

WINTER 2018

# WGSIDCA

## Dogsport Magazine



WORKING GERMAN SHEPHERD AND DOGSPORT CLUBS OF AUSTRALASIA

# WGSDCA EDITORS FROM THE DESK

Thank you to everyone who participated in naming WGSDCA's Quarterly magazine. The name we felt best suited the magazine was WGSDCA Dogsport Magazine.

Our Winter 2018 edition features our IPO National Championship and is filled with lots of photos of the event.

Thank you to the members who have contributed to the magazine. We love hearing your achievements and how you are doing as a club. So keep them coming! You can send articles and pictures to [WGSDCAeditor@gmail.com](mailto:WGSDCAeditor@gmail.com)

## TRIALS/EVENTS/SEMINARS

- 4 August **AD Trial** (Endurance)  
*Metro Dogsport Club*
- 18– 19 August **A Closer Look at IPO Workshop** –  
*Sydney Dog Sport Club*
- Queensland** **IPO – Part C Workshop** – WGSDCA  
26 – 28 *Director of Helpers Mr Balakrishnan and*  
October *WGSDCA Trial Helper & Apprentice Judge*  
*Mr Lakatos.*

For more information visit WGSDCA website  
[www.wgsdca.org.au](http://www.wgsdca.org.au)

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## 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.



## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

June 2018

Welcome to the second issue of WGSDCA 2018 Newsletter series.

I am very pleased with seeing all our members being willing to contribute to the content and the amount of activities in the last 3 months is amazing. Keep up the good work.

We have just completed our 2018 WGSDCA IPO National Championship, and on behalf of the WGSDCA BOM, I thank the hosting Club and all those individuals who were involved in putting on such a professional venue for our competitors. A special thanks to our main sponsor, Black Hound Enterprises who has committed to a 3-year sponsorship of our National Championships. We also thank Von Ultimate Dog Shop for the donation of the Competitor Show bags. I am aware that all the competitors were over the moon about the content. On that note, a big congratulation to this year's IPO National Champions. In particular, the BOM wishes Team Australia, led by Team Captain Reg Worth, all the best at the 2018 WUSV World Championship in Randers, Denmark, 3 – 7 October. Should you be interested in supporting the Team in form of cash donations, then go to the WGSDCA crowd funding page at [www.wgsdca-crowdfunding.com](http://www.wgsdca-crowdfunding.com) or visit our webpage and follow the links. We thank you in advance for your support.

As reflected in this issue, our Club Affiliates have been very active with seminars, lectures and trials. Keep it coming. Keep promoting the GSD as a working dog. The hard work by many of our members, recently as well as in the past, has finally paid off as the WUSV Board in April approved the WGSDCA National Championship to be the qualifying event to represent Australia at future WUSV World Championship. I personally thank many of those who pushed for this way before I joined the Organisation as well as my fellow BOM members who have worked so hard to make this a reality. The WGSDCA also thanks SV Judge Uwe Stolpe who over many years have guided the WGSDCA towards this goal, but our gratitude also goes to SV Head Judge, Wilfried Tautz, who have helped in more recent times.

All in all, I believe the WGSDCA is making history as we speak. We await the verdict as to whether our Director of Judges, Mr. Reg Worth, passed his practical assessment at the National in relation to becoming the first (EVER) SV National IPO judge in Australia.

On that note and on behalf of the WGSDCA BOM, I thank our members for their continuous dedication to the GSD, the WUSV WHP and maintenance of the highest standards of conduct when representing WGSDCA both on and off the field.

WGSDCA President

Sanne Pedersen



# JANY BOHM SEMINAR SYDNEY

2017 FMBB World Champion and multiple time Czech Republic Champion, Jany Bohm, travelled to Australia in March and presented two IPO seminars. His laid back attitude, extremely humble demeanour and excellent training methodologies ensured he was invited back to Australia for the second time to allow Australian trainers the opportunity to learn from one of the best obedience coaches and Helpers in the world.

Having attended the 2017 and 2018 Sydney seminars, there are a few very clear factors that Jany's training has that make it obvious as to why he has so consistently been successful on the National and International stage. I think this comes down to three factors; his team, his dog and his ability to communicate to his dog in a way that makes it very clear as to what he wants and expects from him.

These three factors beamed though when he was instructing. He always provided a way for someone else to be involved, he had members of SDSC working with each other spotting teammates so skills learnt could be taken back

to the club environment and perfected. Things like using team members to assist in restrained recalls, pulling dogs out of position on a back line which made the dog push back into the 'Happy Spot', or even having people spotting the way their teammates walk or run during heeling.

He gave honest feedback to budding IPO trainers on the suitability of their dog, and how they can adjust the way they train to bring the most out of them. One stand out was the work he did was with a young Rottweiler. Jany saw what the dog could do and decided that something could be changed; using a whip in the Rottie's obedience added emotion from the handler and resulted in wonderful heeling.

Jany also made situations for the dog's he was working black and white, using high praise then when the dog was performing and correcting aversives when dogs weren't. This measured approach that allowed learning at an accelerated rate. Two attending dogs had issues outing. Both dogs knew how to perform the out command but in their stubborn nature, refused to do so. Jany identified that the dogs needed to be given the



PHOTOS: MURRAY ATKIN.

chance to out, and a firm aversive be delivered after they had been given a chance. He did this with both dogs and they then started to out perfectly. This clear communication from Jany to both of the dogs allowed the dogs to learn to out in a matter of repetitions, not a matter of sessions.

The seminar in Sydney was attended by 16 People and 13 Dogs. There were members from various clubs and states. Dogs ranged in age from 11 weeks to 2 years, and breeds with GSD's, Malinois and a lone Rottie in attendance. The environment was extremely relaxed and all enjoyed the time with each other.

The event was hosted by both PRO K9 Supplies and SDSC and was held on the 2-acre ATARO Training Field.

I would like to thank the owner of ATARO and PRO K9 Supplies, Maurice Delle Coste, The manager of PRO K9 Supplies, Michelle Daniel and most importantly the man himself, Jany Bohm for putting together yet another great seminar.





# JANY BOHM SEMINAR

## BRISBANE 10 – 11 MARCH 2018

After the Sydney Seminar Jany and the event organiser Maurice flew up to Brisbane to hold the second seminar. The seminar was hosted by Brisbane Sporting Dog Club and ran over two days.

Day one was getting to know the handlers and dog teams. Each handler was asked what they wanted to work on and Jany had them working their dogs in obedience and character work so he could assess where they were at and then work on a plan to start making changes to the training and handling of the dogs (and people). There was a great range of experience from the novice to the experienced handler. The dogs also ranged in age and level, so we got to see a lot of different exercises and techniques being used. What I loved was Jany's honesty and when needed he didn't shy away from telling people the truth.

Day two..... Queensland what can you say 'Beautiful one day perfect the next'. Well that's what Maurice told Jany to get him to come up here! But perfect it wasn't and the rain came and went all day. When I say rain I mean it poured down and it always seemed to be one of the guys from the Gold Coast who copped it. We called him the Rain maker!

Personally I got so much out of the seminar and really enjoyed working my dog with Jany. Can't wait until he returns next year.







PHOTOS: WILDDOG PHOTOGRAPHY

WGSDCA's 16th IPO National Championship was held in Penrith, New South Wales and hosted by Sydney Dogsport Club (SDSC). Congratulations to SDSC for their professional running of the event.

Events like these take a lot of work and support especially from sponsors. WGSDCA feel very honoured to have Black Hound and Von Ultimate come on board as our National Sponsors. Not to forget the SDSC members, our friends from Enigma Coffee Emporium who catered for the weekend, Lyn Ellerton who designed all the National logos and merchandise, Mike and Jane Harper from Wilddog photography and Natalie Woelfel (WGSDCA judge) who flew over from New Zealand to take on the Trial Secretary's job. Natalie, the judges were so impressed by you, commenting on how efficient you were and how quickly you were at getting the paperwork ready.

Our judges for the nationals were Herr Wilfried Tautz SV Chief Judge and Herr Uwe Stolpe, it was such a privilege to have them return to Australia again to judge this year's championship. The Nationals also provided Mr Reg Worth WGSDCA's Director of Judges the opportunity to undertake his practical examination to be appointed as a SV foreign judge under Herr Tautz and Herr Stolpe. Mr Worth completed his written exam in Germany in March. You can read more about this on page 13.







This year saw an increased interest in the event and it was great to see so many people from the various German Shepherd Clubs around Australia (not counting WGSDCA members who are also GSDC members). The WUSV Continental Director of Oceania Mr Louis Donald also attended the competition over the weekend catching up with judges. Thank you to our national's promoter Mr Chris Loverseed you did a great job promoting the event. We continue to have great feedback from the championship and an increased interest in the sport.

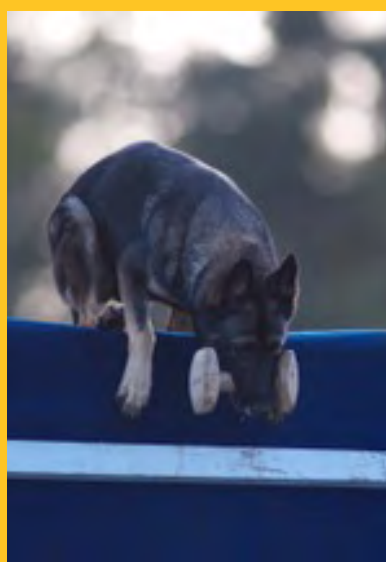
Seventeen entries including a record number of BH dogs which is encouraging to see the next wave of IPO dogs coming through. The competition was exciting with a nail biting finish with only a few points between the winner and runner-up. Congratulations to Sanne Pedersen WGSDCA's IPO National Champion with her dog Jabina Soro. Sanne will now go on to represent Australia at the WUSVI IPO World Championships in Denmark in October.





# Catching the action at the 2018 Nationals

PHOTOS: WILDDOG PHOTOGRAPHY



# 2018 WUSV IPO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP – DENMARK

**Sometimes dreams really do come true and not only once but twice!**

Sanne Pedersen from Sydney Dogsport Club won this year's WGSDCA's IPO National Championship. Of course you don't get to be as successful as Sanne without giving it your all, putting in the hard yards and having a passion for the German Shepherd Dog and the sport of IPO. This will be Sanne's second time representing Australia! In 2016, Sanne successfully competed for Australia in the WUSV IPO Championships in Germany.

Over the last few years the winner of our Nationals has been invited by the WUSV to represent Australia at the World Championships. What makes this year so special for Sanne is that she will be representing Australia in the country she was born in. I think there might be some Danes cheering for the other side... Aussie, Aussie Aussie Oi, Oi, Oi. But what a great feeling to have your Australian and Danish family and friends cheering you on.

The competition runs from 3 to 8 October 2018, so Sanne and Jabina Soro will need to arrive quite a few days before the start of the competition so they can adjust to the weather and get over the long trip there. Sanne will be supported by the Australian team Captain Reg Worth and other Aussie IPO supporters and family who will help her prepare in the days before and during the competition.



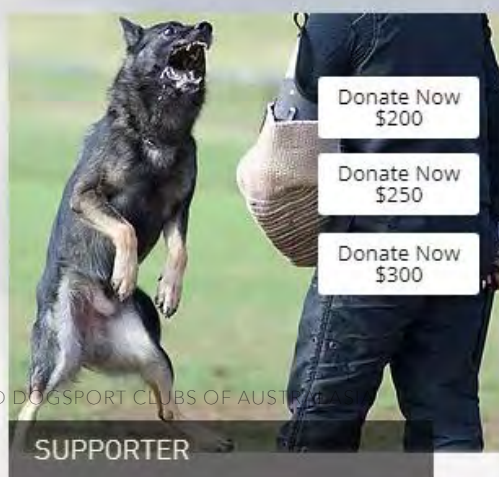
As you can imagine the cost of going to a World Championship is enormous however, it is such an honour to do so that somehow you have to make it happen. To help Sanne with some of the cost of competing at the WUSV World Championships, WGSDCA have set up a Crowdfunding page on the WGSDCA website [www.wgsdca-crowdfunding.com](http://www.wgsdca-crowdfunding.com). So jump on board and donate! Your help aids the Campaign of Promoting the IPO Scheme for the Betterment and Welfare of Modern Working Breeds. Giving is not just about donating it's about making a difference.

## Thank You for Your Generosity

Giving is not just about make a donation, it's about making a difference

### Sponsorship Levels & Benefits

A summary Table of benefits of the various Donation are provided below  
\*\*Table not visible if you are reading this on your mobile phone\*\*





# SV JUDGES SEMINAR AUGSBURG GERMANY

This year I was invited by the SV to apply to become an SV foreign judge. The process involved a two day seminar followed by a written examination and practical examination under an SV Judge. Here is a look into my few days in Germany.

On Saturday 3rd of March at 2.30am I started my 24 hour flight to Munich, stopping in Singapore and Dubai. I arrived in Munich at 7.30pm, jumped in the hire car and drove 50 minutes to Augsburg. I was glad there was a GPS in the hire car until I realised the language was set in German and I couldn't quite work out how to change it, so I quickly learnt what "left and right" was in German. All was well, I made it to the Hotel in one piece.

Sunday was a recovery day for me and believe me I needed it. Luckily, Sundays are very quiet in Augsburg as nothing is open. So I decided to go for a walk and ended up walking for quite a while along the river, it was really pretty with snow everywhere and church bells ringing throughout the town all day. I later took a drive to the SV office so I knew where I needed to be the next day. Luckily by this time I had talked to Uwe and worked out how to change the language on the GPS to English!

Monday started with all the judges meeting at the SV office where we were welcomed by the Vice President of the SV as unfortunately Mr Messler could not be there. Mr Setecki gave a presentation on the SV and WUSV and their organisational structure. Following the presentation we were taken on a tour of the SV office

and got to meet all the staff and learn a bit about their roles. This was very exciting to see where all the printing of the pedigrees, magazine and catalogues for the bigger competitions were made.

At the end of the tour we all went back to the hotel for lunch, this was an opportunity for us to get to know other judges from around the world. After lunch we went into the conference room where we were given a presentation by the Breed Warden on the health of the GSD and some statistics on HD/ED and DM, this presentation was in German so I didn't understand all of it, however I understood what they were saying about the health of the GSD from the statistics shown. Mr Clements Lux then gave a talk on the GSD as a utility dog and how important this is and why it should never be forgotten. Mr Setecki followed on from this with a presentation about the World Harmonisation Program.

On Tuesday the judges were split into two groups, working and show. The five working judges relocated to another conference room with Mr Wilfred Tautz. There were two judges from Taiwan, one from Brazil, one from the Netherlands and myself. The whole day focused on the three phases and the temperament test. We went through the rules and watched videos discussing aspects of judging including deductions and gradings etc. It was a really full on day with so much information crammed in to it. Needless to say I was exhausted by the end of the day but I didn't have time to think about that as the exam was the next day and I spent the night going over all my notes, reading the rules and not much sleep.



Wednesday morning 9am, we all met up in the conference room and Mr Tautz handed out the tests. I think there were approximately 30-35 questions and we were given a couple of hours to complete the test. It was great to see that all five working judges passed. When everyone (both show and working judges) had finished, we all had lunch together and then returned to the main conference room where there was a presentation of certificates for the passing participants. At the end of the presentation the training seminar was officially closed.

Thursday was a 5am start as I had to drive back to Munich airport to catch my flight back to Australia.

The trip was certainly an intense one, traveling such a long way in such a short time but I had a great time and it was an experience I will never forget.

At the WGSDCA National Championship I completed my practical examination under Mr Tautz and Mr Stolpe.





It has been a busy first half of the year for the team at ESGD, our first club trial for the year in April (adjudicated by Mr. Reg Worth) was successful for all of our members – IPO.3 for Istvan & Qaiser 92 92 95, Chris & Ninja 85 95 94, Leo & Ozzy 71 70 77. IPO.2 for Jay & Gusto 85 90 87, TR.1 for Michael & Utah 79, and a BH Pass for Crystal & Vikus. With the exception of Michael, all went on to represent the club and show our support of the annual WGSDCA National IPO competition in the same levels achieved at our April club trial. The Nationals produced mixed results for our members, Istvan and Qaiser placed

2nd with HIT protection and HOT awards, Leo and Ozzy placed 3rd with awards for Best Sportsman and Best Handler. Unfortunately for Chris, he did not have Ninja's usual commitment and focus in tracking, Ninja also received an equally unfortunate DQ after a mishap in the protection phase. Jay also left disappointed after Gusto lost his track and also suffered a mishap in the protection phase. Crystal also had success with Vikus, placing 2nd in BH.

Despite the mixed results, it was great to see every member of our club attending the Nationals. The support of the membership is so important to the continuation of this great event. In addition to the dog aspect, it's always a good time for some socializing with like-minded people. We were lucky enough to secure accommodation at a nearby horse property which was absolutely magnificent, and all things considered, it was a great trip.

Immediately after the Nationals after attending his Australian seminars, our members enjoyed some one on one time with FMBB World Champion 2016 and Vice Champion 2018, Arnold Kivago, during which time we gained some invaluable tools to help us all improve on our work with our dogs. We look forward to returning to the WGSDCA Nationals next year even stronger.

Happy Training all!



# BEAR DETECTION AND CHASE CANINE IN HOKKAIDO JAPAN

WRITTEN BY AMANDA PARRY  
VON DARCOR KENNELS, QUEENSLAND

When most people think of Japan, the last thing they probably think of are bears. In early 2017 we were to learn very quickly, that there are in fact lots of bears in this country; two species to be exact, the Asiatic Black Bear and Brown Bears. Doctor's Yuh Iguchi and Yuri Karatachi from the Japanese Canine Bear Detection and Chase Program approached us for the supply of a developed German Shepherd Dog to join their current Bear Detection and Chase Team of working high-content wolf-hybrids.

Vondarcor Oxzsa was one of only three in her litter, her full brother Ox, remained in our working program also developed for the working capability. She was to be and is developed to assist allocated Handlers of community Bear Patrol Teams in the detection, chase and if required, engagement of Brown Bears in the community, on the Japanese island of Hokkaido. In February 2018, at 11 months of age, Oxzsa flew to Japan where she joined her Handler and his two other working canines – high content wolf-hybrids (97%).

In Japan there is a long history of bear and human encounters within communities, sadly with human fatalities or wounding's – bears were, and are still hunted and killed, being viewed of higher value in mortality due to the health trade. Currently, experts believe a number of factors are contributing to the increase in bears encroaching on residential and farming areas including climatic elements that have affected the abundance of the bears natural food sources. With extinction of bear populations in particular locations of Japan, and educational programs, there has been a shift in community opinion of bears and growing concern that mortality rates of bears through hunting, would soon exceed







the reproduction rates, together with the increased human and bear encounters and subsequent attacks and deaths of humans – The Canine Bear Detection and Chase Program was established. The intervention program is a Japanese Government conservation initiative to promote the coexistence between Japanese communities and bear populations residing on the edges of mountains and forestry, with strong emphasis on bear conservation and preservation of human life. Statistically – in 2016, the year prior to our contact with Dr Iguchi, at least four (recorded) people were killed and 80 wounded in bear attacks between April and September, which topped the previous years total of 64 attacks and two deaths. Some 400 bears were shot dead near human-populated areas by Hunters on Japan's far northern island of Hokkaido alone, where two recorded deaths had already occurred in 2017 when we were approached and where Oxzsa is now deployed.

Initially high content wolf hybrids were engaged for their size and natural hunting instincts. The problems being encountered by Handlers and Trainers include the high aloofness, lower work ethic (attributed to domestication and select breeding) and lower trainability in the wolves, and their dependence of the pack, hindering the success of the program. While wolves are still very much a part of the program, the objective is to lower the wolf content to dog content ratio and increase the trainability, work ethic and independence in work. German Shepherd Dogs are the select breed of dog for the program for their balance, higher trainability, drives and nerve, and are slowly being introduced to the canine teams.

The challenges faced with selection of the most appropriate dog to meet the requirements of

the initiative in accordance with the Japanese Government, the hurdles faced with Oxzsa's training and development program, especially given that bears are not native to Australia, and her accomplishments and successes both throughout her training and development, her pre-preparation both here and in Japan, as well as her deployment in Hokkaido remain one of, if not our most challenging, yet proud accomplishments to date. The support shown to us from external agents in this respect as well as the small team of people that assisted in her development, from the Agricultural, Zoological and diverse canine working industries as well as the sporting fraternity demonstrates the importance of Australian breeders, trainers and suppliers working together rather than autonomously and competitively. Oxzsa's deployment to Japan in this role is an Australian first, yet without fellow industry and sporting stakeholders – her success would not have been achievable.



# METRO DOGSPORT CLUB – IPO TRIAL

## MARCH 2018



The beginning of 2018 was wet...wet...wet and our club fields took a real hit! The fields we train on have always had drainage problems but with the continued rain it never seemed to recover and really put a dampener (pardon the pun) on being able to train. Even the middle of the field was ankle deep in water.

We had planned to have a trial in March 2018 and when we realised that Sydney Dog sport Club (SDSC) were holding a trial around the same time with SV judge Herr Uwe Stople we asked SDSC if Metro could also use Uwe to judge our trial. We Thank SDSC for agreeing to share Uwe, it was such a great opportunity for the club.

Well the rain continued and we thought we may need Noah's Ark to navigate the training field. We also lost two of our field lights just to add to the chaos. So with the rain and our lighting problems it was probably one of the worst lead-ups to any trial we have had in our history!!

We kept everything crossed in hope that the rain would stop the week before the trial so we could use our field but unfortunately it wasn't to be so we had to make a last minute call! We asked Brisbane Sporting Dog Club if it was possible for us to use their field and they kindly said yes. We really appreciate the help they gave us.

BSDC arranged for us to have the use of the main football field which was awesome. So we had the Thursday night before the trial just to do a bit of training and then ran the trial the next night.

Although only a small trial of four, it was encouraging to see the interest and the number of spectators that came to watch. Overall the trial was a success with an IPO VO and 2 IPO 1 titles gained. It was a real credit to all the dogs and handlers as this really was a nightmare lead-up to a trial!







# NORWEST DOGSPORT CLUB

Norwest Dogsport Club (NWDC) is the newest Affiliate of WGSDCA, founded in late April 2018 in Sydney. Starting with 5 members in April, Norwest is now 13 members strong, with members travelling from the Central Coast and Wollongong! Our Training days are very busy but we have a great time enjoying the training of the 3 disciplines along with the fabulous cakes provided by the members.

Norwest had four members compete at the WGSDCA 2018 Nationals in the BH Category, with all four dogs passing!

Murray Atkin With 'Schutzshep Chaos', Michelle Daniel with 'Schutzshep Bang', Paul Burke with 'Monsimbee Joia' and Nicola Meadow with 'Monsimbee Emmerich'. Our Club was extremely proud as members Paul & Nicola had never seen a trial, let alone compete at their first trial at a WGSDCA National event and passing under a SV Judge. Congrats to all competitors, you did the club proud.

NWDC is now planning their first club trial for later this year, hoping to have at least 6 dogs for BH, 4 dogs for IPO1 and an IPO2. These sure are exciting times ahead for our new club due to the range of dedicated members who bring along various experience and knowledge to the group.

We would like to introduce to you to the youngest club member 'Schutzshep Edge' who is owned by John Daniel and is showing all of us at 'Norwest' how it is done! Welcome Edge!

Happy Training and we look forward to seeing you all on the trial field!



# MUSCLE DAMAGE

Muscle Injuries, including ligament and tendon damage, are usually classified as stage 1-2 or 3 injuries, starting with severe strains as stage 1 through to torn or ruptured muscles at stage 3.

I would like to look at the reasons for muscle injuries occurring.

Quite often undesirable changes in muscle structure consist of the top edge of the muscle sheaths separating between various muscles or muscle groups that are normally joined together.

When the dog/s have had a period of 5 to 6 sessions of serious work loads, this can be the most venerable time that follows. This is when it's likely to have undesirable changes in muscle structure. These changes consist of the top edge of the muscle sheaths separating between various muscles or muscle groups that are normally joined together.

Separation that often occurs between the bottom edge of the GLUTEAL and the top edge of the TENSOR FACIA LATA. This separation if left untreated, will eventually result in a torn groin that splits at the top edge of the PECTINEUS. They can also sustain injuries to the front and rear legs effecting different muscles, ligaments and tendons.

The only reason that these changes occur is due to the repetitive strain causing some muscle to tighten into excessive muscle tone.

The muscle still functions and contracts as normal but is no longer capable of allowing the limb to extend fully.

Just because you can stretch the dogs leg fully out, has little to show you what really occurs when the dog is running flat out or scaling a 6-foot wall.

Treating excessive muscle tone after each strenuous work out will minimise all of the muscle injuries.

Locating excessive muscle tone and injury problems can be done by touch. Checking for swelling, different muscle texture and a pain response but too much pressure can give a false indication.

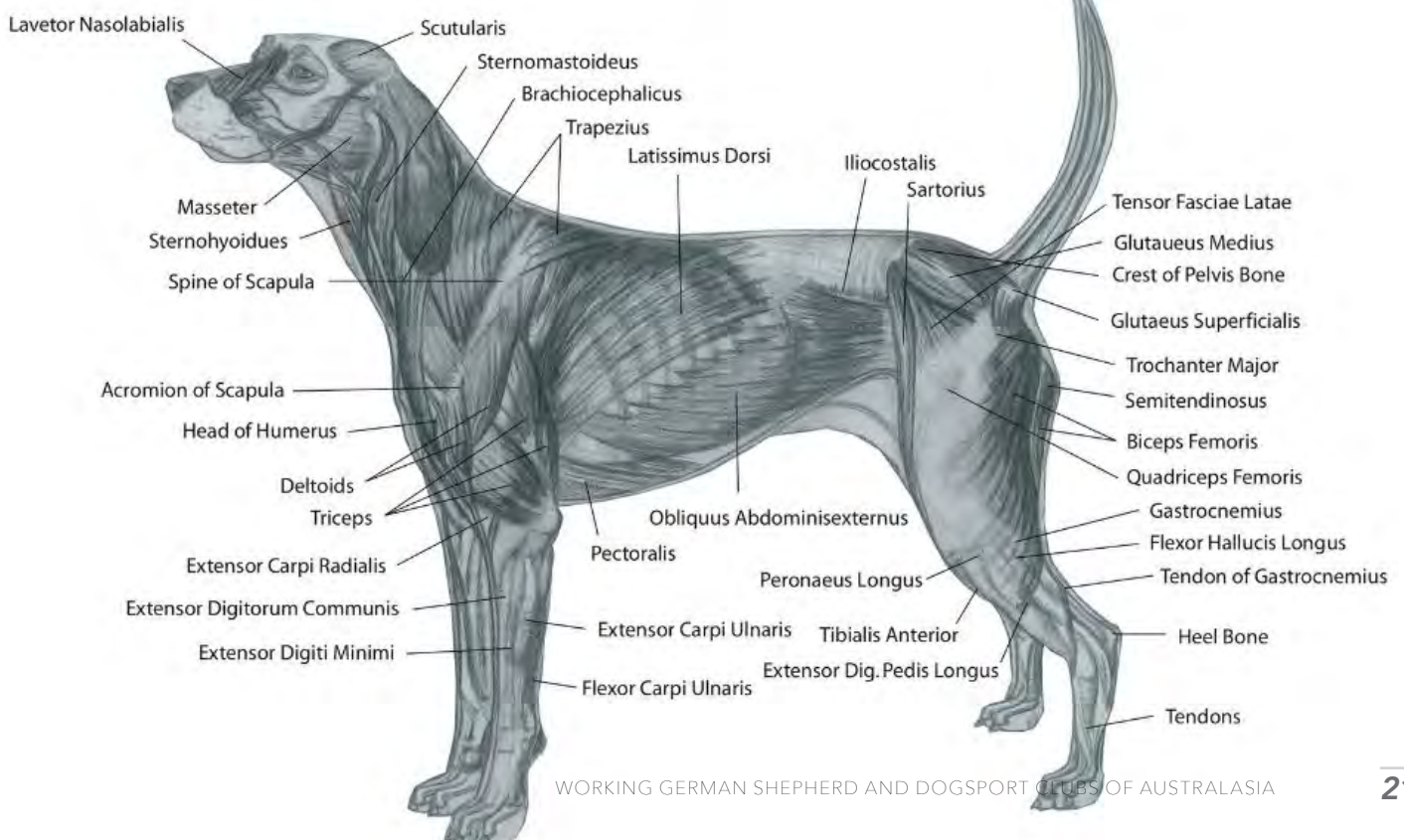
To help avoid such problems it is a good idea to have the dog checked over and be given a muscle massage that includes pressure on the various muscle points at the top and bottom of all the muscles. This is easily done by yourself. Walking the dog as soon as possible after strenuous exercise assists in the muscles recovery.

## Dog Chiropractic & Therapy Centre

[www.dog-chiropractors.com](http://www.dog-chiropractors.com)

Garry Pitt: [dogchiropractor@bigpond.com](mailto:dogchiropractor@bigpond.com)

Mobile: 0410 545 779



# SYDNEY DOGSPORT CLUB – ZAP-A “PUPPY TEST” LECTURE

BY JACQUELINE FABIAN



On March 25, 2018, I went to the first ZAP-A “Puppy Test” Lecture in Australia, which was hosted by the WGSDCA Club Affiliate, Sydney Dogsport Club and presented by SV Training Judge, Mr. Uwe Stolpe.

As a dual member of WGSDCA and GSDCA, I went to the seminar knowing that a lot of breeders, enthusiasts and even judges were not sure how they felt about the ZAP – or even exactly why all of a sudden, they felt this test was being thrust upon them. The ZAP-A puppy test is a newly introduced test by the Schäferhunde Verein (SV) and is part of the WUSV World Harmonisation Plan. The test is already implemented in the SV Breed Matrix, i.e. an obligatory requirement for breed survey in Germany. The members of the Australian WUSV Affiliate, German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA), carried a motion to implement this test for Australian Breed Surveys by end of 2019.

The lecture included a 2 hours slide presentation that provided the background and reasons behind the Puppy Test as well as the exercise categories included in the test. Puppies in the age bracket of 9 to 12 months are assessed for the following categories: Impartiality, Social Behaviour, Play and Prey instincts/behaviour under stress, movement on various surfaces, basic nature and

noise sensitivity. The test aims to observe and identify potential behavioural problems. The record created will be logged in the SV database for analysis and the hope is that in due time these records will inform potential issues within the breed or breeding line. The database will be accessible and enable in particular breeders to gauge whether to use a puppy or its line for future breeding, as the records will highlight potential intrinsic issues such as fear, gun shyness, extreme nervousness or extreme aggression.

A practical demonstration was offered after the theory session. There were four dogs who volunteered to run through the practical test: 2 young show line GSDs that were within the dictated age bracket, one working line GSD at the upper age limit and my Faith who was at the lower age limit. Faith is trained weekly in IPO. At 12 weeks of age she attended and gained her basic certificate in Nose work. Faith joins me for our regular morning coffee sessions at our local cafés, she spends time in the local community, such as schools, train stations and bus stops and gladly receives plenty of cuddles. She of course attends regularly, the local wine tasting at the wine shop where she is a crowd favourite.

The test started with the handler and dog walking up to the judge, shaking hands where after a series of prescribed questions followed, ie is the dog an inside or outside dog, what training has the dog received, then the coat, teeth, testicles (if a male) are checked and the measures of the dog were taken. During this the disposition of the dog was assessed in its relationship and interaction to its handler. The dog response to three different noises was then tested: chainsaw (minus the blade), a metal chain dropped from a height into a metal bowl and the gunshots. The next series of tests were the dog's reaction to uneven surfaces: the dog had to walk on a rocking surface, then play on the rocking surface. Then the dog's play and prey drive was looked at and again the body language was evaluated in this assessment. The last test really showed a marked difference in character and behaviour for me. This was a very simple test - the dog was tied up to a fence and left by the handler and without any human interaction for approximately 5 minutes. The working line puppy was very calm within a minute of being left and lay down quietly and calmly. Faith on the other hand fidgeted, whined and was unsettled. (This is an exercise that with a little bit of work I believe Faith could learn to be a lot calmer for, she has never been tied up before.) Both dogs in this test are family pets as well as being trained, in IPO and obedience and both have an active lifestyle with the working line dog living in the house with a 4 year old child.

My dog passed with flying colours and I left the lecture feeling the Puppy Test will make a difference for the future Australian GSD. However, I had a lot of confidence in the judge, who has attended training sessions in Germany and like all SV judges done a 3 weekend apprenticeships with other judges so that all could assess the dogs in the same manner. This included being able to read and assess the 'dogs body language'. This is the area where my concerns lie as without a background in dog training and obedience, I feel that a lot of our Australian judges are not able to correctly identify behavioural signals. Like Germany, I believe Australia would need to run a ZAP-A Surveyor courses.

With that said, this is a test that the average family pet owner should be able to pass, and should be encourage to do.

Thank you to Herr Uwe Stolpe and Sydney Dogsport Club for organising a seminar from which I learnt a lot.



A German Shepherd dog is running towards the camera on a green grassy field. In the background, there are blue and white banners with the words "HAPPY DOGS" and "HAPPY" visible. The dog has its mouth open, showing its teeth and tongue.

## SCOREBOOKS, SPORTS PASSES AND FORMS

When filling out the forms for your score books, sports passes, membership and in particular trial validation forms it would be appreciated if the forms could be typed rather than hand written, where possible, to ensure accurate records are kept and scorebooks and sportpasses reflect the correct information. Also when scanning please make sure the scans are of good quality in black and white.

Please ensure payment forms accompany all payments so the money can be allocated to the correct person and item eg. Smith - scorebook.

## 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. Send us an email to learn more.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

Send us an email for further information.

[secretary@wgsdca.org.au](mailto:secretary@wgsdca.org.au)