

German Shepherd Dog Club of America

Applicable to:

German shepherds born on July 1st, 2017 or after for consideration of showing, breeding or competing in Germany between the ages of 9-13 months. The day the dog turns 13 months of age and older will need to apply for special permission.

Reasoning

The character or nature is a feature set out in the German Shepherd standard, which is used to characterize the product as “typical” while taking many other factors into consideration. The assertions and requirements covered by the character judgment are principally designed to prove the dogs are environmentally sound and socially friendly. But they are also drawn upon as an additional examination for our working dog requirements. The character judgment includes determining a dog’s behavioral traits that manifest themselves based on hereditary assets subject to the available breeding, development and posture qualities.

What Happens in a Character Assessment Test?

The dog is assessed in two ways: based on the specific evaluation of each behavior trait (descriptive) and based on reliability ratings.

Character judgments are split into the following categories:

- **Impartiality**
The dog should allow their handler and an unknown person, e.g. the judge, to touch them at different points on the body.
- **Social behavior**
Interaction with people, individuals, groups.
- **Noise sensitivity**
In this section, the dog is subjected to different acoustic stimuli, e.g. rattling, engine noise and blanks being fired as the loudest stimulus.
- **Certainty of movement**
Sensitivity to heights (e.g. assessed by looking at a dog’s movement behavior across tables) as well as a dog’s movement on flat ground.
- **Play and predatory instinct/behavior under stress**
The assessment is based on how the dog plays with their owner (teamwork) and with an unknown person (representative). Furthermore, the intensity towards obstructed prey (willingness to find) and their willingness to play under increased demands (moving table) are also assessed. Only a dog that feels comfortable in its environment and can cope with the situation can play.
- **Basic nature**
Behavior in isolation and when meeting an unknown person.

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Grounds for Exclusion

Dogs that are very anxious, aggressive dogs that show increased aggression in peaceful situations, as well as dogs that are sensitive to shots being fired. The dog may attempt to repeat the Character Test one more time.

Rules for Participation:

- The minimum number of participants is four with four different dog handlers, the maximum number per day is 12 dogs per assessor. Regarding the number of dogs per day the same regulations are applied as in the IPO (IGP) range; this means Saturday or Sunday 12 dogs per day, Friday as half-day 6 dogs.
- One dog handler may present at most two dogs per character test event.
- Older dogs which shall be presented for character assessment need a special permission from the SV, application can be obtained from GSDCA office. The dog is banned for **5 months** from **all** trials and breed survey relevant for breeding. The ban is valid as of the day of the character assessment. The WUSV club (GSDCA) receives the invoice for the granted special permissions.

Documentation for registration:

Hosting Clubs are to contact GSDCA SV Programs office, submit application for advert, upon approval the event the GSDCA office will supply the club email forms necessary for the event.

20 days before the event or earlier the club hosting the event will need to submit all dogs participating with applications and copy of registration and pedigrees emailed to GSDCA office. A data transfer with link to download external program of the Character Assessment documentation will then be provided. The list of participants with date of birth clearly defined and judge's sheets will need to be prepared. Only forms provided by GSDCA will be used due to continuous updates by the SV.

GSDCA, SV or FCI recognized Scorebook, AKC 4 generation certified pedigree and registration, SV or FCI recognized registration on each dog entered is required.

Completion of Event Documentation

Each successful participant will receive a rating sheet and the assessor will stamp the dog's pedigree and enter the character assessment into the scorebook; this will guarantee recognition through the SV. Results will be posted on the SV-DoxS.

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Within 2 days' post event all documentation must be sent to the GSDCA SV office by email.

Send copies of stamped pedigree, scorebook and rating sheet of all successful passing dogs to the GSDCA office. Any dogs that did not pass will also need to be sent with the copy of the scorebook and rating sheet. After receipt of all documentation a processing fee will be bill billed for each character assessment and special permissions. Payment is mandatory from the hosting club a minimal 7 days' post event to the GSDCA office.

Holding the Event:

Must note the assessor may come with an assistant.

The order of assessment is to follow is this given order:

1. Impartiality
2. Social behavior
3. Noise sensitivity
4. Certainty of movement
5. Play and predatory instinct/behavior under stress
6. Basic nature

Assessment forms filled out and ready in order of dogs is determined prior to start of event. Participants are to wear designated numbers.

The Stations of the Character Assessment:

- Impartiality review
 - Chip reader
 - Körmaß
 - measuring plate
 - Table for filing the documents of the B-W
- 2. Social behavior
 - Ball on the band, Bringsel with loop, biting sausage, etc. (to bring by the Handler)
- 3. Noise sensitivity
 - chainsaw (without sword)
 - Chain (stable iron chain, approx. 150 cm) • Sheet metal (approx. 100x100 cm)
 - Firing pistol 6 mm
- 4. Motion safety
 - wobble table (Industrial pallet with smooth bottom (120 x 100 cm) with attached 10 cm

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- round timber in the middle, below the pallet)
 - 6 standard tables
 - Climbing assistance (applied, fixed table with non-slip base as a rise)
5. Game and Beutetrieb
- A toy known to the dog (ball on the band, Bringsel, Beißwurst or similar)
 - Fruit box made of perforated plastic or similar.
 - room with smooth floor (floor approx. 30sqm)
 - Feeding bowl made of metal
6. Basic Being
- Place where the dog can be attached. (Post, fence or tree, which is not necessarily in the practice area)
 - 1.5 m line (better: a thin steel cable with carabiner).

Video link of the Character Test on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Z8mEQ_qqjs&feature=youtu.be

Power Point presentation with photos of equipment is available from the GSDCA website or office.

Breed Survey requirements for dogs born July 1st 2017 and after intended to breed or compete in Germany.

Der neue alternative Weg in die Zucht (ZAP)						
Formale Voraussetzungen (HD-ED-DNA)	ZAP Teil 1 (Wesensbeurteilung) 9 bis < 13 Monate	Zuchtbewertung mind. „gut“ ab 12 Monaten	AD-Prüfung	ZAP Teil 2 (Arbeitsteil) ab 18 Monaten	Körung	
Der bisherige Weg in die Zucht (IPO)						
Formale Voraussetzungen (HD-ED-DNA)	Zuchtbewertung mind. „gut“ ab 12 Monaten	BH/VT-Prüfung	AD-Prüfung	IPO-1-Prüfung	Körung	
oder via IPO						
Formale Voraussetzungen (HD-ED-DNA)	ZAP Teil 1 (Wesensbeurteilung) 9 bis < 13 Monate	Zuchtbewertung mind. „gut“ ab 12 Monaten	BH/VT-Prüfung	AD-Prüfung	IPO-1-Prüfung	Körung