



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

SCHEDULE 5F (9.1.2)

REGULATIONS FOR GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG BREED ASSESSMENT

(Effective 01.09.2024)

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG BREED ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Breed Assessment are held in terms of the rules and regulations set out in Schedule 5F of the KUSA Constitution.

PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

The assessment is performed by a German Shepherd Dog specialist judge and a Licensed IGP Judge appointed by the German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council, and organized by a GSD Specialist Club. An assessment may be held in a venue other than in the club's centre.

The German Shepherd Dog Breed Assessment are breeding suitability evaluations, devised to determine whether a German Shepherd Dog is free of physical and mental weaknesses or faults which could have a negative influence on its soundness, type, working ability and by implication, its suitability for breeding purposes. The evaluation of the dogs entered, are based on the overall requirements stipulated in the German Shepherd Dog Breed Standard as published by the FCI and accepted by KUSA and German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council of KUSA. It is not a competition and participating German Shepherd Dog will be described by using the ZG Matrix tool. The system of physical and mental description was systematically structured into the ZG Matrix. It creates transparency and clarity and is the basis of the perseverance of the GSD as a Utility Dog (Desirable or not desirable to breed with) Dogs will not be placed in order of merit, nor will any prizes be awarded.

1. A BREED ASSESSMENT INCLUDES:

- A thorough assessment of conformation and type
- Evaluation of movement
- Test for steadiness to gunshot
- Disposition evaluation
- Mental value assessment

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY

2.1 To be eligible for entry in a breed assessment, a German Shepherd dog must:

- be registered in the KUSA Breed Register
- be at least 12 months old on the day of the evaluation;
- be healthy and in good condition;
- be positively identifiable by means of a microchip.

- 2.2 Dogs belonging to the breed assessors or man-work helper officiating at a Breed Assessment may not be entered at that event.

Bitches in season may participate in a Breed Assessment, provided they are kept strictly apart from all other participants during the entire event. Bitches in season will be evaluated after all the other dogs. The survey manager and breed assessor must be informed immediately on her arrival if a bitch is in season.

- 2.3 Pregnant and nursing bitches may not participate in a Breed Assessment
- 2.4 KUSA registration Pedigrees and HD certificates if available must be present for evaluation by the Breed Assessor at the time of the Assessment.

3. **APPLICATIONS TO HOLD A BREED ASSESSMENT**

- 3.1 Application by a Member Club wishing to hold a Breed Assessment shall be made on an official KUSA form completed and signed as described in Schedule 3 Regulation 2.1 and accompanied by the fee prescribed in Schedule 7. Applications may only be submitted to KUSA via German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council of KUSA..
- 3.2 The German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council of KUSA shall be responsible for recommending suitably qualified breed assessors (to be approved by KUSA in terms of Article 25 of the KUSA Constitution) for all Breed Assessments/Breed Surveys.
- 3.3 The German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council of KUSA will hold at least one Breed Assessment/Breed Survey at a different venue every year.
- 3.4 The dates and venues of Breed Assessments/Breed Surveys to be held, together with the names of organising clubs, will be published every year in the KUSA Events Calendar.

4. **ENTRIES**

- 4.1 The closing date for entries shall not be less than three (2) weeks before the day of the assessment.
- 4.2 All entries shall be submitted on an official KUSA entry form, fully completed and signed. Any alteration or amendment to the declaration thereon shall invalidate the entry.
- 4.3 No more than fifteen (15) dogs may be accepted for an assessment in one day.

5. **DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED**

On the day of the assessment the owner or handler of the dog entered must present the following documentation to the breed assessor for verification:

- A certified copy of the dog's KUSA registration certificate
- A certified copy of the certificate from the Department of Radiology, University of Pretoria (Onderstepoort) indicating that the dog entered had been examined and scored for hip and elbow dysplasia if available.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANISING CLUB

The organising club must ensure that the following is available:

- A suitable venue with firm, level ground, large enough to accommodate without risk or interference all the tests to be carried out.
- Breed Assessment Certificates issued to the club by German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council of KUSA for a fee to be determined from time to time.
- A suitable demonstration dog.
- A microchip scanner.
- German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council of KUSA approved measuring stick.
- Shelter, large table, chair, writing materials.
- A starter's pistol and blank cartridges.
- A survey manager and a marshalling steward.
- A vet on call.
- A qualified KUSA registered IGP man-work helper with a protection suit, armguard, leather covered stick.

On conclusion of the assessment the organising club must ensure that all documentation has been duly completed, signed and obtained from the breed assessors. The following must be sent to German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council of KUSA within ten (10) days:

- A list of the participating dogs with name and email address of owners
- Completed and signed Breed Assessment Certificates
- The assessment reports
- The specified levy (to be determined by German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council of KUSA from time to time) for each participating dog.

7. THE BREED ASSESSORS

The assessment shall be carried out by a panel of not less than two (2) German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council approved and appointed breed assessors of which one is a Licensed IGP Judge.

The decisions of the breed assessors will be final. Results of the assessments/tests shall be entered on the German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council of KUSA and KUSA approved report forms. An electronic copy of these reports to be forwarded (within 30 days) to the owner of the dog entered, one copy to be retained by German Shepherd Dog Liaison Council of KUSA and one copy to be forwarded to KUSA.

On conclusion of the assessment, breed assessors must ensure that all documentation has been duly completed and signed.

8. BREED ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

The Breed Assessment consists of the following elements, which are conducted in the following sequence:

1. Marshalling of participants

Before the start of the assessment the marshalling steward must ensure that all the relevant documentation for each dog has been handed to the breed assessors and that the details of each dog has been filled in on the assessment forms

2. **Body Measurements.**

The height at the withers immediately behind the elbow, the body length from the point of the shoulder to the ischiatic bone and the depth of chest of each dog must be measured and recorded, with the dog standing on a firm, level surface.

2. **Movement evaluation**

Each dog to be evaluated when moved on a loose lead at both the walk and the trot, viewed coming and going and in profile. Efficiency, soundness and smoothness of the gait, top-line, head carriage, front action and reach, rear action and drive to be assessed.

3. **Steadiness to gunshot**

While the dog walks off-lead with its owner, two shots are to be fired at a distance of not less than 15 paces from the dog. Except for taking note of the origin of the shots, the dog must remain unperturbed and must show no fear, aggression or anxiety. The 'gun' used must be a suitable starter's pistol, electronic starter's pistol, cap gun, blank pistol or suitable gunshot simulator app. Under no circumstances may live ammunition be used. Effective ear protection must be worn by the person firing the gun, e.g. earmuffs, headphones or earplugs (inserts).

5. **Conformation evaluation**

The dog to stand naturally and on a loose lead while its conformation is evaluated, including general appearance, size, substance and balance, sexual characteristics, muscular development, neck, forequarters, fore-chest, ribcage and brisket, top-line, tuck-up, flanks, hindquarters, croup and tail-set, coat and colour.

Special attention to be paid to the head – proportions, expression, stop, bridge of nose, skull, muzzle, repandous, lip placement, flews, cheeks, ears, eye colour, shape, placement and nictitating membranes.

The mouth must be carefully examined to establish the condition and size of teeth, number of incisors, width and bite formula of the lower jaw, degree of undershot condition, jaw abnormalities e.g. wryness.

6. **Disposition evaluation**

Dog and handler to move through a group of at least six (6) people (who may not interfere with the dog being tested in any way), turn around and halt in the middle of the group with the dog sitting at heel. The group then closes in tightly around the dog and handler. The test must clearly demonstrate the self-assurance of the dog and its confidence in its handler.

Any deviation from the Breed Standard must be regarded as a fault, the assessment of which must be in exact relation to the degree of the deviation.



Copyright THE KENNEL UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (KUSA) 1998
The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the permission in writing from the publisher.

Fedco 12-2015/NP/Updated 02-2016
Fedco 06-2024/CPA/Updated 09.07.2024

The most recent changes to this Schedule have an effective date of
01.09.2024