



# GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL of AUSTRALIA Inc.

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

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

**PATRON : Mrs. DAWN FRASER AO MBE**

## Honorary Secretary

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18<sup>th</sup> August 2014

## MEMBER CLUBS

Dear Secretary,

### Re: Social Media

On behalf of the GSDCA Judges Committee Chair, Mrs Robyn Knuckey, please note the following:

At the recent GSDCA Judges Committee Meeting, held on the 26 July 2014, a Discussion Item on the Agenda was "Judges, Social Media and the Exhibitor - Judge's Responsibilities".

During research on the impact of Social Media and discussions with some Canine Controls in Australia, it has become very apparent that comments on social media by members of each Canine Control are being scrutinised very closely. Resulting in suspensions for some members as a direct result of derogatory comments made on these forums, by their local Canine Control body.

With this, a number of Canine Controls have a specific policy on Social Media. As an example, a copy of the Policy from Dogs NSW was presented to the Meeting. This generated a lot of discussion with those present at the meeting and surprise of the majority that there are now specific policies in place, and some Canine Controls are in the process of writing policies for this area.

The meeting decided that a letter should be sent to all Member Clubs of the GSDCA to inform them of these policies to inform their members to investigate their respective Canine Control policy on Social Media, to ensure everyone is aware of possible ramifications if derogatory comments are made on social media forums.

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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