

# German Shepherd Schutzhund Club Of Canada



## **HELPER PROGRAM**

December 2006  
Amended March 2017

## **SECTION 1: PURPOSE**

The purpose of the helper program is to educate and increase the number of trial helpers that can, properly and safely execute the protection exercises in a uniform manner at German Shepherd Schutzhund Club of Canada (GSSCC) events.

## **SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the helper program are;

- A. Provide standardized education and trial helper training.
- B. Increase the number of trial helpers in the GSSCC.
- C. Promote membership involvement and participation through ongoing helper education.
- D. Facilitate GSSCC objectives to protect and improve the German Shepherd Dog breed as outlined in GSSCC Bylaws.

## **SECTION 3 : HELPER COMMITTEE**

The helper committee is appointed by the GSSCC executive yearly. The helper committee shall consist of four (4) members as follows: A GSSCC director, GSSCC judge, GSSCC teaching helper and a GSSCC member. The GSSCC executive will select one of the four (4) members to be helper program co-ordinator. The helper program co-ordinator will report directly to the head judge/president.

## **SECTION 4 : HELPER COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The helper committee is responsible to assist in the development, implementation and management of the helper program. In addition to these responsibilities, the helper committee shall act in an advisory role and provide support and assistance to helpers that have been selected to perform helper work at a national event.

The helper committee must present an annual report to the GSSCC head judge and GSSCC executive including a list of all GSSCC certified helpers and the expiry date of the certification.

The helper committee will receive teaching helper's applications and may recommend new teaching helpers for approval by the GSSCC executive as required to maintain the helper program.

## **SECTION 5 : ROLE OF REGIONAL TRIAL CO-ORDINATORS**

The regional trial director duties are an integral part of the educational process at the region and club level.

The regional trial director will receive direction from the helper committee with regards to the required educational teaching helper program and shall;

A. Solicit regional clubs and the region's members to determine the needs of regionally sponsored helper training.

B. Assist the helper committee in organizing and hosting the National Helper seminars.

## **SECTION 6 : HELPER PROGRAM CURRICULUM**

The helper program curriculum includes exercises to develop a helper's skills (e.g., mechanics, knowledge of rules, ability to take direction, body positioning, equipment positioning, balance, timing, awareness, presence, attitude, etc.) to enable him/her to properly and safely execute the protection exercises described in the VDH Trial Regulations and those required for GSSCC Breed Surveys and the Canadian Sieger Show protection part. *The helper program curriculum does not include exercises to develop a helper's knowledge as a training helper, since the philosophies of how to train dogs in protection vary drastically, and thus are not "standard".*

The helper program curriculum will be taught by GSSCC teaching helpers at club, regional or national helper seminars, which are sanctioned by the GSSCC helper committee. Deviations from the curriculum are not permitted. Some of the theory in the curriculum is presented in moderate detail in this document.

Every teaching helper will be issued a teaching guide module to follow so the training will be standardized throughout the GSSCC. The module will include general theory, theory for the execution of all exercises, practical training exercises, certification exercises and written exams for helpers.

## **SECTION 7 : LEVEL OF HELPERS**

**ALL helpers must be members in good standing with the GSSCC and present valid membership card when requested.**

There will be six (6) different categories of helpers. They are;

**Entry Level**- The entry level classification is for helpers that have been issued a GSSCC helper book and do not meet the requirements for the remaining classifications. Entry level helpers shall attain club or club front half trial classification before being permitted to participate as a trial helper in an event.

**Club Front Half Trial Helper** - A club front half trial helper has the responsibility of working in the front half in all three levels of protection work during a local club trial. The helper must be capable of working both club dogs as well as those from outside the club in a fair, correct, and safe fashion. To receive this level the helper must have attended at least one GSSCC helper seminar and received certification from a GSSCC teaching helper. The front half consists of all the exercises with the exception of the Attack on the dog out of motion.

**Club Trial Helper** - A club trial helper has the responsibility of working in all three levels of protection work during a local club trial. The helper must be capable of working both club dogs as well as those from outside the club in a fair, correct, and safe fashion. To receive this level the helper must have attended at least one GSSCC helper seminar and received certification from a GSSCC teaching helper.

**Regional Trial Helper** - A regional trial helper has the responsibility of working at all three levels of protection work during a club or regional competition. The helper must be capable of working powerful, quick dogs that they have not worked before; in a fair, demanding, correct and safe fashion. To receive this level the helper must have attended at least one GSSCC helper seminar, received certification from a GSSCC teaching helper and previously worked a minimum of 30 dogs at club trial.

**National Trial Helper** - A national trial helper has the responsibility of working in all three levels of protection work during a club, regional or national competition. The helper must be capable of working powerful, quick dogs in a fair, demanding, correct and safe fashion. To receive this level the must have must have attended a GSSCC national helper seminar, received certification from at least 2 GSSCC teaching helpers and previously worked a minimum of 40 dogs at club or regional trial.

**Fast Track For Regional and National Helpers-** Any Helpers trying out for a Regional or National event may have the benefit of a fast track system. Any and all Excellent and/or Very Good overall ratings (in trial) entered in their helper book, by a Canadian or USA judge, would lower the total number of dogs in trial required to apply. As it stands, 40 dogs in trial are required to apply for the National Championships, and 30 dogs in trial for a Regional Championship. With an "Excellent" rating, 5 dogs would be

removed from the total, bringing it from 40 dogs to 35, and from 30 dogs to 25. A "Very Good" rating would drop the number by 3 dogs

**Teaching Helper** - A teaching helper has the responsibility of teaching and certifying helpers at the club, regional and national level. A teaching helper should have extensive experience as a trial helper, have knowledge about dog behaviour and training principles, must demonstrate the ability to conduct seminars and to disseminate that knowledge to diverse groups of helpers.

The **suggested** qualifications for teaching helper are:

1. Be a member in good standing of the GSSCC
2. Be a member in good standing of a GSSCC club
3. Minimum five (5) years' experience as a trial helper
4. Have trained/titled at least two (2) dogs to a minimum IPO 1
5. Have done a breed survey on a dog or performed as a helper for a breed survey.
6. Have performed as a trial helper for at least eight (8) club trials.
7. Have performed as a trial helper for at least one (1) regional trial
8. Must submit two letters of references from their club executive members or Regional executive members

Anyone interested in becoming a GSSCC teaching helper must complete an application and submit it along with the letters to the GSSCC helper program co-ordinator.

If the helper committee approves the application, then:

A. The applicant should be the assistant of an experienced teaching helper during a club, regional or National seminar. During this seminar, the TH applicant would:

- i. assist in parts of the theoretical presentation
- ii. handle a group of seminar participants during practice of some exercises
- iii. participate in the evaluation of each participant at the end of the seminar to determine which helper level each participant will receive

The teaching helper will write and submit a report on the TH applicant's performance, to the helper program co-ordinator.

B. Once step A is completed, the TH applicant will conduct a club level seminar with another teaching helper or helper committee member as observer.

At the conclusion of the seminar, the observer will write a report on the TH applicant's performance and send same to the helper program co-ordinator. The helper committee will then decide on the TH applicant's status.

### **SECTION 8 : HELPER SEMINARS AND CERTIFICATION**

By January 2009, all helpers testing dogs at any trial level must be GSSCC certified.

In February 2013, the helper program and curriculum were updated.

In March 2014, the helper program was updated.

In March 2017, the helper program was updated.

All helpers wanting to receive certification must initially attend a GSSCC sanctioned helper seminar before receiving certification. At the start of the seminar all helpers will be given a GSSCC helper book. The certification may take place at the end of the seminar or the next day.

The helper will keep the helper book and must present it whenever the helper performs at a trial, Breed Survey, Körung or GSSCC helper seminar/certification. The presiding judge or teaching helper will complete the evaluation in the book.

If a helper's certification expired then the helper must attend a GSSCC helper seminar before they can be certified again.

If a helpers GSSCC membership expires they will have 2 months to renew their GSSCC membership. If they fail to renew their GSSCC membership within 2 months after it expires their status as a helper is terminated. When they become a GSSCC member again they will need to recertify at a seminar as described above.

The helper may keep the amount of dogs worked and use their previous helper books when they re certify upon approval from the helper committee.

**NEW- Club Helper Workshop.** This is an informal session where upon approval by the helper committee, a teaching helper(s) is invited by a club to attend the club and informally train their club helper(s). The training can be as short as a few hours, up to a full day. If the Teaching Helper(s) observes great work from the club helper(s), they could add 1 to 3 dogs to the helper(s) book. The helper(s) routine would have to be videotaped and sent to the Helper Coordinator. To get credited for these dogs, the club level helper HAS to attend a Helper Certification seminar within a year.

### **Club Level Helper Seminar**

Who can host? - Any member club of the GSSCC can make application to host a club helper seminar by completing a request for event form and sending to the regional trial director who will forward to the helper program coordinator.

Who can attend? - Any GSSCC member in good standing.

What can be obtained? - All helper levels up to and including regional level.

### **Regional Level Seminar**

Who can host? - Any region within the GSSCC can make application to host a regional helper seminar by completing a request for event form, sending to the regional trial director who will forward to the helper program coordinator

Who can attend? - Any GSSCC member in good standing.

What can be obtained? - All helper levels up to and including regional level.

### **National Level Seminar**

Who can host? - The GSSCC with support from the region or regions where the seminar is taking place.

Who can attend? - ONLY GSSCC Helpers that are club front half level, club level or regional level.

What can be obtained? - All levels up to an including national level. Only helpers that have attended a national seminar can be selected for the Canadian Championship.

Entry, club, regional and national helper certifications will expire every three (3) years.

National level helpers will be required to attend a national seminar every 2 years. A helper that does not attend a national seminar after 2 years will drop to regional level for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year and will then need to attend a national seminar to re-attain national level.

Teaching helper certification expires every five (5) years.

Helpers may get re-certified during a GSSCC helper seminar. This re certification expires after three (3) years.

At the conclusion of the seminar the teaching helper MUST complete a helper certification report on the outcome of the seminar to the helper program co-ordinator. Included in the report is a list of helpers attending the seminar and helpers receiving certification.

A club can no longer hold a National Helper seminar. National level can only be obtained at a GSSCC organized national seminar.

Entry, club, or regional level helpers may get re-certified during a trial under GSSCC Judge for which they were the helper. This re certification expires after one (1) year.

## **SECTION 9: CHAMPIONSHIPS HELPER SELECTION**

- A. One (1) or more national helper seminars will take place preceding the Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championships. It is suggested that there will be two (2) seminars, one in the Western area and one in the Eastern or Ontario area.
- B. The seminar should be completed at least two months prior to the Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championships.
- C. The helper program coordinator or their designate will attend and lead said seminar.
- D. The helper program coordinator will assign other teaching helper(s) to assist. It is suggested all teaching helpers that are available attend, assist and provide feedback on the helper program.
- E. The head judge or their designate will attend.
- F. The seminar (s) will be known as the national helper seminar.
- G. All helpers from all regions will be invited.
- H. At the conclusion of each national seminar, the head judge (or their designate), the helper program coordinator (or their designate) and the teaching helpers will decide which helpers attending the seminar may try out for the Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championship selection. The helper's performance will be video recorded.

I. The video recordings will be viewed by the head judge, judges committee, helper program coordinator along with the helper committee and they will select a minimum of three (3) helpers for the Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championships for that year. They will also decide which helper does the front part, back part and which will be an alternate.

J. The performances of the selected helpers will be video recorded and made available for viewing prior to the Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championships.

K. At the beginning of the Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championships each helper will conduct a helper demonstration which will be an IPO 3 routine.

L. All selected helpers flight will be paid for in addition to their per diem.

**9.1- For Regional Championships -** GSSCC helpers that are Regional level or higher will be selected to perform the helper work. If there are not enough helpers at that level(s) then club level helpers will be allowed to try-out and can be selected by the trial judge to perform the helper work.

### **SECTION 10 : HELPER CERTIFICATION CRITERIA**

Helper certifications will be based on the helper's performance of the protection exercises for IPO 1, 2 or 3, which will be performed under simulated trial conditions, including but not limited to: field setup, distances/directions for the escape, re-attacks with drives, long attack and direction by the presiding judge or teaching helper. The evaluation will consider numerous aspects of the helper's performance of the front half and back half exercises; including, but not limited to the following:

A. Is the helper under control at all times?

B. Does the helper's performance reflect that the safety of the dog, Judge and him/herself is paramount?

C. Does the helper know the protection exercises of the FCI trial regulations for all levels (e.g. IPO 1 through 3)?

D. Does the helper take/follow direction from the protection Judge/ teaching helper?

E. Does the helper know the attack-on-handler exercise, which is to be performed as part of GSSCC Breed Surveys and the Sieger Show at the Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championships?

F. Is the helper physically fit enough to work multiple dogs in a trial?

The areas where a helper will be evaluated are shown on the GSSCC trial helper book.

## **SECTION 11 : EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

Teaching helpers shall be provided per diem and reimbursement of expenses for helper seminars and helper certification events they conduct. The host region and/or club shall pay the per diem. The per diem will be the same as those outlined in the judges program for Judges.

The helper program co-ordinator (or designate) and head judge's (or designate) expenses for the national helper seminars will only be reimbursed with prior approval from the GSSCC executive.

All helpers selected for the Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championships shall receive.

- A. The above noted per diem for any day they perform helper work
- B. The per diem is to be split between the host club, host region.
- C. The GSSCC will reimburse the helper's flight and hotel expenses.
- C. One (1) banquet ticket for each helper from the host club

## **SECTION 12: HELPER CONDUCT**

Any certified helper who fails to perform at any trial in an equitable, safe and sportsmanlike manner shall be excused from a trial by the judge who may recommend censure or other disciplinary action to the helper program committee. Improper behavior on the part of any GSSCC certified teaching helper shall be reported in writing to the helper program co-ordinator within 20 calendar days for disciplinary action.

Any GSSCC certified helper who is observed to fail to perform at any trial in an equitable, safe and sportsmanlike manner and is not excused from a trial by the judge shall be reported in writing to the helper program co-ordinator by a GSSCC member within 20 calendar days for review.

## **SECTION 13: COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Upon receipt of a written complaint the helper program co-ordinator must advise the regional trial director, head judge, helper committee, GSSCC executive and helper in question within 20 calendar days that a complaint has been received. The helper program co-ordinator with the approval of the helper committee must appoint a GSSCC teaching helper to investigate the complaint. That GSSCC teaching helper must gather all facts and submit a written report to the helper program co-ordinator, head judge and GSSCC executive within 20 calendar days. The written report must be reviewed by the helper committee and they must decide a suggested disciplinary action. The suggested disciplinary action must be presented to the head judge and GSSCC executive for review and approval. If any suggested disciplinary action cannot be agreed upon, the head judge along with the judges committee will decide on a disciplinary action.

#### **SECTION 14: TYPES DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Any helper whose conduct was reviewed upon as outlined in section 12 can be imposed the following disciplinary actions by the helper committee with approval from the GSSCC executive:

- A. No action
- B. Verbal warning
- C. Written warning
- D. Education given
- E. Helper status on probation for a year
- F. Helper level changed
- G. Helper removed from the helper program
- H. Any combination of the above. \_