

THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF SA INC



INFORMATION BOOKLET

Introductory information for new or prospective members.

MY DOGS PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME -----

PEDIGREE NAME -----

TATTOO NO. -----

COUNCIL REG. NO. -----

COUNCIL PHONE. NO -----

VETERINARIAN -----

VET PHONE NO. -----

BREEDERS NAME -----

PLEASE NOTIFY THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

R.S.P.C.A PHONE NO. 8231 6931
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THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF SA Inc

POSTAL ADDRESS: GPO Box 1421 ADELAIDE SA 5001

AFFILIATED WITH:

The South Australian Canine Assoc Inc &
The German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our purpose in offering advice to you in all aspects relating to our special breed is to endeavour to improve the general understanding about the breed of both intending and present owners and so, ultimately help to improve the breed itself.

As with most things which are initially new to man, you cannot expect to learn all about this breed except by continuing experience. You cannot hope to ever know all that there is to know. This booklet is intended only to start you on the right road. From this point on you can continue to learn more and more through discussion with fellow owners, membership of our Club and reading books and magazines written about our breed.

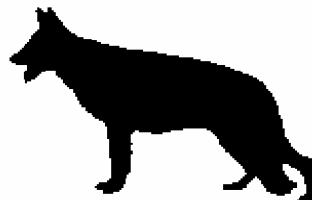
By advising all who are interested how to approach the task of purchasing a German Shepherd Dog and, as a new owner, how to care for and train the dog, we hope to be of service to you and the breed.

We sincerely hope that you will accept this offer of advice and so assist us in the aim to which all true admirers of the breed are devoted to encourage and develop the continued improvement in the standard of excellence in our breed, and responsible dog ownership.

Our Club has a history of which we are justly proud. We commenced operation, under the guidance of our founder, the late Harold Camm, in 1949. From an early membership of twenty (20) people we have grown to be the largest single Breed Club in South Australian today. We are a strong and innovative organisation and the longest established Club in South Australia

We are delighted to welcome YOU and hope that you will become an integral part of this organisation and make the most of the opportunities that we offer.

THE COMMITTEE



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BREED

Centuries ago there developed in Germany, as in all countries where grazing animals were herded, several types of Shepherd Dogs. The conformation of these dogs varied to suit the terrain and weather conditions and thus distinctive types were formed. Despite the visual difference there were four qualities in common, hardiness, intelligence, physical soundness and the ability to do their specialised job well.

Groups were formed, bound together by an interest in dogs and a desire to improve the working ability of their stock. Dogs were exchanged, records of breeding kept, and gradually greater structural uniformity was attained.

Each year the best of these animals competed in sheep herding trials and it was at one of these trials that Rittmeister von Stephanitz discovered and purchased his "ideal" German Shepherd Dog. This noble animal, "Hektor Linksrhein" became, under the new name "Horand von Grafath", the first registered German Shepherd Dog in a Club founded by Stephanitz and his friend Arthur Meyer. The Club, the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde S.V. is the largest dog club in the world today. From the beginning, in 1889, very tight breeding controls have been maintained and a uniformity of type was established in a very short time. The standard has always remained, as von Stephanitz would have it, based upon mental stability and utility, with beauty as a natural by-product.

As Germany became increasingly industrialised the tremendous working capabilities of the German Shepherd Dog were to be used in other areas; in Government Services as army dogs, as tracking dogs and for rescue work and later they became the first guide dogs for the blind in a special training school for soldiers blinded in battle in the First World War.

Soldiers returning after the war brought stories of the prowess of these dogs, and before long, the breed was gaining popularity in both the UK and the USA. Unfortunately anti-German feeling ran high and the dog was denied his birthright and renamed the "Alsatian Wolf Dog" in England. This was later changed to Alsatian and it was not until 1977 that the powers that be in England gave the breed the correct name German Shepherd Dog.

From 1928 to 1972 a ban on the importation of German Shepherd Dogs into Australia was in force. This ban was relaxed in 1972 and removed altogether in 1973. Since that time many fine animals have come to this state from all over the world and the standard of the best of breed here is equal to the high standards of the best in Europe.

In 1983 the German Shepherd Dog achieved equality in South Australia when the Government repealed the discriminatory "1934 Alsatian Dogs Act" which had prohibited the ownership of German Shepherd Dogs in many areas of this state.

The Annual Australian national Show attracts a large entry of dogs from all States of Australia and New Zealand and is a true reflection of the popularity of the breed here and the dedication of Australian breeders in their quest to keep the standard high and to do justice to the ideals of Rittmeister Max von Stephanitz.

DO YOU DESERVE A DOG?

The Dog Control Act outlines your responsibilities as a dog owner. You are obliged to register your dog with the Local Council, tend to the dogs requirements for food and shelter, keep your dog in a fenced yard and you must ensure that the dog is on a leash whenever it is in a public place.

Your yard must be so designed as to permit visitor's free access to your front door. You should never allow your dog to roam. The consequences of allowing your dog to wander are severe, the least of which is a fine from the council, or the dog becoming lost or stolen, or even knocked over by a motorist, which could induce a civil compensation claim. These are among your legal responsibilities but before you acquire a German Shepherd Dog there are other considerations.

The German Shepherd Dog is a large, active and very intelligent breed. You must be prepared to cater for the dog's need for exercise, attention and mental activity. When planning the yard remember that you will require strong fences, not less than 1.5 meters high. Both the dog and you will benefit from additional exercise when you take him, for a walk on a leash. Keeping the dog chained or in cramped quarters is a cruel practise that can have serious effects on the physical and mental health of the dog.

German Shepherd Dogs love companionship and therefore are very happy inside your home. If, however, you wish the dog to sleep outdoors you must provide clean, well-insulated and weather proof sleeping quarters. The dog must not be forced to sleep on concrete or damp ground but should have a wooden floor with a blanket or bag for warmth. A constant supply of fresh, clean water is essential, summer and winter.

Another essential for a German Shepherd Dog is a little of your time. This breed is happiest in a close relationship with people and enjoys proper training and just being a member of the family.

If you are too busy to give this companionship you should not have a dog at all. If we stand back and examine the dog for what it is, we can realise how silly it is to place human values on the things they do. Understanding more about dogs, what motivates them, what their values are, how they learn and why they do what they do, helps us to form more enjoyable relationships with them.

To achieve this, it is first necessary to look at the behaviour of the species from which they have evolved. - the wild dog. The wild dog is a pack animal that lives within a very strong social structure, where there is an established hierarchy. The alpha dog is the leader of the pack. For the social structure to hold together, every pack needs a leader. The rules in wolf/feral dog packs are relatively easy for their members to follow, because there is an established pecking order. Every individual knows its place.

For domestic dogs, living in mixed species "packs", the rules are often confusing and harder to follow. We, as humans, attempt to teach dogs our values, yet they are only capable of learning on a canine level, and only understand canine values. The main differences between canine and human minds are that dogs do not reason as we do. They learn by an association of ideas, and act solely on instinct. ALL DOGS, regardless of their size or shape, still display the same behavioural patterns as their distinct ancestors, and if sufficiently provided or mistreated will regress to wolf like behaviour.

When considering having a German Shepherd Dog as a pet you must remember that you and your family are the pack leaders and show consistency and firmness in your everyday activity with the Shepherd. He must never become the pack leader, as this makes him a very hard dog to control in regards to what he wants to do. Training your German Shepherd Dog is a must. If you have never owned a German Shepherd Dog before we highly recommend that you attend training classes for you and your dog.

Dogs with whom we share our homes get used to humans, they are large and look down on dogs. When they talk they make strong confident and assertive noises. These and other factors serve to consolidate the dog's position as the submissive party. The fact that the vast majority of family dogs never injure a child is neither excuse nor reason for placing blind faith in any dog, be it large or small. To leave a child on the floor is foolish and demanding of the dog a greater

sense of responsibility than that displayed by the child's guardians. Even though the probability of the dog attack is low, enormity of the ensuing tragedy is such that responsible caution must always be exercised.

ACQUIRING THE DOG

Many people begin with either a non-pedigree or crossbred German Shepherd Dog that has been given to them or has won their heart in a pet shop or dog's home. These people invariably buy a pedigree dog when their first dog is no longer with them. We believe it is very important to buy a quality pedigree animal from a reputable kennel. WHY?

Every registered breed of dog, from Mastiff to Chihuahua, has a written breed "Standard". This standard describes, in fine detail, the true breed characteristics. In the show ring the dogs are judged in accordance with this standard and ethical and knowledgeable breeders always endeavour to produce stock close to the breed ideal.

Characteristics are established and maintained in a breed by planned breeding over a long period of time. It is for these characteristics that this breed has earned the respect and won the hearts of all who can appreciate what a dog can be at its best.

Whilst it does not, unfortunately, follow that all pedigree dogs possess these ideal attributes, it is only in such dogs that one can hope to find the true specimens. A genuine pedigree guarantees pure breeding and indicates that a continuous record has been kept of the ancestry. From it, together with observation of the dog and his immediate forebearers, a guide to the likely characteristics of a dog can be assessed. IT IS THEREFORE VERY IMPORTANT TO BUY A PEDIGREE DOG.

WHERE TO BUY THE DOG

Every day you will see advertisement for puppies in the newspapers. Before you buy remember that you are purchasing a dog that, all going well, will be your faithful companion for the next ten years. Do not settle for second best or buy in a rush. Puppy prices are governed by supply and demand and also the money, which the breeder has invested in their stock.

You will obviously pay more for a puppy for the show-ring or for "exclusive" bloodlines. Puppy prices therefore vary through the media, however, should you wish to acquire a healthy, happy puppy and a good representative of the breed with sound temperament it can cost from \$600.00 upwards.

A dog cannot be termed "pedigree" unless it has a pedigree registered with the Canine Controlling Body of the State in which the dog was bred. In South Australia that is the South Australian Canine Association Inc (SACA).

A person cannot breed or register pedigree dogs unless he or she is a member of the controlling body and has a registered kennel name. All registered puppies not retained by the breeder must be transferred to the new owner within fourteen (14) days. It is the **responsibility of the breeder** to lodge the pedigree for transfer. The SACA Rules state the pedigree must not be given to the new owner until it has been transferred. There is a minimal fee for the transfer of ownership.

In addition to the SACA's Code of Ethics, the Club has a code of ethics for breeders known as "Recommended Breeding Practices".

These rules are stringent and govern such factors as the quality of the breeding stock and other aspects. Breeders who breed and raise a litter in accordance with these rules may apply to have a litter "Club Listed". This is one way in which our Club attempts to monitor breeding activities and keep up the standard of the puppies on offer. Whilst the Club cannot undertake to "guarantee" such puppies it is obviously desirable for a prospective puppy buyer to contact the Club and buy from a "Listed" litter.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

If you accept our advice and buy from a "listed" litter your task should be less confusing as you should be dealing with a breeder of some experience who will help you with your selection. Experienced breeders are observant and become astute in matching puppies to suit the requirements of the buyer. Wherever you buy there are some basics that will be of assistance.

Clean healthy puppies come from clean healthy kennels. With a "listed" litter you have the added bonus of knowing that the breeder is compelled to have the litter temporarily vaccinated and tattooed and the puppies will be at least eight weeks of age before they leave the kennel.

Check the parents. The sire may not be at the kennel but you should certainly see the dam and, if possible see them both. Characteristics exhibited by the sire and dam is usually a guide to those of the offspring. Note particularly the temperament of the parents; it may be inherited by the offspring. Remember that the dog that is shy or nervous is as undesirable as the aggressive dog.

Within the German shepherd world we have what are termed "Breed Survey's" the animals are assessed for their breed worth and temperament. "Class I" far above average recommended for breeding, "Class II" above average suitable for breeding. "FAILED" unsuitable for breeding. Sires and dams of the litter should be both surveyed and you can ask the breeder to clarify with a copy of the animals "Breed Survey" certificate.

The puppies should be healthy and well fed (without being grossly fat). They should show strong bone, a clean healthy coat and clean nose, eyes and ears. Normal puppies are friendly and outgoing so avoid the puppy that backs away or sulks in a corner. Just after feeding is the time for puppies to sleep so arrange to visit the litter before mealtime and watch them play. See as many litters as possible and take as long as you need to be sure that you have the puppy that YOU really want.

Obviously puppies of this age cannot really be assessed in accordance with the adult breed standard but certain features can be checked.

Remember to handle the puppies very gently. When you have chosen the puppy which you think you will buy, in the case of male puppies, they should be entire (e.g. have both testicles) but they can take up to nine months to descend. Undescended testicles may need to be surgically removed, as they are prone to cancer.

A correct bite is a "scissor" bite with the top teeth slightly overlapping, but still touching, the bottom teeth. Uneven jaw growth during the early months can change this. (See page 10.)

Undescended testicles and serious discrepancies in the bite are disqualifying faults in the adult show and breeding dog.

Final coat colour cannot be assessed until the dog has his adult coat. They are dark as puppies and achieve more gold, as they get older. In a correctly pigmented puppy the nose must be jet black and the toe nails very dark.

A true long coat is a disqualifying fault in the show ring but, as the gene for the long coat is recessive, and some of the top bloodlines in the world carry this gene, most kennels occasionally have long coat puppies for sale. Apart from the extra care taken to keep the coat in order, a long coat is a normal dog and quite suitable as a pet. While some puppies may be quite fluffy at 7 or 9 weeks a long coat will usually have long tufts of hair in and behind the ears and down the back hocks.

In the German Shepherd Dog the ears may be erect as early as 6 weeks of age or as late as 9 months. This depends on a number of factors, including the hereditary aspect. Ears, which were up, may soften again while the puppy is teething. This is perfectly normal. Soft ears that never become properly erect may be inherited and, if severe, can be a disqualifying fault in the show ring.

Another partially hereditary problem is Hip Dysplasia. This disease suffered by most the larger breed of dogs and, as the name suggests, it is a displacement of the hip joint which, when secondary arthritis appears, is extremely painful and crippling. The transmission of this disease is extremely complex and has undergone intensive study for many years. Wise breeders have their stock x-rayed and scored. An animal receiving an "A" stamp is deemed suitable for breeding. (The "A" stamp is a scheme introduced by The German Shepherd Dog National Council of Australia).

Unfortunately other genetic and environmental factors are involved and dysplasia can appear in offspring from parents that have the "A" stamp. All that can be said is that the likelihood of dysplasia is greatly reduced where the parents have "A" stamps and puppies are kept at a sensible weight during their growing period. Overweight is one of the most damaging conditions in a puppy.

THE PAPERWORK

There are two methods of acquiring a pedigree puppy: Sale or Lease. The ramifications of leasing are too complex to elaborate on here but suffice to say, whether you buy or lease the animal the record of the transaction must be registered with the South Australian Canine Association within 14 days. The breeder is required to sign the transfer form, on the reverse side of the pedigree, and submit the form to the South Australian Canine Association. A nominal transfer fee is charged and the dog is transferred to your ownership. This will show on the front of the pedigree that you will receive from the South Australian Canine Association directly.

If you wish to show your dog, enter it in obedience trials or breed a registered litter you must be a financial member of the South Australian Canine Association. The South Australian Canine Association controls all of those activities and has supplies of the requisite forms, including show and trial entry forms. Their address is South Australian Canine Association Inc., Cromwell Road, Kilburn SA 5084, (PO Box 844, Prospect East SA 5082). Telephone 8349 4797, facsimile 8262 5751.

Council registration of your dog is a separate process. The Department of Local Government administers the Dog Control Act. Under that Act all dogs over the age of 3 months must be registered with the local Council. Registration is renewable annually, falling due on the 1st July.

Should you have more than one dog it is wise to check with your local Council that may have by-laws governing the number of dogs that you are allowed to keep. Most suburban Councils restrict the number to two unless special permission is granted.

NOTE: The South Australian Canine Association registered pedigree is an official form showing the South Australian Canine Association registration number of the dog, bearing the South Australian Canine Association watermark and the Australian National Kennel Council logo on the bottom right hand corner. If you are in doubt about any aspects of the pedigree or transfer contact the South Australian Canine Association **immediately**. This Club can advise you but cannot take any action to help you on this issue.

FEEDING YOUR GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG

Reputable kennels will supply a feeding and general care chart giving full details of the basic diet so that puppy will not suffer any growth check during this vital period of adjustment. You should also be assured that the puppy has been properly "wormed" and you should receive a vaccination certificate at the time of purchase.

It is advisable to follow the feeding recommended by the breeder, as some puppies can suffer stress from leaving the kennel and stress can develop into diarrhoea. If you maintain the same feeding pattern as the breeder it will help relieve the stress and not upset the puppy's tummy any further. The diarrhoea normally only lasts a day and puppy should soon settle into his new home.

Ideas on diet vary greatly from one breeder to another. Overfeeding was the biggest problem of yesteryear and many suggested diets in older books would result in overweight, sluggish and unhealthy puppies. The best guide to quantity is the weight of your puppy, which must always have a moderate "waistline". The guide to quality is the vitality and condition of the puppy. Nature is generous in her gift of vitamins, minerals and other nutritional essentials, and all can be found in abundance in the balanced diet. A healthy puppy does not have to be rattling with a multitude of vitamin pills. Excess supplementation with artificial additives can have serious side effects. The proper diet must not only provide all the essentials, but it must supply those essentials in the proper proportion.

The constituents of food basically fall into four groups: PROTEIN, FAT, CARBOHYDRATES (STARCHES) AND VITAMINS/MINERALS. When fed in correct proportion these three will provide the essential bodybuilding material and fuel for energy.

PROTEIN - The building block that builds new body tissue and repairs the wear and tear of the body. The most complete form of protein is found in meat, eggs, milk, fish and soya beans. Lesser quality protein can be found in other vegetables.

FAT - Provides body warmth and energy and assists in the absorption of the other nutrients. Natural sources are fatty meat, milk and vegetable oils.

CARBOHYDRATE - The fuel for growth and energy. Abundant in cereals, vegetables and honey.

VITAMINS/MINERALS - These help regulate all aspects of cell activity. Quantities are minute but vital. They are found in natural nutritional material such as milk, meat, eggs, fish and fresh fruit and vegetables.

When considering a suitable diet for your puppy or adult dog remember that many of the diseases found in domestic dogs are unknown in their wild counterparts. The main reasons for this are nutritional imbalance, allergic reaction and over or under feeding in dogs dependent on human beings. Wild dogs eat the stomach and intestines of their prey first, thereby ingesting a large quantity of cereal matter rich in Vitamin C, Vitamin B, carbohydrates and minerals.

This can be replaced in the domestic dog by feeding good quality, balanced dry food. An all meat diet is not only expensive it is also grossly deficient, leading to a number of serious problems including growth deformities.

After 15 months bone, growth has stopped and you will have to vary the quantities of the food according to the special demands and activities of your own dog. Metabolism varies in dogs as it does in humans, so there can be no hard and fast rules as to quantities of food. The best guide, as stated before, is the weight of your dog, which must look like an energetic working dog. As he ages he may require much less food. Suggested weights for German Shepherds at about 18 months are:

Males height about 63 cm = 34 - 35 kilo's. Females height about 58 cm = 26 - 27 kilo's.

WORMING AND VACCINATIONS

These are routine requirements, which must be attended to with regularity so it is worthwhile to keep a note of the dates on which they have been done.

When you buy your puppy it should be free of worms, as the breeder should have treated the puppy. Puppy should be wormed again at 12 and then 14 weeks of age with a tablet or syrup for all worms and then every 3 months for the rest of his life. Roundworm, hookworm, whipworm and tapeworm are the most common worms in dogs. Do not feed raw offal to your dog as this may harbour hydatids tapeworm, which is highly dangerous to both man and dog and will require a visit to the vet.

Vaccinations consist of; 6 weeks of age - temporary distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus; 12 weeks of age - distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus; as recommended by your vet.

Boost annually with combined vaccine. Remember that the best safeguard is to keep your puppy away from training grounds, dog shows, breeding or boarding kennels etc. until he is at least 3 months old, or after final vaccination.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

EXERCISE - German Shepherd Dogs enjoy being a real family member but despite the fact that you may allow your dog to sleep indoors he will benefit from spending most of his time in the sunshine and fresh air. Sleep is very important to a young puppy and care must be taken to ensure that he has a quiet place to rest and that he is not over exercised.

Requirements re yard space and kennelling have been mentioned earlier. Do not allow a young puppy to jump up and down high steps as this can damage bone joints. As the puppy is older and lead trained he can be taken for short walks. Do not run your dog along side a bicycle until he is at least 10 months old. Swimming is an excellent exercise at any age as it works the muscles but does not stress the bone joints. Increase exercise slowly. A fit 12-month-old dog will really enjoy a 5 km walk.

COAT CARE - A German Shepherd Dog has a water resistant coat which is generally odour free and sheds most dirt and dust quite readily. Daily brushing with a stiff brush will loosen any dirt, stimulate the skin and remove any dead hair. A regular brushing routine is enjoyed by the dog and it is your opportunity to check for skin irritations or injury.

Your dog will benefit from a bath; the frequency of bathing should be determined by the environment in which he lives (e.g. he should be rinsed after swimming in salt water, flea wash

and special shampoo if he has a skin allergy). It is recommended that if you wash your puppy he be adequately dried before going outside or only washed on warm days.

In this country dogs are often bothered by fly bites on the tip of the ears. These are ugly and painful and can be easily prevented by regular application of an insect repellent. Fleas are a very common problem and can cause skin allergies. It is recommended that not only should you treat the dog with either a flea wash or dusting powder you should also treat any other animals, cats etc. The flea lives and feeds on the animals but it breeds in his bedding or a place that he frequents, e.g. a nice dusty spot under a tree. It is therefore recommended that all bedding and areas should be treated at the same time as you treat your pets.

It is also noted that excessively fat dogs are also prone to skin problems. The reason being the dog overheats because of his weight so it is therefore recommended that if he has a skin problem and is fat, then to put him on a diet.

TOE NAILS - Unless a dog has a lot of exercise on hard surfaces, his toenails will need trimming or his feet may become flat and misshaped. Special clippers are available for this purpose. Care must be taken not to cut through the quick, which is not easy to see when the toenails are very dark. Take a small, straight cut off the point of the nail. This will smooth to a normal shape within a day of normal exercise. Where nails are excessively long, a small clip once each week will allow the quick to shrink back. If you have difficulties, consult a veterinarian or an experienced dog owner for help.

TEETH - Your dog has two sets of teeth. The first set is called milk teeth. He will start to lose his milk teeth about twelve weeks of age. When the milk teeth are shed gums may be very sore, especially where a new tooth grows a long side an old one. Playing with a stocking or bag may help loosen the old tooth.

During the teething period your puppies ears may feel hot and may soften. Do not be alarmed this can be normal. Puppies may contract Tetanus during teething through bacteria entering open cavities in the gums. It is wise to consider giving a Tetanus vaccination, particularly if your puppy is in contact with horses etc.

In older dogs the teeth must be watched very closely for signs of decay or tartar build up. Feeding very hard dog biscuits can reduce Tartar. If an older dog has excessive tartar this will cause gum recession and constant infection of the blood stream leading to serious kidney problems. If the tartar is heavy contact your veterinarian who can remove it simply and speedily.

Correct Scissor Bite Faulty Overshot



Faulty Undershot



Faulty Level



SICKNESS AND NURSING - There are several comprehensive "First Aid" books available and a good dog owner will invest in one of these and keep it handy in case of an emergency. Amateur administration of "bush remedies" may do more harm than good. It is your responsibility to seek professional help if your dog is ill. **CONSULT YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY AND FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS.**

Some important points to remember:

Distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus are **DEADLY**. Watch your dog for any signs of coughing, discharge from the eyes or nose, violent diarrhoea, excessive drinking refusal of food,

listlessness or vomiting. **Take to the vet immediately.** Simple gastro-intestinal infections in young puppies can lead to death from dehydration. Give warm water and glucose and **Take to the vet.**

Do not treat constipation with drastic purgatives such as castor oil. If it persists or the dog appears ill or distressed it could indicate a serious internal obstruction. **Take to the vet.**

If the dog appears continuously off-colour, the coat is poor or he lacks energy and loses weight, take the dog, a sample of faeces, to the vet. There are many types of parasites, which can be present in the digestive tract (such as hookworm, whipworm, coccidia) that can be found through testing the faecal or blood samples. Only your **vet can diagnose and treat them.**

Bloat, or stomach torsion can kill an apparently healthy dog within an hour. This condition manifests itself through gross distension of the abdomen and unproductive attempts to vomit. Pressure on the internal organs, through a huge build up of gas in the stomach, leads to twisting of the stomach and death through shock. **TAKE TO THE VET WITHOUT DELAY.** The likelihood of bloat can be reduced by taking care not to feed your dog within two hours before or after violent exercise and by always pre-soaking dry food and never giving old stale food.

If your dog is bleeding profusely from an injury to the abdomen or a limb apply pressure to the area as you transport him to the vet. Broken limbs can be splinted to immobilise them, preventing further injury on the way to the vet. Remember even a placid pet may bite out of pain so be careful around a hurt or distressed dog at all times

Heat exhaustion can be another quick killer. If you find your dog in a state of collapse immerse him in cold water or hose him down continuously, starting on the top of the head.

When he recovers take him to the vet. NEVER leave your dog in a car on a warm to hot day. The interior of the car can rise rapidly to 20 degrees above the outside air temperature.

Sick dogs must be kept in a warm, quiet environment until recovered. On no account permit normal exercise during convalescence.

IF YOUR DOG HAS A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE IT IS YOUR MORAL OBLIGATION TO ASCERTAIN FROM THE VET WHEN THE CONTAGIOUS PERIOD WILL END AND TO NOT TAKE THE DOG OUTSIDE HIS HOME TERRITORY UNTIL IT IS SAFE.

Regular vaccinations, good grooming and kennel hygiene are the best preventative. Have the telephone number of your veterinarian close at hand. Most German Shepherd Dogs live a long and healthy life, as it is a vigorous and robust breed. A good dog owner is, however, always prepared.

NEVER FORGET THAT SNAIL BAITS AND RAT POISONS ARE VERY ATTRACTIVE TO YOUR DOG AND VERY DEADLY. DO NOT HAVE THEM WHERE YOUR DOG CAN GET TO THEM.

THE BREED STANDARD

As previously explained the aim of a competent breeder is to produce stock as close as possible to the Breed Ideal as outlined by the Breed Standard. There is really only one correct type of German Shepherd Dog but the written standards vary slightly from one county to another.

GENERAL APPEARANCE - The German Shepherd Dog is a medium size dog. The ideal height for bitches is 57.5 and dogs 62.5 with 2.5 allowed either below or above. The body is slightly longer in comparison to height, of powerful and well-muscled build and with a weather

resistant coat. Relation between height, length, position and structure of fore and hindquarters (angulation) producing far-reaching, enduring gait. Clear definition of masculinity and femininity essential, and working ability never sacrificed for mere beauty.

CHARACTERISTICS - Versatile working dog balanced and free from exaggeration. Attentive, alert, resilient and tireless with keen scenting ability.

TEMPERAMENT - Steady of nerve, loyal, self-assured, courageous and tractable. Never nervous, over aggressive or shy.

HEAD AND SKULL - Proportionate in size to body, never coarse, too fine or long. Clean cut, fairly broad between the ears. Forehead slightly domed, little or not trace of central furrow. Cheeks forming softly rounded curve, never protruding. Skull from ears to bridge of nose tapering gradually and evenly, blending without too pronounced stop into wedge shaped powerful muzzle. Skull approximately 50% of overall length of head.

Width of skull corresponding approximately to length; in males slightly greater, in females slightly less. Muzzle strong, lips firm, clean and closing tightly. Top of muzzle straight, almost parallel to forehead. Short, blunt weak, pointed, overlong muzzle undesirable.

Eyes medium size, almond shape, never protruding. Dark brown in colour, lighter shade permissible, provided expression good and general harmony of the head not destroyed. Expression lively, intelligent and self-assured.

Ears medium size, broad at base, set high, carried erect, almost parallel, never pulled inwards or tipped, tapering to a point, open at the front. Never hanging.

Neck fairly long, strong with well-developed muscles, free from throatiness. Carried at 45 degrees angle to horizontal, raised when excited, lowered at fast trot.

FOREQUARTERS - Shoulder blades long, set obliquely (45 degrees) laid flat to body. Upper arm strong, well muscled, joining shoulder blade at approx. 90 degrees. Forelegs straight from pasterns to elbows viewed from any angle, bone oval rather than round, pasterns firm, supple and slightly angulated. Elbows neither tucked in nor turned out. Length of foreleg exceeding length of leg (45 to 55).

BODY - Length measured from point of breastbone to rear edge of pelvis, exceeding height at withers. Correct ratio 10 to 9 or 8 1/2. Undersized dogs, stunted growth, high legged dogs, those too heavy or too light in build, over loaded fronts, too short overall appearance, any feature detracting from reach and endurance of gait, undesirable.

Chest deep (45% to 55%) of height at shoulder, not too broad, brisket long, well-developed, ribs well formed and long, neither barrel shaped nor too flat, allowing free movement of elbows when gaiting.

Relative short loin. Belly firm, only slightly drawn up. Back between withers and croup, straight, strongly developed, not too long. Overall length achieved by correct angle of well laid shoulders, correct length of croup and hindquarters. Withers long, of good height and well defined, joining back at a smooth line without disrupting flowing top line slightly sloping from front to back. Weak, soft and roach backs undesirable.

Loin broad, strong, well muscled. Croup long, gently curving downwards to tail without disrupting flowing topline. Short, steep or flat croups undesirable.

HINDQUARTERS - Overall strong, broad and well-muscled, enabling effortless forward propulsion of whole body. Upper thighbone, viewed from side, sloping to slightly longer lower thighbone. Hind angulation sufficient if imaginary line dropped from point of buttocks cuts through lower thigh just in front of hock, continuing down slightly in front of hind feet. Angulation corresponding approximately with front angulation, without over-angulation, hock strong. Any tendency towards over-angulation of hindquarters reduces firmness and endurance. Feet are rounded, toes well closed and arched. Pads well cushioned and durable. Nails short, strong and dark in colour. Dewclaws on the hindquarters are no longer produced and if they are should be removed.

Tail is bushy haired and reaches at least to the hock. At rest hangs in slight sabre-like curve, when moving raised and curve increased, ideally never above the level of the back. Short, rolled, curled and generally carried badly or stumpy from birth, undesirable.

MOVEMENT - Sequence of step follows diagonal pattern, moving foreleg and opposite hind leg forward simultaneously, hind foot thrust forward to midpoint of body and having equally long reach with forefeet without any noticeable change in the topline.

COLOUR – Black or black saddle with tan, or gold to light grey markings. Grey with lighter brown markings referred to as sables. Nose black. Light markings on chest or very pale colour on insides of legs permissible but undesirable as are whitish nails, red tipped tails or wishy-washy faded colours defined as lacking in pigmentation.

Blues, livers, albinos, whites are serious faults.

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD

This section could more correctly be titled "Quality Control" as our Club, under the auspices of the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia, has several schemes whereby we aim to keep the quality of our stock as high and "true to type" as possible. The German Shepherd Dog fraternities throughout Australia and the world are cohesive and aim to breed the one and only correct type.

Our Club has a Breeders Code of Ethics known as the RECOMMENDED BREEDING PRACTICES. Puppies bred in accordance with these rules are advertised by the Club and people are becoming aware that this is the safest way to "shop" for their puppy. These rules govern the age of breeding stock, how often bitches can be bred from, kennelling conditions, vaccinations and many other aspects. These rules have been devised by the South Australian Club but incorporated in them are other schemes conducted on a National basis.

Each State has a panel of people who are, through their proven extensive knowledge of the breed, qualified as "Breed Surveyors". Breed Surveys are held several times each year. Dogs or bitches over the age of eighteen months are presented for assessment and classification. The assessment, of both mental and physical attributes, is permanently recorded and published annually in the National Breed Survey Book.

Animals are Classified Class I or Class II or failed. To comply with the South Australian Breeding Practices both parents should be Breed Surveyed.

To comply with the Recommended Breeding Practices all puppies in a litter must be tattooed. The Tattoo Scheme is Australia wide and is a permanent means of identifying the dog. Registers of the tattoo numbers are kept in each state with a central record being maintained by the National Registrar. Tattoo officers are appointed and puppies are tattooed in the right ear between the age of seven and eight weeks. The tattoo consisting of a three-letter prefix, exclusive to the breeder, followed by three identifying numbers.

National Council has also introduced a national Hip and Elbow Dysplasia scheme. Breeders x-ray their stock and submit the plates for assessment by a central panel of Veterinarians. Dogs and bitches with hips and elbows regarded as suitable breeding material are given the 'A' stamp for hips and the 'Z' stamp for elbows.

This Club is dedicated to breed promotion and improvement. In the area of monitoring breeding activities we are a very long way ahead of any other organisation. The popularity of our breed makes a uniformly responsible attitude absolutely vital.

GENERAL TRAINING

Responsibility for the reputation of any breed is shared by anyone who owns a specimen of that breed. Reputation, good or bad, is achieved by conduct and that conduct is the result of proper breeding and training. Every dog can be trained in the fundamentals of decent behaviour by his owner. A dog that is uncontrolled is a liability instead of an asset and can bring grief to his owner and disgrace to the breed.

As mentioned earlier, one of the special attributes of the German Shepherd Dog is its high degree of intelligence coupled with a willingness to learn. The wise owner will make use of these qualities to train his dog to respond happily to his wishes, not through subservience or fear, but because the dog respects his master and wishes to please him. The objective is teamwork, not cruel acts.

The key to training is control. Firmness, tempered with kindness, must be exercised through the training period. Discipline, as distinct from harshness or bullying, never harmed man or dog. All training must be based on mutual understanding between man and his dog.

This understanding can be acquired only by showing the dog clearly and positively what is required of him.

If your dog does not obey you then the lesson has not been learned. He needs teaching, not punishment. Shouting, nagging, angry reprimand and exasperation only confuse your canine pupil. Your temper must be under control at all times. When you lose your temper you lose control and your efforts are doomed to failure.

Your dog does not understand languages but it is the reflection in the tone of voice he associated with various exercises which guides him. Always use an encouraging tone and the dog will wish to obey without feeling compulsion. Do not strike the puppy. If you hit it with a lead, a rolled up newspaper, you will train it to fear and resent those objects. The lead is for checking, not punishment, and your hand should give the dog confidence, not fear.

SOCIALISATION

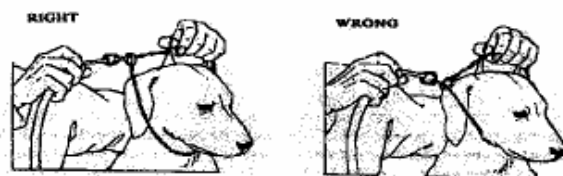
The eight to sixteen week stage is a vital one as it is the period during which the puppy learns his attitudes towards his surroundings, people and other animals. While it is too early for formal training it is very important to recognise the more subtle form of learning and to ensure that he has many pleasant encounters with human beings and other dogs or birds and animals with which you may expect him to share his life with. Socialisation does not mean forcing him into frightening, crowded situations, but teaching him that there is a friendly world outside your home. He will then build a correct, confident attitude.

LEAD TRAINING

Although it is very unwise to begin to formally training your puppy under the age of four months you can accustom a puppy to the feel of a light collar and lead at ten weeks of age. Allow him to run around with it on, supervised of course, for five minutes or so for a few days before you take the end of the lead and; gently encourage him to follow you. Do not expect too much response but coax him along. It is very important that the first encounters with the lead are pleasurable. If you use your patience and perseverance he will soon be trotting at your side. Check him from rushing forward with short jerks (unless you intend to "show train" him). Do not make these corrections severe or painful. A walk of 200 meters is plenty for a ten-week-old puppy on a lead. Allow him to have a natural puppy-hood with as much free running and exploration as possible.

CORRECT FITTING AND USE OF SLIP COLLAR

The slip collar is used for obedience training and walking your dog. For safety reasons, the slip collar must NEVER be left on your dog as serious injury or even death can result from your dog getting caught up in these collars. Refer to the diagram below for correct fitting. If you wish to leave identification and/or registration tags on your dog's collar, it is suggested that you invest in either a leather or nylon collar for this purpose. Again, these collars should not be secured tightly around the dog's neck, so that if the dog gets caught up by the collar it can easily be removed from the dog's neck.



“HOUSE” TRAINING

A young puppy has little ability to control itself and his early cleanliness inside the house depends largely on your attention. Always take him outside immediately after meals or after he has woken from a nap. Stand outside with him until he has done the right thing and then praise him lavishly. Confine him to an area in the house where you can watch him and you will notice that he will start sniffing the ground this can be a sign that he wishes to go. Another helpful hint is always take him out the same door and leave this door open, you will find puppy will soon learn to go outside by himself but it will take him a little longer to learn to tell you to open the door. So if the door is already open it will happen much quicker.

Accidents may happen from time to time. When they do, wash the area immediately with warm water and a little vinegar. This will rid the area of any smell, for, should the scent remain he will use that same place again in a similar emergency. If accidents become more frequent as the puppy gets older, scold him verbally and carry him outside immediately.

Using the word "NO" firmly will soon teach your puppy that he must not jump on the furniture. To allow him when he is little will make a problem for when he is older. Also discourage him from jumping up at you, as this is also a bad habit in an adult dog because he will then jump up on all your friends and leave dirty footprints.

Also you can give him for his own bed a blanket or mat and through placing him on it and saying "bed" when he wants to sleep, you can teach him that this is his special place and later you will be able to send him to bed when he is in your way or while you are having meals etc.

These few points are aimed at making your puppy a happy and socially acceptable member of the household.

FORMAL OBEDIENCE TRAINING

When your puppy is over four months of age it is advisable to take him to training classes. The object of these classes is to teach you the correct way to train your dog and, obviously we advocate that you go to a Club best equipped to train German Shepherd dogs rather than a Club that trains all breeds together. How quickly your dog advances depends on how quickly YOU learn and the amount of time that you are prepared to devote to your dog outside the formal class time. Training your dog is very rewarding and can be pursued, if you are enthusiastic enough, as a competitive hobby. Whether you think that basic training is sufficient or want your dog to become a "Titled" obedience dog, the beginnings are the same.

The basic obedience course is from "Preliminary" Class through to Class 5. At the end of this course you will have a dog that is well behaved, will heel, sit, and drop on command. He will be a well socialised and reliable, happy animal. Each month throughout the course there is a Graduation test and dogs which have learned their exercises well continue up to more advanced work in the next class. No dog, however, will advance from Preliminary Class to Class 1 until six months of age.

After graduating from Class 5 handlers can participate in Trial Work and gain the Title of Companion Dog (CD) for their dogs. If both dog and handler have the enthusiasm and aptitude they can continue on the Open Class Trials where success is rewarded with the title Companion Dog Excellent (CDX). This involves jumping, retrieving etc.

Utility Class is the pinnacle of your dog's "Academic" career. In this class the dog's temperament, scenting prowess and intelligence is put to the test. This work involves tracking, scent discrimination, jumping, food refusal etc. This is not an easy class but it is very rewarding, culminating in the Utility Dog (UD) title.

The ultimate Obedience Title is Australian Obedience Champion. Very few dogs attain this standard, which encompasses the above titles plus two further titles of Tracking Dog and Tracking Dog Excellent.

Another title, indirectly associated with obedience is the Endurance Test or ET award. This based on the German "Ausdauerprufung". It is a test of the dog's stamina and his responsiveness after extended exercise. The dog is required to gait for 20 km alongside a bicycle over varied terrain. At the end of the exercise he must exhibit a willingness to complete several simple obedience tests.

Another facet of training is Agility where as the dog can jump, run through, leap over, etc. a course within a given time frame and loses points for any obstacle he refuses or which falls. It is a very exciting course and also lots of fun for both dogs and handler. These are also incorporated into tests and have the reward of the title Agility dog.

SHOWING YOUR DOG

As mentioned earlier you must be a financial member of the South Australian Canine Association and your dog must be registered and transferred into your ownership before you can exhibit at a dog show. The South Australian Canine Association governs the allocation and conduct of all shows in this state and their monthly magazine advises members of show dates, venues, judges, fees and entry closing times. They are also able to provide you with the necessary entry forms.

Dog showing is an interesting hobby and the German Shepherd is especially pleasurable to exhibit as the competition is heavy and the dog wins on his natural conformation and physical attributes without requiring the fuss and "beauty parlour" treatment endured by many other breeds.

Training pays as many dividends in the conformation ring as it does in an Obedience trial but it is a different type of training. Novices are advised to attend the special Show Training conducted by our Club. Here they will learn correct handling techniques and receive advice of the preparation and "conditioning" of their dog. At shows, dogs and bitches are judged in several age groups. The winners of the age classes are then lined up for the selection of the Best Dog and Best Bitch. In the event of a Championship show the winner is given a Challenge certificate that will show the number of "Points" that he has won.

These points, up to a maximum of 25 per show, depend upon the number of animals against which the dog has competed at that show. When a dog has won 100 points he is given the "Australian Champion" title.

In a show conducted by our club a "specialist" Judge is normally appointed. This will be a person who has bred German Shepherd Dogs and is well qualified for the demanding job of judging a very large show. At these shows both dogs and bitches over the age of twelve months are "Graded" in accordance with the Judge's opinion of their merit. The highest grading is "EXCELLENT" which is given only to fully mature dogs over the age of two years that are Breed Surveyed and have the 'A' stamp.

As such shows are very large the grading system indicates that there are dogs of very high quality other than those who are class winners. Once again this closely follows the German system where the pleasure is in the grading rather than an obsession with winning. Many years ago the German Shepherd dog fraternity realised that if the emphasis was always placed on the winner many dogs of great value would not be used at stud. Consequently, the "blood base" of the breed would become dangerously narrow.

If you wish to show you must make a true assessment of your dog and must learn to be a good loser, regardless of the quality of your dog you will have good and bad days. Win or lose - KEEP SMILING!

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Full training at two venues each Sunday and again on Wednesday evenings at West Beach.

OBEDIENCE TRAINING

9.00 am	Sunday	Ingle Farm Primary School, Montague Road, Ingle Farm
9.30 am	Sunday	Club Grounds, Barrett Reserve, West Bch Road, West Bch
7.30 pm	Wednesday	Club Grounds, Barrett Reserve, West Bch Road, West Bch

SHOW TRAINING

10.00 am	Sunday	Ingle Farm Primary School, Montague Road, Ingle Farm
10.30 am	Sunday	Club Grounds, Barrett Reserve, West Bch Road, West Bch
7.30 pm	Wednesday	Club Grounds, Barrett Reserve, West Bch Road, West Bch

TRIALS

Several Obedience trials each year, the largest being the "Balmead Shield" usually in August.

SHOWS

At least three each year comprising of Championship Shows, Open Shows and Members Specialty Competitions.

SHEPHERD NEWS

Posted to all members.

QUARTERLY REVIEW

Four issues posted to all members.

BREED SURVEYS

Conducted several times throughout the year. Dates notified in "Shepherd News".

ENDURANCE TESTS

One or two each year. Dates notified in "Shepherd News".

DEMO TEAM

Available for displays at School Fetes, Gala Days etc.

TATTOOING

Litters tattooed between 6 and 8 weeks of age. Special scheme also available for adult dogs.

PUPPY LISTING

Telephone service listing litters available.

SHEPHERD SHOP

Open during training sessions and shows at West Beach and Ingle Farm. All dog requisites including food, leads, food supplements, shampoos, books etc. at low prices.

LIBRARY

A large selection of books, videos etc. for members to borrow.

CANTEEN

Canteen facilities are available at West Beach and Ingle Farm during Club Training and at all Club functions.

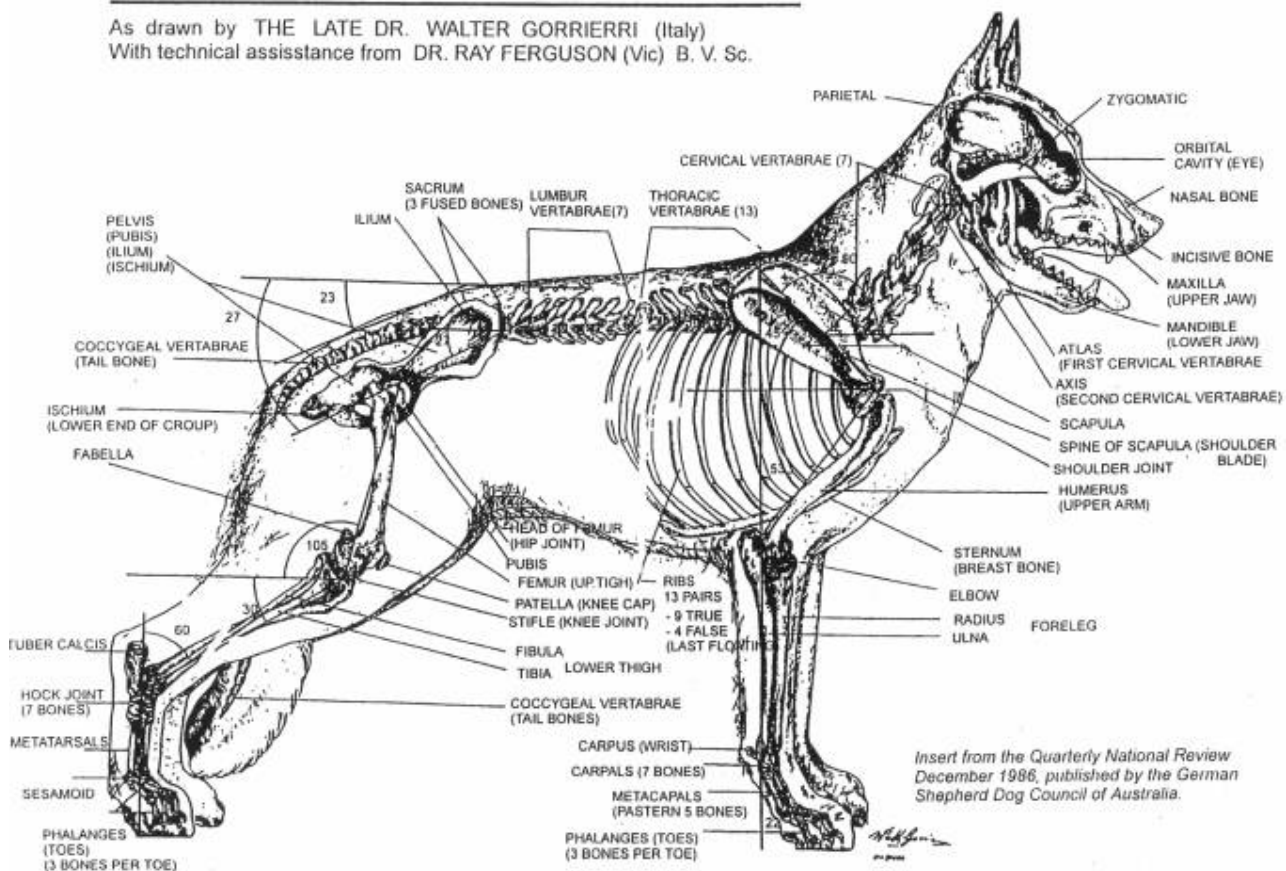
In addition throughout the year we have many social functions film evenings lectures etc. Times for these and all other Club events are advised in the monthly "Shepherd News". If at any time you require assistance advice or information, help is only as far away as your phone, 8353 7895.

SKELETAL STRUCTURE

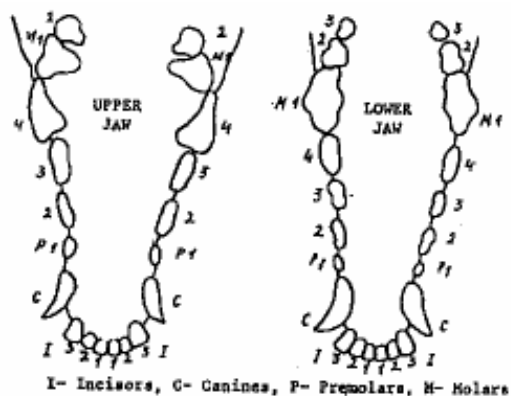
Correct Proportions: Chest to leg – 45 to 55 and Height to Length – 85 or 90 to 100

SKELETON of the GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG

As drawn by THE LATE DR. WALTER GORRIERI (Italy)
With technical assistance from DR. RAY FERGUSON (Vic) B. V. Sc.



CORRECT DENTITION OF THE ADULT DOG



GROUND RULES

These rules apply to all handlers during training sessions and have been formulated for the welfare of you and your dog.

- Any Club member, or any person guilty of unseemly conduct or acts harmful to the club, may be asked to leave the Training area. They may also be dealt with by the Committee of The G S D C of S A Inc. under clause 6, and relative by-laws of the Clubs Constitution.
- Any dog that is sick WILL NOT be permitted onto the Club Grounds. Dogs who have suffered a CONTAGIOUS DISEASE WILL NOT be allowed on to the Grounds until 5 weeks after being cleared by a veterinarian (a vets certificate may be required). Puppies should not be brought out onto the Club Grounds under the age of 8 weeks or at least 2 weeks after they have been inoculated for HEPATITIS, DISTEMPER AND PARVOVIRUS (vaccination certificate may be required).
- Bitches in season are not permitted on the grounds unless at a recognised Club event.
- The use of switches, spiked collars or whips is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN ON THE CLUB GROUNDS.
- Members shall not treat their dog in a manner that may reflect badly on the Club.
- Dogs are NOT to be taken off lead or left unattended, except on the directives, or under the supervision of a Class Instructor.
- The handlers of dogs that foul the Club Grounds will be responsible for cleaning up same, with the equipment provided.
- The Head Instructor has the authority to permit the use of a muzzle or training devices, as required in special cases. The use of the equipment is to be under supervision, and its use on the Grounds, other than above, is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.
- Dogs under the age of 12 months ARE NOT permitted to use jump equipment higher than 400 mm, or longer than 800 mm.
- Pursuant of the Health act "Dogs" ARE NOT permitted inside the Club Rooms.
- In the interest of safety and health, and in consideration of others, parents are required to supervise the behaviour of their children. The Clubrooms and Toilets MUST NOT be used as playing areas.
- In the interests of public health the Club Rooms and the veranda area are NON-SMOKING areas.

THANK YOU.
BE PROUD OF YOUR DOG, HE IS VERY PROUD OF YOU!
THE COMMITTEE.