



**GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC  
NATIONAL BREED COMMISSION MEETING  
RYDGES SYDNEY AIRPORT HOTEL  
SUNDAY JULY 28, 2013**

**To All GSDCA Breed Surveyors, GSDCA Club Delegates, Members of GSDCA Executive,  
GSDCA Specialist Judges,**

It is with great pleasure that once again the reports from the various registrars and my report as National Breed Commission (NBC) Chairman are presented to the National Breed Commission (NBC) Meeting

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the various position holders for forwarding their reports to me so that they maybe be circulated to all Member Clubs, GSDCA Breed Surveyors, GSDCA Specialist Judges and GSDCA Executive.

Unfortunately this year due to personal reasons the GSDCA HD/ED Control Scheme Registrar's report is not available at the time of the meeting. This also means that the progeny tables for the GSDCA HD/ED Control Scheme have not been updated. It is expected that these tables will be updated in the near future and will be circulated to all Member Clubs, GSDCA Breed Surveyors and GSDCA Specialist Judges as well as being uploaded onto the GSDCA Website.

I know all members of the NBC offer their condolences to Doug West and his family and Julie and Ian Urie on their recent loss. Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time.

As per the Agenda please find the reports listed below;-

**National Breed Commission Registrar – Mrs Gillian Cafari**

As per the nomination at the 2013 GSDCA AGM Mrs. Gillian Cafari has taken on the position of the GSDCA NBC Registrar. Mrs. Gillian Cafari also finished completing the process of Breed Surveys for the remainder of 2012. In addition Mrs. Dawn Evans has offered her services in preparing the pages of the Breed Survey Book ready for the printer. While there has been a hold up with breed survey worksheets not being returned from the previous NBC Registrar, it was certainly an easier process with the work load being split.

Both Gillian Cafari and Dawn Evans have displayed a high degree of accuracy, professionalism and endeavour to ensure that the information contained within the book is correct.

It is pleasing to see that the GSDC of NT held a Breed Survey in April. Thank you to Jean Butterfield for offering her services to conduct the Breed Survey. Hopefully this will only be the first and that there will be more to follow.

Thank you for your assistance and expertise it is very much appreciated.

Please find below the number of Breed Surveys conducted by Member Clubs from **1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012.**

<i>Club</i>	<i>Breed Survey Class 1</i>		<i>Breed Survey Class 11</i>		<i>Failure</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>D</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>B</i>	
<i>Western Australia</i>	10	24	2	2	1	3	<b>42</b>
<i>Victoria</i>	8	20	3	4	0	3	<b>38</b>
<i>New South Wales</i>	7	14	1	4	0	0	<b>26</b>
<i>Queensland</i>	5	14	0	4	0	2	<b>25</b>
<i>South Australia</i>	3	7	1	8	0	4	<b>23</b>
<i>Newcastle</i>	5	12	0	2	0	0	<b>19</b>
<i>Tasmania</i>	4	5	0	1	1	1	<b>12</b>
<i>ACT</i>	1	6	1	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
<i>Broken Hill</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<i>Northern Territory</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

#### Summary via Club for Breed Surveys from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012

<i>Club</i>	<i>Breed Survey Class 1</i>		<i>Breed Survey Class 11</i>		<i>Failure</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>D</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>B</i>	
<i>Victoria</i>	4	12	2	5	0	0	<b>23</b>
<i>Queensland</i>	2	18	1	2	0	0	<b>23</b>
<i>South Australia</i>	4	6	1	7	0	3	<b>21</b>
<i>Western Australia</i>	1	9	0	1	0	1	<b>12</b>
<i>Newcastle</i>	0	3	0	4	3	0	<b>10</b>
<i>New South Wales</i>	4	2	0	1	0	0	<b>7</b>
<i>ACT</i>	0	5	0	1	0	0	<b>6</b>
<i>Tasmania</i>	1	2	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
<i>Northern Territory</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<i>Broken Hill</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

#### National Hip Dysplasia and Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme Registrar. – Mr. Doug West

As advised earlier unfortunately a report will not be available in time for the meeting. A copy of his report and the progeny tables will be circulated as soon as possible.

I would however like to highlight a couple of issues relating to the scheme that have occurred during the year.

During the year it came to our attention that some of the digital x-rays received for assessment to the GSDCA HD/ED Control Scheme were not in the required '**DICOM**' format.

When digital x-rays were first discussed by the GSDCA, it was agreed that only x-rays saved in "DICOM" format will be accepted for assessment in the GSDCA HD/ED Control Scheme.

To ensure that all veterinarians are aware of this requirement, it has been documented on the GSDCA HD/ED Control Scheme Application form under "Advice to Veterinarian" which reads as follows:-

#### *Computer Radiography Generated Images (Digital X-rays):*

*For computer radiography generated images (digital x-rays) to be accepted by the GSDCA Hip Dysplasia and Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme, the images must be of a high quality and saved as DICOM Images. (i.e. .dcm extension)*

A copy of the requirements was forwarded to the GSDCA Readers, all Member Clubs and a notice was placed on the GSDCA Website. Hopefully this rectified the situation.

## **GSDCA HD/ED Control Scheme Application Form**

It is an opportune time to remind all Clubs that the GSDCA HD/ED Application Form is non-transferable and non-refundable.

If you have any questions regarding this regulation please do not hesitate to contact Dr Doug West, GSDCA HD/ED Registrar.

### **Incorrect Identification found at Breed Survey.**

Also please note that if an incorrect tattoo number or incorrect micro-chip is found at Breed Survey the animal should take no further part in the Breed Survey until the issue of identification at the GSDCA HD/ED Elbow result can be confirmed. Every endeavour is given to the benefit of the animal however if the incorrect identification is on the x-ray plate, the animal will be required to be re-xrayed.

### **Breed Specific Legislation Committee Ms Margaret Adams**

I very much appreciate the move to have a Communications Officer who can keep the motivation going. I am pleased to have deadlines - that is the only way things get done. The odd letter or two has been forward when we have felt "threatened" by a photograph or article but other than that all is quite.

Disappointingly we don't seem to have the input from the clubs on B.S.L. matters and although I have lots of input from W.A. I don't want clubs to think that we are the only ones contributing and I am ignoring the other states. In Western Australia I get feedback in the main because people communicate with me as Editor of the local magazine and my "hands on" profile within W.A. W.A. Dog Act is currently under review and we will be meeting shortly to discuss the proposed changes. We continue to promote the G.S.D.C.A. via our Dogs & Children brochures and "Why should I train my puppy"? I am unsure if any other club does this??

I hope that at this meeting the representatives can go back and try to get a person or two interested in what we are trying to do. I do not have a contact for a National B.S.L. committee - if we can establish one it would be great.

I hope you all have a productive and pleasing meeting. I look forward to hearing from you all soon.

**NBC Chair's Note:**- As most of you realise I am currently working in Local Government in South Australia. I can assure you that the issue of de-sexing animals at point of sale is very high on the agenda for the Dog and Cat Management Board in South Australia. I know the Mr John DeLucia, President of the GSDC South Australia has been very proactive in this area.

In my opinion de-sexing animals at eight weeks is cruel and does not give the opportunity to the young animal to develop normally and has a negative effect on their development.

Mrs Yvonne Yun has also been involved in dealing with the proposed changes in NSW and I believe changes have also been implemented in Tasmania. Dr Karen Hedberg has also been involved and maybe she will be able to give an update of the situation to the meeting.

We have a responsibility to ensure that our animals behave themselves at all times but more particularly in the public arena. Promotion of good natured and animals that are sound in character are paramount.

What has held us in good stead with State and Federal Government in the past has been the GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes and the breed direction and information that we disperse.

If you are not proactive the ability to keep and breed larger breeds of dogs could be severely restricted.

Thank you to Margaret Adams and Yvonne Yun for their work in this very particular portfolio.

Attachment 1: New protection for pets.

**National Identification Registrar – Mr. Frank Moody.**

It is my pleasure to submit the National Identification Registrar Report to the 2013 NBC Meeting.

**TATTOOING**

Since January 2012 with the acceptance of Microchipping as an acceptable form of identification for the GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes there has been a considerable decline in the number of breeders tattooing; however there are still a number of breeders that wish to continue tattooing their puppies as well.

As reported to the AGM (in Feb'13) there have been NO "AUS" applications since July 2012, which is to be expected, and I would not expect to receive any further applications.

However there are still a small number of Litter applications being received from most states, the most recent being in June'13 – We therefore need to continue to support those breeders who still wish to tattoo their puppies as well as microchip, and I urge **ALL** Clubs to continue offering this service.

**Symbol Applications processed**

<b>Club</b>	<b><u>1 Oct'12 &gt; 31 March'13</u></b>		<b><u>1 Oct'11 &gt; 30 Sep'12</u></b>		<b><u>1 Oct'10 &gt; 30 Sep'11</u></b>		<b><u>1 Oct'09 &gt; 30 Sep'10</u></b>	
	<b>Litter</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>Litter</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>Litter</b>	<b>AUS</b>	<b>Litter</b>	<b>AUS</b>
QLD	1	-	1	8	7	12	5	3
NSW *	3	-	4	6	7	15	8	14
ACT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VIC	1	-	6	-	6	3	2	3
TAS	1	-	-	-	3	3	1	2
SA	-	-	1	-	1	1	4	-
WA	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-
NT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>

\* NSW includes GSDL, N&HR and BH

**Club Tattoo Results**

The following table lists the number of litters and puppies tattooed between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, and already reported to me by the Club Tattoo Registrars.

As always, the half year figures are as usual a little misleading as there will always be the occasional delays in getting the forms into me.

Whilst it does show a dramatic reduction in the number of puppies tattooed since micro-chipping was accepted, it also confirms a stabilizing of numbers over the last eighteen months.

It is interesting to compare the impact at the various clubs.

It is great to see that a number of breeders are still choosing to tattoo as well as microchip – the higher states are NSW (GSDL) and QLD. The Club most affected is WA, that appears to have ceased tattooing altogether.

<b>Club</b>	<b><u>1 Oct'12 &gt; 31 March'13 (YTD)</u></b>		<b><u>1 Oct'11 &gt; 30 Sep'12</u></b>		<b><u>1 Oct'10 &gt; 30 Sep'11</u></b>		<b><u>1 Oct'09 &gt; 30 Sep'10</u></b>	
	<b>Litters</b>	<b>Pups</b>	<b>Litters</b>	<b>Pups</b>	<b>Litters</b>	<b>Pups</b>	<b>Litters</b>	<b>Pups</b>
QLD	25	147	33	165	52	293	69	392
NSW	48	302	86	535	130	760	172	1,017
NC	2	8	-	-	18	108	10	61
BH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACT	2	17	4	28	12	97	6	39
VIC	9	28	43	251	75	402	70	434
TAS	2	12	6	32	16	95	18	89
SA	7	44	12	73	58	279	74	371
WA	-	-	2	16	76	438	58	309

NT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Tattoos</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>2,472</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>2,712</b>
<b>Total Reg'ns *</b>		<b>1,907</b>		<b>3,924</b>		<b>3,702</b>		<b>3,583</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>29%</b>		<b>31%</b>		<b>67%</b>		<b>75%</b>

*Note \* The "Total Registrations" does not perfectly align with the tattoos over that period; however this is a very close approximation. Registrations have been obtained from the GSDCA Database, and is based on DOB from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> July (YTD is based on DOB 1<sup>st</sup> Aug '10 to 31<sup>st</sup> Jan '11) – Whereas tattoos are recorded in the month that the litter was tattooed (some 7-8 weeks later).*

It has been a relatively quiet year for Tattooing as expected, with everything going along nicely, with no major issues being raised.

### **MICROCHIPPING**

Since my last report everything appears to be going along smoothly with the micro-chipping of puppies, with no issues reported to me.

The GSDL, ACT, and SA Clubs are currently providing a micro-chipping service to their members.

All other Clubs do NOT provide this service, and legislation requires that micro-chipping is performed by veterinarians.

In WA their legislation allows for breeders to purchase their own microchips and implant them themselves.

The legislated responsibility for the registration of the microchip on one of the databases also varies considerably across all states.

I believe there are gaps in the current commercial microchip databases.

- Firstly they only have a "pet name" of the puppy.
- In some states it is left up to the purchaser to record the information on the database, and I suspect this may in a number of cases not happen.

The GSDCA Database is far superior, as from our records we can identify the Dog's Pedigree Name and the Breeder – and in most cases contact details for the breeder.

(In those cases where we do not have the contact details the local Kennel Control would have this information.)

I feel this is an area where the GSDCA can again be proactive and publicise to the local Councils that we have a database of ALL Microchips relating to registered pedigree German Shepherds born since January 2012 – similar to what we provided with our Tattooing scheme.

The greatest risk to micro-chipping is the accuracy of recording the data.

This can come from:

- The Breeder entering the wrong information, or
- The Kennel Control entering the incorrect information – This would be very easy when keying a 15 digit number.

To avoid problems "down the track"; Breeders need to be especially diligent:

- Breeders MUST check the registration papers when they get them back from the Kennel Control, for any errors in the Microchip Number,
- and also that the puppy goes with the correct Microchip that matches its Pedigree papers.

This will avoid most of our future issues.

I have placed a notice in the January 2013 National Quarter Review (NQR) to this affect.

Thank you again for the support I have received from the Club Tattoo Registrars, Joylene Neddermeyer, and the NBC Executive.

**NBC Chairs note:** Recently I was contacted by the Ranger at work after collecting what they believed was a pedigree GSD. It was micro-chipped however it was not registered on a database. The Ranger advised that it was tattooed. On reading the tattoo I confirmed the breeder who was contacted and the animal was returned to her owner.

The moral of the story of course is the fact that unless the micro-chip is registered then it is difficult for councils to identify the breeder/owner of the dog. This of course could be a similar argument for a tattoo.

I did explain to the Compliance Manager that all pedigree animals are required to be micro-chipped prior to registration and are recorded on the ANKC database.

He did suggest that it would be advantageous for local government authorities to be able to confirm a micro-chip on that database and asked if this could be a possibility.

Should the GSDCA consider approaching the ANKC on this matter?

### **Hereditary Diseases Chairman – Dr. K. Hedberg**

Genetic viability and the size of the gene pool is almost the theme of this report. The aim of any breeding program is to improve overall health while maintaining a wide genetic pool to stay healthy. Reducing genetic variability can have disastrous consequences and increase the incidence of other previously hidden or minor diseases.

### **Long Stock Coats**

The Australian situation is very different to the German one. We have a small gene pool (for both varieties) and that becomes vanishingly small with the long stock coat population. This in reality is too small to give enough genetic viability and variability at this stage to produce enough healthy and sound dogs to breed on with. With restricting the gene pool to long stock coats only, there are very real concerns that this variety will go backwards in health areas in particular. We have no health data of any depth available to us at this point, nor to be fair, does any country at this stage.

Owners of long stock coat bitches are being forced to look overseas to get the quality needed to continue breeding, with all the inherent risks currently here as well. It is currently not financially viable to import long stock coat stud dogs due to the limited market.

I would like to present a viable alternative. I would suggest that we ask the ANKC to allow interbreeding of the two varieties where the proposed dog to be used is a proven long coat carrier either by progeny or by DNA testing. Resultant litters will be at least 50% long coat without losing type, reducing genetic variability or diminishing health requirements.

There should be open interbreeding of the two varieties for a minimum of ten (10) years, even if done along the lines suggested above. This can be revisited at the end of this time. The impact on the coat quality and length should be assessed in the normal short coated variety as well, at the end of this time.

It should be remembered that the end coat type a dog *exhibits* is often a **blend** of its genetics; it is not always a hard and fast cut off point.

*Attachment 2 received from Mrs. Yvonne Yun.*

*NBC Chair's Note: Also refer to Discussion Item 9.1 and 9.2 regarding assessment of Long Stock Coats and inter-variety competition at GSDCA Member Shows.*

*Attachment 3 – received from Mr. Louis Donald to NZ Canine Control.*

### **DNA Tests**

There are two DNA tests available to the GSD at this time. More tests are being developed and released with great frequency. Some of these tests will cover obscure diseases or such things as colour dilution genes, while others may cover significant diseases within the breed. We need to look at each of these tests as they develop, and assess the significance of these tests/diseases to our breed's overall health and welfare.

We should equally always look at any disease in regard to the numbers affected, the severity of the disease concerned and the impact on the animal's health and well being and decide whether any animals **need** to be removed from the

gene pool. Many breeders erroneously consider affected dogs cannot be used, but the beauty of having a DNA test is that, in the main, **no animal needs to be lost to the gene pool.**

Diseases such as pituitary dwarfism are largely self limiting as it becomes very obvious very early that these animals are affected and thus never re-enter the breed. The problem arises more with late onset diseases such as DM, where often these animals have been bred from long before symptoms arise. These conditions are thus more likely to increase silently through the breed, where as dwarfism tends to stay at a very low level. Affected DM dogs, even if tested early on, can still be used at stud and for breeding purposes but ideally to clear partners.

**Dwarfism DNA** test has been available for quite a number of years. While we have few dwarves being produced – the problem is again, the lack of reporting. The only good part of this condition is that it is fairly easy to separate the dwarfs out by 6-8 weeks of age. Affected animals (dwarves) never enter the gene pool. Current statistics on carrier rates (France) is 11%, which means the odds of producing a dwarf is very low.

Where reasonable numbers are being produced by a sire, if this is reported, this can add to our knowledge and allow breeders to make more informed decisions prior to choosing breeding partners (be they male or female).

Do we need to instigate breed wide testing at this stage = NO.

**Degenerative Myelopathy (DM)** is a disease that occurs at the other end of the GSD life. Unfortunately it occurs usually after the prime breeding age (usually 8-9 years and older, some as early as 5-6 years) and the numbers that are seen would be in the order of between 2-5% of older GSD's.

While this disease has a genetic basis, there appears to be some additional triggering factor that then manifests the disease as the dog's age. The disease is thought to have incomplete penetrance, ie. not all affected dogs end up exhibiting the disease. DM is a devastating progressive condition that gradually whittles away the mobility and effectiveness of the entire hindquarter.

The disease affects the myelin sheaths of the spinal cord affecting from mid thoracic area back, with the messages getting slower and slower. The only good part of this disease is that it is not painful to the dog. The disease course runs some 12-18 months with affected dogs being euthanised due to inability to stand etc.

Current **Australian Statistics** from 1.1.12 are:-

	All Breeds	GSD	OFA GSD
Number Tested	5192	<b>106</b>	
Normal	5192 (89.6%)	<b>70 (66%)</b>	<b>51%</b>
Carrier	487 (8.4%)	<b>25 (24%)</b>	<b>32%</b>
Affected	112 (1.93%)	<b>11 (10%)</b>	<b>17%</b>

From these numbers one can see clearly that the GSD is over represented in both the carrier and particularly affected animals. This puts the number of affected animals in the current Australian population as around 10%. In reality, the real number of physically affected DM seen is probably closer to 5% (due to the variable expression within the affected population).

Interestingly the Orthopaedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) GSD stats are far higher, so it serves as a warning to take care.

While I do not believe that we need to do extensive testing of breeding stock at this stage, it may be worth testing heavily used stud dogs or bitches that kennels are based on to give breeders more information when making breeding decisions. Where major animals within the kennel subsequently develop DM after their breeding career, ideally test retained progeny and take care with selecting clear breeding partners.

The number of cases of DM are under reported (as are the dwarfs). Again, use of the GSDCA Health Report Form can assist us in ensuring we are improving the overall health of the breed as well as giving us better statistics.

## Hips

The breed average is fluctuating upwards slightly as would be expected with the wide variety of bloodlines currently being imported into the country, as well the different combinations developed within our country. Ideally, if we as the GSDCA can maintain our breed average ideally under 8, the breed will I feel, remain fairly healthy in this area.

With the comparison of twenty (20) plates between the GSDCA HD/ED Control Scheme readers, the results within the first 10 were that reader 1 was consistently harder on NA, CAE and FN, where as reader 2 was slightly harder on subluxation. Over the 10 plates reader 2 was 2 points lower. The one fail dog, failed under both readers. The rest passed under both readers. Elbow wise in the first 10 plates, 7 were identical, reader 2 was harder on 3 plates, with 1 getting a grade 2 and 2 other getting grade 1's.

With the second 10 plates I feel the readers were reversed. The second reader in this case was consistently higher on NA, CAE and FN. Over the 10 plates reader 2 was 3 points higher. All dogs passed under both readers. Elbow wise 5 dogs were identical under both readers, 2 had had grade 1 results under both, where reader 2 this time was slightly harder grading another 3 animals with grade 1.

The end results are that there is slight variation between readers and there will probably always be slight variation – it is not a mechanical/computer driven exercise. The end result of the hip readings were unchanged. The elbow results were largely the same with one animal failing over the entire 20, which is not unexpected.

*NBC Chair's note: I confer with the above findings in regards to the audit and this result was similar to the findings of the previous audit carried out about four years ago.*

*After viewing digital x-rays of recent animals presented to the GSDCA HD/ED Control Scheme, the x-rays of both hips and elbows are very clear and every little detail is there for the reader to see.*

*The question could be asked if the introduction of digital x-rays has had a negative affect has the scores that animals receive.*

## Elbows

While elbow statistics appear to move very slowly over time, we do have far better elbows across the breed than when we started. Our % of normal has steadily increasing from around 70% in 1995-1999 to the current 2010-2012 figure of 78.6%. This may not sound like much, but basically 30% of the breed was affected when we started (i.e. around 1 in 3 dogs) and now it is approximately 1 in 5 dogs affected with a maximum of Grade 1 (on the whole).

The numbers of the grade 2, 3 and UAP will never be 100% accurate as some of these are moved out of the breeding population before twelve (12) months of age. While these are distressing to the owners and breeders alike, they are excluded from the registered breeding population. While a few of these cases are reported via the GSDCA Health Report Form, I would urge owners and breeders to put this information forwards – this information is most important to tackling this problem. Every case reported helps us gain more realistic statistics on bloodlines.

## Haemophilia

This area is running very smoothly with no reported cases. Having the haemophilia test sheet available on the GSDCA Web site makes the testing process easier. Emailing or faxing details of the dog and a copy of official laboratory results to me is good, however, filling in that form certainly helps in giving a **return address** for the completed certificate!!

## Canine Herpes

There was a "scare" with this disease earlier this year. A stud dog was purported to be carrying the disease. So in order to set the record straight, the facts are as follows:-

1. Canine Herpes has been recorded in Australia for many years.
2. Dogs cannot be reliably tested clear (or infected) unless there are rising titres.
3. Male dogs are **not** the primary source of spread of the disease
4. CHV is spread primarily within kennels or by nose to nose contact, the venereal route is not very efficient – i.e. it is rarely spread during mating.



5. It is estimated that 90% (UK figures) of the canine population has been exposed to canine herpes, becoming latent carriers. Latent carriers do not shed, however if the dog is ill or stressed the virus may become activated (eg. during pregnancy).
6. The majority of problems are within a kennel where there may be infertility in males and females, abortion and placentitis which gives rise to weak puppies. CHV is transmitted to the neonate via the birth canal or contact with infected oral and nasal secretions from the bitch. The low temperatures of neonates allows the virus to spread within the body.
7. There are no current vaccines for Canine Herpes available in Australia at this time.

Prevention/limiting spread of CHV (where the disease is suspected):-

1. Isolate whelping and breeding bitches for 3 weeks before and after whelping.
2. General hygiene – keep puppies clean, dry and warm
3. Prevent overcrowding and stress – keep whelping bitches separate.
4. Keep heat of neonates at 38-39C, keep puppies clean dry and warm.

Excellent write up available at [www.colliclubofnsw.com/CanineHerpesVirusSeminar.pdf](http://www.colliclubofnsw.com/CanineHerpesVirusSeminar.pdf)

### **Overservicing of vets**

This problem has been with us for some time and tends to raise its ugly head on regular occasions. The first time this arose, I wrote the “What price a normal hip” article which has been reprinted many times by many breeds especially where “hip dysplasia” is a major concern.

The various components to this are (and not necessarily in order of importance) as follows:-

**Weight** - while we do not see as many excessively heavy puppies any more, I still see them and occasionally the opposite, far too light on in condition for age. Either extreme can look abnormal (even to the average vet), so I would really push breeders to include the weight for age chart in their puppy packs and impress upon new owners the need to stay within normal limits for rates of weight gain and weight for age.

**Conformation** – this is to my mind is the biggie! The deep hindquarter angulation coupled with excessive looseness of hocks and hey presto, your puppy has hip dysplasia! (regardless of the fact it is primarily the hocks and ligaments that are the issue). Couple that occasionally with too much weight, too rapid a weight gain and growth, these puppies are often sore along the back as well, so they arch over the back, further accentuating the already extreme hindquarter problem.

Puppies that have this combination are the most likely candidates for early x-raying by inexperienced vets and the subsequent “corrective” or “preventative” operations. When I see these “extreme” puppies, my primary concern is assessing the puppy, correcting any dietary issues and slowing the rate of growth (if excessive) and covering the soreness many of these puppies have. I generally add zinc to the diet as zinc is often relatively unavailable, and zinc helps strengthen ligaments.

**Desexing** – quite a few of these puppies are “picked up” at the time of de-sexing (around 5-6 months). Owners often get – “Oh, we will just check the hips at the same time while the puppy is anaesthetised”. Owners are rung immediately (usually while the puppy is still on the table) saying the puppy will need an operation to improve long term quality of life etc. Owners are quite often made to feel that they would be failing to adequately care for their pet if they don’t go ahead and have corrective surgery – often committing to further surgery fairly immediately.

**Ignorance (both owner and veterinarian)** – just because a breed has had a poor history in the past doesn’t automatically mean a puppy will have bad hips. We, the GSDCA should be pushing far and wide that the national rolling breed average is around 8 total, far below the vast majority of breeds commonly held to have HD problems. The odds of getting good hips is actually fairly high. Believe it or not, I am currently getting more complaints re the Golden Retrievers being targeted rather than GSDs.

**Costs (who pays???)** – unfortunately the majority of breeders find out after the fact, after surgery, de-sexing etc. Some owner are quite belligerent, and if the problem was severe, one can understand the angst, and this is a problem to be sorted between breeder and owner. However, being asked to pay large sums after the fact has its own issues as well.

Further complicating the issues involved is the type of operation and the effectiveness of the various operations at different ages. Some of these operations only work at certain ages - with JPS (juvenile pubic symphysiodesis) generally, the earlier the better, which can be as early as 12 weeks, but not after 20 weeks of age.

The next, Triple Pelvic Osteotomy (TPO) is best done before nine months and is only really suitable for mild cases. Severe cases really require total hip replacements, which the surgeons usually do not like doing much under twelve (12) months (although I have had 1 surgeon go in as early as nine (9) months on a really severe case) and then one at a time, usually 3 months apart.

As a further note, there are still ongoing discussions between vets and specialists as to the relative merits and worth of some of these operations, particularly the JPS.

### Solutions

I cannot emphasise enough that there must be good ongoing relations with puppy buyers, if not, often the first you know of a problem is a distressed (and aggressive) puppy owner on the phone. Avoid this by:-

1. Hand out weight for age charts, show people how to use them, highlight that there should not be excessive rates of weight gain and the importance of staying between the suggested limits.
2. Try and avoid using high performance growth diets, especially on backyard pets – they far are more likely to be over fed (and be hyperactive!).
3. Emphasise that you, the breeder, *want* to hear of any problem that your vet is worried about, particularly if it concerns hips or elbows as you do not anticipate any significant problems in this area.
4. Ring puppy buyers when their puppies are around 3-4 months of age, check the weights and diets.
5. Be particularly vigilant in certain areas where the vets appear to be pushing early intervention, ask puppy buyers to get a second opinion before any major surgery, and above all
6. To let you, the breeder, know *before* any major operations are carried out.

### **Update on LRL's.**

The motion sent to the ANKC Canine Health and Welfare Committee meeting from the GSDCA to lower the hip and elbow acceptability for parents of GSD litters to the same as is currently acceptable for the GSDCA 'A' and 'Z' stamp, was rejected at this time.

The reasons for this were that the existing LRL has only been in place for animals (parents) that were born after 1.6.11. However, it only *effectively* came into play after 1.1.13, (*Note from NBVC Chair came into force 1.1.12*) as GSD's have to be a minimum of 18 months at the time of mating.

It was felt that there has not been sufficient time elapsed to show the effectiveness and/or issues that may arise from this LRL being instigated. Further, it was felt that there should be a minimum 5 years between instigating an LRL and then changing the requirements. It was also felt that to alter the current LRL would require an Australia wide breed survey.

### **Health Reports**

While these forms are readily available from the GSDCA website, they are unfortunately very infrequently used. I have the odd cases of bloat, several of DM, one of dwarfism and one of aspergillosis (from NZ of an Australian imported bitch) that were received this year.

What I would like to highlight is that not only do these reports give health information on a wide range of diseases, they also act as a release valve of angst for owners when breeders take no notice of their complaints.

For every written report I would get 5-6 phone calls re various conditions of GSD's from all over Australia. While some of these are weird and wonderful, often elbows, skin conditions, anal furunculosis to mention a few, I try to get people to put in reports but these are few and far between.

Better understanding of our breed's health would be gained if there was widespread use of the forms. Causes and ages of death are also important as is the incidence of bloat, torsion of the spleen and haemangiosarcoma of the spleen (with associated rupture) which are not uncommon in the older GSD (>8years of age) along with DM, spondylitis and cauda equina.

## **GSDCA Database Subcommittee Report – Mr. Frank Moody**

It is my pleasure to submit this GSDCA Database progress report to the 2013 NBC Meeting.

The GSDCA Database has been designed to:

- Provide a centralised database of all of the GSDCA Schemes.
- Validate results from previous GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes as each dog moves through the Schemes, thereby ensuring consistency and accuracy of data.
- In addition it will also reduce and/or share the workload.

### **Dog Database**

Is now fully operational and currently we have 277,755 dogs listed on the database, with all dogs registered with the ANKC up to the end of May 2013 – with quarterly updates from the ANKC.

We have now implemented the two (2) varieties (German Shepherd Dog & German Shepherd Dog (LSC)) as per the ANKC registrations.

As part of the quarterly updates we are also advised of any “transfers” by the ANKC between the 2 varieties, and these are manually updated (due to the small numbers) into the database.

### **Kennel and Owner Database**

We have now combined / merged the KENNEL database (which was originally for recording Tattoo Symbol applications only) and the OWNER database (which originated from Doug’s HD/ED data).

We are now incorporating the ANKC Membership Number of the Breeder or Owner as they become available (via new HD/ED or Breed Survey results). This Number is a “key” piece of data that is maintained even as addresses change, thereby ensuring accuracy of this data.

This section will be shared by Tattoo, HD/ED, and Breed Survey.

### **Tattoo/Microchip Database**

We are now getting Microchip Numbers from the ANKC with the quarterly upload of new Registrations. Tattoos (where applicable) can come from the ANKC data (where breeders have provided this at time of registration), or as Club Tattoo Registrars input that information.

It is possible to search the database by Tattoo Number or Microchip, (or Name or Registration Number).

### **HD/ED Database**

We currently have a total of 8,543 HD/ED records on the system, and the HD/ED certificates have been issued from the database for approximately two years now.

A report that provides all information against each of the dogs in the database that have gone through the GSDCA HD/ED Control Scheme provides the basis for Doug to generate the progeny hip reports for the AGM and NBC meetings and for the NBC Chair to be prepared the progeny results GSDC for elbows.

Doug West’s assistance and cooperation over the last two years has been invaluable. Thanks Doug.

### **Breed Survey Database**

With the assistance of the NBC Chair, we are currently entering dogs that have been to Survey this year, and I am pleased to report that it is progressing well.

We have had to make minor additions and changes, but these have now been incorporated, and Daryl Bourke (the programmer) is now finalising the Certificate format.

Once this is completed (in the very near future) the Breed Survey Certificates will be produced from the database.

There will very soon be a provision for a Photo within the Breed Survey report for each animal, and this will then enable the preparation of the Breed Survey Book direct from this database, without additional administration work.

Whilst other sections have been extremely valuable, I am excited by reaching this point as it is really the culmination of the work so far on the database, and will bring much of the data together.

Very soon we will commence entering the data from the past Breed Survey books into the Database. This will be an ongoing task, but will not hold up future programming work.

### **DECISIONS TO BE MADE**

We are getting towards the day when the GSDCA needs to consider whether (and how) this information should be made available to the Club Membership.

There is therefore an item on the NBC Agenda to discuss this – whilst this would need to go to the next AGM I would like to gauge the feelings of this meeting on the following points:

- Do GSDCA Breed Surveyors require access to the GSDCA Database and what data would be required?
  - I envisage data being available for discussion at future NBC Meetings that would assist when discussing the influence of various sires/bloodlines.
- Do breeders require access to the GSDCA Database and what data would/should be provided?
  - I am sure some breeders would like more information available to them, however there are currently limitations on the level of detail:
    - Currently we do NOT print HD/ED “Failures”,
    - Members do not see individual dog’s results.  
Should this change?
  - Access to Breed Survey “Book” on-line?
    - Would this be an individual animal enquiry?
    - Would this be the whole Breed Survey data?
    - Would this be statistics relating to a particular Sire?
    -
  - Currently Members only have access to “established” statistics twice a year.
  - i.e. HD/ED stats and Sire charts.
    - What value would there be having “live” access to this data?
    - (These statistics only change slowly with introduction of new data)
- Would/should breeders/members pay an annual subscription for this access?
  - First question – should access be available to the public?  
(The SV are now charging a subscription fee).  
***NBC Chair’s Note to view the Breed Worth charges do must now be a member of the SV***
  - Should it only be for the members of GSDCA Member Clubs?
    - Would we have another level of fees for non-members?
    - How would we control this?
  - This is an opportunity for the GSDCA to recover some of the cost of compiling and maintaining this Database.

There is also another factor to consider.

If the members are given access to obtain breed statistics and breed survey information “on-line” this will probably reduce the demand for the printed format. However there will always be those that want to have this information in the printed format – As subscription drops, the ability to provide printed format at economical prices also declines.

I raise this now because we are approaching a time when this could be available, and we all need to seriously consider the issues and establish guidelines in preparation.

It is also vital to understand the future requirements when designing the program for the reports, to avoid major (costly) rework in the future.

Unfortunately we just cannot have infinite number of reports as each report will need to be programmed, and that means costs – both in programming time and server capacity.

Also whether a report needs to be run “live”, or have predefined data that will update periodically (say quarterly) – i.e. hip and elbow progeny statistics.

#### Currently available data and statistics:

In Breed Survey Book:

- Sire statistics:
  - Total number of progeny Surveyed, including Classification, and by year,
  - Progeny HD statistics – Best, Worst, Mean etc (by percentage)
  - Progeny ED statistics – Normal, Gr 1, Gr 2, etc (by percentage)
- Listing of animals HD/ED results for the last year,
- Individual animals Breed Survey from the last year.

GSDCA Website:

- Willis style Sire HD and ED statistics

Sires Progeny Report from National:

- Total progeny, Number though HD/ED, Number through Breed Survey(plus commentary).

#### **FURTHER WORK THAT IS PLANNED**

Our task is not complete yet, and may never be.

After the above there is still additional functionality that we will be looking at:

- Haemophilia
- Overseas Title Verification
- National Show & Trial Results

I would especially like to thank Daryl Bourke (the programmer) for his ongoing commitment to this project (which has grown considerably in its complexity from the original concept).

Also Doug West and Joylene Neddermeyer for their time, guidance and assistance in implementing the HD/ED database, and the Breed Survey database.

***NBC Chair's note:** On the 24 and 25 May I met with Frank Moody to discuss the GSDCA Database. The meeting was very successful with a number of issues identified and a number of issues being solved.*

*As a result of the meeting there were some matters to be discussed in regards to the GSDCA Breed Survey Worksheet and Certificate.*

- *Review “Coat” categories  
Now just Stock Coat, and Long Stock Coat.*
- *Align Worksheet to the Certificate in a couple of areas e.g. “Confidence” should come before “Condition of nerves”*
- *Should “Tuckup” be changed to “Short underchest”?*
- *Should there be a Dentition option – “Not quite correct scissor bite”?*

*These matters will be discussed at the meeting.*

**National Breed Commission Chairman - Mrs Joylene Neddermeyer**

Once again it is time to present my report to the National Breed Commission Meeting of the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia.

I have been very fortunate and very privileged to be elected to the position of National Breed Commission Chairman in February 2001 and with the support of the fraternity have been elected until February 2015.

As I have stated previously I believe that holding a position for the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia is an honour and a privilege. I have been able to gain a huge amount of information which has improved my knowledge of the German Shepherd Dog. I enjoy the work immensely and while it is time consuming it is also very rewarding.

I have always believed that it is paramount that information from our breeding schemes is available to all breeders both old and new for consideration in their breeding programs.

I believe that it is imperative that the flow of information in the current format is maintained so that all breeders can make informed decision in their breeding program.

It should be noted that not everyone likes the information distributed especially if it is about their stud dog, but no one can say that factual data is not readily available to all.

I take a large amount of time to ensure that the information is correct on the actual GSDCA Breed Survey Certificate and most of the GSDCA Breed Surveyors in this room over the past twelve months have received a phone call from me to discuss issues with the GSDCA Breed Survey Worksheet.

As I have stated on a number of occasions the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme and the GSDCA Hip Dysplasia and Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme has meant that the dogs that we are showing and breeding are far superior to those animals of twenty to twenty five years ago.

I do not apologise for being passionate and idealistic about the GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes and ensure to the best of my ability that the information on each Breed Survey is accurate and correct.

I am more than happy to talk to anyone at anytime about any concerns that they may have perceived or otherwise. I would much prefer to talk to people direct than via an email.

To the members that have contacted me over the last twelve months asking for information or direction, I hope that I have been of some assistance in your decision making process.

Please note my contact details are 08 82708994 any evening after 6.00pm or on my mobile 0402800163.

I have always maintained that the fraternity need to have confidence that everything is dealt with on an even playing field and meets the requirements laid down by the GSDCA.

The opportunity to talk and communicate with a large number of members at grass root level has been fantastic and has enabled me to be aware of their concerns relative to the future of the breed in Australia.

The breeding and keeping of dogs has not become any easier with an increase of genetic testing, the anti-dog lobby and the "double income- no kids" families that live in apartments, or bigger and larger houses with hardly no back yard.

There is no easy answer to deal with these issues but one thing for sure is the promotion of our Breed Improvement Schemes and ensuring that the animals that we breed are sound in body and mind.

There has been huge in roads that has been achieved over the past fifty years and the fact that I have been involved in the journey has given me a great deal of fulfilment but for the next fifty years is a different road with new enthusiasts and always we must promote our breed the "***German Shepherd Dog***".

## **2012 Breed Survey Book**

I am pleased to report that the 2012 Breed Survey Book was released at the 2013 National Show and Trial in Adelaide. I am very proud of the production and I hope that the fraternity feel the same.

It was decided at the 2011 GSDCA AGM that the GSDCA Breed Survey Book would be sold directly to the fraternity at the National Show and Trial. I take this opportunity to thank Jane Pike for her assistance in the distribution of the Breed Survey Book, however I do not personally believe that the selling of the books at the National Show and Trial has been a success and I believe the previous method of distribution was more successful.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of Gillian Cafari and Dawn Evans for their time and effort to ensure that the 2012 Breed Survey Book is a production that *all of the German Shepherd fraternity* can be very proud of.

I still believe that there is no *Breed Survey Book anywhere in the world* that equals its production. When you realise that the content is prepared by volunteer labour, it is truly incredible.

However of course this production comes at a price, and the printing costs have been increasing over recent years to the point that the amount of profit returned to the GSDCA has decreased or if any profit is recorded at all.

I am not sure what the future of the GSDCA Breed Survey Book will be and in my opinion it will be a sad day if the Breed Survey Book is circulated in a different format, however for it to survive the support from the fraternity needs to be expressed by buying a book.

## **GSDCA National Tattoo Scheme and Micro-chipping**

Frank Moody the GSDCA National Identification Registrar has dealt with any problems that have arisen over the year in a timely and professional manner.

I do believe that the issue of the micro-chip being registered on a database is an important one and my comment was noted under the National Identification Officer's Report.

Thank you to Frank Moody for his work and commitment to the position which is very much appreciated by all.

## **GSDCA Hip Dysplasia and Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme**

I do believe that both of the schemes are indeed schemes that are the envy of other breeds throughout Australia and a major contributor has been the fact that the GSDCA controls the scheme, sets the Rules and Regulations of this Scheme and is in control of our destiny.

We have been very fortunate in recent years that our very successful producing sires have been excellent hip and elbow producers with a low mean score for hips and an excellent percentage of normal elbows.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Doug West for his time and effort in overseeing the GSDCA Hip Dysplasia and Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme. Doug has been the GSDCA HD and ED Registrar since 1998 if my memory is correct and that has meant a significant contribution to the running and operation of this very important Breed Improvement Scheme

It was pleasing to see the HD/ED medallions presented during the official luncheon at the National Show and Trial and this year was carried out as quickly as possible, thank you to all participants for being available at the designated time.

There is a move in the future to present these medallions at the President's Dinner on the Friday evening, I am not sure that this is a positive move, for many reasons some of our fraternity are unable to attend the President's Dinner due to circumstances beyond their control.

Is it good PR to ask the recipients to pay to receive their award when they have already contributed a significant amount financially by having their animals x-rayed?

Without the support of the fraternity the GSDCA HD/ED Control Scheme would not have achieved its success and shown the dramatic improvement in the health of the GSD.

I believe that we need to show recognition to the breeders that have supported the scheme to the biggest audience, not the selected few.

#### **Hereditary Diseases Committee.**

Once again Karen Hedberg's report is very informative with a number of topics covered so to increase our knowledge on a number of issues.

We are indeed fortunate to have an active member of our fraternity to convey the current discussion and items under consideration by the ANKC.

Thank you Karen for your time and effort in this area and for your continued contribution and support to the GSDCA.

#### **GSDCA Breed Surveyor Applications.**

The National Breed Commission Executive has received one new application for Aspiring Breed Surveyor this year, Mr Peter Flynn from South Australia, which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr Peter Flynn's application has been assessed as per the criteria passed at the 2013 GSDCA AGM and I am pleased to advise that all criteria has been met.

Under Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 applications have been received for re-instatement as a GSDCA Breed Surveyor for Mr L Donald, Mrs F Farley and Mr J Rodger. All of the applications have met the criteria as per the regulation passed at the 2008 GSDCA AGM.

#### **GSDCA Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme Progeny Charts.**

The progeny charts for sires and dams will be circulated together with the Willis style progeny results for hips once the data has been updated.

There is no doubt that there is a high degree of heritability with Elbow Dysplasia and certainly a problem is displayed with bloodlines and follows on from sires, sons and grandsons.

It has been noted in some young sons while the sire line has been recorded as a very good elbow producing line, the relatively disappointing results appear to be influenced by the mother line.

#### **GSDCA Tooth Certificates.**

Since receiving the documentation from the GSDCA President in May I have received three requests for a GSDCA Tooth Certificate.

1. A right lower Canine removed due to infection, all of the required documentation was provided and a GSDCA Certificate was awarded. X-ray proof was documented prior to extraction.
2. X-ray was received of an animal identified with a missing P3. As per the regulations the x-ray was forwarded to a Veterinary Dentist for her opinion. Proof of an adult, normal, healthy tooth was not confirmed. Certificate was refused. Owner has been advised.
3. A request was received to provide a certificate for an un-erupted Canine. No documentation or x-ray documentation has been provided however the owner has been advised that the onus of proof is on the owner that a normal, healthy, adult tooth has been present at a point of time.

#### **Dentition**

Again this year, I had the opportunity to conduct the dentition check at the National GSD Show and Trial.

Since 2010 I have mentioned in my report the increased problems relative to dentition in a number of animals. I have stressed in every report to the National Breed Commission Meeting and GSDCA AGM the need for Breed Surveyors to be more diligent when assessing teeth at Breed Survey.

There is a major problem with strength of dentition in this country. While assessing animals at the National it was evident that there is a major problem with especially underdeveloped P1s, and P2s. In some cases the P1 are barely visible and quite small. In fact some cases it is very hard to assess if in fact it is a double P1 and a missing P2 or a very small P1 and P2.



The other problems identified at the National Show and Trial were :-

- Very close scissor bite
- Very small underdeveloped P1s (especially noticeable)
- Irregular spacing between the teeth
- Undeveloped P2s and P3s
- Fused/spilt Double P1

Generally there has also been an increase with animals displaying a slightly overshot/or slightly rye mouth. In young animals sometimes this does correct however when judging, the incorrect bite should be penalised accordingly.

So why over recent times has this problem increased, in my opinion I believe it reverts back to the lack of strength of lower jaw and strength of foreface. This has now increased to include lack of strength of upper jaw and strength of skull. The well formed heads with very good strength of skull and foreface of Prima Zorba, Iniff Vagrant and Bedwins Siegfried are long gone.

So what is the answer? That is the \$60.00 question however we must in the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme record accurately the findings relative of the head, upper and lower jaw and acknowledge when we find an animal that is well above the average in this area.

This problem I believe is not only relative to Australia but seems to be a worldwide issue. It is not contained to one particular sire but across a range of sires and hopefully future imported sires into Australia will be able to improve this problem area.

#### **Gunshyness.**

This is still the major area of failure through the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme. One can also say that this is an area that the fraternity requires further education in assessing of what constitutes an animal that is sufficiently firm or has in fact failed the gun test.

The GSDCA SA were preparing a video to discuss various reactions to the gun test for consideration of the meeting. It was agreed that we would film dogs after training. Unfortunately over a period of three to four weeks all of the Obedience dogs that we tested were all firm on the gun.

Mr. James Rodger has updated his article on gunshyness and I have attached for your information. The article will also be discussed under the review of the GSDCA Breed Survey Manual. Thank you James.

Over recent years there has also been some evidence that there is an increasing number of animals marked sufficiently firm or fail the gun test at Breed Survey. While at this stage the bloodlines are not as absolutely clear cut, it is an area to watch in the future.

Reaction can vary from moving from side to side, jumping up on the owner, to the other extreme where the animals do not move but show a fearful expression and one could say appear to be *'frozen stiff'*.

*Attachment 4 Updated Gun Test Article by James Rodger.*

#### **Loose hock joints – standing and stepping very close behind.**

As mentioned in previous reports there are a number of current bloodlines within Australia and certainly in Germany where due consideration must be given to the firmness of hock joints.

While normal puppy infirmness should not be penalised, adult males and females that are over angulated in the hindquarter or with very loose hock joints should be noted at Breed Survey and appropriate warnings given in selection of a breeding partner by the Breed Surveyor.

#### **Over-angulation of the hindquarter**

In addition to the looseness of hock joints it is now becoming apparent that there are an increasing number of animals that are deep in hindquarter angulation.

As stated in a number of articles there are a number of significant bloodlines in Germany responsible for this problem and these lines are currently being imported into Australia. Linebreeding on these animals in the future is not to be encouraged or this problem will be cemented into our breeding program to the detriment of the breed.

The severe over-angulation of the hindquarter impedes the movement of the animal and of course impedes the overall working ability. I have witnessed a number of animals, and while quite young, they are actually quite unstable through the hindquarter and have a problem remaining upright without the assistance of the handler.

This is an area that as judges and breeders we need to address and these animals should not be promoted to the higher placings within a class.

### **Tail Carriage**

From the early nineties we have had bloodlines in Australia which have a tendency to produce long tails which in turns means there is a high incidence than normal of tails being carried in a slightly unnatural manner.

The GSD standard in regards to the tails states as follows:-

*The tail extends to at least the hock joint, however, not beyond the middle of the rear pastern. It has slightly longer hair on the underside and is carried in a gentle hanging curve when relaxed. It can be carried higher when excited or during movement but not above the horizontal. Corrective surgery is forbidden.*

There are a higher number than normal of animals that are displaying slightly long tails in fact some actually lie on the ground in stance. Attention needs to be paid to this area by surveyors, judges and breeders.

A tail that is hooked or carries a cast to the side disturbs the overall picture of the animal in movement and is not a trait to be promoted in the German Shepherd Dog.

### **Linebreeding**

At the 2010 NBC meeting the HDC Committee Chairman Dr Karen Hedberg stated that it was imperative that all breeders should be aware of close linebreeding and the problems it can cause.

The meeting agreed that breeders of GSDs have a very wide spread of bloodlines and genetic material to select any future breeding partner so there is no reason for any close linebreeding.

The meeting agreed that as a national body we need to be very pro-active in stressing no close linebreeding.

A motion was placed at the 2011 GSDCA AGM Agenda however at the 2010 ANKC Conference in October it was resolved that the ANKC introduced a similar rule as from the 1 July 2011.

Animals displaying close line breeding that is mother/son, father/daughter or brother/sister will be placed on the ANKC Limited Registrar.

It was also felt that grandparent to grandparent mating was not recommended.

I urge all breeders to be very proactive in this regard and do not undertake any linebreeding closer than (2-3) or (3-2)

For your information please find the requirement to be classified at Breed Survey relative to linebreeding.

- ***Animals born after 1 July 2011 to be classified at breed survey must not have any linebreeding closer than (3-2) or (2-3)***

Stud dog owners also have a responsibility to ensure that any perspective matings from their stud dogs do not contravene the above linebreeding.

## Size

This has been a nemesis for the German Shepherd Dog since the lifting of the importation ban and in my opinion will continue so for a number of years.

There is no question that the majority of our highly placed and successful animals both males and females stand at the upper limit of size. Changes were introduced as from the 1 July 2008 and once again it is important to note that it is preferred that the animal stands with the desired standard of size.

It is not open ended and the motion carried at the 2008 GSDCA Annual General Meeting states quite clearly that animals standing outside the limitations of size may be considered on the proviso that they are of above average anatomical construction.

I believe that the Breed Surveyors have agreed to work together to address the problem. It should be noted that there is a degree of responsibility from the breeders as well to take some hard decisions on animals that are clearly well outside the standard and not include these animals in their breeding program. This is required if any improvement is to be achieved.

As per the GSDCA Breed Survey Manual there is a clear description of the size which is to be used for all breed surveyors so that there is a uniformity of terminology for males that measure over 65cms and females that measure over 60cms

<b>Dogs (cms) :</b>	<b>Bitches (cms) :</b>	<b>Description :</b>
<b>60 -61</b>	<b>55 -56</b>	<b>Small</b>
<b>61-62</b>	<b>56-57</b>	<b>Under medium size</b>
<b>62-63</b>	<b>57-58</b>	<b>Medium size</b>
<b>63-64</b>	<b>58-59</b>	<b>Above medium size</b>
<b>64-65</b>	<b>59-60</b>	<b>Large</b>
<b>65-66</b>	<b>60-61</b>	<b>Very large</b>
<b>Above 66</b>	<b>Above 61</b>	<b>Oversize</b>

For animals that are described as very large an additional comment is made under particular virtues and faults – *“standing on the upper limit of size”*.

## Photographs for Breed Survey.

Thank you to the owners that have supplied photographs in the first instance and thank you to the owners that have responded to my repeated requests.

Just a reminder that the photograph remains with your animal forever and I cannot imagine anyone not wanting to show their animal to the best advantage. *Please refer to the article written by Louisa Rodger that appeared in the June 2007 National Quarterly Review.*

## Update of the GSDCA Breed Survey Manual

The current GSDCA Breed Survey Manual requires updating to include a number of changes that have recently been implemented.

Mr. Steve Collins has undertaken this task on my behalf and has worked through the proposed changes for discussion at this meeting.

Thank you Steve for your assistance.

The updated and reformatted manual will be forwarded under separate cover.

## Uniformity of conduct of a Breed Survey

The uniformity of conduct of a Breed Survey has been a major discussion point over the past twelve months. The lack of uniformity, not only covers the administration side, but also the perception of animals receiving different classifications State to State.

The topic will be discussed at length during the meeting.

## **Sire Progeny at 2103 GSD National Show and Trial**

The Sires Progeny is an important part of the National Show and Trial and the way that it has been developed over recent years I believe is seen as a positive achievement and very well accepted by the fraternity. The value of the Sires Progeny at the National and the subsequent report as published for the fraternity cannot be understated.

The National Breed Commission Executive would like to thank all exhibitors for making their animals available for assessment in the Sires Progeny at this year's National.

The NBC Executive again this year asked that all GSDCA Breed Surveyors and Specialist Judges attending the National view the Sires Progeny and as a collective at State level discuss and report their observation to the NBC Executive.

The NBC Executive believe that the improved standard of the GSD in Australia is a direct result of the GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes, and as a result the assessment of the Sires Progeny at Nationals ensures information and breed direction is offered back to breeders in order for them to consider and make informed decisions with regard to their breeding program.

The requirement to qualify has not changed and all animals as presented were nine months and over. In total seventeen groups were eligible but only fourteen 14 groups were assessed by the NBC Executive. Of the sires four were locally bred with ten being imported sires.

Whilst the NBC Executive overall was very pleased with the quality of the groups, it must be noted that the groups of Kwint Juerikstall, Jimmy Baruther Land, Orrinshir Elton John and Kardin Kruger were very impressive with both the number of animals of desired type and of high quality.

Whilst it was pleasing to see a number of Australian bred animals being able to present a group namely Kardin Kruger, Orrinshir Elton John, and Schneeberg Fire Storm and Vladimir Envy This, the NBC Executive opinion is that a number of Australian bred sires have not be given the opportunity by the breeders and have been overlooked as having the ability to further add to the development of the breed in Australia. This group of locally bred sires are in themselves far above average animals that demonstrate through their groups a high degree of predictability with progeny that are of very good type and quality.

Breeders are urged to consider sons of all the sires presented and we would expect if utilised they will in turn also be able to add further to the breeding base by consolidating type. It is important that these locally bred dogs are not lost to the breed as they, as we have said on many occasions before, carry a high degree of predictability which can be cemented in their sons and daughters.

It is essential that we look at what we have in our own "backyard" before heading off on the unknown path of using the latest 'import'. If practiced, utilising the best of what we have together with 'new' bloodlines will consolidate and improve type further. This should see the combination of a number of very good bloodlines and ensure the continued improvement of the breed in Australia.

The positive influence that Kwint Juerikstall and Cayos Noriswand have had on the breed cannot be disputed. The improvement in the overall type and construction as evidenced by their progeny is well demonstrated in the show ring and with the quality of animals being presented to the Breed Survey scheme. In addition, both sires have excellent progeny results through the GSDCA HD/ED Control Scheme.

Since the Sires Progeny at the National three sires that presented have passed away after a sudden illness.

- Gazza Tamaraspitze
- Zony Haus Gerstenberg
- Kwint Juerikstall

I would like to offer my condolences to the owners of these sires and acknowledge their contribution to the development of the breed here in Australia.

In particular the contribution that Kwint Juerikstall has made to the overall improvement of the breed here in Australia in both body and mind cannot be underestimated. The NBC Executive believes that this sire is now a cornerstone of

the breed and his contribution will continue to demonstrate a positive impact via his progeny on the further development of the breed here in Australia.

Again I wish to record my condolences to the Alistair and Fiona Henderson, Daryl and Cheryll Willis, Les, Brenda and Peter Hersant and Andrew and Rachel Jones and family, Salvatore Pitelli and Richard Mindin for the loss of Gazza Tamaspitze, Zony Haus Gerstenberg and Kwint Juerikstall respectively.

There is no doubt that these sires were a valued member of the family and will be very much missed by all.

#### *Attachment 5 Sires Progeny Report 2013 National Show and Trial*

#### **Conclusion**

A number of other issues have been placed on the Agenda which will be discussed over the weekend and it will be a busy one but I believe a very productive one.

The issue of a Code of Ethics, Service Agreement or a contract for GSDCA Breed Surveyors and Specialists Judges has been placed on the Agenda once again for discussion.

I have been approached by a number of Breed Surveyors and Judges stating that they feel that we need to raise the profile of Breed Surveyors and Judges within the fraternity and would like to discuss a Code of Conduct policy for possible introduction in the future.

To all of my Registrars thank you once again for your hard work, time and effort to ensure the smooth running of the GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes. It is a pleasure to be able to work with you as a team.

To all Member Clubs, Breed Surveyors, Judges and individual members thank you for your support not only over the past twelve months but since my appointment to this position.

I enjoy the work, the information and I am only too happy to be of assistance or answer any queries that you may have in regards to any area under the umbrella of the National Breed Commission. Please feel free to telephone me or email and I will do my best to answer your questions as soon as possible.

While the past two years has not been easy, I have been able to carry out my portfolio in the same manner with the support of the fraternity.

I would like to thank my fellow Executive both past and present for your support and for combining to work together for the betterment of the German Shepherd Dog.

I have stated on a number of occasions how passionate I am about this organisation, its aims and ideals, which has seen the fraternity in good stead to fight the anti-dog and anti-pure bred dog lobby.

We have come a long way by a lot of hard work, a lot of heart break but one thing for sure the **German Shepherd Dog** is now a far better specimen and the puppy we offer for sale is sounder in both body and mind.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone all the very best in their future breeding program.

Respectfully submitted,

***Joylene Neddermeyer***  
***NBC Chairman.***