenty of space between each handler and dog and enough room for the Judge to walk between.
- Always keep an eye on the Judge, so you never walk between your dog and the Judge
- Have your dog on show at all times unless instructed to relax your dog.
- Move towards the rear of the dog as the Judge comes to its front by giving a command, if need be, to steady your dog. Move towards the front of the dog's head as the Judge approaches the rear end again give a command to steady the dog if need be.
- When walking towards the rear of your dog, never step over the dog's back. Progress slowly step by step and, if need be, give the dog a command to stand steady.
- As the last dog moves around have your dog set up for the Judge to view. Do not, however, move from your position unless instructed to by the judge.

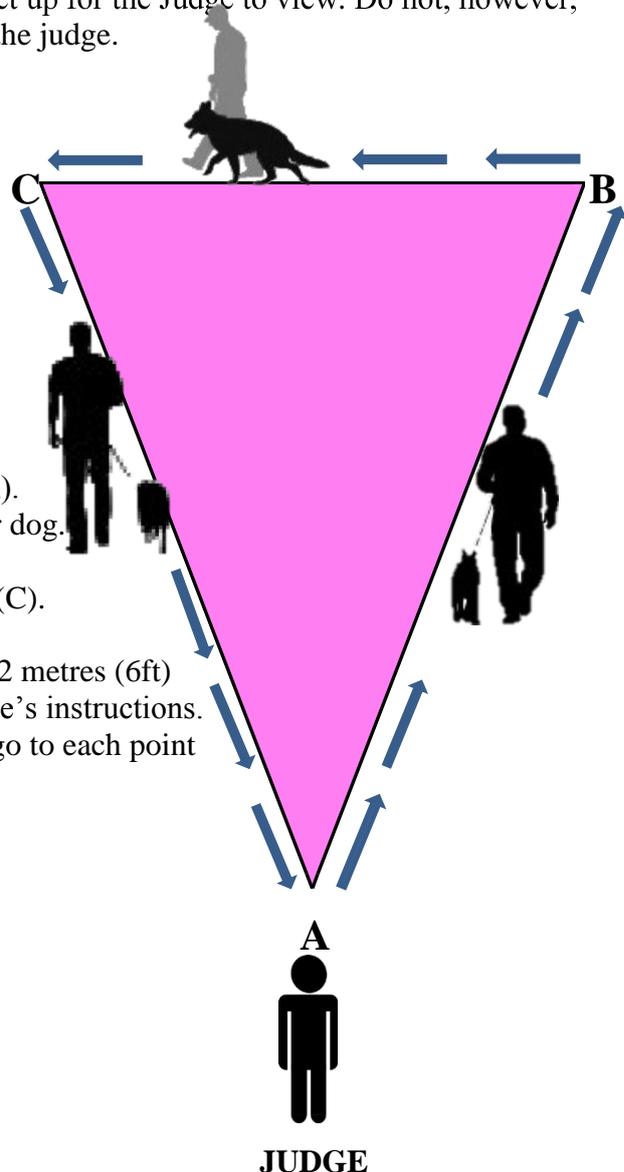
Aim of Exercise

This is used to enable the Judge to see the rear, side and front views of the dog.

Observe the starting point of the Judge before you commence. The Judge should not find it necessary to move position to obtain the correct view of the dog. The triangle should not be so wide as to be outside the Judge's line of vision, nor too narrow because the side view would be short. Aim for an equilateral triangle (all three sides' similar length). Never place yourself between the Judge and your dog. Position your dog in front of the Judge. Go from point (A) to point (B) and then from (B) to (C).

This should cross the Judge's line of vision.

Bring dog back from (C) to (A) stopping approx 2 metres (6ft) away from the Judge and present dog as per Judge's instructions. (Line your objects up before leaving so you can go to each point to form a triangle before starting.)



Note: Unless necessary to reassure the dog you should not touch the dog's head on the corner of the exercise.

Do not over use your lead, keep it coiled up in your left hand. DO NOT have any part of the lead dangling.

Practice this exercise as it will quite possibly be included in the next competition you enter.

DO TITLES REALLY MATTER

Article borrowed from <http://www.germanwatchdogs.com/blog/do-titles-really-matter/>

When it comes to serious competitors in the sport of Schutzhund/IPO, titles on the puppy's parents matter, because these show that their future puppy is receiving its raw genetic material from parents that were successful in the sport. But for someone looking for just a pet German Shepherd puppy, does it matter whether a breeder titles their dogs or not?

What Does a Title Show? - If someone is only looking for a pet, why should they consider buying a puppy from parents with a working title? After all, their pet will not need the drive or desire that a working dog should have; all they want is a good companion. So are titles on the parents really all that important?

A working title like an IPO or Schutzhund title (or advanced herding title such as the HGH) can tell the potential puppy buyer several things, both about the dog *and* about their prospective breeder:

1. German Shepherd Dogs should be intelligent, trainable, tractable dogs. **Having a working title shows that this particular dog is intelligent and trainable, and is capable of being trained reliably to an advanced level.** It shows the dog has a desire to work with its handler, and the ability to learn new behavior. The dog that possesses these traits can pass them to its offspring. A dog that does *not* have these traits *cannot!* This is very important for the pet owner, because a dog that has the genetic desire to learn and to work with its handler is much easier to train!
2. **A working title demonstrates that the breeder does more than just breed their dogs.** They are engaged with and involved in other activities besides breeding their dogs over and over, and they are able to connect regularly with other people within the breed. Just as collaboration with knowledgeable colleagues and access to good programs build a better working environment, so also do collaboration with knowledgeable GSD people (breeders, handlers, trainers, judges) and access to good German Shepherd Dogs build a better breeding program.
3. **A working title shows that the breeder has had the opportunity to compare their dogs with other representatives of the breed, and to compare them against a set, objective test** (that was designed with the German Shepherd Dog in mind). They can see how their dogs match up to other well-bred specimens, and how their dogs match up to the objective test of IPO/Schutzhund. Without this, the breeder's only standards are their own dogs and their own personal opinions on them. This often includes the claim that the dogs are "papered", and therefore of great quality. However, simply "**having papers**" is not an objective test or qualification for breeding!
4. **A working title shows that the dog has actually left the breeder's property, and been exposed to everyday situations beyond the small world of the breeder's**

home. They have been exposed to and socialized with the world at large, and have not been kept locked up in the house or backyard for their whole lives. Taking a dog out in public and working it in public (as all trials must be open to the public) tends to provide evidence for a stable, well-rounded temperament (compared to a dog that must be left at home because she is “afraid of strangers”, or is “uncomfortable in public places”). **Temperament is genetic!**

5. The GSD is supposed to have a confident, resilient temperament that allows it to capably handle the stress of the world around it. **A working title shows that this dog has been through the stress of training and trialing in an environment much different from its comfortable home, and the dog has handled it successfully.** This, too, tends to indicate a solid, stable temperament. Stable temperament is a MUST for the pet owner.

6. **A working title shows, in part, that the dog has the proper working temperament of a German Shepherd Dog.** In the GSD breed, good temperament has *always* been linked to working ability since the very beginning of the breed. Whenever temperament was failing in the breed, breed founder Max von Stephanitz and the early fathers of the breed brought in working dogs (particularly females) to stabilize it. They did not bring in show dogs, nor “pet dogs”. They brought in **working dogs** that were tested for their working ability through the HGH trial (advanced herding trial, involving large flocks of 200 or more sheep). **To breed for one aspect** (looks, conformation, pet qualities, etc.) **while neglecting the working ability causes a downward spiral in the quality of the dog’s temperament.** This has been seen time and time again throughout the history of the GSD. This is one reason why titles are so important. They show the dog has the genetic ability and temperament for the work, and this in turn preserves the valuable genetic traits that make the German Shepherd Dog such a wonderful companion.

In the words of the breed founder himself: “Take this trouble for me: make sure my shepherd dog remains a working dog, for I have struggled all my life long for that aim.”

But Titles Aren’t Everything! - This is a common criticism directed at those breeders who wisely insist on titling their dogs before breeding and on only using titled dogs in their breeding programs. It is true that titles aren’t everything—meaning that breeders should not breed on titles alone, nor should puppy buyers buy a dog based on titles alone—but this is used by many pet breeders as an excuse to not train or title their dogs in *anything* at all! They move from “Titles aren’t everything” to “Therefore I don’t need to do anything with my dogs to show their true qualities.” That is quite a jump, and it is not logical. It becomes an excuse to rationalize a breeding program that uses untested dogs.

Good breeders look beyond the title, and look at what it reveals about the dog. Titles show the dog is capable of doing the work and of enduring the stress, pressure, and temperament test of trial day. In other words, the title verifies that the dog **can** do it, has the basic genetic abilities to do the work, and possesses on some level the basic traits for which the German Shepherd Dog is valued (such as courage, resilience, confidence, hardiness, devotion to master, trainability, and intelligence). But after this, breeders often look to the training for the title, coupled with the dog's performance on trial day, to provide in-depth information into who the dog is. This provides answers to questions like:

- Is the dog courageous? Confident?
- Is he biddable, eager to work with his handler, excited to do the work, or is he independent and handler hard?
- How is the toy drive? Food drive? Prey drive? Pack drive?
- Does he have the confident temperament, strong nerve, and desire to engage and overpower a threat (the helper)?
- Is the dog a natural tracker? How easily can this behavior be shaped and directed?
- Is the dog easy to train? Does he learn new behavior quickly, or does it take a long time?
- Is the dog easy to control and direct while in high drive, or is he difficult to handle and hard to direct?
- Is he resilient? How does he handle pressure from the handler? From a threatening helper?
- Does he handle stress well, or is he weak-nerved, or is he "too soft"?
- Is he sensitive to noises like applause, gunfire, large crowds, etc.?
- Can he contain himself and "cap" his drive, show self-control; or does he "bleed" drive everywhere by barking and whining?
- Is he calm under pressure, or does he become hectic?
- Does he become upset or aggressive when he is corrected or when he is prevented from doing what he wants to do, or does he accept correction and move on (resilience)?

Training and titling a dog thoroughly informs the breeder so that they can make good breeding decisions. They now know without a doubt *who* and *what* their dogs are, and have proven it through the training and titling process. They know where their dog needs to be complemented, and what needs to be corrected for the future breeding. ***Which breeder would you rather get a puppy from:*** one who has thoroughly informed themselves on and proven what their dogs are like through training and titling them, or one who "knows" what their dogs are like at home only, and who decides that this is good enough for breeding, without any objective proof or test?*

The South Island German Shepherd League

Would like to thank



For their very generous sponsorship

We are looking at ways of developing the relationship with our sponsor and we urge members to support them. You can access the Eukanuba website by clicking on the icon on the homepage of the South Island German Shepherd website at www.sigsl.org.nz

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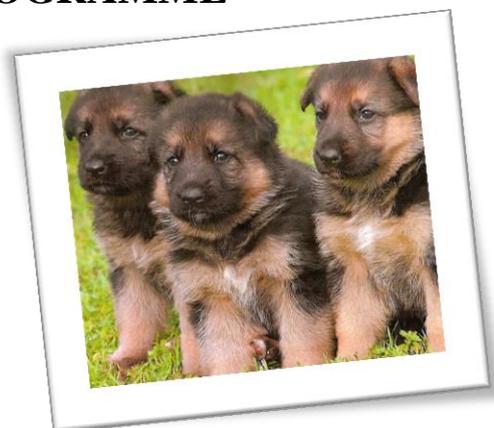
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50th Jubilee – 50th Jubilee – 50th Jubilee – 50th Jubilee – 50th Jubilee

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH ISLAND GERMAN SHEPHERD LEAGUE

In November 2015 the League will be celebrating its “50 Jubilee”
Some of you weren’t even born then, some of you will well remember the “25th Jubilee”

For this to be a special occasion the Main committee agreed to a separate committee to be formed called the 50th Jubilee committee, and all the preparations before the show and during the show will fall upon the shoulders of this committee.

Meetings have been held, a “tiki tour” looking for a suitable venue has been done, and we can now announce the show will be held at the Prebbleton Rugby grounds, which is situated on State Highway 1, turn at Templeton, the location of these grounds are central for everyone travelling from both North and South, with motels, shopping centres, and food outlets within an easy distance from these very modern grounds.

We want the weekend to be a celebration for the League, and, of course, the German Shepherd dog.

Our judges have signed judging contracts and we are pleased to announce that Herr Erich Bosl SV (Germany) highly ranked in the SV, in 2010 he judged the adult females at the German Sieger show and Michael Bradley SV (New Zealand, who will need no introduction to you, Mike has judged here, in Australia, and China, will be judging over the weekend.

Fund raising has begun, and we are in the process of a major raffle which has been kindly donated by Gibson Decorators of \$1000 of Resene products available throughout NZ. Third prize is to the value of \$250 donated by Barbara and Allen Mckernan.

We are also doing a sausage sizzle outside Mitre 10 on June 22nd

The plan for this show is to have one judge doing the dogs on the Saturday, which is the Jubilee show day, the other doing the bitches, and vice versa on the Sunday, which will be the Leagues normal Championship show.

Some exhibitors have expressed concerns as to the availability of handlers with two rings going.

With this in mind it is planned that while the main ring is in operation a separate ring will be used for the individuals, to explain this, the main ring will be used by both judges for all run offs, and individuals will be done in a separate ring, in any order, for that class coming up.

This was also done at our 25th Jubilee.

With exhibitors and handlers co-operation this does work.

Our next Jubilee committee meeting will be held in March, further reports will be issued in the League magazine.

Gavin Black

Jubilee Chairman

The Art of Good Sportsmanship

by Nannette Newbury © 2004 AKC Breed Column

“Sports do not build character, they reveal it.”

Heywood Hale Broun

AKC Judge Dr. Harry Smith Jr. was once asked, “What things tend to irritate you when judging?” He responded, “It takes a lot to get me irritated in the ring when I am judging. When I do, it's usually because one of the exhibitors has been a poor sport. None of us are infallible. We do our best to render excellent judgments. When, in the eye of an exhibitor, we do not do what they think is correct, they must be a good sport about it, and go far away from the ring before they explode! Good sportsmanship is the strongest part of our dog show sport.”

The principles of sportsmanship are integrity, fairness and respect; lifetime values that we generally learn as youngsters involved in athletic programs. One of reasons that sports are so encouraged for youngsters is the lifeline lessons and maturity that are developed through competition. Baseball great Mark Macquire once remarked, “If we don't teach our children the art of good sportsmanship, then how can they effectively learn to manage disappointments in their lives?”

The overt signs of good sportsmanship are showing respect for yourself, your competitors, officials and judges. Good sportsmanship takes courage and maturity. It's not easy to admit someone else has worked harder than you or has more skills or a better dog than you. Dr. John F. Murray Ph.D. Clinical Psychology feels that, “there are several factors that cause people in competitive communities to display a lack of grace and poor sportsmanship. Immaturity, an obsession with winning and faulty expectations on the part of the competitor may all contribute to this bad behavior. Dr. John says, “Some people are primarily driven to satisfy ego needs by winning at all costs. They are motivated primarily by proving themselves superior to their opponent. This ego-centered perspective is far from ideal in terms of performance and may encourage cheating and other unsportsmanlike behavior. For example, when competing against a similarly skilled opponent, they are most threatened and may do anything to win.”

Good sports are gracious and generous winners. They acknowledge a win without humiliating their competitors. They are humbly proud of their success and still find ways to compliment others in their class. When it comes to losing, people who are good sports immediately and willingly congratulate the winner. They accept the outcome of the class without complaint and without excuses. Most professional athletes rarely adopt a “win at any cost” attitude. More likely you will hear them profess their love of the sport and the personal satisfaction and enjoyment they derive from it. Good sports know how to play fair and have fun while doing it.

Good sports lead by example.

Dr. John says, “Contrasted with the ego-centered (competitor) is the person who strives to improve – to raise their skills to the highest level possible – in short, to compete with oneself. This is a much better approach to competition, because it challenges rather than threatens. There is much less fear of failure and when the competition heats up, these players are challenged even more to display higher skill. They have better long-term results and may have to carry much less baggage than the ego-driven (competitors) who develop a reputation of playing dirty. Rather than needing to own every opponent, these skill-focused competitors are driven to perform to their highest level possible. This keeps motivation high and encourages (positive) competitiveness regardless of the challenge.” In fact, by focusing on ourselves, our dogs and our skills as handlers and competitors we may learn to appreciate the fine work of those that we are competing against. Self-observation will also enable us to nip any unsportsmanlike thoughts in the bud, before we express them. As Knute Rockne once proclaimed, “One man practicing good sportsmanship is far better than fifty others preaching it!”

Dog Show Sportsmanship Checklist:

- Abide by the rules of the game
- Avoid arguments
- Give everyone a chance to compete fairly
- Always play fair
- Follow the directions of the judge
- Treat your competitors, officials and judges with respect
- Offer encouragement to all
- Accept the decision of the judge
- Win without gloating
- Lose without complaining
- Do not participate in Internet bashing
- Do not tolerate poor sportsmanship in yourself and others
- Exercise self control and lead by example

It seems we may need reminders to maintain our awareness of the importance of preserving the basic human value of sportsmanship, lest sportsmanship become a lost rat. Unless we remind ourselves of the essentials of sportsmanship, they will generally fade, as have other values in our society.

sportsmanship
A W A R D

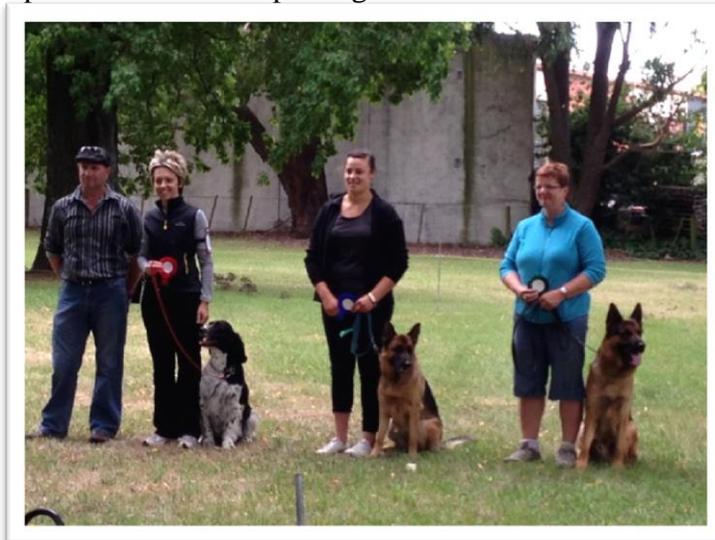
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CCOC Ribbon Parade



Three of our members recently competed in a ribbon Trial at Canterbury Canine obedience club, Guiliana and Lupa 2nd in Obedience Elementary and Sandra and Senna 3rd in Obedience Elementary, They also competed in the Agility section - Not placing but still a great experience. Helen Hill also competed in obedience placing 2nd in Test A.



Special Thanks to Daron Willet who comes to training most Sundays to teach the few faithful and committed members who diligently turn up to training – His awesome tutorage and encouragement has seen the faithful few learn and grow in agility, we have learnt tricks and strategies and now know there is a lot more to agility than just running around the course.

(Photos below Darron taking Urszula and Suki through the course)





Tim and Nushka on the agility course



Sandra and Senna in action over the long jump



100 EXCELLENT MEDALS



CH Bradwins Lord Jester – Nine years old and was awarded his **100th Excellence** medal at the show in Dunedin last weekend –
What a very special achievement with a very special dog.

GRAND CHAMPION

Josh Field and his dog CH Oakway Kiwi Magic (Cole) – The second only German Shepherd in New Zealand to attain the title of GRAND CHAMPION.



Puppy Course

We are still running puppy courses and have just had six new puppies join the class – we keep the classes casual and Liz does a wonderful job of guiding the new puppy owners. It would be great if breeders could recommend the class to their puppy purchasers and if you want to include the information in your puppy pack please let Jane know



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