

German Shepherd Schutzhund Club Of Canada



HELPER PROGRAM

December 2006

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 an uniform manner at German Shepherd Schutzhund Club of Canada (GSSCC) events.

SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the helper program to;

- A. Provide “standardized” education and trial helper training.
- B. Increase the number of trial helpers in the GSSCC.C.
- 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

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 Head Judge will select one of the four (4) members to be Helper Director. The Helper Director will report directly to the Head Judge.

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 including a list of all GSSCC certified helpers and the expiry 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 DIRECTORS

The Regional Trial Director's 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. Every two (2) years administer one (1) regionally sponsored helper seminar per year under by a GSSCC teaching helper under the GSSCC helper program curriculum

C. Complete a helper certification report on the outcome of regionally sponsored helper seminars to the helper program director. Included in the report is a list of helpers attending the seminar and helpers receiving certification. Copy of the helper certification report attached as **Appendix B**

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. **See Appendix A**

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 five (5) 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 trial classification before being permitted to participate as a trial helper in an event.

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. Must have attended at least one GSSCC helper seminar and received certification.

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. Must have attended at least one GSSCC regionally sponsored helper seminar and received certification. Must have worked a minimum of 20 dogs at club level.

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. Must have previously been a helper at the Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championships or attended two (2) GSSCC regionally sponsored helper seminar or attended one GSSCC National helper seminar and received certification. Must have worked a minimum of 20 dogs at club level.

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 behavior and training principles, must demonstrate the ability to conduct seminars and to disseminate that knowledge to diverse groups of helpers.

The desired but not mandatory 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. Have at least five (5) years experience as a helper
4. Have served as a club training director or a regional trial director.
5. Have trained/titled at least one (1) dog to a working minimum SchH 1
6. Have “koered” a dog or performed as a helper for a Körung.
7. Have performed as a trial helper for at least four (4) club trials.
8. Have performed as a trial helper for at least one (1) Regional trial.

Anyone interested in becoming a GSSCC teaching helper must complete the application found in this document in **Appendix C** and submit it to the GSSCC helper director.

SECTION 8 : HELPER SEMINARS AND CERTIFICATION

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

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. A copy of the GSSCC helper book is attached to this document. 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.

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

Teaching helper certification expires every five (5) years.

Helpers may get re-certified during a GSSCC helper seminar, at a GSSCC helper certification event or any trial under GSSCC Judge for which they were the helper.

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

Certification may be held at the end of a GSSCC helper seminar or the next day or any other time approved by the helper committee.

The helper committee must approve all helper seminar/certification events and all certification must be done by GSSCC teaching helpers.

Each Region will have to administer one (1) regionally sponsored helper seminar every two (2) years under by a GSSCC teaching helper using the GSSCC helper program curriculum.

A club may hold a GSSCC helper seminar upon the approval from the Helper committee. A GSSCC teaching helper under the GSSCC helper program curriculum will give the seminar. At the conclusion of the seminar the club **MUST** complete a helper certification report on the outcome of the seminar to the helper program director. Included in the report is a list of helpers attending the seminar and helpers receiving certification. Copy of the helper certification report attached as **Appendix B.**

A National helper seminar may be held at the discretion of the GSSCC helper committee.

HELPERS CAN GET RE-CERTIFIED BY THE PRESIDING GSSCC JUDGE AT A TRIAL WHERE THE HELPERS TESTS DOGS

SECTION 9 : HELPER CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

Helper certifications will be based on the helper's performance of the protection exercises for SchH 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/her self is paramount?
- C. Does the helper know the protection exercises of the VDH trial regulations for all levels (e.g. SchH 1 through 3)?
- D. Does the helper take/follow direction from the protection Judge/ teaching helper?

In addition to the above, the evaluation will also consider if the helper knows 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.

The areas where a helper will be evaluated are shown on the GSSCC trial helper book and are attached to this document as **Appendix D.**

Helpers who are issued a GSSCC helper book will be required to take a written examination as part of their evaluation to advance from the entry level. The written examination will test a helper's knowledge of the VDH trial regulations in the protection phase.

SECTION 10 : 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 make the per diem and reimbursement. The per diem rate and reimbursable expenses will be the same as those outlined in the Judges Program for Judges.

The helpers selected for the Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championships shall receive a banquet ticket each plus a per diem of \$50.00 per day. This will be the responsibility of the event host club.

SECTION 11: DISCIPLINARY ACTION

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 to the helper program director for disciplinary action.



APPENDIX A

HELPER PROGRAM THEORY

(1) Requirements for the employment as Helper in phase "C"

- a. The guidelines and Regulations of the Trial Regulations regarding helper work must be followed.
- b. The Helper in phase "C" is the assistant of the Judge on the day of the trial.
- c. For their personal safety as well as liability reasons, the helper must wear protective clothing (protective pants, protective jacket, sleeve, cup and if necessary gloves) when doing helper work during training and trials.
- d. The shoes of the helper must be suitable for different weather/ground conditions. The shoes must provide the helper secure stance and good traction.
- e. Before phase "C" starts, the helper receives instructions from the Judge. The helper must perform the helper work in accordance to the Judge's instructions.
- f. The helper must follow the handler's instructions during the disarming/search of the helper in accordance to the trial regulations. The helper must give the handler the opportunity to put the dog in a basic position before the side/back transport begins.
- g. In club trials, it is allowed to work with one helper. If there are more than five dogs entered at an examination level, it is mandatory to employ two helpers. At National events, a minimum of two helpers must be used. In all these events, it is permitted to use a helper who lives in the same household as one of the handlers.

(2) Regulations concerning the conduct of Trial Helpers:

- a. In general: during a trial the Judge is supposed to evaluate the training level and if possible the quality of a dog (for example instinctive behavior, ability to cope with stress, self-confidence and obedience). The Judge can objectively evaluate what he/she visually and acoustically observes during

the course of the Trial. This factor and the aspect of maintaining fair Trial conditions throughout the Trial (which means offering the same conditions for all participants, if possible) makes it essential that the helper work gives the Judge a clear picture of a dog's performance. Therefore, it cannot be left up to the helper how phase "C" is structured. Furthermore, the helper has to follow certain rules. During the trial, the Judge has to check the most important evaluation criteria concerning the individual elements of the exercises during phase "C" of the Trial. These elements are for example the ability to cope with stress, self-confidence, instinctive behavior, obedience. Furthermore, he must evaluate the quality of the grip of the dogs that are shown.

Therefore, in order for the Judge to evaluate the quality of the grip, the Helper must give the dog a chance to get a good grip on the sleeve. Or, in order to evaluate the ability to cope with stress, it is necessary that the Helper inflicts pressure on the dog through corresponding action. Therefore, it is desirable that the Helpers perform the helper work in the most uniform manner possible, so that these elements can be evaluated.

(3) Hold and bark (levels 1-3)

The Helper stands in the appropriate blind, so as not to be visible to the Handler, with the sleeve arm slightly bent, motionless, and without any intimidating "body language". The sleeve serves to protect the Helper's body. During the "hold and bark" the Helper is to watch the dog but is to avoid giving help of any kind. The padded stick is to be held pointed downwards and to the side of the body.

(4) Preventing an attempted escape by the Helper (levels 1-3)

Following the instructions from the Handler after the "hold and bark", the Helper leaves the blind in a normal fashion and stands at a place determined by the Judge (the position marked for the escape). The position of the Helper must allow the handler the possibility to place the dog in a down position at a distance of five (5) paces from the Helper on the "sleeve side". It must be possible for the Handler to recognize in which direction the escape is to proceed.

At the Judge's indication the helper begins the escape, in a rapid fashion and in a straight line but without exaggerated and uncontrolled motion. The sleeve is not supposed to move in a separate motion so that the dog has the optimum opportunity to get a grip. During the escape the Helper is not to turn towards the dog but may watch the dog out of the corner of his eye. The Helper is not to move the sleeve away as the dog approaches. After the dog

has gripped the sleeve the Helper is to continue running in a straight line, and while in motion, is to pull the sleeve tight against his body.

The Judge is to determine how far the helper runs during the escape. At the Judge's indication the Helper is to end the escape. If the escape is carried out with the appropriate action by the Helper, the Judge has an optimal opportunity to evaluate the exercise. The Helper is not to provide any help during the escape, e.g., exaggerated "offering" of the sleeve, verbally stimulating the dog or hitting the pants with the padded stick before or during the escape, lack of tension in the sleeve arm after the dog has gripped the sleeve, slowing the speed of the escape, ending the escape before the Judge's indication, etc.

For the correct behavior for ending the escape see number 9.

(5) Defense against an attack from the guarding phase (level 1-3)

After the guarding phase, and at the Judge's indication, the Helper attacks the dog. In the process the padded stick will be waved threateningly over the sleeve but without striking the dog. In the same instant the Helper will move forward, without additional movement of the sleeve, with appropriate force. The sleeve is to be held against the Helper's torso. After the dog has gripped the sleeve the Helper, using a sideways motion, is to drive the dog in a straight line. The Helper must drive all dogs in the same direction. The Judge is to choose a position so that it is possible to evaluate the behavior of all dogs during the response to the attack, including during the drive, the grip, the out, and the guarding phase. The Helper must not drive the dog towards the handler.

"Stick hits" with the padded stick are to be placed on the dog's shoulders in the vicinity of the withers. All dogs should be hit with the same intensity. The first "hit" is to be made during the drive after the helper has taken 4-5 steps and the 2nd hit after an additional 4-5 steps. After the 2nd "stick hit" the Helper should drive the dog further but without additional hits.

The Judge determines the duration of the driving phase. At the Judge's indication the Helper stops the drive. If the attack is performed with the necessary energy from the Helper, the Judge has an optimal opportunity to evaluate the dog. Any help by the Helper, e.g., "feeding" the dog the sleeve before it grips, verbal agitation or hitting the leg of the protective pants with the padded stick before beginning the attack, holding the sleeve without tension while driving the dog, varying the intensity of the drive and stick hits, ending the drive before the Judge's indication if the dog shows weakness, etc., is not permitted.

The procedure for ending the exercise is given in item 8 (valid for all levels).

(6) Back transport (levels 2 & 3)

When directed by the handler the Helper begins to walk, at a normal pace, for the back transport covering distance of approximately thirty (30) paces. The Judge determines the pattern to be followed. During the transport the Helper may not make any rapid movements. The padded stick and the sleeve are to be held so as not to provide any additional stimulation for the dog. In particular, the stick is to be held so that it is out of sight of the dog. The Helper should walk at the same speed for all dogs.

(7) Attack on the dog from the back transport (levels 2 & 3)

At the Judge's indication an attack is performed from the back transport while the Helper is in motion. The attack is to be carried out by the Helper with a dynamic "about turn" either to the left or to the right, followed by a powerful forward motion in the direction of the dog. The padded stick is to be held above the sleeve and used to make threatening motions. The sleeve is to be held against the front of the Helper's body and additional sleeve motion is to be avoided. Once the dog has gripped the sleeve, the Helper while continuing the dog's motion should move the dog to the side and begin to drive the dog in a straight line. The Helper must drive all dogs in the same direction. The Judge must choose a position so as to be able to observe all dogs' reactions to the attack, the behavior during the driving phase, the nature of the grip, the "out" and the guarding phase for all dogs. The dog should not be driven towards the Handler.

The Judge determines the duration of the driving phase. At the Judge's indication the Helper stops the drive. If the drive is performed with the necessary energy, the Judge has an optimal opportunity to evaluate the dog. Any help by the Helper, e.g., moving too far sideways before the dog grips, "feeding" the dog the sleeve before the dog grips, verbal agitation or hitting the leg of the protective pants with the padded stick at the beginning of the attack, holding the sleeve without tension while driving the dog, varying the intensity during the drive, ending the drive before the Judge's indication if the dog shows weakness, etc., is not permitted.

The correct behaviors for ending the exercise see number 9.

(8) Attack on the dog out of motion (levels 1-3)

SchH 1 - At the Judge's indication the helper leaves the blind into which he/she has been directed to and walks to the centerline of the field then changes from a walk to a running pace and attacks the dog and handler from the front while yelling and making threatening gestures with stick.

SchH 2 and 3 - At the Judge's indication the helper leaves the blind into which he/she has been directed to and runs to the centerline of the field and without breaking stride attacks the dog and handler from the front while yelling and making threatening gestures with stick

The helper must "catch" the dog with flexibility in the sleeve position without coming to a stop. Whenever possible the Helper must rotate when catching the dog to absorb the momentum of the dog. In no case should the helper run around the dog. Once the dog has gripped the sleeve the Helper while continuing the dog's motion, should move the dog to the side and begin to drive the dog in a straight line. The helper must not "run over" the dog. The Helper must drive all dogs in the same direction. The Judge must choose a position that permits observation of all dogs' reactions to the attack, the behavior during the driving phase, the nature of the grip, the "out", and the guarding phase for all dogs. The dog should not be driven towards the handler.

The Judge determines the duration of the driving phase. At the Judge's indication the helper stops the drive. If the drive is performed with the necessary energy, the Judge has an optimal opportunity to evaluate the dog. Any help by the helper, e.g., reducing the speed of the attack, stopping before catching the dog, moving too far sideways before the dog grips, running around the dog, "feeding" the dog the sleeve before the dog grips, holding the sleeve without tension while driving the dog, varying the intensity during the drive, ending the drive before the Judge's indication if the dog shows weakness, etc., is not permitted.

The correct behaviors for ending the exercise see number 9.

(9) **Ending the exercise (applies to all exercises)**

All exercises must be ended so that the Judge can observe the grip, the “out” and the guarding by the dog (the helper’s back should not be to the Judge and the helper should maintain eye contact with the Judge). After ending a defense exercise, the resistance against the dog is to be released, and the helper is to avoid all stimulating motions but without relaxing the sleeve arm. The sleeve should not be carried high but remain in the same position as during the preceding exercise. The padded stick has to be held next to the body, pointing downward, and out of sight of the dog. The Helper may not provide help to get the dog to “out”. After the dog releases, the helper should maintain eye contact with the dog. No additional stimulation or help of any kind may be provided. If the dog circles while guarding, the helper is allowed to turn slowly, without any sudden movements, in order to watch the dog.

(10) **Insecurity and failure of the dog**

If the dog fails to grip during the defense exercise or releases during the drive, the helper is to pressure the dog until the Judge ends the exercise. In such a situation the helper may not provide help or end the exercise on his own. Dogs that will not out may not be helped to out by the helper assuming a particular body posture or through motion by the padded stick. If the dog shows a tendency to leave during the guarding phase, the helper may not provide stimulation to keep the dog close by. The helper is to be either active or neutral, as prescribed by the trial rules, during all exercises and guarding phases. If the dog bumps or grips during a guarding phase, the Helper is to avoid moving.



Appendix C

Teaching Helper Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Club and Region: _____

GSSCC membership: _____ # of years _____

Positions held: _____

Other dog club memberships: _____

Training experience (include # of dogs titled) _____

Helper experience _____

of club trials as helper: _____

of regional trials as helper: _____

of national trials as helper: _____

of breed surveys as helper: _____

of helpers trained previously: _____

Other dog training experience: _____

Submitted by: _____ Date _____

German Shepherd Schutzhund Club Of Canada



Trial Helper Book

HELPER: _____

Helper Information

Helper name:	GSSCC number:
Current level:	Level to be evaluated:

Event Information

Event type:	Event date:
Event location:	Contact person:
Teaching Helper:	Judge:

Helper Evaluation

<p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of rules</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Presence in blind</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Escape</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Attack</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Drive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Use of stick</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Back transport & attack</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Courage Test</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Re-attack</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">All stops</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Integrity to judge, dog and handler</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Physical condition</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Equipment used</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:
<p style="text-align: center;">Overall evaluation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M B G SG V</p>	Comments:

I certify this helper to the level: Entry Club Regional National Teaching Helper

Signed- _____