

The Rules for the GSA Breed Book of German Shepherd Dogs in Ireland

(By order of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, DAFM)

1. GSA Breed Book

The Breed Book shall include:

- a) Particulars of the owner of each dog
- b) Particulars of the pedigree for each dog which is eligible to be entered therein.
- c) Such other information as the GSA may deem appropriate from time to time, including changes recommended by Verein für Deutscheschaeferhunde (SV) / Weltunion der Schäferhundvereine (WUSV).

2. Breeding Objective

The GSA Breed Book will maintain a register of German Shepherd Dogs in Ireland, with its objective being to encourage, improve and promote the breeding and health of the GSD in accordance with the standards of the SV / WUSV.

Through this process the GSA will endeavour to monitor genetic issues and support its members in an advisory capacity, thereby encouraging responsible dog ownership.

3. Breed Characteristics

The Breed Standard can be found in full as Appendix 1.

4. Membership

- a) The current Membership of the GSA shall be eligible to apply for the entry of their dog(s) into the GSA Breed Book.
- b) Associate Membership of the GSA, is open to all persons that the GSA Breed Book Committee may approve, provided such approval is subject to:
 - i) Eligibility for admission under the GSA Rules
 - ii) Acceptance of the GSA Constitution
 - iii) Being the registered owner on the Island of Ireland of a German Shepherd Dog

- c) The GSA has the right to maintain computerised records of all members' transactions and reserve the right to sanction a member(s) found to be in breach of procedures vital to the accurate maintenance and integrity of the Breed Book.

5. Entry into the Breed Book

The Breed Book will have a Main Section divided into three classes and a Supplementary Section that will include a Litter Registration Section. The criteria of the classes are pertinent to each dog, based on its health and merit.

- a) To Qualify for entry into the Main Section of the GSA Breed Book, a dog shall:
- i) Be identified and registered in accordance with Section 6 of the Breed Book;
 - ii) Be descended from parents and grandparents entered in the main section of an EU recognised GSD Breed Book;
 - iii) Have proven DNA parentage established in accordance with the rules of an EU recognised GSD Breed Book.
- b) The Main Section of the GSA Breed Book is divided into three Classes:

Class 1: The dog must comply with the following criteria:

- Conform to the Breed Standard for the GSD under an SV Judge
- HD (hip) x-ray result of not less than 'noch zugelassen'
- ED (elbow) x-ray result of no less than 'noch zugelassen'
- Spinal x-ray (from a date to be notified by the SV / WUSV)
- Evidence of a Working Qualification (minimum of IPO1)
- Current or Life Körung approved by an SV Körmeister

Class 2: The dog must comply with the health requirements of Class 1 but does not have an IPO qualification and/or a Körung.

Class 3: Dogs that do not meet the requirements of Class 1 or 2 but have a legal right of entry into the Main Section will be entered into Class 3. These animals may also be identified to be a carrier of genetic defect or have undesirable breed characteristics.

Note: Dogs may be re-classified within the Main Section of the Breed Book at any period during their lifetime when they meet the requirements, or subsequently lose a requirement, for example, not gaining lifetime Körung, and thereby dropping from Class 1 to Class 2.

c) To Qualify for the Supplementary Section of the Breed Book, a dog shall meet the minimum requirements, these being:

- i) Be identified and registered in accordance with Section 6 of the Breed Book;
- ii) Conform to the Breed Standard of the GSD under the GSA Breed Warden.

Note: The progeny of Dogs in the supplementary section are eligible to be upgraded to the relevant class of the Main Section when the requirements of 5a have been met, for example, the grandparents DNA profile has been proven and accepted by GSA.

6. Identification of Dogs

- a) All dogs entering the GSA Breed Book (Main or Supplementary Section) will be identified by a unique microchip number, a DNA profile and a name containing a prefix or affix.
- b) The dog's unique micro-chip number shall be used as the general form of identification, including IPO Trials, Körung and Breed confirmation shows.
- c) The DNA profile will be the only legal method of identification.
- d) All members will select a prefix/affix on application which will be approved by the GSA Executive Council.

Note: A prefix or affix will not be permitted if it uses names of a town, place or family name, derivative of a family name, or a name which is already registered for the naming of a dog. A prefix or affix that is owned by a member may not subsequently be used by any other member except when it is transferred by the owner.

7. Breeding Conditions

The recommendation of GSA is to breed only Class 1 dogs

- a) Stud dogs should be a minimum of 24 months old at the time of breeding
- b) Females should be a minimum of 18 months of age or in 3rd season at the time of breeding
- c) Dam and Sire to be SV 'a' stamp approved (normal, fast normal or noch zugelassen) HD and ED, DNA approved and micro-chip compliant
- d) Hold IPO1 working qualification and SV Körung
- e) Line-breeding minimum allowed being (2-3), subject to change in accordance with recommendations of the WUSV Council.

8. Procedures for Registration

The required paperwork must be sent to the GSA Breed Book Office in Galway with the appropriate fee (see GSA website for all fee information), as payment is required with the Application.

a) Registration of Dogs:

- i) If the current owner is not the breeder they are required to complete the Application form and provide the following documents: Registration certificate and/or Pedigree showing change of ownership with date, dog's health record, any working and/or breed qualification records, DNA and microchip number paperwork . The dog will then be entered in the corresponding section and class of the Breed Book.
- ii) If the current owner is the breeder, and the dog is over 40 weeks old, they are required to complete the Application form and provide the following documents: Registration certificate and/or Pedigree, the dog's health record, working and/or breed qualification records, DNA and microchip number paperwork. The dog will then be entered in the corresponding section and class of the Breed Book.

b) Registration of Puppies:

The registration of puppies is a two-stage process as follows:

- i) The birth of puppies either dead or alive, of a dam registered in either the GSA Breed Book or a recognised EU GSD Breed Book shall be notified to the GSA Breed Warden within 2 days of birth, using the Birth Notification Record.
- ii) Following notification of the birth, the Litter Application form for the registration of puppies should be completed and returned by the Breeder within 40 weeks of age. Puppies will be entered into a Litter Registration register until they have fulfilled the Identification requirements of Section 6. When all conditions for entry into the Breed book have been met, each puppy will be entered into the appropriate section and class.

Note: Random DNA testing, at the discretion of the GSA, will be carried out and laboratory costs for this will be borne by the Association.

Note: The GSA reserves the right to inspect selected litters within the 12 week period. The owner will be given 48 hour oral notice of the visit by the GSA Breed Warden. An owner with a genuine reason is allowed an extra 24 hours for the inspection, otherwise an owner cannot refuse admission to the GSA Breed Warden except in the most exceptional of circumstances. If a breeder refuses to cooperate in allowing an inspection for up to 3 weeks, puppies born in that litter will be deleted and no Breed Book registrations will be issued until an inspection is carried out at the owner's expense. The GSA reserves the right to take relevant samples for DNA testing for parentage verification from any puppy and its dam during the inspection.

9. Certification

- a) The GSA shall issue a Certificate of Registration indicating the section and relevant class of each dog complying with all the registration requirements.
- b) The GSA reserves the right to withdraw at any time the Certificate of Registration issued in respect of a male or female dog in the Breed Book where registration has been accepted on the basis of information subsequently found to be inaccurate or misleading.
- c) Dogs registered for the first time will be eligible to have a GSA Pedigree.
- d) After examinations the pedigree of the dog should be forwarded to GSA to be updated.

10. Imports / Exports

- a) Imports
 - i) A dog registered in an EU recognised GSD Breed Book, now living in Ireland, should have its Export Certificate with the appropriate fee sent to GSA.
 - ii) The dog will be checked for correct identification by the GSA Breed Warden before being entered in the GSA Breed Book - entry will be based on the same health and merit rules as any other dog (see Section 5). GSA Breed Book Registration Certificate will be issued.
- b) Exports
 - i) In the event that a dog registered in the GSA Breed Book is to be exported, written confirmation of this by the owner is required to be given to the Breed Book secretary. If the dog holds a GSA Pedigree and the exporter requires an Export Certificate it will be issued in respect of the dog as deemed satisfactory by the GSA.

11. Transfer of Ownership

- a) Members will notify the GSA of the sale of any of their previously registered Breed Book entries by completing the transfer form on the Pedigree Certificate. This should then be forwarded to the GSA by the new owner with the transfer fee.
- b) Each and every transfer must be recorded through the Breed Book Office.
- c) Upon receiving the transfer of ownership, the details will be recorded in the Breed Book and an updated Registration Certificate sent to the new owner(s).
- d) An Associate membership application will also be issued where membership is not previously registered by the new owner, to maintain breed standards and continuity.

12. Breed Improvement

- a) Members shall keep a register containing a true and accurate record of all of their dogs regardless which class they are eligible for in the Breed Book. The register shall be available for inspection by the GSA Breed Warden at all times.
- b) GSA will participate in breed data and analysis from time to time as required and any analysis of the results from this will be freely available.
- c) Breeders / owners must notify the GSA Breed Warden of any abnormalities of genetic origin, visible or not, including puppy deaths and still born puppies.
- d) Breeders must notify the GSA if a registered breeding animal dies (or is put to sleep). This information will be entered into the Breed Book to include date of decease and reason for death, if known. These records must also be kept by the breeder / owner and be available for inspection by the GSA Breed Warden if requested.
- e) All notifiable diseases must be recorded immediately to the DVO at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- f) The health of the dog is the single most important factor in the breeding programme.
- g) The GSA will recommend that breeders only breed from dogs that are Class 1.
- h) The GSA will endeavour to educate its members in the importance of Hip and Elbow x-rays and to breed dogs that are HD/ED normal (a1)
- i) The GSA will continue to run Breed Confirmation shows (Landesgruppe, Universal Sieger and Irish Sieger events), Breed Surveys to assist in the development of confirmation knowledge of GSA members and the wider GSD family in Ireland.

13. Breed Book Appeals

- a) The objective of this procedure is to provide a member who has a grievance with the Breed Book an opportunity to have that grievance examined and resolved to the satisfaction of all parties, at the earliest practical time, and at local level.
- b) Whilst the matter is being considered under the Appeals Procedure, the operation of the GSA cannot be interrupted. The person(s) raising the grievance shall continue to comply with the rules of the GSA during the course of the examination of the matter arising. By doing so he/she will not create any precedent nor will his/her membership of the GSA compromise or prejudice in any way in relation to the matter being processed.

c) The Breed Book Appeals Procedure applies as follows:

Stage 1 –

A member who feels aggrieved in relation to any matter pertaining to the Breed Book should, in the first instance, write to the Secretary of the Breed Book, making it clear that this stage of the Appeals Procedure is being invoked. The Secretary will reply as soon as is reasonable practical, but in any case within 30 days from the receipt of the letter of grievance from the member.

Stage 2 –

If the grievance is unresolved following Stage 1, or no response has been received within the allotted time from the Secretary, the member may request, in writing, that the grievance be raised at the next GSA Executive Council meeting. The member will then be allowed to put forward during the meeting an oral submission of his/her grievance. The Executive Council will then reconsider the grievance issue raised and must communicate its decision to the appellant within 30 days.

Stage 3 –

If the member(s) is not satisfied with the response from the Committee, and the issue remains unresolved after Stage 2, then the member may request an independent hearing. The Executive Council shall grant such a hearing. Stage 3 appeals will be heard by an individual or group of individuals with appropriate expertise, agreed by both parties to the dispute. From the date of appointment of the individual or group hearing the appeal, the case will be heard and the decision taken will be communicated to both parties within THREE MONTHS. The individual or group hearing the case will decide on the appointment of costs.

Stage 4 –

Any dispute remaining unresolved following Stage 1 to Stage 4 may be pursued by invoking provision under the legal personality of the GSA.

d) The GSA expects all of its members to abide by the rules, regulations and standards established by the Association.

14. Data Protection

The GSA will safeguard the privacy rights of all data provided by members in relation to personal data, in both paper and electronic format, and will not forward or share any of this information with third parties. An exception to this would be where animal welfare, unacceptable animal breeding practices or biosecurity concerns require the data to be provided to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), in which case data will be made available to the DAFM on request. All data provided is confidential by limitation.

The GSA will undertake to:

- Obtain and process personal data fairly
- Keep such data only for explicit and lawful purposes
- Disclose such data only in ways compatible with these purposes
- Keep such data safe and secure
- Keep, as far as is practical and possible, such data accurate and up to date
- Ensure such data is adequate and relevant
- Retain such data no longer than is necessary for the explicit purpose

15. Non Discriminatory Policy

All members of the GSA will be treated equally and without discrimination regardless of their gender, race, age, religion, marital or parental status, disability, sexual orientation, political or socio-economic background.

16. Disclaimer

The GSA, its servants and representatives or agents, shall not be liable or responsible for any loss, injury or damage to person(s), animal or property during or as a result of inspections or the carrying out of the breed improvement programme or any other GSA related activity.

Whilst the GSA will endeavour to keep members up to date with any changes to these rules, it is the sole responsibility of members to ensure they are fully up to date with information pertinent to current rules.

Appendix 1: GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG BREED STANDARD

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function with soundness essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be mindful of features which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

HISTORY

According to the official records of the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV – The German Shepherd Dog Club in Germany) with its headquarters in Augsburg, the standard was originally developed at the first meeting of members in Frankfurt am Main on 20th September 1899 and based on the proposals of A Meyer and M von Stephanitz. The next step was to have the breed standard accepted by VDH (German Kennel Club).

Amendments were made to the standard during the 6th meeting of the association on 28th July 1901, during the 23rd meeting on Cologne on the 17th September 1909, by the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee in Wiesbaden on 5th September 1930, and at the Board of Directors and Breed Committee meeting on 25th March 1961. Within the framework of the World Union of German Shepherd Dog Clubs (WUSV), it was revised and confirmed at the WUSV meeting on 30th August 1976 and reviewed, catalogued by authorisation and resolution of the Executive and Advisory Committee on 23rd March 1991. Further amendments were made at the meeting of the Federation on 25th May 1997, 31st May 2001, 1st June 2011, and 6th & 7th June 2009.

The German Shepherd Dog, whose planned breeding commenced in the year 1899 after founding of the German Shepherd Dog Club in Germany, was bred from central German and southern German strains of existing herding dogs with a final goal of creating a working dog predisposed to a high working aptitude. In order to reach this goal the breed standard was laid down which relates to physical attributes as well as those of temperament and character.

CHARACTERISTICS

General Appearance: The German Shepherd Dog is medium size, slightly elongated, strong and well-muscled, the bones are dry and the overall construction firm. The length of the body is greater than the height at the withers by about 10% to 17%.

Purpose and Usage: Versatile Utility, Herding, Guarding and Service Dog

Temperament: The German Shepherd Dog must be of well-balanced temperament, steady of nerves, self-assured, absolutely at ease (except when provoked) and good natured, as well as, attentive and easy to train. He must possess instinctive drive, resilience and self confidence in order to be suitable as a companion, watch dog, protection, service and herding dog.

Head and Skull: The head is wedge-shaped, proportionate in size to the body, (length of head about 40% of the height of the withers) without being coarse or too elongated, in overall appearance dry and moderately broad between the ears. The forehead is only slightly domed when viewed from front and the side and without any or only slightly indicated central furrow.

The proportion of the skull to muzzle is 50:50 and the breadth of the skull corresponds approximately to its length. The skull (viewed from above) tapers evenly from the ears to the nose with a sloping, not sharply defined stop, into the wedge shaped foreface (muzzle). Upper and lower jaws are strongly developed. The top of the muzzle is straight, a dish faced or convex is not desired. The lips are tight, well fitted and of a dark colour. The nose must be black.

Eyes: The eyes are of medium size, almond shaped, slightly oblique and not protruding. The colour of the eyes should be as dark as possible. Light piercing eyes are not desirable as they detract from the expression of the dog.

Ears: The German Shepherd Dog has erect ears of medium size that are carried upright and almost parallel (not tilted inwards). They taper to a point and are set with the orifice to the front. Tipped ears and drop ears are faulty. Ears carried laid back during gaiting or when at rest are not faulty.

Mouth: The dentition must be strong, healthy and complete (42 teeth conforming to the dentition formula) the German Shepherd Dog has a scissor bite, that is, the incisors must fit scissor-like to each other so that the incisors of the upper jaw overlap those of the lower jaw in a scissor fashion. Level, over or undershot bites are faulty, as well as large gaps between the teeth. It is a fault when the incisors are placed in a straight line in the gums. The jawbones must be strongly developed so that the teeth are embedded deeply in the gum line.

Neck: The neck should be strong and well-muscled and free from throatiness (dewlap) the angle to the body (horizontal) is approximately 45 degrees.

Forequarters: The forelegs are straight viewed from all sides, and when viewed from the front must be absolutely parallel. The shoulder blade and upper arm are of equal length and firmly attached to the body with strong musculature. The angulation of the upper arm and shoulder blade ideally should be 90 degrees, but generally up to 110 degrees. The elbows must be neither turned in nor turned out while in stance or in movement.

The forearms when viewed from all sides are straight and absolutely parallel, dry and firmly muscled. The pastern is approximately one third of the length of the forearm and has an angle of approximately 20 degrees to 22 degrees to the forearm. Both infirm (more than 22 degrees) as well as steep pasterns (less than 20 degrees) restrict the working ability of the dog and in particular its endurance.

Body: The top-line flows from the set of the neck, over the high long withers and over the straight back to the slightly sloping croup without a noticeable break. The back is moderately long, firm, strong and well-muscled. The loin is broad, short, strongly developed and well-muscled. The croup should be long and slightly sloping (approximately 23 degrees to the horizontal) into the set on of the tail without disruption to the top-line.

The chest should be moderately broad. The under-chest is as long as possible and well developed. The depth of the chest should be approximately 45% to 48% of the height at the withers. The ribs should be moderately sprung, barrel-chested is as equally faulty as slab sided.

Hindquarters: The position of the hind legs is slightly set back, when viewed from the rear the hind legs are parallel to each other. Upper and lower thighs are of almost equal length and form an angle of approximately 120 degrees, the thighs are strong and well-muscled. The hock joints are well developed and firm, the rear pasterns stand perpendicular under the hock joint.

Feet: The front feet are rounded, well closed and arched. The pads are hard but not inflexible. The nails are strong and dark in colour. The hind feet are closed and slightly arched; the pads are hard and dark in colour. The nails are strong, arched and also dark in colour.

Tail: The tail extends to at least the hock joint, however, not beyond the middle of the rear pastern. It has slightly longer hair on the underside and is carried in a gently hanging curve when relaxed. It can be carried higher when excited or during movement but not above the horizontal. Corrective surgery is forbidden.

Gait / Movement: The German Shepherd Dog is a trotter. The limbs must be of such length and angulation that the hindquarter may be thrust well forward under the body and the forequarter reaches equally far forward without noticeable change to the backline. Any tendency towards over-angulation of the hindquarter decreases the firmness and endurance and therefore the dog's utmost working ability.

Correct structural proportions and angulations result in a ground covering low to the ground movement that gives the impression of effortless forward propulsion. With the head pushed forward and a slightly raised tail, an even balanced and smooth trot results in a gently curving and unbroken top-line, running from the tips of the ears and over the neck and back through to the end of the tail.

Coat: The German Shepherd Dog is bred in the coat varieties: stock coat (normal) and long stock coat, both with undercoat.

Stock Coat (normal) – The top coat should be dense as possible, straight, harsh and close lying. It should be short on the head, including the inside of the ears, the front of the legs and on the feet and toes; it is a little longer and heavily coated on the neck. The hair lengthens on the back of the legs to the pasterns or hock joints; and on the back of the thighs it forms moderate breeching.

Long Stock Coat (long coat) – The top coat should be long, soft and not close fitting, with feathering on the ears and legs, busy breeches and bushy tail forming flags below. It should be short on the head including the inside of the ears, the front side of the legs, on the feet and toes, it is longer and heavily coated on the neck almost forming a mane. The hair lengthens on the back of the legs to the pasterns or hock joints and on the back of the thighs it forms distinct breeching.

Colour: Black with reddish tan, black / tan, black / gold to light grey markings, all black, grey (commonly known as sable) with dark shadings, black saddle and mask. Unobtrusive small white markings on chest as well as very light colour on inside of legs permissible but not desirable.

The nose must be black in all colour types. Lacking mask, light to piercing eyes, as well as light to whitish markings on chest and inner sides of legs, light nails and red tip of tail are to be rated as lacking in pigment. The undercoat is of a light grey toning. The colour white is not permitted.

Sizes:

Dogs:

Height at withers 60-65 cm

Weight 30-40kg

Bitches:

Height at withers 55-60cm

Weight 22-32kg

The length of the body is greater than the height at withers by approximately 10-17%

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Major Faults:

- Any deviations from the above described breed characteristics that impair the working ability of the dog
- Ear faults – laterally too low set ears, tipped ears, inward tilted ears, ears that are not firm
- Severe lack of pigmentation
- Severe lack in overall firmness
- Males must have two normally developed testicles fully descended in the scrotum

Dentition Faults:

- All deviations from a scissor bite and the dentition formula as far as it does not concern disqualifying faults (see below).

Disqualifying Faults:

- Weak character, aggression without provocation or nervousness
- Dogs with proven severe Hip Dysplasia
- Monorchids and cryptorchids, as well as dogs with clearly uneven or atrophied (stunted) testicles
- Disfiguring ear or tail defects
- Dogs with deformities
- Dogs with missing teeth as follows -
 - 1 Pre-Molar 3, and one further tooth, or
 - 1 Canine, or
 - 1 Pre-Molar 4, or
 - 1 Molar 1, or
 - 1 Molar 2, or
 - 3 or more teeth altogether
- Dogs with jaw defects –
 - Overshot 2mm or more,
 - Undershot,
 - Level bite in whole of the incisor area
- Dogs that are more than 1cm over or under the size
- Albinism - white coat colour (even with dark nails)
- Longcoat – long, soft top coat without undercoat, usually with a parting down the middle of the back, flags on ears, legs and tail.

