

The day of the Show

- Know where you are going – don't get lost!. Arrive early
- Bring a lead, water (and perhaps some treats) for your dog
- A chair is handy, as are poo bags
- A tent for shade and protection is useful
- A drink and any food you might need yourself
- The show can last several hours, so be prepared !
- Collect your catalogue and vest (or number) from the secretary
- If it's an All breeds show, find the Group 5 ring, and keep an eye on when your breed and class will be called. If you don't present, you're marked absent, no 2nd chance !

Show Vests

Most GSD clubs provide vests with catalogue numbers on them to be worn by handlers when in the ring. These MUST be returned to the show secretary at the completion of your class.

Types of Dog Shows

Championship Show: - a show where dogs are competing for challenge certificates, for which points are gained towards a Champion Title. Only qualified Championship judges officiate.

Open Show: - a show where no challenge points are awarded. Trainee judges officiate.

Judging

The dogs are shown first then the bitches are shown in order of class (1,2,3 etc.). So baby puppy dogs are up first followed by minor puppy dogs etc. The best dog is selected at the conclusion of judging all dogs and the best bitch is selected at the conclusion of all bitches.

The best dog and best bitch then compete for best in breed and the runner up dog or bitch is requested back in the ring in order to select the runner up best of breed.

This is then followed by run-offs between the respective class winners in dogs and bitches for Best Baby Puppy of Breed, Best Minor Puppy of Breed, Best Puppy of Breed and so on.

Breed winners are then required to compete against other breeds in Group Specials and General Specials (Best in Show).

Rules

Detailed regulations for shows can be viewed on the ANKC website www.ankc.org.au

What Breeds are in Group 5 (Working Dogs)

Australian Cattle Dog, Australian Kelpie, Australian Shepherd, Bearded Collie, Belgian Shepherd Dog (Groenendael - Laekenois - Malinois - Tervueren), Border Collie, Bouvier des Flandres, Briard, Collie (Rough), Collie (Smooth), Finnish Lapphund, **German Shepherd Dog (stock coat and LSC)**, Komondor, Kuvasz, Maremma Sheepdog, Norwegian Buhund, Old English Sheepdog, Polish Lowland Sheepdog, Puli, Pumi, Shetland Sheepdog, Stumpy

Tail Cattle Dog, Swedish Vallhund, Welsh Corgi (Cardigan) and Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)

Can you show a long coat GSD?

From January 2012, the German Shepherd Dog Breed Standard will now encompass the Long Stock Coat variety (longer outer coat, still with undercoat present) and is in line with the country of origin standard (Germany).

To be eligible to enter a conformation show a Long Stock Coat (with undercoat) born before 1 Jan 2012 must be assessed by three Specialist German Shepherd judges or in remote areas 3 Group 5 Judges to be transferred to the new LSC register with the VCA/Dogs Victoria. Any LSC born after 1st Jan 2012 can be registered as LSC by the breeder and do not need to be assessed.

Breed Survey & Showing – what's the link?

At Breed Survey, animals are classified with recommendations for breeding.

At a show, dogs are placed from first to last in order of merit when compared to others exhibited on the day, and also receive a 'grading' which relates to their quality in comparison to the standard.

Breed Survey and Excellent Medallions

There is a link between Survey and Show - a dog must have been classified Class 1 or Class 2 at Breed Survey before it can be eligible for the highest grading of 'Excellent' in a show and be awarded the GSDCA Excellent medallion. These medallions are only presented at GSD speciality shows conducted by GSDCA member clubs (or approved shows run in conjunction with a member club, such as the Working Dog Club and Ballarat Dog Club shows in Victoria). As well as being Breed Surveyed, dogs must be over two years of age and entered in the Open Class to be eligible for an 'Excellent' medal.

What are the GSDCV Shows Available?

Championship Show – March
State Breed Exhibition – May
Championship Show – November
Open Show – December

GSDCV Show Awards

Details here www.gsdcv.org.au/Show_Trial_Awards
It's the owners or breeders responsibility to nominate for each award, see the award nomination form in the Shepherd News!

How does the GSDCV Points Score work?

To view the scoring structure for the various GSDCV Perpetual Show Trophies that details how the Points Score works, view the Point Score rules on our website www.gsdcv.org.au/points_score

German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria Inc

I would like to SHOW my dog what do I do now??

Congratulations on being ready to take the next step with your dog !

This document gives a brief overview of all the things you need to do and consider when first considering conformation showing. If you need any further help or clarification, contact breedaffairs@gsdcv.org.au or your Show or Chief Instructor

Why Show?

The show ring is the 'window' of the breed – the competition between dogs brings rewards to those judged to be nearest to the written standard of their breed. Breeders are guided, to a large extent, by the decisions made by judges in the show ring.

How are Dogs Shown at a Specialist GSD Show?

The ring is quite big, and the dogs are moved around the ring at various speeds, usually on a long lead out the front of the handler. The dog is critiqued and does an individual gait around the ring. The class is then moved together while the judge finalises positions. Dogs are placed from first to last and each receives a Grading.

How are Dogs Shown at an All Breeds Show?

The dogs are moved around the ring on a short lead, next to the handler, each dog is stacked and does a short individual. The dogs are moved as a group several more times around the ring before the judge awards 3 placings per class. The ring is much smaller than for a specialist show.

What is a Critique?

The specialist GSD judge will assess and describe the animal's physical makeup and movement as compared to the Breed Standard. Your dog will also be measured and have their teeth and testicles (males) checked.

Joining Dogs Victoria

In order to compete in a show, you must first become a member of Dogs Victoria. When joining Dogs Victoria you must also register (if not already done so) your dog(s) that you wish to compete with. You can download an application form from the Dogs Vic website: www.dogsvictoria.org.au

Your dog MUST have pedigree papers to be registered

Once you have joined, you will receive a monthly Dogs Vic Gazette. The Gazette contains schedules for up and coming shows plus lots more. All schedules will contain the name of the host club, time & date, judges, details of entry, payment and the entry closing date.

Does my dog have the right papers???

What is the difference between the Main Register and Limited Register pedigrees?

Pedigree registrations are issued by the ANKC through the State associations (e.g. Dogs Victoria) after application by the Breeder (who must be a member of Dogs Vic). The Main Register pedigrees are blue in colour, whilst the Limited Register pedigrees are orange in colour, both A4 size.

Dogs registered on the Limited Register may not be exhibited in conformation shows, nor can they be bred with, but can still be entered in Obedience and other Trials.

Dogs registered on the Main Register are eligible to participate in all of the above areas.

Dogs without pedigrees can be registered as 'associates'. There are many obedience, tracking and endurance trials you are eligible to enter with associate dogs, but they cannot be shown.

What shows can you enter? If you have a pedigreed GSD, you can enter all Shepherd Club shows that are listed as Open, Championship or State Breed Exhibitions, and All Breed shows for Group 5 dogs.

What if my Dog or Bitch is Neutered or Spayed?

Unfortunately you cannot show your dog except in 'neuter classes' where available.

Can my female dog be shown if she's 'in season'?

Yes

Entering your first show - How? Where's the Schedule?

After you have joined Dogs Victoria and registered your dog, you can now enter shows. What do you do....? Show schedules will be listed in the Dogs Victoria Gazette (you receive this with your membership) and GSDCV shows are also listed in both the Shepherd News and on the GSDCV website.

Decide on the show you wish to enter, note the closing date for

entries and send off your entry form to the secretary with your payment cheque. You can also enter online for GSDCV shows.

Where do I get an entry form?

Entry forms can be downloaded from Dogs Victoria for all shows www.dogsvictoria.org.au

OR you can enter online (and pay by credit card) for GSDCV shows via www.gsdcv.org.au/entries

If sending a hard copy entry, ensure your entry form is cut to size (~1/2 A4) and include a SSAE to get confirmation your entry is received. Nothing worse than driving a long distance only to find that your name is not in the catalogue because the secretary didn't get your entry in time. Get in the habit of including an email address and phone number so if there is a problem with the entry the Show secretary can contact you if needed.

How can my breeder help?

Ask your breeder for guidance with your dog, its suitability for showing and any questions on its conformation. They may also be able to assist with ring training, teaching you to 'stack' your dog in a show stance and attending the show.

They are your best source of assistance if you're interested in showing, as most breeders are involved themselves.

What are the show classes available?

A dog show is divided into several classes which are based on the age of the exhibit. The following are the specifications of classes for show fixtures. Where separate classes are provided for each sex, the class numbers for bitches are followed by the letter 'a', i.e. Baby Puppy Bitch Class 1a.

Class 1 - Baby Puppy - dogs of 3 and under 6 months old
Class 2 - Minor Puppy - dogs of 6 and under 9 months old
Class 3 - Puppy - dogs of 6 and under 12 months old
Class 4 - Junior - dogs of 9 and under 18 months old
Class 5 - Intermediate - dogs of 18 and under 36 months
Class 10 - Australian Bred - dogs 6 months or over born in Australia

Class 11 - Open - dogs over 6 months of age

If there are any special changes to class age groupings, these will be listed on the schedule

- Dogs are entered in class (1) (2)
- Bitches are entered in class (1a) (2a) etc.

Happy Showing!

Which class do I enter ?

Enter the class that is most age relevant for your dog.

Do I need a 'handler' for my dog?

You can handle your own dog, but often a dog will appear more animated when it is looking for a familiar face outside the ring. Having someone handle your dog may be advantageous, however actively attracting a dog from outside the ring is strictly not allowed at all-breed shows.

What is Double Handling?

You can handle your own dog, but often a dog will appear more animated when it is looking for a familiar face outside the ring. Having someone handle your dog may be advantageous, however actively attracting a dog from outside the ring is strictly not allowed at all-breed shows.

How do I become a Handler?

If you are interested in becoming a handler - to learn how to show a dog in the ring, the best place to start is your local training branch. Speak to the show instructor about showing and handling and get involved with the show training class to learn the skills. If your branch doesn't have a show training class, you may have to visit another branch or even the GSDCV's Specialist Show Branch. Another member at your branch may be involved in showing and would be happy to give you some tips. Remember if you are young to always work with and handle a dog that is appropriate for your own size and strength.

Preparation, preparation, preparation..... What Next?

Go along to a show before your own 1st entry. Then nothing will be a surprise. Perhaps tag along with someone you know from your branch who is showing and can explain things. Speak to your show instructor, who will be able to help you with training, and hopefully some ring practice at your branch, as well as answer any questions.

GSDCV Specialist Show Training Branch (SSB)

The GSDCV's Show Training branch is located at KCC Park, Skye, and runs show classes for puppies and adults on Sundays, beginning at 12pm.

Equipment

Show Lead (leather, 6ft+) and a show collar for a specialist show.

At an all breeds show a shorter lead and collar is preferred. Also an armband - for your entry number in all breeds shows, worn on the left hand side of your body. The clear plastic ones are good, or you can just use a safety pin on your chest.