

## CLUB

### Membership

When you join our club you are entitled to train at any GSDCV branch. Just produce your current membership card and as a courtesy, always ask if there are any local branch rules to be aware of eg. dogs always on leash during training time etc.

### Branch Training

Weekly training is the cornerstone of our club and we encourage all members to come along, if for nothing more than the benefits of the social interaction it offers for both members and also their dogs. Not to be underestimated !

### Fundays

Each year, the GSDCV runs a 'Fun Day' where members from each branch throughout Victoria come together at a central venue and 'compete' in basic obedience and showing, whilst representing their branch. This day is all about participation and enjoyment, and allows those wanting some extra experience to challenge themselves to 'bring home a ribbon'. There are games and lots of fun for you and your dog.

### Social Events

Getting involved and enjoying activities with people who have a like interest is one of the best ways of meeting new people and learning more about our dogs. Most branches hold semi regular social activities, and of course shows and trials are always a great place to meet and catch up with people.

### Seminars

Ongoing Education is a key to always improving our understanding of dogs – their health, behaviour and what they are involved in. Regular seminars are a great way to interact, learn and pass on information. Our club holds various seminars throughout the year across a range of subjects.

**GSDCV Website** [www.gsdcv.org.au](http://www.gsdcv.org.au)

Our 'one stop shop' for everything you need – and more!

### Club Awards

As with any club, we recognise those who contribute and volunteer, but also we reward those dogs and handlers who have competed at any level in any discipline.

### Committee

Are you the type of person who likes to get really involved, perhaps has some skills you can offer in a particular area? We are always looking for and welcome new members to all our committees and assistance in targeted areas.

### Instructors and Training

GSDCV Instructors are at the core of what our club offers - Teaching YOU the handler to train YOUR DOG. With experience and training, a GSDCV instructor can provide advice and techniques to help with all aspects of dog training and behaviour. Have you considered becoming an instructor?

## PROMOTION of the GSD

**Whenever you are out in public with your dog, you are promoting the German Shepherd Dog. YOU and Your Dog are a great promotional tool for our breed.**

In addition to every member playing a role, we actively promote our club and breed via the media and internet, taking every opportunity to promote our dogs and their value as pets and working dogs.

Please take every opportunity YOU can to promote our breed. Don't forget our promo sticker on your car !



## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Many members are involved with their dogs in hospital and aged care visits in Therapy Dog programs. Some also do school visits under the Dog Awareness program. Your dog must be sound, well socialised and obedient, but it's something to aim for !

### Good Friday Appeal

The GSDCV has helped with collection for the RCH Good Friday Appeal for nearly 30 years, collecting nearly half a million dollars. It's a social event driven by GSDCV branches, that allows us to contribute to a very worthwhile cause – the kids at the RCH.

## BREED IMPROVEMENT

The health of GSD's today is much improved as our breeders participate in national Hip and Elbow Schemes and Breed Survey, to improve the health of our dogs.

### Breeding

There is more to breeding than 'just having puppies'. If you are considering becoming a GSD breeder, there are many people in the club who can assist you and guide you. The GSDCV is proud of our participation in the breed improvement schemes, and as a new breeder there is much to learn about breeding for improvement – so you've come to the right place !!.

## RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Whenever you are out in public with your dog, you are promoting the German Shepherd Dog. The GSDCV is also active in ensuring that our dogs retain their rights through appropriate government legislation, but all members need to ensure they do the right thing by themselves and their dog.

## German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria Inc

# What Can **YOU** do with **YOUR** Dog ?

Congratulations on owning your GSD and being a part of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria. We would like you to be an active and integral member of our club, and we have much to offer both you and your dog.

**This document gives a brief overview of all the activities on offer. If you would like to become involved in any aspect of the GSDCV, speak to your training Branch Manager or contact the club secretary**

**[secretary@gsdcv.org.au](mailto:secretary@gsdcv.org.au) for further information !**

## Dog Obedience – 'Training for Life'

Most members come along to GSDCV branches in order to achieve a basic level of training for their dogs, so that they can be well behaved canine citizens, who are a pleasure to live with and to take out and about. A well trained GSD is a joy to own. Sometimes extra work is required with dogs that may be difficult or not well adjusted to the activities of life.

**But there is so much more that you can be involved with and that you and your dog can enjoy.** Once your dog has achieved a standard of obedience and behaviour, you might consider getting involved in other activities. As a GSDCV member, you can get involved in a range of things with your dog, from competitions to community activities and promotions. Alternatively, if your dog is not quite ready, you can still be involved yourself. Read on.....

## PUBLICITY & PROMOTIONS

### Pet Expos & Public Demonstrations

The GSDCV regularly attends local council Pet Expos, Shows and Pet Days. This is always a great opportunity to showcase the German Shepherd breed, and provide info about our dogs and our club. Often, a team of club members and their dogs will put on a display of basic obedience and tricks. Demos such as this are always well received. The public also like the opportunity to get up close and personal with a German Shepherd, and there is nothing better to sell our breed than a hug and pat with a well socialised GSD.

Check out [gsdcv.org.au/promotion/demos/](http://gsdcv.org.au/promotion/demos/)

## TRIALLING

As our breed is a working breed, where better than the trial area to see the ability and extended level of obedience these dogs and handlers can aspire to and achieve !

Trials include - Obedience, Rally-O, Tracking, Endurance and Herding

### Obedience

Obedience trials are a test of the dog and handler working as a team to complete various exercises. These exercises must be done in a prescribed manner, and the level of difficulty increases over the various levels. In the lower trial classes (CCD & Novice), the basics are Heeling, Stand for Examination, Recall and Sit and Down Stays. In Novice there's also a change of position or a retrieve of the dumbbell. At the higher levels, all work is done off-lead and also jumping and scent discrimination are required. All a big challenge for you and your dog!

### Rally – O

Rally-Obedience is a new form of obedience trialling. The obedience exercises are in a course situation with signs for activities. Unlike in traditional obedience trials, handlers are allowed to encourage their dogs during the course, so you may use verbal praise and petting. The course is laid out using numbered signs which instruct the team to go fast or slow, to halt (dog sit at heel), to make turns and circles, to reverse direction, to do a sit-stay-recall, to go over a jump, and to follow other basic obedience exercises.

### Tracking

The idea of Tracking Trials is to encourage dogs to make use of their strongest faculty by copying as closely as possible, the seeking and finding of a missing person. In Tracking trials we ask the dog to track to a pattern that we set out in the bush or a paddock, following it intensely, taking the corners and finally finding the tracklayer at the end of the track.

There are 8 tests from 400m-1200m long and to pass each Test the Tracklayer must be found at the end of each Track to obtain a Pass. Track and Search trials in urban streets are the next level.

Many branches have active members and instructors who are involved in tracking and could assist you.

### Endurance

The ET is a 20km run for the dog and the handler can run or ride a bike. Its completed at 10km/hr in 3 stages: 8km, 6km and 6km with 15min and 20min breaks. There is a short obedience test for the dogs prior to and at the end of the 20km – they must 'want' to work doing a basic obedience test. There is a vet check before, at each break and at the end of the 20km. Vets check heart rate, temperature and condition of the dogs foot pads.

The ET is a challenge of both you and your dogs fitness. When all is done, you have your ET!

The ET is held in June each year and your dog must be between 2 and 8 years old to compete.

**See what the test is really like and what is involved.....**

Watch the video of the Endurance Trial to see what it's really like ! [www.gsdcv.org.au/training/endurance](http://www.gsdcv.org.au/training/endurance)

### Herding

GSD's were bred for herding. There are currently 3 herding courses for competition. The dog works with (mainly) sheep and must herd them through obstacles and along a known route. The dog requires herding instinct, training and obedience - and respect for the sheep! Herding is a small sport, but there are local trials that you can compete in.

### Agility

Most branches have various types of agility equipment that they make available to members. Agility requires a basic level of obedience and control. The GSDCV does not run competition agility trials, but these are available through Dogs Victoria Clubs.

### Trials and Titles

When you achieve a title through trialling, the letters of that title can be placed at the end of your dog's name and becomes part of the registered name. What an achievement!

## SHOWING

A dog Show is the 'window to the breed' and dogs are judged on their conformation (structure) and how they perform in comparison to the other dogs in the ring on the day. There are both specialist GSD shows and All breed shows to compete in. The show ring can be a lot of fun for you and your dog.

Long Coated GSD's can now also be shown if registered as a 'long stock coat GSD'. In order to show your dog, generally they must not have been spayed or neutered. However there are special neuter classes.

Many GSDCV Branches run Show classes, or the alternative is to attend the Specialist Show Branch at KCC Park Skye for help

### 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.

**So Take the next step & Get involved in the Fun!**

## GSDCV EVENTS

### What are the GSDCV Obedience Trials Available?

Championship Show Restricted to Breed Trial – March  
State Breed Exhibition Restricted to Breed Trial – May  
Open Rally Trial - July  
Championship Show Restricted to Group 5 Trial– November

Open Medallion 'back to back' Trial – October

### When are the GSDCV Tracking Trials?

All tests (1-8) in June and Track & Search trial in October.

### When is the GSDCV Endurance trial?

Open Endurance Trial - June

### What are the GSDCV Shows Available?

Championship Show – March  
State Breed Exhibition – May  
Championship Show – November  
Open Show – December  
Ballarat and Working Dog Specialist Shows (Feb & Nov)

## What Might You Need to Do?

In order to participate or compete in some of the previous activities, in addition to being a GSDCV member, you may have to complete and check some further important aspects.

### Joining Dogs Victoria

In order to compete in any trial or show you must first become a member of Dogs Victoria (DV). You must also register (if not already done so) your dog(s) that you wish to compete with. Application forms from the Dogs Vic website: [www.dogsvictoria.org.au](http://www.dogsvictoria.org.au) You will then receive a monthly Dogs Vic Gazette. The Gazette contains schedules for future trials and shows which detail the host club, time & date, judges, details of entry, payment and the entry closing date.

### Does my dog have the right papers???

Pedigree registrations are issued by the VCA (Victorian Canine Association) after application by the Breeder (who must be registered with the VCA). Main Register pedigrees are blue, whilst Limited Register pedigrees are orange in colour. 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 Trials. **Dogs registered on the Main Register are eligible to participate in all of the above areas.**

GSD's without pedigrees can be registered as 'associates'. There are many Open obedience, Rally-O, tracking, endurance and herding trials you are eligible to enter with your dog.

### Rules

Detailed regulations for Trials and Shows can be viewed on the ANKC website [www.ankc.org.au](http://www.ankc.org.au)