

## Equipment

- The dog must wear a fixed collar or suitable harness. No neck chains, slip collars, spiked collars, muzzles or head control collars permitted.
- The leash must be long enough to be held in either hand so that the dog may adjust itself to the cyclist or runner. The dog shall travel at a suitable pace on the leash on the left hand side of the handler or bike.
- The handler may jog the distance or ride a bike provided the required speed is maintained. If a handler rides a bike, a helmet must be worn. The Springer device for attachment to a bike is not permitted.
- No protective clothing may be worn by the dog.

## The Test

- There are 4 vet checks - before starting the Willingness test then after the completion of each leg. All dogs are examined by the vet surgeon and/or vet team, covering the dogs general fitness, temperature, standing heart rate & condition of the pads. (Each bitch must be examined at the first check to ensure that she is not in season).
- Before commencement of the 20 km run, a short Willingness test is conducted. At the completion of the run and after the final 15 mins rest period, another Willingness test will be conducted.
- The test is a 20 km run to be covered in three legs of 8 kms, 6 kms, and 6 kms
- At completion of each leg there is a rest period of 15mins, 20 mins & 15 mins.
- Handlers proceed in single file in catalogue order following the pacemaker. The dog is permitted to pull slightly but continued lagging may incur disqualification. Handlers are only permitted to handle one dog at any time.
- The distance is to be completed in 2 hours and 35 minutes including the two intermediate breaks, but excluding the final rest period
- The test is conducted at an average of 10 kms per hour.
- Dogs reluctant to go with handlers will be disqualified.
- Dogs may stop to relieve themselves but handlers and dogs must make up the test time and regain their position in the line. Handlers must carry poo bags and must clean up before returning to the test.
- After the first 8 kms there is a rest period of 15 mins during which the vet team and/or Judge shall examine all exhibits.
- Dogs showing any undue stress, badly worn pads or a high temperature shall be eliminated by the judge and/or vet. The Judge consults with the vet if the dog registers a high temperature only and is not showing any signs of distress, as

to whether the dog continues the test.

- After a further distance of 6 kms there is a rest period of 20 mins at which time the same vet check procedure occurs.
- After the final 6 kms there is a further rest period of 15 mins. During this period dogs are allowed to move about freely or relax.
- At the end of the final rest period the fourth vet check is completed. No extra time is given if the dog fails to meet the test criteria.
- After this final vet check the Willingness test is conducted.
- A dog will have failed the test if it:
  - lacks Physical condition, or
  - shows signs of undue stress or tiredness, or
  - fails to complete the distance within the allotted time, or
  - requires artificial means to reduce body temperature or
  - fails to complete the Willingness exercises.

The decision of the judge and vet is final.

### How old must my dog be to compete in the ET?

The test is open to dogs aged between 2 and under 8 years, but must not have reached the birth date of 8.

### What's Involved in the Willingness test?

The Willingness test consists of heeling forward a short distance, followed by a right about turn and continued heeling for a short distance before coming to a halt. It is not necessary for the dog to sit. The dog must show a willingness to remain with and obey the handler. The heeling is followed by a short recall, on or off the lead. The dog must be willing to work and to obey the handler. The standard of the work after the 20 kms must be similar to that before the start of the test. If the dog works on or off the lead for the Willingness test prior to the 20 kms, it is to be the same for the second test.

### Endurance Test Temperature Rules

If the temperature reaches 24°C the test is cancelled, regardless of what stage the test has reached. This is for the safety of the dogs (and handlers!)

### Other Types of Trials

#### GSDCV Obedience Trials

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

#### Tracking Trials

Open Tracking Trial – June & Track & Search Trial - October

## German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria Inc

# I want to complete the ENDURANCE TEST with 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 entering the Endurance trial. If you need any further help or clarification, contact [obedience@gsdcv.org.au](mailto:obedience@gsdcv.org.au) or your Chief Instructor**

### What is the Endurance Test and Why Do It?

The Endurance Test demonstrates the dog's ability to work after being subject to a certain degree of physical strain without showing signs of undue stress or lack of constitution. Due to the dog's physical structure, the test consists of a dog travelling at a suitable pace for a performance of some lengthy duration, which, it is known places an increasing load not only on its internal organs, such as the heart and lungs, but on many other aspects of the dog's physical structure and temperamental characteristics. The effortless accomplishment of such a test shall be the evidence as to the physical fitness of the dog.

### A Quick Summary of the Endurance Test

It's a 20km run for the dog, the handler can run or bike. Its completed at 10km/hr in 3 stages: 8km, 6km and 6km with 15min and 20min breaks.

There is a willingness test for the dogs prior to and at the end of the 20km – they must 'want' to work.

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.

When all is done, you have your ET!

## Joining Dogs Victoria

In order to compete in a trial, 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](http://www.dogsvictoria.org.au)

**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.**

Once you have joined, you will receive a monthly Dogs Vic Gazette. The Gazette contains trial schedules for up and coming trial events (and 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.

**What trials can you enter?** If you have a pedigreed GSD, you can enter all trials that are listed as Open, Restricted to Breed or for Group 5 dogs. If you have a GSD that is registered as an associate (no pedigree) then you can enter Open trials for obedience, tracking or endurance.

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

**If your dog does not have papers, you can register them with Dogs Victoria as an associate, and you can enter 'Open' trials, rather than breed or group trials**

## Entering your first trial – How? Where's the Schedule?

**After you have joined Dogs Victoria and registered your dog, you can now enter trials. What do you do....?**

Trial schedules will be listed in the Dogs Victoria Gazette (you receive this with your membership) and GSDCV trials are also listed in both the Shepherd News and on the GSDCV website. Decide on the trial 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 trials.

## Where do I get an entry form?

Entry forms can be downloaded from Dogs Victoria for all trials [www.dogsvictoria.org.au](http://www.dogsvictoria.org.au)  
OR you can enter online (and pay by credit card) for GSDCV trials via [www.gsdcv.org.au/entries](http://www.gsdcv.org.au/entries)

If sending a hard copy entry, ensure your entry form is cut to size (~<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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 Trial secretary can contact you.

## Rules for the ET

Detailed rules and regulations for the Endurance Test can be viewed on the ANKC website [www.ankc.org.au](http://www.ankc.org.au)  
The rules clearly explain the test and requirements, so have a thorough read.

## What is needed to Participate in the Endurance Test?

A fit dog and handler, Vet paperwork completed and if riding, a well maintained bike. Safety Vests will be provided.

## What veterinary paperwork do I need prior to the test?

A veterinary certificate, issued within 14 days immediately prior to the date of the test must be submitted for each dog on the day. It shall cover such things as the general fitness, temperature, standing heart rate, condition of the pads and muscle tone of the dog. (For bitches the certificate is to state also that the bitch is not in whelp). The GSDCV will provide a copy of the form to all exhibitors for completion by your Vet.

## Vet Checks

There are 4 vet checks on the day. Vets examine dogs as to their general fitness, temperature, standing heart rate & condition of the paw pads. Teaching the dog to be handled at the rear end (lift tail etc) to calmly have their temperature taken is important, so that the dog is not stressed and there is no delay in the trial with difficult dogs. Female dogs are checked that they are not in season. Bitches in season are not eligible to participate in the ET

## When is the GSDCV Endurance Trial & Where?

Usually late in June each year, and is currently held at Cherry Lake Reserve in Altona.

## Can I complete more than one Endurance test?

No. Once you have successfully completed the ET with your dog you have the ET your title for that dog.

## How do I achieve a title?

When you achieve a title, the letters of that title can be placed at the end of your dog's name. Successful completion of the Endurance Test entitles your dog to have the letters ET shown after the dog's name and becomes part of the registered name. You must apply to Dogs Victoria with your pass certificate for your title.

## Training for the Endurance Test - Preparation

Talk to your chief instructor who can direct you to someone who has completed the ET before. Then nothing will be a surprise. Go along to an endurance trial to watch. Your chief instructor can help you with a training program for your dog and perhaps some practice at your branch with bikes, and answer any questions.

**If you wish to compete in the Endurance test you would need to be training up to six months prior to the trial** so that you and your dog your dog has the required physical fitness. The dog must run beside you or a bike at a specific speed on a loose lead. This takes time to teach. Walking with the bike whilst leading the dog is a good start. Once the dog is confident with the bike you can start to ride in short sessions until he/she is well used to running with you and then gradually build up the distance.

A leather or webbing collar is to be used in training and also during the endurance test. During the preparation months, don't bike your dog in the heat of a day (eg: heat stroke, dehydration), train early in the morning or late afternoon when it's cooler. Begin with a series of short distances. You can build the distance during the cooler months prior to the test. Train your dog on grass, gravel and concrete (road & path) surfaces so they will be comfortable during the test.

**Training for the vet checks is just as important, being handled (paw pads) and remaining calm while having their temperature taken requires practice and training**

## The day of the trial

- Know where you are going – don't get lost. Arrive early and set up all your equipment (bike, chair, water, dog etc)
- Bring a lead, water (and perhaps some treats) for your dog
- Don't forget your bike if you're riding !
- A chair is handy during the break, as are poo bags
- A drink and any food you might need yourself
- The trial will last several hours, so be prepared !
- Check in at the desk, and get your number and catalogue
- Having a friend or 2 to help out is useful for the ET, to hold your dog between breaks etc
- Presentations are done when the trial is completed so hang around and support to collect your ribbon and pass card !!