

The German Shepherd Schutzhund Club of Canada

(www.gsscc.ca)



Local Club: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone No.: _____



Member of:
The World Union of
German Shepherd Dogs
(WUSV)

About the GSSCC

The German Shepherd Schutzhund Club of Canada is an organization that promotes responsible ownership, training and breeding of German shepherd dogs. To that end, GSSCC member clubs train and host events throughout the year, concluding the Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championships. Shows evaluate structure and type, trials test workability and training methods, while endurance tests, tracking tests, obedience tests and hike days all provide venues for friendly competition and a fun social event.



Retrieving the dumbbell over the one-metre hurdle.

What is Schutzhund?

Schutzhund began more than 100 years ago in Germany as a way to test the working ability of German Shepherd Dogs. Its initial purpose was to determine which dogs should be used for breeding in order to maintain the German Shepherd Dog as an all-round working breed.

Today, Schutzhund continues to be used as a minimum breeding standard for the German Shepherd Dog. In fact, in Germany, German Shepherds cannot be bred unless they have attained a minimum level in Schutzhund.

Schutzhund has also evolved into a sport enjoyed by dog lovers around the world. In Canada, there are more than 40 Schutzhund clubs and several hundred participants scattered from coast to coast.

The sport is comprised of three phases - tracking, obedience and protection - and is often referred to as the triathlon of dog sports.

The Total Dog

The GSSCC promotes the total German Shepherd Dog through Schutzhund, Sieger Shows and Breed Surveys. The best of the breed combines the working ability of the sport dog with the grace and beauty of the show dog.



The Sieger Show

The conformation judge will compare each dog to his picture of an ideal German Shepherd Dog both in structure and temperament as described in the internationally accepted WUSV breed standard. Dogs are judged on their physical conformation and movement in the show ring. Dogs are given a rating based on how well they conform to the standard.



Demonstrating the proper show pose.

The Breed Survey

This is the final test that a dog has to pass in order to be eligible for breeding under the German system. A dog must have already passed a 20-km endurance test, passed the hip certification, earned a working title, and been awarded a minimum conformation rating of "good."

Goals of the GSSCC:

- to improve the structure and temperament of the German Shepherd Dog;
- to uphold the standards of the German shepherd dog as approved by the WUSV (World Union of German Shepherd Dog Clubs);
- to conduct conformation shows and Breed Surveys according to the WUSV standard for German Shepherd Dogs;
- to provide guidelines for breeding to those who own and breed German Shepherd Dogs;
- to educate the public in regard to the importance of strong, steady temperament as a prerequisite in breeding programs;
- to promote standardized Schutzhund training for German Shepherd Dogs;
- to promote Schutzhund training among youth;
- to conduct Schutzhund trials according to VDH (German Dog Clubs) rules;
- to promote responsible, sportsmanlike behaviour by our membership;
- to upgrade the knowledge and expertise of its members in the areas of structure, temperament, and training of the German Shepherd Dog;
- to provide advice, assistance, and encouragement to groups and individuals interested in becoming GSSCC members;
- to conduct an annual Canadian German Shepherd Dog Championship and Sieger Show;
- to develop and maintain a Canadian Judges Training Program in performance and conformation.



For more information, please see our website:

www.gsscc.ca

The Triathlon of Dog Sports

Tracking: The dog must follow the path of a human's footsteps and find dropped articles along the way. The number of turns and the age of the track increase as the level of difficulty increases.



Tracking can be done on grass or dirt.

Obedience: The dog must follow the handler's commands during a number of precision exercises, retrieves and obstacle work. Dogs *must* demonstrate a high degree of control and show spirit and sociability with people and control around other animals.



Protection: All dogs already know how to bite. Schutzhund teaches the dog when biting is appropriate and when it is not. The dog learns to distinguish between a harmless bystander and a potentially dangerous person.

The dog is only permitted to bite a protective sleeve worn on the arm of the helper - and only when the dog or the handler is threatened. No other bites are allowed in the sport.

Temperament

In Schutzhund, temperament is everything.

The Schutzhund-certified dog must be friendly and approachable. It does not regard a person as a threat until the person displays signs of hostility or aggression towards him or his handler. These dogs are not a danger to society and should never be put in the same category as an attack dog.

Because of the strict temperament tests involved in the sport, not every dog can successfully achieve the certification of "Schutzhund."

Before a dog can enter the sport of Schutzhund, it must pass a BH (Companion Dog Test). This test was developed as a preliminary, but thorough temperament test. It is designed to keep aggressive, sharp, or nervous dogs from participating in the sport and ultimately, from being bred.



Other Breeds

While Schutzhund was developed specifically for the German Shepherd Dog, the sport is open to all breeds. Usually the larger working breeds have the most success - Belgian Malinois, boxers, Doberman pinschers, rottweilers, Bouviers and giant schnauzers have been the most common.

Shepherd Sports

The GSSCC also publishes a quarterly magazine to keep members apprised of club activities, competition results, changes in rules and regulations and other developments in the world of dog sports.

For more information about Schutzhund, please see our website: www.gsscc.ca.