

# GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL of AUSTRALIA Inc.

(Incorporated in the A.C.T.)  
A.B.N. 25 515 310 063

Associated: Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC)  
Member: World Union of German Shepherd Associations (WUSV)



**Honorary Secretary**

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6<sup>th</sup> July 2010

## MEMBER CLUBS

Dear Secretary,

### **Re: ANKC Survey Hip & Elbow Dysplasia Requirements for Registration of German Shepherd Puppies on the Main Register**

At the **2005** AGM the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia agreed to make application to the ANKC to change the Litter Registration Limitations for German Shepherd Dogs relative to the hip and elbow status to allow animals to be registered on the ANKC Main Register.

The GSDCA Hereditary Diseases Committee Chairman, Dr. Karen Hedberg, at the 2009 GSDCA National Breed Commission (NBC) Meeting advised that whilst this matter has been placed on the 2009 ANKC National Breed Council Conference Agenda and was referred to the ANKC Canine Health Committee, a national breed survey will be required of all German Shepherd owners throughout Australia for these changes to be implemented.

Over the past twelve months the GSDCA President and NBC Chairman have been liaising with the Dr. Karen Hedberg, Chair of the ANKC Canine Health Committee to prepare the ANKC Survey for hip and elbow dysplasia requirements for registration of German Shepherd puppies on the Main Register.

We are pleased to report that this survey has been finalised and was forwarded by the ANKC Administrator to all State Canine Controls on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

#### **ATTENTION: ALL MEMBER BODIES**

Please find attached a breed survey which has been requested by the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia in relation to Hip and Elbow Dysplasia requirements. The GSDCA has confirmed that it has been over ten years since the requirement was introduced for German Shepherd Dogs to show proof of x-ray for hips and elbows. They highlight that a total hip score of 24 is almost twice the breed average and therefore the majority of the breeding stock will still be utilised in the breeding program but the survey will endeavour to ensure the removal of animals severely affected with hip dysplasia. The National Canine Health & Welfare Committee Chairperson, Dr Karen Hedberg has been liaising with the GSDCA regarding this survey and we now circulate it for ANKC approval. Once approval is given, we will then ask all Member Bodies to ensure it is published in their next available magazine. The approved survey will also be made available from the ANKC website.

**All Member Bodies are requested to forward their approval or otherwise to the ANKC Administrator by no later than COB Monday, 30 August 2010**

Regards

*Tracey Barry*

**Administrator**

Australian National Kennel Council

#### **MEMBER CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

- \* A.C.T. German Shepherd Dog Association \* Broken Hill German Shepherd Dog Club
- \* German Shepherd Dog Association of Western Australia \* German Shepherd Dog League
- \* German Shepherd Dog Club of Northern Territory \* German Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland
- \* German Shepherd Dog Club of South Australia \* German Shepherd Dog Club of Tasmania
- \* German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria \* Newcastle & Hunter Region German Shepherd Dog Club



The purpose of this letter is not only to advise the GSDCA Members Clubs of the latest development but also to outline the correct procedure under which the Survey will be conducted and the reasons behind the changes outlined in the Survey.

As outlined in the email above the State Canine Controls are required to provide their approval of the Survey to the ANKC.

Once all of the responses have been received by the ANKC Administrator, the State Canine Controls will be advised that the Survey is to be published in all Canine Control magazines. Once it is published it will be uploaded onto the ANKC website.

The earliest that this can happen will be **Monday 30 August** unless **all Canine Controls** respond to the ANKC Administrator earlier. If your State Canine Control contacts your Club please reply immediately of your Club's support.

Until the Survey is published in the State Canine Control Magazines **no surveys** can be completed and forwarded to the ANKC Administrator. It should be noted that this may not be for at least two to three months.

Due to a misunderstanding the ANKC Survey has been circulated and displayed on GSD chat lines but it must be understood and it is most important that no member forward their response until after publication in their Canine Control magazines.

**If any Surveys are forwarded prior to it being published in the State Canine Control magazines the Survey will be declared null and void and destroyed.**

Once the Survey is published it is imperative that every GSDCA member votes **"YES"** to Items 1.1 and 1.2. All necessary information is outlined in the Survey form, the bottom portion advises the date for which all responses will need to be received by the ANKC Administrator.

For convenience the GSDCA Secretary will forward a reminder to all Member Clubs to ensure the deadline is met.

For the information of all Member Clubs please see the changes outlined below.

*Litter Registration Limitations be amended as follows and apply for litters born from 1 June 2011:-*

*1.1 Both parents of every litter must be screened for Hip Dysplasia through an official Hip Dysplasia Control Scheme. Where the parents have been born after 1.1.10, they must record a score of no more than 12 on either hip, or in the case of imported animals, a grading that is deemed to be acceptable for breeding in their country of origin.*

*1.2 Both parents of every litter must be screened for Elbow Dysplasia through an official Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme. Where the parents have been born after the 1.1.10, they must record a grading of Normal, Grade One or Grade Two on both elbows, and be free from the condition of UAP (Ununited Anconeal Process.)*

*If the above litter registration limitations are approved for each or either of these diseases, breeders of litters whelped on or after 1 June 2011, will be required to comply as a prerequisite to registration of any litter on the ANKC Main Register. Dogs must be positively identified by microchip, or tattoo prior to being x-rayed. Litters which do not meet the above requirements will be placed on the **Limited Register and will be flagged not to be upgraded.***

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All members please note that this does not change the requirements to receive a GSDCA “A” stamp through the GSDCA Hip Dysplasia Control Scheme or a “Z” stamp through the GSDCA Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme.

The rationale for the changes are outlined below:

- As the current regulation stands, a sire or dam of a litter could in fact be severely dysplastic and/or be severely affected with elbow dysplasia (e.g. Grade 3 or UAP).
- In this day and age with the increased activity of the “*anti-dog lobby*” and more importantly the “*anti pure bred lobby*” and in addition, dealing with ever changing State and Federal legislation it is imperative that German Shepherd puppies being offered for sale to the public are sound in body and mind and become a responsible member of the community.
- It is over ten years since the requirement was introduced for German Shepherd Dogs to show proof of x-ray for hips and elbows.
- It should be noted that a total hip score of 24 (with no more than 12 on each hip) is almost twice the breed average and hence the majority of the breeding stock will still be utilised in the breeding program but it will ensure the removal of animals severely affected with hip dysplasia.
- Animals with Grade Three or Ununited Anconeal Process (UAP) form a small percentage of animals x-rayed, hence numerically are very small but in reality pose a real threat of increasing the incidence of Elbow Dysplasia within the German Shepherd Dog therefore only Normal, Grade One and Grade Two graded animals should be considered for registration on the ANKC Main Registrar.

We are requesting that a copy of this correspondence be circulated to all members as a matter of urgency via all Club websites or any other means available to Member Clubs.

We look forward to your total support of this important matter and thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

*Val Moody*

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Val Moody

**Honorary Secretary**

**German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Inc.**

c.c GSDCA Executive.

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