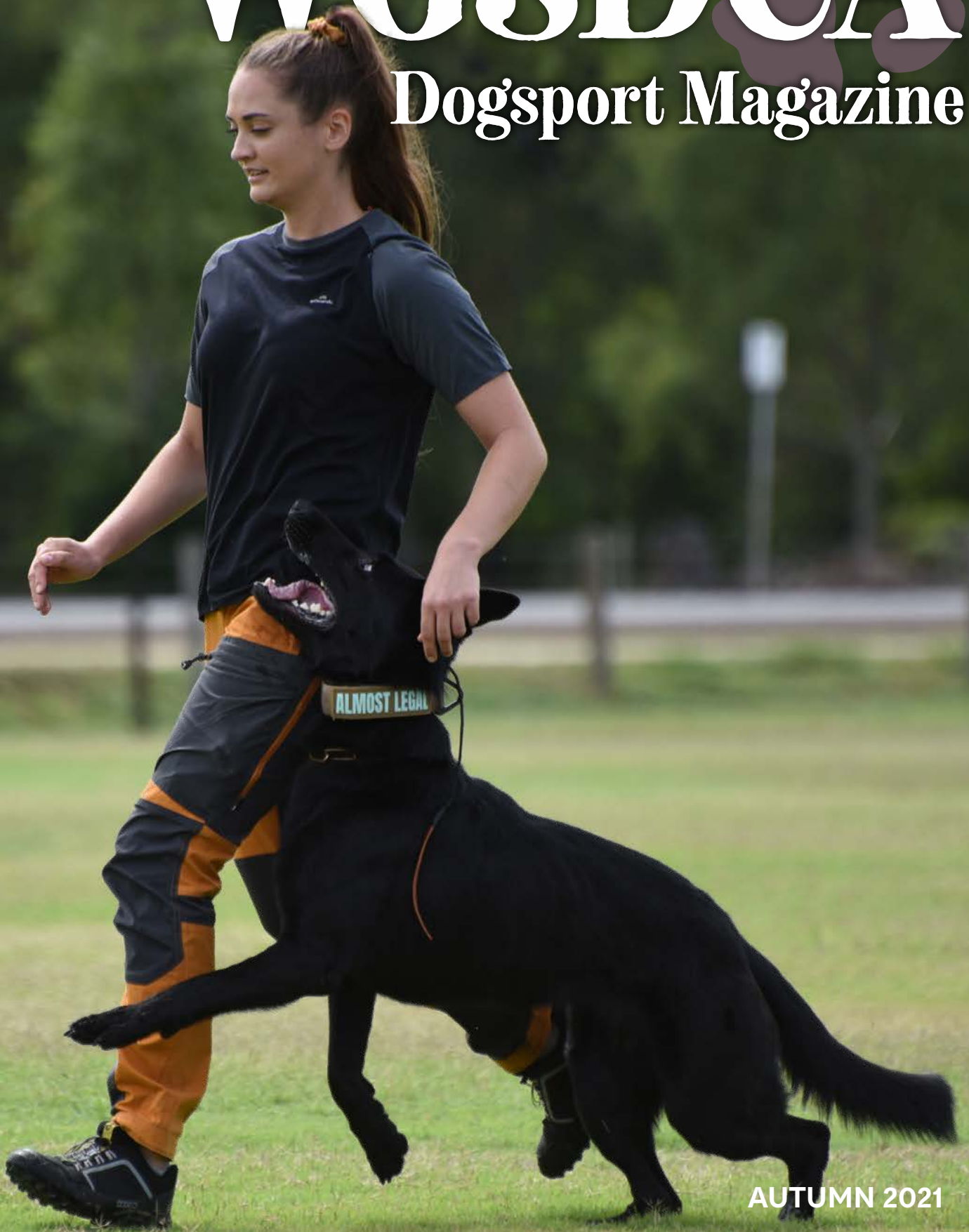


# WGSDCA

Dog'sport Magazine



AUTUMN 2021

WORKING GERMAN SHEPHERD AND DOGSPORT CLUBS OF AUSTRALASIA

# WGSDCA

## Editor

*from the desk*

KARYN WORTH

Welcome to our Autumn edition of the magazine. In this edition there is an excellent article written by Lance Collins, multi-time World Championship competitor and training director for West Coast German Shepherd Club in Canada. The article talks about why it is so important to have an IGP program, its genesis, misconceptions and the need for the sport to continue for the sake of the breed.

Of course there are plenty of other interesting reads including information about the SV puppy test that has been recently introduced into WGSDCA's program and news from some of our clubs, including a new club to our organisation - Scenic Rim Sportsdog Club.

Happy Reading!

## Dogsport: the preservation of the working dog.

### Mission Statement

To maintain and improve the temperament and physical soundness of the German Shepherd Dog in Australasia.

To promote responsible dog ownership to our members.

### Our Vision

To be a progressive dogsport organisation in partnership with the international dogsport community.

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### SCOREBOOKS, SPORTS PASSES AND FORMS

To apply for a scorebook and sportspass go to <https://www.wgsdca.org.au/online-scorebook-application>.

Please Note: The Admin of Records only processes orders on the last week of each month. So make sure you plan well ahead if you intend to enter a trial, apply for your sportspass and scorebook well in advance.

Allow 6 weeks for delivery time.

### INDIVIDUAL WGSDCA MEMBERSHIP

Whether your interest is breeding or training the German Shepherd Dog, or simply enjoying the company of people like you who love to spend time with their dogs, WGSDCA has something for you. <https://www.wgsdca.org.au/membership>.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You can join WGSDCA through one of our Club Affiliates or directly. We have five categories of Individual Membership of the WGSDCA:

- Individual Membership
- Dual Membership
- Youth Membership (free)
- Life member
- Social Membership

Members of WGSDCA have to renew their WGSDCA Individual Membership annually.

To find out more go to <https://www.wgsdca.org.au/membership>

# A word from the president

## Think Differently

### WGSDCA Events

As the various 2020 COVID19 restrictions have been slowly lifted during the first quarter of 2021, we see all our Club Affiliates getting back into training and hosting events as they prepare for the 2021 WGSDCA National Championship June 11-13th, 2021 in Sydney. Earlier this month, WGSDCA was proud to announce a major sponsorship by K9Pro and RedLine K-9 ([k9pro.com.au](http://k9pro.com.au)), who are showing unprecedented support by sponsoring all the equipment needed to dress up the 2021 National Championship for success. We are also grateful for the continuous support from CLEAR Dog Treats ([cleardog.com.au](http://cleardog.com.au)), who once again is donating yummy natural quality treats for the Event. WGSDCA is very grateful to these sponsors who have given so generously and without who the 2021 National Championship would not be possible. Should you be a dog handler preparing for our National, then you can see the equipment that will be used for the championship here: [wgsdca.org.au/k9pro](http://wgsdca.org.au/k9pro).

The WUSV World Championship has been moved from Finland to Lerma, Spain, 31 October to 8 November 2021. Whilst it is currently uncertain whether it is sensible for

Photo credit Wild Dog Photography



Australians to travel at that point in time. The WGSDCA will pre-register for the WUSV World Championship and consequently Team Australia will be selected from the 2021 WGSDCA National Championship as per previous years.

### Furthering WGSDCA's position

The WGSDCA Board has continued to move the operation into the digital world. We have implemented online forms for trial registration which enables direct parsing of information into our trial validation records as well as an online form for WGSDCA Helpers to lodge their record of being a Trial Helper at a WGSDCA sanctioned Trial.

These elements are all part of further aligning the WGSDCA with the WUSV mandate. On that note, our first ZAP-W ‘Puppy Test’ Assessment was undertaken in Sydney 27 March. You can read more about this on page 13. Likewise, we were very excited to learn earlier in March, that Dr. McKean at Moorong Veterinary Clinic (Wagga Wagga, NSW) was the first of four Australian veterinarians to achieve a full license to submit GSD x-ray images for scoring in Germany. Within a couple of weeks, she submitted hip and elbow x-rays on behalf of her clientele – a testimony for the desire of Australian GSD owners to contribute to the HD/ED database governed by DZG. This database is also used by SV, WUSV and other main canine organisations. I take this opportunity to reiterate to our readers that you can introduce your vet to the Scheme by visiting our page [wgsdca.org.au/hd-edportal](http://wgsdca.org.au/hd-edportal).

## International Update

As anticipated, we are starting to see a snowball effect following the Düsseldorf Higher Court Ruling September 7th, 2020, where the Court declared the prohibition of judges associated with the VDH (German FCI all-breed affiliate) and the umbrella organisation FCI to accept judge invitations by non-affiliates to be illegal. The Court also ruled the monopolistic modus operandi of the FCI and its affiliates to be contrary to antitrust laws in a common market (that being purebred dogs). In January 2021, the Dortmund Regional Court rejected an application from the VDH which sought to prohibit the SV from accepting GSD dogs with non-FCI pedigree papers yet bred to the same (or higher) standard. Similar to 2020, this Court ruled that the referenced VDH provisions in their Statutes constitute an attempt to restrict competition and an abuse of market power. The VDH has decided to appeal the decision. The appeal will take place at the Düsseldorf High Court of Justice – the same court that overruled the VDH attempt to block access to judges last year! Interesting times ahead as we see the German snowball builds on itself and other WUSV members picking up the fight against their national FCI affiliates.

*Think differently. Break the shackles, and free the dreams; face the hurdles, and support the fight for preserving the German Shepherd Dog as a working dog.*



SANNE PEDERSEN | WGSDCA PRESIDENT





**WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO**

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# Pioneers open the way for others to follow

*Australian German  
Shepherd Dogs can  
now be assessed by the  
German authority*

The first Australian Veterinarian, Dr Rosemary McKean has been fully licensed to submit German Shepherd Dog radiographs to the German hip and elbow dysplasia Screening Scheme governed by the German Giessen Dysplasia Centre (DZG) who is commissioned by the World Union for German Shepherds (WUSV) to build a centralised database to inform how the worldwide GSD fraternity can improve the breeding of German Shepherds. The DZG is a German research and assessment organisation that has specialists in assessment hip and elbow radiographs (more information on DZG is available [here](#))

**D**r Rosemary McKean works in the Moorong Veterinary Clinic, located in Wagga Wagga, NSW, and she recently completed the training and examination required to become an accredited foreign Radiologist for the DZG.

*I have a huge soft spot for the German Shepherd Dog. We have a few German Shepherd Dog breeders in Wagga Wagga who need hip and elbow radiographs for assessment of genetically inherited hip and elbow dysplasia.*

Dr McKean's interest in becoming an accredited Radiologist with the DZG arose after a client, Pantathean GSDs, pointed out the opportunity.

*As part of a progressive veterinary practice we are always keen to be involved in any scheme that looks to improve a breed and especially the health of a breed. The radiograph set for assessment in Germany has additional hip and elbow views required and a different grading system.*

The best part of the accreditation process according to Dr McKean was the educational component, especially the hip dysplasia module developed by the HD/ED Expert Panel at DZG.

*Vets routinely take radiographs for hip and elbow evaluation, however, we have little more than a basic idea of the criteria for assessment. The hip module gives a very clear, insightful overview of all of the nuances that are assessed and why they are important in the animal.*

The Foreign Veterinary Radiologist course and accreditation is led by Dr Bernd Tellhelm who is specialised in skeletal dysplasia in German Shepherd dogs.

Dr Tellhelm was very helpful and supportive throughout the accreditation process and as a working veterinary practitioner himself, he and his team have developed a course that is relatively straightforward to fit into a busy practice life.

Dr McKean says she found the course clinically relevant and useful to further understand the skeleton disorders, such as hip and

elbow dysplasia, which unfortunately is not uncommon in the German Shepherds.

*Being part of the international research forum will provide invaluable information that we can share with our clients going forward enabling us to give a more educated insight into the fundamental structure of their animal”.*

The WGSDCA is grateful for the support of Dr McKean and the Moorong Veterinary Clinic. For further information, please contact Rosemary McKean directly on 02 6921 3462.

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## **Talk to your vet about becoming accredited**

It is the objective to get accredited Veterinarians in each of the Australian States and Territories. To do that, Australian German Shepherd owners need to contact their veterinarians of choice and present the WGSDCA-DZG initiative.

The WGSDCA fraternity supports the initiative by covering the full accreditation cost for the first accredited veterinarian in each of the Australian States and Territories.

Go to [www.wgsdca.org.au/hd-edportal](http://www.wgsdca.org.au/hd-edportal) to learn more. 

**You can download the cordial invitation from Dr Tellhelm to the Australian veterinarians here.**

A black and tan German Shepherd dog is captured in a dynamic, mid-air running pose. The dog's front legs are extended forward, and its hind legs are pushing off the ground. Its mouth is slightly open, showing its pink tongue and teeth. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green field under bright, natural light. The overall mood is energetic and joyful.

# Why do we do IGP dogsport?

MR LANCE COLLINS  
TRAINER, HANDLER, COACH,  
MULTI-WORLD  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
COMPETITOR,  
JUDGE, BREEDER



The German Shepherd dog is renowned for its versatility. That ability is not an accident. It is a product of a deliberate strategy. Training – Testing – Certification – Breeding.

**I**GP dogsport enthusiasts are “The People Behind The People” who serve and protect all of us. They are, for the most part, civilians and have over a century of expertise behind them.

## **The German Shepherd Dog**

German Shepherd dogs, like people have a variety of personalities and temperament characteristics. Some are the strong silent type, some are loud and obnoxious, and others are meek, mild and sensitive and others still are silly, playful and easily distracted. In order to identify the characteristics that are ideal for specific duties they need to be tested in a way that showcases their character and their versatility.

German Shepherd dogs are legendary in their ability to work in extreme environmental conditions such as earthquakes, avalanches, and risky situations such as war zones.

They are able to handle extreme weather conditions, ranging from the desert to the far north. They have the physical and mental toughness to handle adversity and the resolve to overcome confrontation, duress and hardship, even over extended periods of time.

Active service dogs may have to respond several times during the course of their regular duty shift and that could require them to apply any or all of those skills. The dog must be able to adapt quickly and confidently to a provocative situation in one instance and then respond to a search and rescue situation without missing a beat or confusing the task at hand.

## **Where do police dogs come from?**

In North America and in Australia the source for dogs that can provide the skills and temperament necessary to do the work is primarily from Europe because the breeding programs of the national all-breed councils in countries like England, the USA, Canada and

Australia do not provide the quality product necessary. The National Canine Bodies do not institute breeding from dogs with proven working characteristics as a criteria for breeding eligibility.

All German Shepherds of today trace their roots back through the sport of IGP (formerly known as IPO and before that Schutzhund) and all police and other service German Shepherds of today come from the IGP breeding evaluation process. More and more service dogs, worldwide come directly from parents with at least an IGP-1 title as a foundation.

Some years back, the American all-breed Kennel Club complained that the US Military was not buying USA bred dogs from their programs. The US Military responded with a press release which reported that kennel club USA bred German Shepherds (GSDC of America) were not capable of meeting the work required – physically and mentally – and European bred dogs were far superior.

The vast majority of German Shepherds through GSDC of America are not selected for breeding through IGP type programs, whereas the European breeding of German Shepherds has followed such a process for more than a century.

## **The History**

Over 120 years ago in Germany the idea of developing a breed of dog that could serve as a versatile, all-round working dog came to light. A group of interested parties identified the requirements that they wanted a dog to be able to successfully and willingly do. This ranged from sheep herding to protecting the handler and various other tasks.

The program to develop a dog with the desired temperament and behavioural characteristics, as well as ideal physical attributes, began with the establishment of an evaluation process. Once set up, a variety of dogs from around Germany were tested and the successful ones were integrated into the breeding program. The first vestiges of today’s modern German Shepherds were born.

This program became very successful and the success of the dogs made them famous. This resulted in many people becoming very interested in the German Shepherd breed. They formed training clubs and actively pursued the training, testing, certification and breeding of the successful dogs. It is from this process that the sport of IGP has evolved and with it the modern German Shepherd of today.

With the proven success and versatility of the German Shepherd, the breed quickly became the dog of choice for policing and other service organisations in Germany and the success was replicated around the world.

While actively engaging in the sport, the IGP civilian enthusiasts are the people who create the world-wide pool of thousands of German Shepherds that police, search and rescue, border and customs and military, detection dogs and other service dogs have been drawn from for over 100 years. **IGP enthusiasts are the “people behind the people” who serve and protect all of us.**

### **Does IGP sleeve-work teach a dog to bite?**

Uninformed individuals will sometimes say that it is wrong to train dogs in sleeve-work because they believe it teaches dogs to bite people. That misperception is not based on accurate knowledge of dogs and dog behaviour.

The well informed and educated individual understands that all dogs bite because biting is an integral part of their natural social and survival behaviour. We must teach them when biting is, and is not, appropriate.

### **IGP training does not teach dogs to bite. It teaches dogs not to bite.**

IGP training is foremost about obedience and predictability. IGP training is about prompt, willing compliance on the first command, regardless of the distraction. The iconic sleeve-work is only a part of the evaluation – but an important part. This discipline is all about controllability, even in an adversarial situation.

IGP training is obedience under the highest form of distraction that we can artificially create. The sleeve work is conducted to prove

the dogs' ability to be obedient regardless of the stimulation. Said differently, sleeve-work is not about biting - it is about CONTROL, even in a very confrontational situation. Dogs which cannot demonstrate obedience are disqualified in a trial setting. Therefore, if a working title is a pre-requisite for breeding, such dogs would be eliminated from the gene pool.

Statistics on unprovoked dog bites identify the untrained dog as the overwhelming culprit. A review of dog bite records, or publicly available court cases entailing dog bites reveal that these records are not dominated by dogs trained in IGP dog sports including sleeve-work. i.e. it is a fact that sleeve-work such as included in IGP dog sport in no way presents an increased risk to the public.

In fact, appropriate IGP training **decreases** the risk of unprovoked bites because high levels of obedience are an integral part of the training, and the handler learns to train and control their dog. This **decrease** in potential biting behaviour by a dog due to IGP training has been repeatedly and overwhelmingly demonstrated in my personal experience.

### **Canine behaviour**

All dogs are fundamentally canine predators and hence combativeness is a part of their genetic and behavioural makeup. This needs to be understood and responsibly managed.

Denying that aggression is a part of the nature of dogs is not a reasonable or safe strategy. Unprovoked bites are a result of the general public's denial or ignorance of a dog's nature and culture. We are faced, more than ever before, with unnatural expectations of dogs, promoted by ignorance, the modern entertainment industry and well-meaning animal rights activists.

***The IGP dog sport scheme has no tolerance for unstable, unpredictable, defensive and unprovoked aggression.*** The IGP training processes are intended to **eliminate** such behaviour. The training and testing is deliberately designed to identify and document dogs exhibiting those behaviours. Proper breeding criteria would eliminate

unstable, unpredictable and hostile dogs from breeding, and subsequently passing on such tendencies.

## **Hobbyists and the sport**

Whilst the old schutzhund program was geared towards protection work, today's modern IGP sleeve-work is founded in play/prey exercises that are an extension of the traditional game of chasing and grabbing a ball with instead chasing and grabbing a burlap cover carried on the arm. The IGP sleeve-work of today is essentially a simulation of protection work and it is based in the dog's natural prey drives. It does not involve or promote unprovoked aggression and biting from aggression. The vast majority of dogs participating in the sport would never bite a person even when being deliberately pressed. They would leave the situation before forgoing the burlap to bite a human.

Many police dog handlers will testify that the sport dogs for the most part are only acting the part and the simulated sleeve work is far from real protection work. While this is true for the majority, those few dogs with more assertive tendencies are identified via the IGP training and testing process. They are retained within the realm of the experts, either inside or outside the fraternity of the sport. These dogs can be moved into active specialised service roles where they are utilised to the fullest in constructive and valuable programs. Obedience is the means by which those tendencies are either redirected or terminated.

IGP training and testing creates a safer dog because it teaches the dog what is acceptable behaviour. The understanding gained from IGP training and competition dramatically reduces unprovoked and inappropriate bites.

## **Why IGP?**

German Shepherds are the breed of choice for the majority of police and military service dog roles for good reason. They are the product of a realistic and comprehensive civilian-based IGP training, testing and breeding program. This 120-year-old civilian program is free to

government and for the most part, relieves the police agencies and their valuable resources to focus on their core business, of policing, not dog breeding.

The IGP fraternity trains and tests dogs and breeds from proven working lines with sound health and temperament. It is from this process that the vast majority of remarkably talented service dogs come from.

From a community point of view, we need to know whether a dog remains controllable when engaged in physically subduing an individual before it is deployed for public service; or whether a dog would hide behind the handler when there is a threat or risk to deal with, before we put them into public service.

We need to know if the dog's ability to engage in performing service work is compromised by travel in cars, trucks, boats, planes or helicopters, or by loud noises, gun fire, lightning and thunder, severe weather, heavy traffic, unstable or slippery surfaces, heights and stressed and traumatised people, before it is deployed for public service.

Many of these traits or tendencies are genetically inherited. Training and testing the dog in a simulated stress environment exposes the dogs to many similar situations and helps to separate those dogs that are not capable from those that are capable. The capable ones should be used for breeding.

We do need to know all of the above – and more – before each dog is to be bred, so that we can maintain and improve a gene pool with the right working traits and temperament, because lives may depend on it.

The IGP community combines sport and vision into a program that trains and tests a dog's work ethics, trainability and temperament. The IGP dog sport and evaluation program scheme is essential for the selection of suitable candidates for breeding because it identifies some significant qualities and traits within each dog. Primarily, it is a psychological test of the dog's ability and confidence in various unusual situations, including the dog's ability and willingness to be assertive and to be restrained, as directed by the handler.

IGP training and testing proves and documents the dogs' work ethics, trainability, and mental and physical soundness. The ability to handle stress and adversity is essential for not only a service and a sport dog, but also a dog living as part of a family. That ability is all anchored in their genetic makeup.

## **The social sport**

Beyond the benefits of training, breeding and producing working dogs that can serve our communities, the IGP program has developed into an international sport.

IGP is a social outdoor hobby that brings great enjoyment to both human and canine participants.

The IGP program provides a venue where dogs are able to use their energy and natural behaviour in a constructive way, and which also heightens the special relationship between dogs and people.

IGP is a complex and physical activity for dogs. It would be unreasonable and unfair to ask a dog which was not so inclined, to participate in some of the more physical aspects. However, there are many dogs who thrive on that same ruggedness and complexity and it would also be unreasonable and unfair to block them from doing what their nature compels them to do. Those dogs can become hooligans when they have no outlet for their pent-up energy.

At its highest levels, IGP National and World Championships bring people together from all walks of life and nationalities to share their enjoyment of this specialised activity and the unique relationship it creates with their canine companions.

## **Benefits to society, the community and the country**

The IGP dog sport does not exist in isolation, nor is it exclusively a hobby. It has a broad ranging influence from the hobbyist to the professional. It has a positive impact on local business communities with the activities generating revenue in restaurants, hotels, car rentals, flights and other travel

and tourism related businesses. It supports the manufacturing of specialty clothing, equipment and related products. Generating both profit for businesses and tax dollars for governments.

For the hobbyist it is a great outlet for both the people and the dogs.

Local dog sport clubs also provide guidance and education in responsible dog ownership, promoting responsible housing, training and treatment of dogs and animals in general.

In today's post 9/11 world, capable service dogs have become more in demand for the security of our country. Shortages of quality service dogs are being felt around the world. Policing, customs and military agencies are struggling to fill the need and some are turning to publicly (taxpayer) funded breeding and puppy rearing programs costing tens of millions of dollars. Most of these programs have had low rates of success compared to what is available from the IGP breed club programs.

The IGP sport dog community can readily provide for most of these shortcomings. Often the IGP handlers are better educated than most service programs because they have many more hours applied to training and education than service programs.

Breeding dogs is certainly not the main expertise of policing and military agencies. Nor should it be. The limited resources of those agencies should be dedicated to their core business, rather than to breeding dogs or manufacturing equipment. The IGP civilians are the experts and that expertise should be utilised to the fullest.

The IGP sport dog community relies and builds on over a century of experience and knowledge gained from training and intense competition passed down through generations. Many enthusiasts are highly skilled, willing and equipped. A key imperative for the IGP dogsport fraternity is training and testing and breeding for the next generation of sporting and working dogs. 🐾



# What is the SV Puppy test - and why

The ZAP-W test is a temperament test for German Shepherd Dogs from age 9 to 12 months and is part of the SV-ZuchtAnlagenPrüfung (SV-ZAP) Scheme introduced by the Schaeferhunde Verein (SV).

**T**he SV-ZAP Scheme is part of the WUSV Breeding Program. The second part of the SV-ZAP Scheme, ZAP-A, is a 3-discipline PASS/FAIL title. The ZAP-A is very similar to the IGP-ZTP and IGP-1 (FCI Utility Dog Scheme) except for the entry eligibility criteria: ZAP-A entry requirements are a passed ZAP-W and AD endurance title. In the WUSV Breeding Program, the ZAP-A part may be replaced with IGP-ZTP or IGP-1.

## **What's involved in a ZAP-W Puppy Assessment?**

There are a total of 18 exercises which assess:

- » General Disposition
- » Social Behaviour
- » Sound Reactivity
- » Motoric Skills
- » Play and Prey Drive
- » Basic Character

The various exercises are not performed in 'obedience mode' and commands are limited. The response/behaviour of the dog during the various exercises are noted in a standard assessment matrix. A dog will receive a Certificate if passing the assessment.

A handler is allowed to present a maximum of two dogs at an assessment.

## **Why is the Puppy Test important?**

The SV incentive is to build a database of the responses/behaviours of young dogs to everyday scenarios. The exercises were carefully developed to capture the personality of a young dog. Personality is scientifically defined as the sum of Temperament and Character:

## Why Temperament and Character are different

**Temperament** is defined by intrinsic traits, "It's in the genes". This is the instinctive part that always show up first. For example, some babies are more likely to have a good mood or a bad mood. In human terms, these babies are often referred to as 'easier' or 'more difficult'. As Temperament is genetic, it is hard to modify, manipulate or change. This is what the ZAP-W aims to capture/describe using a standardised template.

**Character** is derived from environmental exposure and training. It's a reflection of cultivation. Its about social interactions and educational habits. It shapes the personality and only takes its fullest form during adolescence. Subject to the instinctive based temperament, a handler can take (some) control over the temperament and develop the character of the dog. The success (or failure) to do this is subject to the drives and trainability.

The ZAP-W assesses the instinctive drives and temperament. The ZAP-A assesses the trainability and resulting personality in the grown up dog. Collectively, the SV-ZAP Scheme was developed to gauge breeding eligibility. The scheme should be used by responsible breeders - and if you plan to get a GSD puppy, ask the breeder whether the parents have been tested for these traits so characteristic of the German Shepherd.

### Instinct versus Drive

The Drive determines the degree to which a dog exhibits Instinctive behaviour.

Instincts have their roots in survival or reproduction. Drive has its beginning as instinct but more developed - AND OFTEN BREED SPECIFIC (or should be: retrieving drive for hunting dog breeds; herding drive in sheep dog breeds, etc).

### Examples of Instincts versus Drive

It is instinctive for a dog to salivate and eat, but the food drive determines how often, how eagerly and how intensely the dog pursues food.



To chase a ball should be instinctive for a German Shepherd - but it relies on the extent of its prey drive and certain hunting instincts (assessed in ZAP-W).

To pick the ball up and continually return it to you shows developed retrieving drive ("The Trainability") - the ZAP-A part.

### Why should I do it if not planning to breed?

The intent of the SV/WUSV is to generate a database of Temperament, Character and Trainability. When the database is big enough, then these records will be interrogated to determine whether it is possible to predict personalities of future GSD generations in a more scientific matter than the commonly "the mother/dad, grand parents" won such and such. The more dogs that are assessed, the more meaningful outcomes from statistical analyses aimed to identify BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS anchored 'in the genes', i.e. inherited. Something that should be of interest to any person wanting to buy a GSD puppy.

### Where do I find the next ZAP-W event?

Visit the WGSDCA Event site to find an event or follow our WGSDCA Facebook page to see the announcements. 🐾



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CLUB NEWS:  
**Norwest  
Dogsport  
Club**



*Spirit Fire*  
Photography





Norwest Dogsport Club members have been busy training their dogs getting them ready to trial in our Club Trial coming up, on the 1st and 2nd of May 2021.

**W**e should have a good size trial with members from other organisations wishing to participate, so we welcome them and wish our members good luck in the trial. We have quite a few dogs getting ready for their BH and first timers for IGP1 titles! Very exciting times ahead.

We are very much looking forward to the WGSDCA National Championship this year as we should have an elite team of competitors.

Norwest Dogsport Club has relocated club grounds to Liverpool NSW. We are very happy with the new grounds being more accessible to our members that travel such a long way to come to training, as most members travel from the south of Sydney.

We would like to welcome our newest dog and handler team to the Norwest Club, Thomas and his dog 'Schutzshep Kevin'. This team has the goods and we look forward to watching their journey in IGP.

Thomas has also started his Helper Apprenticeship under member and WGSDCA teacher helper John Daniel. Thomas is young, naturally talented, keen, and has that 'spark' in his eye to be the best he can be! We wish you all the best Thomas and look forward seeing you develop further.

We would also like to thank member Murray Atkin for taking time out of his busy schedule for the members and their dogs in the Character work. It takes a team to develop



and train each dog to get them ready to trial, so even when people are flat out in their day to day life, we do appreciate all the assistance from the members to help each other. And we would like to thank John Daniel for continuing to develop helpers for the club as it's always demanding to keep members growing and developing into the best they can be and the knowledge passed on is priceless.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the trial field! 🐾





**CLUB NEWS:**

# Scenic Rim Sportsdog Club

BY JULIE ULBRICH

Scenic Rim Sportsdog Club (SRSC) is situated in the idyllic region of the Gold Coast Hinterland, 30 minutes from the beautiful Goad Coast beaches and 80 minutes from the hustle and bustle of Brisbane city.

**S**RSC joined WGSDCA in 2020. It was an easy decision for us as our members are all German Shepherd dog owners and trainers.

Before starting up SRSC founding members used to travel a 2 hour 40 minute round trip twice a week to train however, with some locally grown interest in the sport a decision to form a new club was made and we haven't looked back. The club now trains in the centre of the little country township of Canungra.

The majority of our members are new to the sport so we haven't held a trial this year as yet however, it is on our agenda to do! We have been lucky though, with the support from Metro Dogsport Club and its members to have titled some of our dogs in their trials.

2 x BHs, 2 x TR1, 1 x TR2, 1 x IGP1 and my girl Xena narrowly missing out on her IGP2 (cheeky girl) we have been working hard and fingers crossed it all falls into place next trial.

We would also like to welcome new members Paige, Susanne, Karen and Jake to the club.

Let's hope that 2021 continues to allow all of us to keep training and trialling. We look forward to seeing you all at trial soon. 🐾



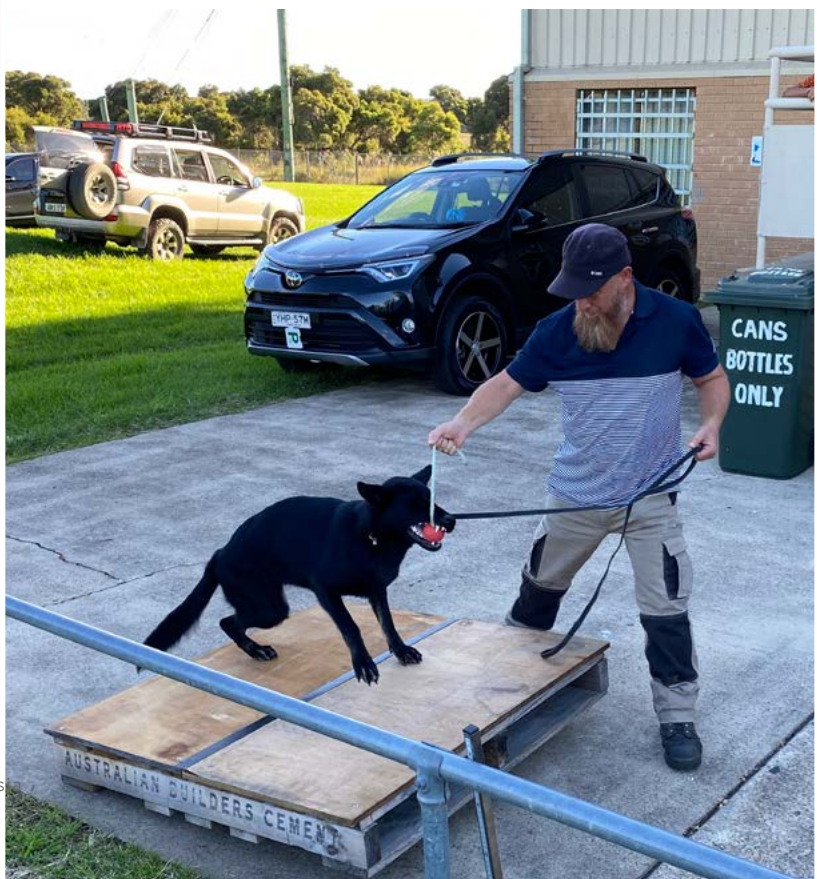


## CLUB NEWS:

# Sydney Dogsport Club

Year 2021 has been pretty steady and uneventful right up til the one-in-a-50-year flooding hit the Hawkesbury area 20-23 March.

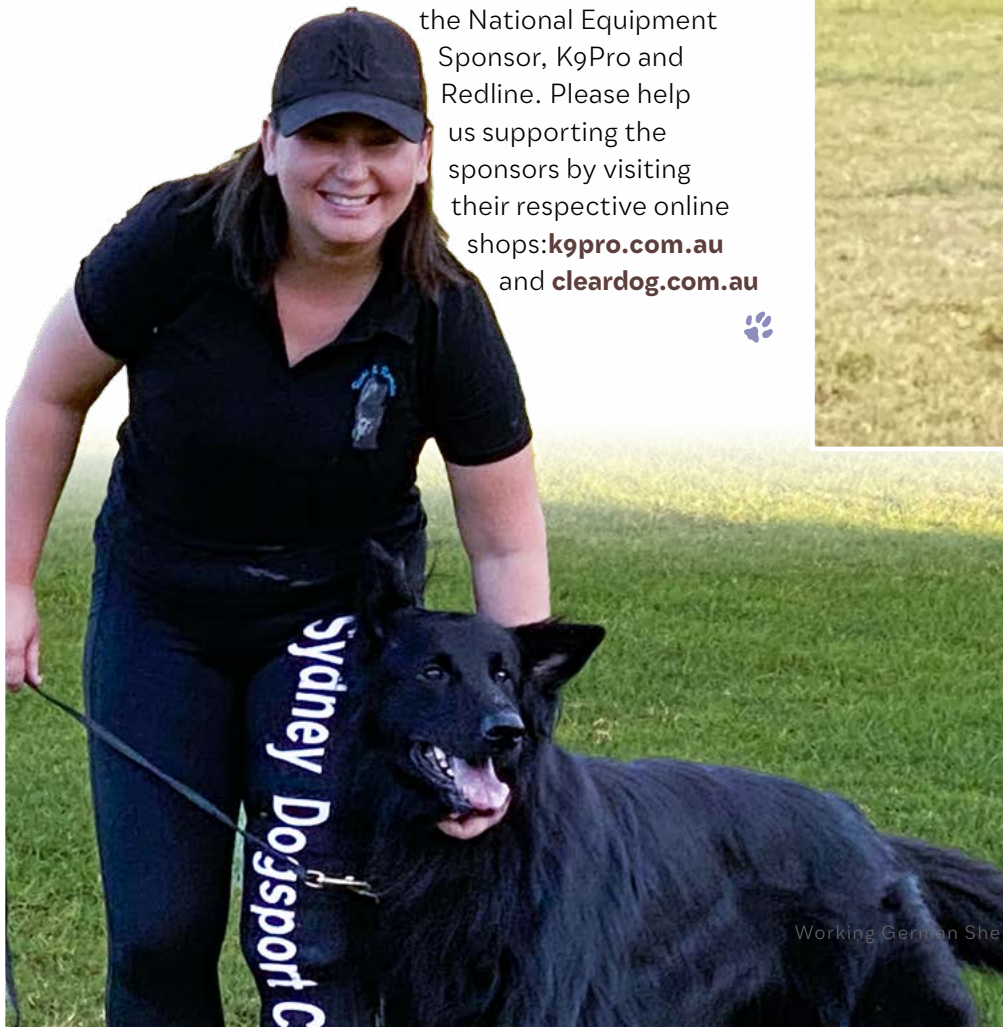
**O**f course days out from our Club Trial, March 27-28, which we had already cancelled twice during 2020. On the Thursday before the trial, we spent 3 hours navigating our way through the flooded area trying to find alternative tracking fields as the booked polo field was 2m under water. We had a contact at a TAFE area who felt sorry for us and allowed us to use their fields for tracking on 28 March.



The trial event was important not only for our participants but also for the WGSDCA as an organisation as we were hosting the first ZAP-W “Puppy” assessments as well. Congratulations to Dean Kannan and his 9 months GSD Raven for passing the puppy assessment and as such being part of a new historic milestone for WGSDCA.

We also congratulate our first-time trial SDSC member, Shantelle, for successfully passing the BH-VT with both of her dogs, Roman and Rubi, and for Sanne and Bindee for getting their IGP2. Last but not least, we also had Paul and Bosco trying for an IGP1. Their B and C run outs were very nice, but unfortunately the mob of kangaroos at the tracking field was just a tad too much for Bosco to stay focus on the scent that matters from a point perspective. With our club trial behind us, we will now turn our full attention to the last pieces that need to be sorted for the 2021 WGSDCA national Championship. To those of you who plan to participate, please note the entry deadline: **10 May**.

We are grateful for the support from WGSDCA and Clear Dog Treats, but in particular, SDSC appreciates the unprecedented support from the National Equipment Sponsor, K9Pro and Redline. Please help us supporting the sponsors by visiting their respective online shops: [k9pro.com.au](http://k9pro.com.au) and [cleardog.com.au](http://cleardog.com.au)

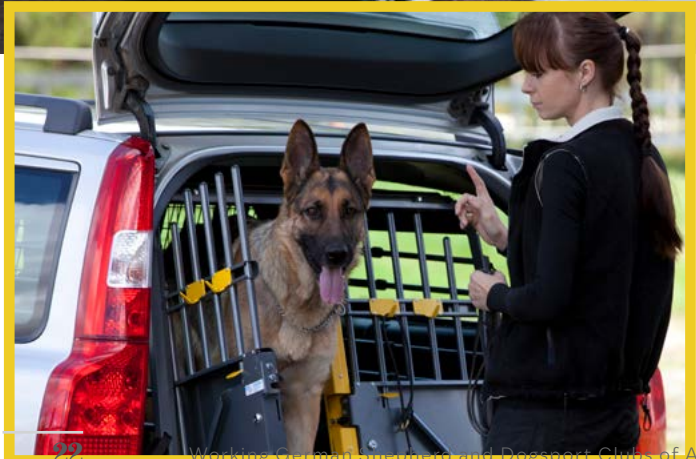


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