

Kennel Club & S.V. Announcements

Dear Mrs Rankin

Re; German Shepherd Dog Health and Welfare

Your club will be aware from previous announcements that the General Committee has expressed its concern over the health and welfare of the GSD and the apparent ineffectiveness of the steps taken by the breed over many years to address these issues.

At its recent meeting the General Committee further discussed its concerns and as a result has announced a number of directives. As part of this statement are a number of directives which includes a change to the Breed Standard, education seminars for Championship Show Judges, and the reinstatement of KC Representatives attending shows with the remit of curtailing double handling.

The enclosed press release provides the full detail of the directives however, for ease of reference the following summarises that which we would wish to bring to the immediate attention of your club.

With effect from 1st August 2016 the following has been added to the German Shepherd Dog Breed Standard this change will also be announced in the Kennel Club Journal.

“Characteristics: Versatile working dog, balanced and free from exaggeration. Must be capable of standing comfortably and calmly, freely and unsupported in any way, in structural balance, whilst both rear pasterns are vertical. Attentive, alert, resilient and tireless with keen scenting ability.”

As far as show management is concerned the General Committee has directed that all Championship show judging contracts for 2018 and beyond are suspended with immediate effect until such time as each judge has attended a Kennel Club judges' education seminar.

As a result of this the Kennel Club is to establish a programme of seminars throughout the UK for championship show judges which will emphasise that the breed is to be exhibited and judged in accordance with the established custom and practice at licensed shows. The General Committee has also stated that it expects Open Shows judges to follow these judging procedures. More detail of the seminar content is given in press announcement under Notes to Editors.

Furthermore, Kennel Club representatives will be attending all championship shows where CCs are on offer for the breed. They will work with the show societies and judges to curtail double-handling and will have executive authority to put into effect the previously agreed escalation procedure for double-handling if the show societies and/or judges do not do so. Kennel Club representatives will attend shows as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

A copy of the full press announcement is enclosed.*

Yours sincerely,
Kathryn Symms

* The full Press Announcement will be in next month's issue.

S.V. Announcement

Translation by Brian Wootton from S.V. June Zeitung

The implementation of the Temperament Test stood as one of the most important items on the agenda of the S.V. AGM. The S.V. President had already spoken in favour of its introduction in his opening address to the meeting.

The implementing of the Temperament Test represents a symbol of quality and contributes to enhancing the reputation of the S.V. This Temperament Test initiated by the S.V. has already enjoyed world-wide popular approval during last year.

(The Temperament Test referred to in the above announcement was covered in the March & December 2015 issues of the “National”)