

Can my male Dog be a Stud Dog?

Your dog would need to be hip & elbow x-rayed, and have been Breed surveyed to be considered for use as a stud dog.

Line breeding

It is imperative that all breeders be aware of close line breeding and the problems it can cause. ANKC Member Bodies will not register the progeny of first degree matings (father/daughter, mother/son, brother/sister) on the Main register.

Veterinary

You will come to know your regular vet very well. Make sure you also have contact details of and know where your local emergency vet clinic is. Whelping difficulties invariably occur out of normal vet clinic hours.

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

Make sure you are prepared well in advance for the birth of your puppies. A good idea is to ask for an experienced breeder to be available for advice. You should have a sturdy, clean, proper sized whelping box for the litter. It must include a rail around the edge to prevent the bitch from laying on her pups. Get your bitch used to being in it. Keep the puppies clean in the whelping box. Newborn puppies must be kept warm. Large litters may require supplemental feedings. Your bitch may not be able to care for a very large litter.

What to do with your puppies as they grow?

Start work early in producing well-adjusted puppies 10 to 14 days old - handle and talk to puppies on a daily basis, socialise them. Have other people to visit the pups to get used to different people handling them.

3 to 6 weeks old - socialisation is critical. Play with littermates important. Pups can hear, see and have a sense of smell. Build the puppies confidence - expose them to unfamiliar places and loud noises. Feed them in one area, let them toilet in another. Have several areas for play, as well as outside areas.

5 to 7 weeks - the pups are totally dependent on the environment you provide to stimulate and foster development. Provide attention from others for proper socialisation.

8 to 9 weeks - the pups can go to new owners and homes, having received human contact and love, exposure to different environments and house breaking. You can place the puppies according to their temperaments in homes with new owners. Different personalities will match different homes and families.

What to provide in your 'puppy pack' to new owners

1. Information on general care, worming and immunisation
2. Diet information, including details of what the puppy is currently fed on. A few days food is a good idea.
3. Pedigree forms and signed transfer form.
4. Microchip details

5. GSDCV Club Puppy Booklets and Education flyers
6. Photos of both sire and dam
7. Contact information, useful websites
8. A toy (optional)

What is a 5 generation pedigree?

A 5 generation pedigree is a pedigree showing the last 5 generations of breeding behind your puppy. I.e Sire and dam of each generation on both the maternal and paternal side

GSDCV Puppy Listing Service

You can list your litter on the GSDCV Puppy Listings webpage. There is no fee. The parents must both be breed surveyed.

RESPONSIBLE BREEDING

By Dr Karen Hedberg, BVSc, practising veterinary surgeon and Chair of the ANKC Canine Health Committee.

Dedicated dog breeders must become relative experts in many areas if they wish to produce sound, healthy dogs. Areas include:

- Feeding and nutrition
- Housing and kennel management
- Mating
- Whelping
- Basic genetics
- Disease control

Understanding of the problems within their breed. Healthy, beautiful dogs that are sound in temperament and body are the aim of all dedicated dog breeders. The end result is often a compromise of various factors, including economic ones, but where soundness impacts the dog's quality of life, we must make honest attempts to decrease the incidence of any problems. Breed clubs should incorporate any available testing that can reduce the incidence of disease or improve soundness within the breed. The more we know of all the factors affecting our breeding stock before breeding a litter, the better equipped we will be to find solutions to potential problems and reduce the number of unsound dogs being produced. This has benefits for all, but particularly for the dogs.

Why breed a litter?

Before you breed a litter, you should know why you are doing so and have goals in mind for what you wish to achieve. A responsible breeder aims to produce a litter for better construction and temperament and a sounder dog. You should understand the basics of genetics to give you some idea of how different traits or characteristics are inherited. In contemplating a litter, you should consider the 'breed worth' of the parents and their overall breed soundness. When breeding dogs, we are constantly trying to create better and hopefully sounder dogs.

German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria Inc

I would like to BREED my dog

How do I go about this?

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

Before you breed your dog, there are some important things to consider: Why Breed?

You should only be breeding to better the GSD breed.

"Breeding a litter of puppies is not about making dollars! It really only gives some recompense to the money you will outlay over the lifetime of your bitches"

What is a Responsible breeder?

- Responsible breeders believe that each new litter they breed should be an improvement on the parents and the breed
- Responsible breeders give careful consideration to health issues, temperament and the appearance of the dog
- Responsible breeders plan ahead of each mating to ensure that each puppy produced will be bred in the best possible environment
- Responsible breeders accept responsibility for a puppy which they have bred, and make themselves available to give advice, help and information to new owners

Learning how to breed responsibly

The Breed Standard

As a new breeder, you should read and understand the GSD Breed Standard. One of the most important parts of your education is learning what the breed standard means. It describes how the breed should look, move and the correct breed character

Breeding from your bitch - Things to consider

- Is the bitch fit, healthy and does she have a good temperament?
- Can I afford to pay for the recommended health tests for the bitch prior to mating her and, where necessary, for her litter?
- Do I know enough to help the bitch during the whelping, if necessary?
- Can I afford to pay for a caesarean should the dam have difficulty whelping the litter?
- Could I cope with a very large litter of, say, 8 or 10 puppies?
- Do I have sufficient knowledge to rear the litter correctly, including worming, vaccinations and socialisation?
- Have I the time to devote to a litter until the puppies are old enough to go to their new homes at eight weeks?
- Am I knowledgeable enough to advise new owners about caring for their puppies, including rearing, diet, training and health problems?
- Would I be able to find good homes for the puppies?
- Am I in a position to take back or re-home any puppies if it becomes necessary?

Joining Dogs Victoria

In order to breed a litter for registration, you must first have been a member of Dogs Victoria for 12 months. When joining Dogs Victoria you must also register (if not already done so) your dog(s). You can download an application form from the Dogs Vic website: www.dogsvictoria.org.au Once you have joined, you will receive a monthly Dogs Vic Gazette. The Gazette contains lots of relevant information for purebred dog breeders and those who exhibit their dogs.

Dogs Victoria & ANKC registration requirements

You need to become familiar with the ANKC rules and recordkeeping requirements. You should be aware that they have the right to inspect your premises and breeding records at any time. If your recordkeeping doesn't meet their standards, they can refuse to register your puppies, impose a fine and suspend you from registration privileges for life.

Once you become a member of Dogs Victoria, in accordance with the Regulations you may only breed with pedigree dogs on the Main Register of the ANKC Database, you must register all puppies in a litter and provide the Certificates of Registration & Pedigree to all new owners. As a Dogs Victoria Registered Breeder, under no circumstances are you permitted to sell any puppies 'without papers' or breed any dogs that are not registered on the Main Register of the ANKC National Database.

Does my dog have the right papers to breed with ?

You will need to be the registered owner of a purebred GSD with your name on the Certificate of Registration & Pedigree of the intended bitch that you wish to mate. Your bitch will need to be on the Main Register.

Breeders Prefix

You will need to pass an exam and apply for a stud prefix **before** breeding your dogs. Contact Dogs Victoria for all relevant information and costs.

How can my breeder help?

Ask your own breeder for guidance with your dog, it's suitability for breeding and any questions on its conformation. They may also be able to assist with ring training and preparation for breed survey. They are your best source of assistance if you're interested in breeding and/or showing.

Improvement of the GSD Breed

Breed Improvement Schemes

The German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc (GSDCA) has developed a number of Schemes for breed improvement to the German Shepherd Dog as a Breed.

Those schemes are:

GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme
GSDCA Tattoo Scheme (ended 2017)
GSDCA Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Control Schemes
GSDCA Haemophilia Scheme (ended 2019)
GSDCA Tooth Certificate Scheme
GSDCA Hereditary Diseases Scheme

Objective of Breed Survey

To promote and offer guidance for the uniform development of the German Shepherd Dog breed, by evaluating and recording the pedigree and the breed worth of each animal, according to the Breed Standard, resulting in improvement of the breeds' inherent working qualities.

Dogs and bitches are awarded a breed survey classification if it is expected that they will contribute to the overall improvement of the breed in Australia.

Breeding Ethics

The following guidelines must be complied with.

Stud Dog

1. The Stud Dog must hip & elbow x-rayed and Breed Surveyed Classified prior to mating.

2. Minimum age of stud dog should be 18 months.
3. Owner of stud dog should request a veterinary clearance for breeding soundness (swab certificate).

Brood Bitch

1. Your bitch must be hip & elbow x-rayed and be Breed Surveyed Classified prior to mating.

2. Minimum age for breeding is 18 months.
3. A veterinary clearance for breeding soundness (swab certificate) is required for the bitch.
4. A bitch may not be bred from more than twice in each period of eighteen (18) months.

Puppies

1. Puppies should be a minimum of eight weeks of age prior to leaving breeder, must be micro chipped and may be tattooed by a recognised Club Tattooist.
2. All mutations and obvious malformations should be culled at birth.
3. Breeder must ensure that all puppies are de-wormed and immunized at least ten days prior to leaving the breeder.
4. Puppies must be in a clean and healthy condition and kennels should be in a clean condition.
5. Information on general care, diet, worming and immunization, pedigree forms and signed transfer form must be given on receipt of payment from the buyer. It is recommended that Club Booklets and/or Education Units be supplied by the breeder.
6. GSDCV breeders can obtain Free Training certificates for new puppy buyers from their branch Breed Liaison officer.

SELECTING A STUD DOG

What Paperwork should the owner of the Stud Dog be able to show you?

1. The Stud Dog's Victorian Canine Association (VCA) Registration Certificate
2. Breed Survey Certificate
3. "A" and "Z" Stamp Certificate for Hips and Elbows

Questions to ask the owner of the Stud Dog

1. Is the Dog owner happy to accept your bitch to his/her dog?
 2. Is a veterinary check for breeding soundness required e.g. a Swab Certificate?
 3. Do you require progesterone tests prior to mating?
 4. Is the dog available about the approximate time your bitch should be ready to mate?
 5. What is the stud fee? How much? When and how paid?
- OR** Is there a service fee? How much? When do I pay it? When would the remainder of the Stud fee be paid and how much will it be? What form of payment is acceptable?
6. If I pay a Service fee and my bitch fails to conceive do I pay another Service fee when I return to use the dog?
 7. What is considered a litter? 2 live puppies? 3 live puppies? Or?
 8. What happens if my bitch fails to conceive? Do you offer a return for this bitch? Or can I bring another bitch? Or is there any other alternative?
 9. If my bitch fails to conceive how long do I have to use the Stud fee?
 10. Are there any circumstances when the stud fee or Service fee would be refunded?