

GSDCA 60 Day Motions
from the 61st Annual General Meeting
held on the 5th February via Zoom meeting

1. **MOTION:** That Mariano Markara and Dr Ana Hayes be approached to be additional accredited readers for the GSDCA hip & elbow schemes

Rationale: *Dr Graeme Allen has retired and we are currently without a third reader. In approaching these two radiologists to join our scheme, who along with Drs Lavelle and Richardson are currently accredited readers for the ANKC/CHEDS scheme, we can offer more options to our members and also adopt an appeals process whereby in case of an appeal the x-rays are sent to be re-read by one of the readers who was not the original reader*

2. **MOTION:** That as of 1st July 2023 the GSDCA Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme only allows 'Z' stamp for animals who have NORMAL elbows, Grade 1 – less than 1mm of osteophytes or Near Normal immeasurable osteophytes or displaying slight irregularities (less than 0.5mm osteophytes).

If this motion is accepted it requires rescinding of the current motion in place as follows:

That as from 1st July 2014 an animal must receive an overall grading of Normal, Near Normal or Grade One to be awarded a GSDCA 'Z' stamp through the GSDCA Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme.

The **amended regulation** to read as follows:

3.3.10 Qualifications for a GSDCA 'Z' Stamp

3.3.10.1 Only animals that receive a Normal, Near Normal, or Grade One elbow grading **with 1mm or less measurement of osteophytes** are awarded the GSDCA 'Z' stamp.

3.3.10.2 Animals that score greater than outlined above are deemed to have failed the GSDCA ED Control Scheme and are not recommended for breeding and therefore are not able to be presented to the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme

Rationale:

- *Elbow Disease includes genetic, nutritional and environmental factors all together, not as one single issue. It is multifactorial and if we can avoid the use of animals displaying elbow disease at a young age this can only aid our improvement of breeding healthier animals.*
- *Australia was ahead of Germany with the elbow scheme. Germany introduced a required elbow scheme in 2001. In Australia it was initially a voluntary scheme, in 1991, by 1995 it was a requirement for breeding German Shepherd dogs through the GSDCA.*
- *In July 2014 and still current recommendations, the GSDCA Elbow Dysplasia control scheme tightened up the grading system to allowing a Z stamp to those graded NORMAL (no changes), Grade 1 (slight changes not measurable or another irregularity to the joint) or Grade 1 less than 2mm of osteophyte changes.*
- *Breeding with an animal affected with elbow disease is increasing the genetic predisposition for elbow dysplasia in subsequent generations. As breeders, we can appreciate the difficulty eradicating the disease in future breeding.*

- *Currently the GSDCA indicates an automatic fail and the animals not to be bred from as well as LRLs through the ANKC not allowing progeny of greater than 2mm of arthritic change or an Ununited Anconeal Process to be placed on the main breeding register.*
- *The score of grade 1 or near normal without measurable arthritic change can also indicate early onset arthritis, the radiologist is unable to definitively measure this, which indicates less than 0.5mm of arthritic change over the anconeal process. A grade 1 or near normal without measurable arthritic change can also indicate other disease like changes within the joint or can also indicate poor radiographic technique. Therefore, removing grade 1 or near normal without measurable arthritic change would open up a complex situation with potentially multiple represents and repeat radiographs through the scheme.*
- *Currently the FCI elbow scheme only allows NORMAL = 0 elbows for breeding.*
- *BVA recommendations are not to breed with animals with a score above 0 = NORMAL elbows, grade 1 is still accepted as mild osteoarthritis through the BVA scheme.*
- *Currently the SV only allows elevation to the highest breed rating with NORMAL elbows however they do allow fast normal which is similar to our grade 1 or near normal without measurable arthritic change (less than 0.5mm), noch zugelassen is a grade 1 with measurable arthritic change up to 2mm but is often more heavily scrutinised*
- *In the previous 12 months, animals who have graded above zero/normal on either elbow has been within the vicinity of 8.2% of the presented population, which indicates the potential breeding pool lost*
- *Elbow Disease is complex, multifactorial and breeding German Shepherd Dogs who exhibit disease can open breeders up to poor fair trade and legal issues when selling progeny from animals who exhibit the disease*

3. **MOTION:** Reduction of advertising fee for stud dogs be reduced to \$165 per page.

***Rationale:** Over the last 12 months the reduced fee has been highly beneficial financially and also it allows people who do not participate in electronic media to see dogs etc. Also, over the past 12 months, there have been significant changes in our landscape and an inability to actually see dogs in the flesh.*

The reduction would be a service to members, would allow owners of stud dogs to reach the entire GSD community and will support the aims and objectives of the GSDCA. It will also support generation of revenue and cost offsetting for the QNR.

4. **MOTION: That a GSDCA Judges and Breed Surveyors service agreement be adopted and the following items be added to the regulations**

The following items are added to the regulations under the headings

6.1 GSDCA Specialist Judges;

6.2 Aspiring Specialist GSDCA Specialist Judges;

6.3 GSDCA Breed Surveyors;

6.4 GSDCA Aspiring Breed Surveyors; and

6.5 GSDCA Aspiring Specialist Judge/Breed Surveyor, GSDCA Specialist Judge/GSDCA Breed Surveyor Review, Investigation, Disciplinary and Appeal Procedures and numbered accordingly.

Rationale: Position holders in any organisation should represent the organisation and promote and follow the ideals of the organisation. This is especially true of any Judge or Breed Surveyor. The status of Judge/Breed Surveyor takes many years and dedication to achieve, they are seen as the as the guardians of the Breed, leaders, and traditionally someone to look up to. It is expected that they hold firmly to the ideals from which the organisation grew. A service agreement is simply solidifying those beliefs. We should all be supporting these ideals regardless so signing one should be a simple thing.

Note: Clause numbers are indicative only and may need to be amended to conform to formatting of the document and dependent on other regulations that may need to be added or removed

6.1 GSDCA Specialist Judges

Insert:

That as of the 1st July 2022, all GSDCA Specialist Judges and Aspiring Specialist Judges must sign the following GSDCA Service Agreement to maintain their GSDCA Specialist Judge status.

For Review, Investigation, Disciplinary and Appeal Procedures refer clause (x.x)

6.2 Aspiring GSDCA Specialist Judges

Insert:

That as of the 1st July 2022, all GSDCA Specialist Judges and Aspiring Specialist Judges must sign the following GSDCA Service Agreement (Ver xx/xx) (refer Appendix xx) to maintain their GSDCA Specialist Judge status.

For Review, Investigation, Disciplinary and Appeal Procedures refer clause x.x

6.3 GSDCA Breed Surveyors

Effective from 1st July 2022, all GSDCA Breed Surveyors must sign the GSDCA Service Agreement (Ver xx/xx) (refer Appendix xxx to maintain their GSDCA Breed Surveyor Status.

For Review, Investigation, Disciplinary and Appeal Procedures refer clause 6.5

6.4 GSDCA Aspiring Breed Surveyors

Insert

Effective from 1st July 2022, all GSDCA Aspiring Breed Surveyors must sign the GSDCA Service Agreement (Ver xx/xx) (refer Appendix xxx) to maintain their GSDCA Breed Surveyor Status.

For Review, Investigation, Disciplinary and Appeal Procedures refer clause 6.5

Add

6.5 GSDCA Aspiring Specialist Judge/Breed Surveyor, GSDCA Specialist Judge/GSDCA Breed Surveyor Review, Investigation, Disciplinary and Appeal Procedures.

[x,x]

6.5.1 Review Procedure

- a) The GSDCA Aspiring Specialist Judge/ Breed Surveyor, GSDCA Specialist Judge, GSDCA Breed Surveyor shall 90 days before the expiry of the agreement, forward to the NBC Executive and their GSDCA Member Club in their State or Territory of domicile a summary of their involvement over the past three years.
- b) The summary should include a history of:

- i. Breed surveys attended;
 - ii. Shows attended;
 - iii. Shows judged;
 - iv. Club meetings and or involvement;
 - v. Positions held at GSDCA and/or Club level;
 - vi. Participation held in other canine clubs and/or at canine control level;
 - vii. Any other evidence of demonstrated participation and/or work for the breed.
- c) The NBC Executive, in consultation with the applicants Member Club of domicile:
- i. endorses the new Service Agreement that may be reviewed from time to time and will apply for the next 3 years.
 - ii. may rule that the Specialist Judge/Breed Surveyor has not shown the required level of commitment and request the applicant in writing to provide further evidence of demonstrated participation to the GSDCA Secretary in writing within 30 days.
 - iii. does not endorse the renewal of the Service Agreement. An investigation will be undertaken as per Regulations **6.5.2**

6.5.2 Investigation and Disciplinary Procedures

In cases where the renewal of the GSDCA Aspiring Specialist Judge/ Breed Surveyor, GSDCA Specialist Judge, GSDCA Breed Surveyor status has not been endorsed, or an allegation of a breach of the GSDCA Specialist Judge/Breed Surveyor Service Agreement is made in writing to the GSDCA Secretary by a member, Member Club and/or Officer of the GSDCA, that person will be notified by the GSDCA Secretary in writing and advised that an investigation will be undertaken as per Regulations 6.5.2.

- a) All communication regarding the matter will be closely held and marked CONFIDENTIAL and NOT FOR CIRCULATION.
- b) The correspondence to the respondent will include the points of the Service Agreement which have allegedly been breached and details of the complaint made.
- c) The respondent will be required to respond to the GSDCA Secretary in writing within 30 days from the date of the correspondence.
- d) In the case of a response not being received by the GSDCA Secretary within 30 days from the respondent, the alleged breach will proceed to investigation.
- e) An Investigation Committee will be formed to consider the allegation and the respondent's response.
- f) Persons who are not family members, close friends or in partnership of any kind with the respondent will be eligible to serve on GSDCA Investigative and Appeals Committees as formed by the GSDCA Executive.
- g) The GSDCA Executive will appoint an Investigation Committee comprising of at least:
 - i. two (2) Member Club Presidents of which one will be nominated as Chair, and
 - ii. one (1) member of a GSDCA Member Club,
 - iii. members as assigned to the Investigation Committee must not be members of the GSDCA Member Club in the State/Territory of domicile of the respondent.

- h) The Investigation Committee will ensure that all parties are directly consulted and obtain written statements as evidence.
- i) In addition to their original response to the GSDCA Secretary, the respondent will be formally requested to defend their case by written submission within 7 days of such a request.
- j) Where a respondent does not respond to requests in writing, the matter will still proceed to be dealt with by the Investigation Committee.
- k) The Investigation committee will after 30 days of being formed present in writing their findings, recommendations and penalty, if any, to be imposed to the GSDCA Secretary by the Investigation Committee.
- l) The recommendations will be presented to the GSDCA Executive who will implement the findings from the investigation by the Investigation Committee.
- m) The GSDCA Secretary will convey to the respondent the result of the investigation.
- n) If after 7 days has elapsed an appeal has not been received the GSDCA Member Clubs will be advised of the result of the investigation.
- o) At the conclusion of the Investigation the members of the Committee will be asked to delete all correspondence in relation to the decision. ONLY the GSDCA Secretary will retain copies of all correspondence in relation to the case. Any copies should be deleted

6.5.1 Appeal Procedure

- a) All communication regarding the matter will be closely held and marked "CONFIDENTIAL and NOT FOR CIRCULATION".
- b) An appeal against the decision of the Investigation Committee must be lodged with the GSDCA Secretary within 7 days of the decision being forwarded to the respondent.
- c) Application for an appeal may only be made citing:
 - i. incorrect procedure during the Investigation/Disciplinary process, and/or
 - ii. new evidence, and/or
 - iii. in the opinion of the respondent an excessively harsh or unfair penalty has been imposed.
- c) The GSDCA Executive will appoint an Appeal Committee comprising of at least:
 - i. two (2) Member Club Presidents of which one will be nominated as Chair, and
 - ii. one (1) member of a GSDCA Member Club,
 - iii. members as assigned to of the Investigation Committee must not be members of the GSDCA Member Club in the State/Territory of domicile of the respondent.
- e) Appeal Committee members will receive a copy of all documents regarding the breach. These will include recommendations of the Investigation Committee and documents as presented by the respondent in defence of their case and any other documents as identified relevant to the case.
- f) The respondent may be asked for a written statement to further support his/her appeal within 7 days of such a request.
- g) The Appeals Committee will after 30 days of being formed present in writing their findings and decision to the GSDCA Secretary.
- h) The decision will be presented to the GSDCA Executive.
- i) The Appeal Committee decision shall be final and will be conveyed in writing by the GSDCA Secretary to the respondent and GSDCA Member Clubs.

- j) At the conclusion of the Appeal Procedure the members of the Committee will be asked to delete all correspondence in relation to the decision. ONLY the GSDCA Secretary will retain copies of all correspondence in relation to the case. Any copies should be deleted.

GSDCA SERVICE AGREEMENT

Judges & Surveyors

DATED:

BETWEEN: THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA Inc.
(“GSDCA”)

AND: **Name:** **Address:**

Position: XXXXXXXX_____

I, XXXXXXX of the above address do hereby agree to abide by and acknowledge the list of obligations and requirements to retain my status.

1. I will as an officer of the GSDCA promote the GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes and ideals of the GSDCA and will abide by the “GSDCA Regulations”, “GSDCA Codes of Ethics”, “GSDCA Guiding Principles”, “GSDCA Social Media Code of Conduct” and/or Codes of Ethics/Conduct/Behaviour as adopted by my State Canine Control and/or my Member Club.
2. I agree solely, or in cases where I am a partner and share a kennel prefix, to only breed with animals and/or the semen of animals that have been successfully classified in the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme, or a GSDCA recognised breed survey scheme.
3. I am a financial member of the Canine Control and the Member Club of the GSDCA in my State or Territory of domicile.
 - a. I understand that I will automatically cease to hold the position, if I no longer am a member of my GSDCA Member Club in my State or Territory of domicile.
I understand that I must inform the GSDCA Secretary within 7 days of the effective date and period of suspension and/or banning by any Canine Control and/or Member Club.
 - b. I understand I must reapply through my Member Club of the GSDCA in my State or Territory of domicile to be reinstated to the said position.
 - c. I understand that if a suspended sentence has been imposed on me by a Canine control and or Member Club, the matter will be referred to GSDCA Position Officers Review, Disciplinary & Appeal Procedures [insert year approved]
4. I will: be active at my Member Club of the GSDCA in my State or Territory of domicile as demonstrated by my attending Breed Surveys, Club Shows, and Club meetings.
5. I understand that failure to comply with any of the above obligations and/or requirements will result in an investigation which may result in penalties or the withdrawal of my status. Any decision regarding penalties or withdrawal of my status will be made by a Special General Meeting of the GSDCA.

I further acknowledge and understand that:

- At the time of signing this document, I have been provided with a copy of the “GSDCA Regulations”, “GSDCA Code of Ethics”, “GSDCA Guiding Principles”, “GSDCA Communication Code of Conduct” and “GSDCA Breed Survey and/or GSDCA Specialist Judge Review, Disciplinary & Appeal Procedures”.
- The terms of this agreement may be reviewed from time to time at the discretion of the GSDCA and the most recent version of this agreement will be binding for the period of my instatement.

SIGNED by: _____ (Print Name)

Signature:

in the presence of: _____ (Print Name)

Signature:

THE COMMON SEAL of THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG OF AUSTRALIA (Inc) was hereto affixed by Authority of the Executive in the presence of:

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SIGNED by: _____

SIGNED by:

GSDCA President

GSDCA Honorary Secretary (Ver: xx/xxxx)