

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA Inc.

## NATIONAL BREED COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Time: Saturday 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Venue: Best Western Airport Motel and Convention Centre

33 Ardlie Street Attwood, Victoria 3049



## AGENDA

### 1. Opening & Welcome:

Chair Mr. Ian Urie – NBC Chair.

Meeting opened at .....

### 2. Present & Apologies: As per signature sheet.

**“That apologies be accepted”.**

Moved: .....

Seconded: .....

### 3. Adoption of the Agenda:

Adoption of the Agenda for the National Breed Commission meeting.

**“That the Agenda for the National Breed Commission Meeting as circulated, be adopted”.**

Moved: .....

Seconded: .....

### 4. Confirmation of the Minutes:

**“That the minutes of the National Breed Commission Meeting held on 19 & 20 August 2023 be adopted. ”**

Moved: .....

Seconded: .....

## 5. Business Arising from the 2023 Minutes:

### 5.1 GSDCA HD/ED schemes – Review procedures

A working party was established to consider and recommend procedures to modernise the management of our schemes. The working party comprised Candy Baker, Ian Urie, Sharon Ballantyne-Gordon, Frank Moody, Jacinta Poole, Natalie Humphries, Salvatore Pitelli, Doug West, and Kurt Morton. Thank you to all who participated for your input. Achievements have been reported to 2024 AGM:

- Reviewed and proposed changes to how the scheme is managed including processes and technology to be developed.
- Appointed a new adjudicator Dr Mariano Makara for HD & ED reviews/appeals.
- Appointed Dr Ana Hayes as an additional reader for the scheme.
- Proposal for accepting CHEDS results for Breed Survey, and approval at AGM to award 'A' stamp with purchase of a GSDCA contract.
- New digital platform for purchase of contracts from GSDCA website, electronic submission of x-rays, and receipt of results from readers was approved at AGM and has been created by Jacinta Poole and demonstrated to Executive, Club Presidents and State Registrars.
- New digital processes to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. Thank you, Jacinta.

### 5.2 Update on DNA Proposal and pilot scheme – Candy Baker

### 5.3 Report from Closed Breed Surveyor and Specialist Judges meeting – NBC Chair

- Current Aspirant Surveyors - status report
- New Application

### 5.5 Any other Business Arising

## 6. National Breed Commission Reports

### 6.1 National Breed Commission Chair – NBC Executive

- National HD/ED Registrar – Ms. Jacinta Poole
- NBC Registrar – Ms. Melanie Groth
- Breed Health & Welfare Committee Chair & Haemophilia – Dr. Candy Baker
- Title Verification Officer – Mr. Kurt Morton
- National Database Coordinator – Mr. Frank Moody

## 7. Matters Arising from the National Breed Commission Chairman's Report

## 8. Matters Referred to the 2024 NBC Meeting from GSDCA Member Clubs, Breed Surveyors and Judges:

### 8.1 Submitted by Jenny De Lucia

#### Motion:

**That all results, pass or fail, from animals x-rayed through the GSDCA HD/ED scheme be recorded on the GSDCA Database.**

Option 1 - Record as a "F" under appropriate heading, or

Option 2 - Record with scores as e.g. F 35:3, Z 0:0 etc.

**Rationale:** Animals that are 18 months or older have sufficient time to be x-rayed before being exhibited in the Intermediate and/or Open class at specialties. Even though the Open class is available for animals from 6 months and over it is extremely rare for an animal under 2 years of age to be exhibited in the open class. The Hip and Elbow status of an animal is critical for its ability to breed on, and the GSDCA database of HD & ED Animals must prove as a guide for breeding practices. In addition, in accordance with the FCI German Shepherd Dog Breed Standard, under Disqualifying Faults it states - "(b) Dogs with proven severe Hip Dysplasia." Once an animal has failed either or both x-rays it no longer has any breed worth. It cannot be mated. If such an animal is highly placed at a Breed Specialty there is no benefit to the owners. An animal must be sound to be graded the highest possible grading.

Comment from NBC Chair: GSDCA have until now had a policy that Fails will not be published. However, it is obvious to anybody looking at results in the database where an animal has an 'A' recorded with a score but no 'Z', or a 'Z' result with no hip score, that the animal has failed one or the other. Whether it has any link to shows or not, are we now at a stage where we feel we can publish ALL results? (If so, should it be shown as 'F' for failure or should the score be included.) It must be noted that all scores, including failures, are included in the Sires progeny statistics tables for hips and elbows, including the numbers of progeny with scores within certain ranges.

### 8.2 Submitted by Melanie Groth

#### Discussion

- How should we address ZAP Assessment data at Breed Survey, and why?
- How can we further promote Breed Survey?

### 8.3 Workshop item, led by NBC Registrar Mel Groth – BS7 Survey worksheet.

Discuss suggested amendments to the BS 7 form in line with emerging issues in the breed – backline, rib cage, narrowness through, tail faults,

#### IV. Structural evaluation whilst standing and during movement

e.g. Suggested recommendations for underlining on the BS7 form:

a) split (2) proportions to the following:

Proportions – Body      very good length of body, compact, slightly long, substantial,

Proportions – Chest	very good fore chest, very good under chest, slightly short under chest, slightly deep, slightly shallow, <b>add: slightly narrow through</b> , very good length of foreleg, slightly short forelegs,
b) add as a separate entity:	
<b>Rib cage</b>	very good spring of ribs, slightly flat ribs, slab sided, barrel ribbed, slightly narrow
(3) Bones	strong, well-shaped, medium strong, <b>add: just medium strong</b> ; slightly fine,
(4) Muscular D'ment	<b>add well defined or very good definition</b> , firm, dry, slightly soft
(6) View in stance	Front: straight, not quite straight, <b>add slightly narrow</b> , slightly wide, slightly east-west, slightly bowed Rear: straight, add <b>slightly narrow</b> , cow-hocked, slightly wide, slightly bowed
(13) Head	well formed, broad, slightly domed skull, slightly narrow, slightly coarse, incorrect planes, <b>add: slightly up-faced, slight roman nose</b> <b>remove: sl short, sl long</b>
(20) Withers	high, level, low <b>add defined remove – long and normal</b>
(21) Back	firm, sufficiently firm, straight, curved, slight roach <b>add: roached, lumbar spine bend</b> <b>Remove tight, sl nick behind withers – this has to do with muscle definition</b>
(23) Tail	very good length, slightly long, not quite correct carriage, <b>add: slight cast, lifeless, impedes movement</b>
(26) Gait	Drive: powerful, very good, good slightly restricted, slightly infirm <b>add: excessive over reach</b> Reach: far-reaching, very good, good, slightly restricted, falls slightly/heavily on the forehand, high stepping

#### 8.4 Submitted by Natalie Humphries

##### Sires Progeny at National - motion

1. That all judges and surveyors including trainees present at a National show be invited into the ring to observe the Sires Progeny groups. It goes without saying that if someone has a dog with a progeny group they should excuse themselves whilst that dog's group is being critiqued.
2. That there is a template developed (if there isn't already one) for critiquing each dog's group, so there is a uniform approach and all relevant aspects are discussed for each dog .

**Rationale** - this allows judges and particularly breed surveyors to get a good look at the progeny of prominent dogs which will assist with breed direction advice. There's only so much you can see outside the ring. It gives a united front to exhibitors and is a valuable learning experience for judges/surveyors who may not get the opportunity to critique progeny groups at all.

The template will assist people to learn what's required when assessing progeny groups and ensure each dog's group is assessed and most importantly critiqued verbally to observers in the same format.

##### 8.5 Discussion on backlines and excessive hind angulation – NBC Chair (input from all invited)

- How do these issues affect movement and functionality of the dog?
- Balance between hindquarter thrust, length of stride, and forehand reach.
- How should we address these issues at Breed Survey?
- How should we address them when judging shows – is there and/or should there be a difference?
- When is too much too much, and how do we respond to these issues without throwing out the best animals?

## 9. Matters Referred to the 2024 NBC Meeting from GSDCA Annual General Meeting:

### 9.1 Breed Surveyor Competency Reviews – NBC Chair

A motion to approve this process in principle was carried at the 2024 AGM, pending clarification of the process and checklist by NBC Chair. A document is attached with this agenda FYI.

### 9.2 Sound sensitivity testing – Clapper Board demonstration

Substitution of the clapper board in situations where the use of a starting pistol is not permitted (motion carried at 2024 AGM). Testing is required for Excellent grading as per Reg 2.14.2 (2017)

## 10. Any Other Business:

10.1 Format for future meetings. In person or online?

10.2 Linebreeding update and inbreeding depression (interactive discussion, time permitting).

- Proper notation of linebreeding on Surveys (hopefully we all know this)
- What can we expect when linebreeding on particular animals?
- What traits do these animals carry and hopefully transmit to their progeny?
- What are the downsides to close or excessive inbreeding?

## 11. Date & Venue for 2024:

Date and Venue for the 2024 National Breed Commission Meeting

(Sydney if in person, or online - to be decided)

## 12. Close of Meeting:

Meeting closed at: .....