GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG
(LANGSTOCKHAAR / STOCKHAAR)

The two varieties of this breed are judged separately and may each be awarded Challenge Certificates and/or FCI-C.A.C.I.B.s ® (Certificate d'Aptitude au Championnat International).

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/02/2021

ORIGIN
Germany.

UTILISATION
Versatile working, herding, and service dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY
According to the official documentation of the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V. (Society for the German Shepherd Dog, "SV" for short) – legal domicile in Augsburg,

Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

Germany, member of the Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH, German Kennel Club) – the "SV", as the founding club of the breed, is responsible for the breed standard of the German Shepherd Dog. Established in the first General Meeting at Frankfurt/Main on 20 September 1899, according to suggestions by A. Meyer and Max von Stephanitz, and in addition to the amendments of the 6th General Meeting on 28 July 1901, the 23rd General Meeting at Cologne/Rhineland on 17 September 1909, the Executive Board & Advisory Board Meeting at Wiesbaden on 5 September 1930, and the Breeding Committee & Executive Board Meeting on 25 March 1961, revisions were resolved within the framework of the World Union of German Shepherd Dog Clubs (WUSV) Meeting on 30 August 1976. Revisions and catalogued measures were resolved with the Enabling Resolution through the Executive Board and Advisory Board from 23/24 March 1991, amended through the Federal Conventions from 25 May 1997 and 31 May/1 June 2008. The German Shepherd Dog, whose methodical breeding was started in 1899 after the foundation of the society, had been bred from the central German and southern German breeds of the herding dogs existing at that time, with the ultimate objective of creating a working dog inclined to high achievements. In order to achieve this objective, the breed standard of the German Shepherd Dog was determined, which relates to the physical constitution as well as the traits and characteristics.

GENERAL APPEARANCE
The German Shepherd Dog is medium-sized, slightly elongated, powerful, and well-muscled, with dry bone and firm overall structure.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS
- The height at the withers amounts to 60cm – 65cm for male dogs, and 55cm – 60cm for female dogs.
- The trunk length exceeds the dimension at the height at the withers by about 10% – 17%.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT
The German Shepherd Dog must be well-balanced (with strong nerves) in terms of character, self-assured, absolutely natural and, except for a stimulated situation, good-natured as well as attentive and willing to please. He must possess instinctive behaviour, resilience, and self-assurance in order to be suitable as a companion, guard, protection, service, and herding dog.
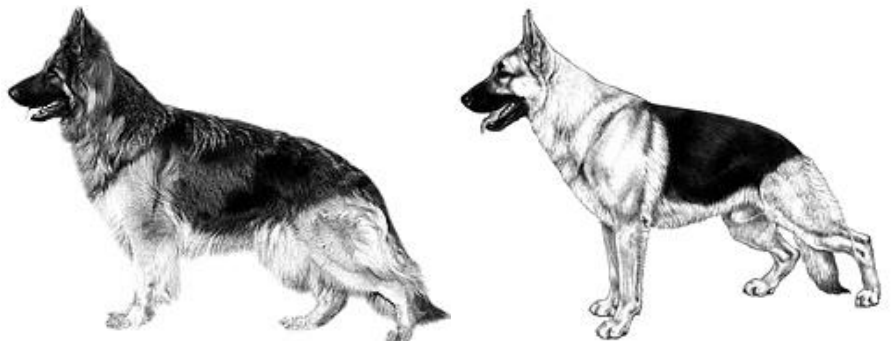
HEAD

The head is wedge-shaped, and in proportion to the body size (length about 40% of the height at the withers), without being plump or too elongated; dry in the overall appearance, and moderately broad between the ears. Seen from the front and side, the forehead is only slightly arched, and without any, or with only a slightly indicated, middle furrow. The ratio from the cranial region to the facial region is 50% – 50%. The width of the cranial region more-or-less corresponds to the length of the cranial region. The cranial region, seen from above, tapers evenly towards the nasal bridge with a gradually sloping, not sharply depicted stop in the wedge-shaped facial region (foreface) of the head. Upper and lower jaws are powerfully developed. The nasal dorsum *[ed. the bridge of nose]* is straight, any dip or bulge is undesirable. The lips are taut, close well, and are of dark colouring.

> ***Nose*** must be black.
> ***Teeth*** must be strong, healthy, and complete (42 teeth according to the dental formula). The German Shepherd Dog has a scissor bite, i.e. the incisors must interlock like scissors, whereby the incisors of the upper jaw overlap those of the lower jaw. Occlusal overlay, overbite and retrusive occlusion *[ed. overshot, undershot, and level bite]* as well as larger spaces between the teeth (gaps) are faulty. The straight dental ridge of the incisors is also faulty. The jaw bones must be strongly developed so that the teeth can be deeply embedded in the dental ridge.
> ***Eyes*** are of medium size, almond-shaped, slightly slanted and not protruding. The colour of the eyes should be as dark as possible. Light, piercing eyes are undesirable since they impair the dog's impression.
> ***Ears*** The German Shepherd Dog has erect ears of medium size, which are carried upright and aligned (not drawn-in laterally); they are pointed, with the auricle facing forward. Tipped ears and drooping ears are faulty. Ears carried rearward when moving or in relaxed position are not faulty.

NECK

The neck should be strong, well-muscled, and without loose neck skin (dewlap). The angulation towards the trunk (horizontal) amounts to approximately 45%.

BODY

> ***Upper line*** runs from the base of the neck via the high, long withers, and via the straight back, towards the slightly sloping croup, without visible interruption. The back is moderately long, firm, strong, and well-muscled. The loin is broad, short, strongly developed and well-muscled. The croup should be long and slightly sloping (approx 23° to the horizontal) and the upper line should merge into the base of the tail without interruption.
> ***Chest*** should be moderately broad, the lower chest as long and pronounced as possible. The depth of the chest should amount to approximately 45% – 48% of the height at the withers.
> ***Ribs*** should feature a moderate curvature; a barrel-shaped chest is just as faulty as flat ribs.

TAIL

The tail extends at least to the hock, but not beyond the middle of the hind pastern. It has slightly longer hair on the underside and is carried hanging downward in a gentle curve, whereby in a state of excitement and in motion it is raised and carried higher, but not beyond the horizontal. Operative corrections are forbidden.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

> ***Forelimbs*** are straight when seen from all sides, and absolutely parallel when seen from the front.
> ***Shoulder blade and upper arm*** are of equal length, and firmly attached to the trunk by means of powerful musculature. The angulation of shoulder blade and upper arm is ideally 90°, but generally up to 110°.
> ***Elbows*** may not be turned out, either while standing or moving, and also not pushed in. The forearms are straight when seen from all sides, and absolutely parallel to each other, dry, and firmly muscled. The pastern has a length of approximately one-third of the forearm, and has an angle of approximately 20° – 22° to the forearm. A slanted pastern (more than 22°), as well as a steep pastern (less than 20°), impairs the suitability for work, particularly the stamina.

Hindquarters:

> ***Hind legs*** are positioned slightly backwards, whereby the hind limbs are parallel to each other when seen from the rear. Upper leg and lower leg are of approximately the same length and form an angle of approximately 120°; the legs are strong and well-muscled.
> ***Hocks*** are strongly developed and firm; the hind pastern stands vertically under the hock.

FEET

Forefeet:

> The paws are rounded, well-closed and arched; the soles are hard, but not brittle. The nails are strong and of dark colour.

Hind feet:
The paws are closed, slightly arched; the pads are hard and of dark colour; the nails are strong, arched and also of dark colour.

GAIT / MOVEMENT
The German Shepherd Dog is a trotter. The limbs must be co-ordinated in length and angulation, so that the dog can shift the hindquarters towards the trunk without any essential change of the topline, and can reach just as far with the forelimbs. Any tendency towards over-angulation of the hindquarters reduces the stability and the stamina, and thereby the working ability. Correct body proportions and angulation results in a gait that is far-reaching and flat over the ground, which conveys the impression of effortless forward movement. The head pushed forward and the slightly raised tail result in a consistent, smooth, trot showing a gently curved, uninterrupted upper line from the ear tips over the neck and back to the end of the tail.

SKIN
The skin is (loosely) fitting, but without forming any folds.

COAT
The German Shepherd Dog is bred in the hair varieties: double coat and long and harsh outer coat – both with undercoat.
Stockhaar / Double coat: The guard hair should be as dense as possible, particularly harsh and close-fitting: short on the head, including the inside of the ears, short on the front side of the legs, paws, and toes, somewhat longer and more strongly covered in hair on the neck. On the back side of the legs, the hair extends to the carpal joint or the hock; it forms moderate 'trousers' on the back side of the haunches.
Langstockhaar / Long and harsh outer coat: The guard hair should be long, soft, and not close-fitting, with tufts on the ears and legs, bushy trousers and bushy tail with downward formation of tuft. Short on the head, including the inside of the ears, on the front side of the legs, on the paws and toes, somewhat longer and more strongly covered in hair on the neck, almost forming a mane. On the back side of the legs the hair extends to the carpal joint or the hock, and forms clear trousers on the back side of the haunches.

COLOUR
Colours are:
- black with reddish-brown, brown, and yellow, to light grey markings
- single-coloured black, grey, with darker shading, black saddle and mask.

* Unobtrusive, small white marks on chest as well as very light colour on insides are permissible, but not desirable.
* The tip of the nose must be black in all colours.
* Dogs with lack of mask, light to piercing eye colour, as well as with light to whitish markings on the chest and the insides, pale nails and red tip of tail are considered to be lacking in pigmentation.
* The undercoat shows a light greyish tone.
* The colour white is not allowed.

SIZE
Height at withers:
Males: 60cm – 65cm (approx. 23½" – 25½").
Females: 55cm – 60cm (approx. 21½" – 23½").
Weight:
Males: 30kg – 40kg
Females: 22kg – 32kg

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

FAULTS
Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.
Severe faults:
- Deviations from the above-described breed characteristics that impair the working capability.
- Faulty ears: ears set too low laterally, tipped ears, inward-constricted ears, ears not firm
- Considerable pigment deficiencies.
- Severely impaired overall stability.
- Dental faults: All deviations from scissor bite and dental formula insofar as it does not involve eliminating faults (see the following)

Disqualifying faults:

- Dogs with weak character and weak nerves and that bite
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Monorchid or cryptorchid dogs, as well as dogs with clearly dissimilar or atrophied testicles
- Dogs with disfiguring ears or tail faults
- Dogs with malformations
- Dogs with dental faults, with lack of: 1 premolar 3 and another tooth, or 1 canine tooth, or 1 premolar 4, or 1 molar 1 or molar 2, or a total of 3 teeth or more
- Dogs with jaw deficiencies: Overshot by 2mm and more, undershot, level bite in the entire incisor region
- Dogs oversize or undersize by more than 1cm
- Albinism
- White hair colour (also with dark eyes and nails)
- Long straight topcoat without undercoat
- Long-haired (long, soft guard hair without undercoat, mostly parted in the middle of the back, tufts on the ears and legs and on the tail)

FCI Standard No 166: DEUTSCHER SCHÄFERHUND (GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG)

FCI Classification: Group 1: Sheepdogs and Cattle Dogs (except Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs)
Section 1. Sheepdogs.
With Working Trial

QUALIFICATION FOR ADVANCED REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (ARC)
Before submitting any application the following requirements must have been fulfilled:
1. Positively identified by microchip
2. Be DNA profiled (DNA ID number required)
3. Be over twenty four (24) months of age
4. Be a KUSA Champion –with a minimum of 'VG" (Very Good) awarded at a KUSA/FCI Graded Show
5. Registered name of the dog contains an Affix (Kennel Name)
6. Have IPO 1 qualification
7. Breed Assessment as per Schedule 5F (9.1.2)
8. Qualified at an Endurance Test
9. Hip X-rayed and scored under the KUSA/SAVA HD scheme (or recognised equivalent scheme) at or after 12 months of age for Hip Dysplasia and scored no worse than HD: B2
10. Elbows X-rayed and scored under the KUSA/SAVA ED scheme (or recognised equivalent scheme) at or after 12 months of age for Elbow Dysplasia and scored no worse than ED: 2
FEDCO 12/2016 (effective 1.02.2017)