

UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA



RULES AND REGULATIONS MANUAL

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USCA RULES AND REGULATIONS MANUAL

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USCA MEMBERSHIP PROTECTION POLICY

New Applicants

1. New members are initially on a 180-day probationary period.
2. During the probationary period, USCA members may provide feedback on probationary members. If membership is challenged, probationary members will be contacted by the USCA Executive Board (EB) and will have two (2) weeks to provide evidence or a statement for consideration. The EB can then review evidence/statements and consider the documentation presented to them.
3. During the probationary period, a probationary member may have his membership revoked by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the EB.
4. Any probationary member that has their membership revoked may reapply for membership one (1) year following the revocation.

[\(EBB# 22-13\)](#)

USCA DOG AGGRESSION POLICY

The following will be the official USCA policy for dog aggression toward dogs and/or people:

1ST OFFENSE

- Immediate dismissal from the trial with all scores and ratings deleted and the following notation made in the scorebook: Dismissed/aggression to dog and/or person.
- USCA, USCA judges, and all USCA regional directors shall be informed of the incident.
- No later than one day following the event, the presiding judge at the event shall file a detailed report with the USCA Director of Judges describing the incident and actions taken. This report shall then be distributed to all USCA judges.

2ND OFFENSE

- Immediate dismissal from the trial with all scores and ratings deleted and the following notation made in the scorebook: Dismissed/aggression to dog and/or person.
- Suspension of the dog from all USCA-sanctioned events and/or activities for one year.
- Suspension of the handler from all USCA-sanctioned events and/or activities for six months.
- Surrender of the USCA scorebook for the dog to USCA for the duration of the suspension.
- USCA, USCA judges, and all USCA regional directors shall be informed of the incident.
- No later than one day following the event, the presiding judge at the event shall file a detailed report with the USCA Director of Judges describing the incident and actions taken. This report shall then be distributed to all USCA judges.

3RD OFFENSE

- Banishment of the dog from all USCA-sanctioned events and/or activities for life.
- Suspension of the handler from all USCA-sanctioned events and/or activities for one year.
- Destruction of the USCA scorebook for the dog.
- USCA, USCA judges, and all USCA regional directors shall be informed of the incident.
- No later than one day following the event, the presiding judge at the event shall file a detailed report with the USCA Director of Judges describing the incident and actions taken. This report shall then be distributed to all USCA judges.
- The information shall be published in the USCA magazine.

The officiating judge at an event where an incident occurs is the sole arbiter of any and all decisions made concerning faulty temperament and actions that dictate any of the policy described above.

If a dog bite incident is sufficiently severe or there is reason for the Director Of Judges to believe that the dog represents a significant menace to the public, the DOJ may refer the incident to the Judges' Committee, who may upgrade the offense to a second or third offense level. Any such increase in penalty must be approved by the Executive Board.

(EBB #18-11)

USCA REGIONAL POLICY

ELECTED OFFICERS

The Regional Officers positions will be Regional Director, Assistant Regional Director, Regional Breed Warden, Regional Training Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. The positions of Assistant Regional Director, Secretary, and/or Treasurer may be combined if there is not enough interest within the region to fill the vacancies individually.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION

Adapted from USCA Bylaws, Section 6:

- a. Candidates for all Regional Officers positions may be nominated by a Delegate from a full member club in that particular region. All nominations must be seconded.
- b. One need not be nominated to receive votes. Write in balloting is permitted.
- c. Regional Officers positions shall have a term of office of two (2) years and shall be elected in odd-numbered years.
- d. Elections may be held at a regional meeting or by mail between the dates of January 1, prior to the annual meeting and 14 days prior to the annual meeting of the General Board of Directors, provided, all full member clubs in the region are notified in writing, not less than thirty (30) days prior to said election. If this election is held, the USCA Secretary shall be notified of the result within ten (10) days.
- e. To be elected a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast by all the full member clubs in good standing in the particular region.

Should there be a midterm vacancy of the Regional Breed Warden, Regional Training Director, Secretary, or Treasurer, the Regional Director will appoint a member from their region until an election can be held at the next Regional Meeting.

A vacancy in the Assistant Regional Director's position will be filled according to USCA Bylaws, Section 7:

- c. If the position of Assistant Regional Director becomes vacant for any reason an election to fill the office will be held within forty-five (45) days. A majority vote cast by full member clubs in good standing in that particular region is required to elect.

MAIL BALLOT ELECTION PROCEDURE

1. Mail ballot counting for elections need to be secret.
2. The announcement for a mail ballot election is to be made via the Regional Director by USPS mail, email, and/or fax not less than thirty (30) days prior to the closing date of the election.
3. The announcement must state: The Region will conduct the 200- officer elections per USCA Bylaws via USPS mail. Offices to be elected are: Regional Director, Assistant Regional Director, Regional Secretary, Regional Breed Warden, and Regional Training Director.
4. All ballots must be returned to the Regional Secretary via USPS mail only with certified return receipt/confirmation of delivery and postmarked no more than thirty (30) days after announcement. Faxed or emailed ballots will not be allowed or recognized.
5. Only official club delegates from full-member clubs will be permitted to vote in the election.

6. Club contacts listed on the USCA website will be considered the official club delegate unless the Regional Director is notified otherwise.
7. Clubs may change contacts through the Regional Director via USPS mail, fax, or email.
8. Nominations and seconds to the nominations may only be made by the club delegates, and must be received by the Regional Secretary, via USPS mail, fax, or email no later than two weeks after the announcement is made.
9. All nominations must have a second, and write-in balloting is permitted.
10. A ballot listing the office to be elected will be placed in a plain white inner envelope. This plain white envelope is placed inside another envelope addressed to the club delegate. Another envelope will be addressed and stamped (SASE) to the Regional Secretary, and placed with the plain white envelope inside the envelope addressed to the club delegate. The ballots will be mailed to each club delegate in this form.
11. The ballot must be marked and returned to the Regional Secretary only.
12. The delegate will place the marked ballot inside the blank white envelope, seal it, and place this envelope inside the SASE which is addressed to the Regional Secretary.
13. The return address of the delegate must be added to the outside envelope (SASE) by the Regional Secretary so that the delegate's name may be checked against the list of delegates eligible to vote.
14. Ballots for elections need to be sent only by USPS mail, not by fax or by email, and returned via confirmation of delivery and/or certified/return receipt.
15. Ballot committee must be impartial and a committee of three.
16. When the committee meets to count votes, the members will open the outer envelope and check the delegate's name. This outer envelope will be destroyed. The blank white envelopes will be placed in a pile. Only when all of the SASE have been emptied and discarded will the plain white envelopes be counted.
17. The counted ballots must be retained by the Regional Secretary.

[\(2008 GBM\)](#)

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Duties: In addition to those duties outlined in the USCA Constitution and Bylaws, Regional Directors will be expected to govern their regions by insuring that all clubs within their respective regions are abiding by the USCA Bylaws and rules which pertain to member clubs. Regional Directors will have the authority to withhold or withdraw Event Authorizations for any club that is found to be in violation of USCA Bylaws or rules until the violating club comes into compliance with the USCA Bylaws or rules.

Regional Directors will ensure that all clubs within their respective regions are upholding the objectives of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America. Regional Directors will submit a quarterly report to the President on all activities within their respective regions. Regional Directors will be voting members of the Executive Board, Annual USCA Regional Congress and General Board Meeting. The Regional Director will be an exofficio member of all regional committees.

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Duties: Assistant Regional Directors will assist the Regional Director and learn the duties of the Regional Director's office. In the event the Regional Director resigns or is incapacitated the Assistant Regional Director shall assume the position of Regional Director for the remainder of the term.

If the Regional Director is unable to attend a meeting of either Board of Directors, the Assistant Regional Director may attend in his/her place and shall have a vote on either Board.

REGIONAL SECRETARY

Duties: To take the official minutes of all regional meetings and to assist the Regional Director with the distribution of minutes and any other information deemed necessary by the RD. The Regional Secretary will be responsible for implementing a training program for trial secretaries. The Secretary will also establish a log of those members that have been approved as qualified trial secretaries for each club within their respective region.

REGIONAL TREASURER

Duties: The Regional Treasurer will be held accountable for the Regional Treasury and disburse funds for training programs and other regional needs as defined in the Regional Policy.

REGIONAL BREED WARDEN

Duties: As described in the USCA Constitution and Bylaws. The Regional Breed Warden will assist the club chosen within their respective region to host the Regional Conformation Championship and Breed Survey and also serve as the Regional Show Chairperson. In addition all Regional Breed Wardens will be required to attend and assist with the USCA Sieger Show.

REGIONAL TRAINING DIRECTOR

Duties: To promote proper, and safe training for trial helpers, training helpers and handlers throughout their region by the use of required educational seminars and organized fun matches. The Regional Training Director will receive direction from the National Helper Committee with regard to the required educational Teaching Helper Program. The Regional Training Director will also work directly with the National Youth Director to help implement all youth training programs on a regional and local level. Regional Training Directors will also establish a line of communication to assist new clubs and their Training Directors. Regional Training Directors shall not advertise their office for personal or professional gain.

REGIONAL FUNDING

Regional dues will be due annually for all USCA Full Member Clubs. The amount will be determined by the General Board. The regional dues will be assessed with each club's annual National dues and will be collected by the USCA Office. The Treasurer of USCA will be responsible for the appropriate distribution of regional funds to the Regional Treasurer. Regional dues will be used for approved regional commitments. Regions may also have rules that establish other constructive uses for any excess regional funds, to meet the needs of their regions including the educational programs.

REGIONAL RULES

Regional Rules in effect before the establishment of this Regional Policy and all Regional Rules from this time forward must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote at the Annual Regional Meeting. All clubs in their respective regions must be notified in writing no less than thirty days before the meeting is to take place. All Regional Rules must be in compliance with the USCA Constitution and Bylaws and must be filed with the Secretary of the USCA.

REGIONAL CONGRESS

The Regional Directors will conduct an Annual Regional Congress Meeting. This meeting will be chaired by the President or his appointee. The Regional Directors will select a committee of three to

formulate a real agenda for this meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to address the needs of the membership on a Regional and local level. This meeting will be held on the day preceding the General Board Meeting.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Regional Championships will be open to all USCA members in good standing.

Starting in 2004, all entries in the USCA German Shepherd Dog National Championship must have shown at a USCA Regional Championship any time after the 2003 USCA National Championship. All regional entries must compete at their current SchH1, SchH2, or SchH3 level or the next higher level. This is "in addition" to the required 270-point qualifying score attained at any USCA regular club trial and/or a USCA Regional Championship. **Clarification:** Dogs shown at a Regional Championship may enter for a new title or compete for the title they currently hold. Dogs will not be allowed to enter for a lower title at a Regional Championship. ([EBB #18-03](#))

This rule does not affect the entry of individuals whose permanent residence is outside the 48 contingent United States of America. Permanent residence will be the address provided to the Office with membership application or renewal. ([EBB #24-03](#))

See "USCA GSD IPO3 National Championship" under the [Trial Procedures](#) in this document for more information on participation in a Regional Championship.

Requirements for Regional Waiver: In order for a member to receive a waiver, the member must enter the regionals. In the event they cannot compete, the member must present acceptable proof to the Regional Director. The Executive Board will make the decision to grant the waiver. ([2011 GBM](#))

REGIONAL CONFORMATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

All regions will be required to host an annual Regional Conformation Championship and Breed Survey.

REGIONAL EDUCATION

Regional Education Seminars may be held in conjunction with a Regional event, or as a free-standing event. Each Regional Director has the capacity to spend up to \$1,500 within their Region(s). Regional Directors will be responsible for allocating the funds. The money is dedicated as a not-for-profit event, and must be offered for all USCA members to participate. The Host/Club is encouraged to sell food, beverages, and memorabilia items, as a profit.

Educational Seminars must meet the following requirements:

1. Seminars must be advertised on the website, and open for all USCA members
2. Seminar participants must sign a waiver to hold harmless
3. Region(s)/host must submit an Educational Reimbursement Form within 15 days of completing the event
4. Reimbursement amount is limited to \$1500 per Region; there is limit of one (1) reimbursement per Region.
5. USCA has the final determination on reimbursement(s)

([EBB #25-13](#))

USCA BREED WARDEN AND TATTOOER REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America Inc. (USCA) is a German Shepherd Dog Breed Organization and is strongly devoted to be responsible for the breed in its original breeding as a working dog.

Breed Warden and Tattooer are an integral part of the registration process of the USCA Registry. These regulations have been recommended by the 2000 Breed Advisory Committee and have been approved by the Executive Board on February 24, 2001 at the Executive Meeting.

The adoption of these regulations invalidates all previous ones.

2. THE NATIONAL BREED WARDEN

2.1 Election and Eligibility

2.1.1 The National Breed Warden is an officer of USCA (Article VII Bylaws) and is to be elected by the General Board.

2.1.2 The National Breed Warden must be a person of good character, trustworthy, and respected by the membership. He/she must be a member in good standing with USCA and should have been a member for at least five years. This person must have marked leadership qualities, be able to conduct him/herself with authority and professionalism, have good communication skills, and a proven record of service and loyalty to the organization.

2.1.3 It is advisable that this person be a GSD breed judge or, preferably, a GSD koermeister. The post can be filled by someone who is knowledgeable in the areas of breeding and the standard and has qualifications similar to those required of a Breed Judge. These include knowledge of the German Shepherd character, structure, type, movement, and trainability. This position requires someone who has been involved in breeding and training for a long time, following USCA breeding guidelines, has titled and breed surveyed multiple dogs, has officiated in or organized breed events, and has a deep knowledge and experience in all the areas of this post.

2.2 Responsibilities

2.2.1 The National Breed Warden stands in an executive position mirroring that of the Director of Judges. He/she is listed in the Executive List together with the President, Vice President, Director of Judges, Secretary, and Treasurer.

2.2.2 The National Breed Warden directs the national breeding of the German Shepherd Dog. Promotes proper breeding, rules, and practices. Oversees that all areas of activities are accurately recorded in the Breed Book

2.2.3 Guides the genetic selection through programs such as the breed surveys and breeding evaluations. Records and analyzes the results of such selections and makes general statements that set the direction of the national breed program.

2.2.4 Supervises the activity of regional and local breed wardens (assistants to the National Breed Warden). Devises and proposes national policies regulating these offices.

2.2.5 Oversees the proper functioning of national breed events. Promotes similar events at regional and local levels.

2.2.6 Presides as chairperson for the national Breed Advisory Committee. Guides the affairs of this committee as advisor to the Board.

2.3 Activities

2.3.1 The National Breed Warden meets regularly with the President of the organization. In these meetings they discuss the state of the breed in the country, possible avenues to promote the breed and its registry, and possible programs to correct impending problems and pitfalls. The two officials come to agreements on what steps may be taken and presented for future approval before the Breed Advisory Committee and General Board.

2.3.2 The National Breed Warden stays closely connected to the registry, receives statements from the office regarding the monthly activity of registrations, answers questions about the technical aspects of registrations, and makes decisions on difficult cases.

2.3.3 The National Breed Warden analyzes current rules and regulations and makes proposals for changes that will ensure a better functioning of the activity at local and national levels.

2.3.4 The National Breed Warden presides over annual or semi-annual meetings of the Breed Advisory Committee where the affairs of the breed are discussed. At these meetings he/she listens to the problems of the different regions and proposes measures to remedy them. He/she also presents new programs and regulations for endorsement. He/she imparts instructional seminars or workshops to help and promote the breed warden program.

2.3.5 The National Breed Warden will organize and keep statistics and important data about the functioning of the program in each region, and analyses and interprets this data as a stepping stone for the creation of new programs for the country utilizing the breed database.

2.3.6 The National Breed Warden keeps the membership informed of the activities of the committee, the problems at hand, and what is being done to correct them. This is done through magazine articles as well as by oral presentation at all national events.

2.3.7 The National Breed Warden is the second presiding authority (after the President) at the National Breed Event (presently the Sieger Show). He/she is ultimately responsible for the proper functioning of this event, including being the principal contact person between foreign judges and the organization. This person is the supervisor over the Sieger Show Chairman and imparts instructions prior to and during the show on behalf of the organization. When necessary, the National Breed Warden makes final decisions regarding rule interpretations and discusses these with the appointed judges. The National Breed Warden is ultimately the head ring steward and dictates the pace of the event, aided by the organizing committee.

3. REGIONAL BREED WARDEN

The Regional Breed Warden is a highly responsible elected position. It should be only accepted by experienced members with integrity who have demonstrated leadership, who are knowledgeable with the Standard of the German Shepherd Dog, and who are actively training and titling dogs within our organization. They are the link between our registry, the breeders, and clubs within their region.

3.1 Election and Eligibility

3.1.1 The Regional Breed Warden is to be elected by the region (Bylaws Article IX).

3.1.2 Every region must select an individual to fill this post.

3.1.3 Regional Breed Wardens are elected by the region at regional meetings presided by regional directors. The regional director and regional breed warden cannot be the same individual. The criteria for eligibility should follow the same principals outlined for the National Breed Warden. This should be a person of good character and experienced in all the aspects of this office.

3.1.4 The regional breed warden must above all have good communication skills and the time to devote to instructing and training local breed wardens and tattooers.

3.1.5 The regional breed warden must be someone with marked leadership qualities, extensive technical knowledge on running conformation shows and breed surveys and who has officiated in or organized breed events. This person does not have to be a breeder but, must be well versed in all aspects of the breed and must be able to answer questions about policies and regulations with authority.

3.1.6 In matters relating to the German Shepherd Dog, this person must have demonstrated abilities, commitment, ownership of, and experience and preferably served as an active local breed warden for a club within their region for a minimum of two years.

3.1.7 The regional breed warden is someone who must also be an active trainer and who has trained and titled at least one German Shepherd Dog from a BH to an SchH3/VPC3/IPO3 within our organization and put a breed survey on another [GSD] dog. The Breed Advisory Committee recognizes this as an important factor in the eligibility and in the relationship to conformation, temperament, and the working ability of the dog for the original breeding of dogs as a working dog.

3.2 Responsibilities

3.2.1 Promotes the development of breed wardens and tattooers in every club of his or her region.

3.2.2 Is responsible for training and supervising the proper functioning of local breed wardens and tattooers. Local wardens and tattooers respond directly to the regional breed warden in all areas of concern.

3.2.3 Dispenses all pertinent paperwork needed for the well functioning of local wardens.

3.2.4 Collects all paperwork when filled out, from which he/she creates regional statistics to be reported to the National Breed Warden and the Breed Advisory Committee.

3.2.5 Attends all meetings and/or conference calls of the BAC and receives instructions to be passed down the line to his/her local Wardens

3.2.6 Hears grievances from clubs and individual breeders and tries to correct problems. Decides which of these problems will be elevated referred to the National Breed Warden and/or Breed Advisory Committee for consideration.

3.2.7 Will plan to keep/organize regional records of all breeding activity within the region once a breed database is in place for USCA and will present the results, findings, and recommendations to the members of the region at the regional meeting.

3.2.8 Keeps their region up to date on all changes to the rules on conformation and breed surveys.

3.2.9 To officiate at a practice show and breed survey so that a club can be evaluated as to their understanding and ability of hosting an actual event.

3.2.10 Assist and attend the club chosen within their respective region to host the Regional Conformation Show & Breed Survey and also serve as the Regional Show Chairman (as described in the USCA Constitution & Bylaws and the Regional Policy).

3.2.11 Is required to write an article for the USCA magazine on their region's annual Regional Conformation Show & Breed Survey.

3.2.12 To attend and assist with the USCA Sieger Show (as described in the USCA Constitution & Bylaws and the Regional Policy).

3.2.13 Shall promote an annual educational Regional Seminar in the area of conformation, shows, handling, or breed surveys, etc.

3.2.14 Shall not use their position as Regional Breed Warden to promote their own kennel, GSD breedings, training, or dog business in any way.

3.2.15 Acts as local breed warden and/or tattooer in areas where they have none.

3.2.16 It is the expectation of Regional Breed Wardens to conform to all of the USCA National, Regional, and Local Breeding Guidelines.

4. LOCAL BREED WARDEN

4.1 Election and Eligibility

4.1.1 The local breed warden is to be elected by the local USCA clubs. The approval of breed wardens is the responsibility of the regional breed warden, to whom the local breed warden reports. The regional breed warden must send notice of approval to the National Breed Warden and the USCA Office within 14 days.

4.1.2 Breed wardens and tattooers cannot serve breeders of the same household.

4.1.3 The position of breed warden is a very critical elected function. Only members who have demonstrated leadership and are knowledgeable in the standard of the German Shepherd Dog should be considered. This person should be someone who stays current on breed and training issues, and participates in conformation as well as training events on a regular basis.

4.1.4 Breed wardens must be cognizant of the fact that they are the link between our registry and the breeder of German Shepherd Dogs who wish to register their offspring with us.

4.2 Responsibilities

4.2.1 Maintains close, cordial relationships with all breeders of German Shepherd Dogs within the framework of his/her coverage area. The breed warden acts on behalf of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, and is functionally responsible to the organization via the regional breed warden.

4.2.2 When requested, provides guidance to the novice breeder in regard to the selection of partners and provides overall basic information to those who are seeking knowledge.

4.2.3 The breed warden visits breeders to conduct an inspection of a litter seeking registration. This is done to ascertain the number, sex, and color of all German Shepherd puppies in a litter (first visit –3rd-10th day after birth, second visit – 7-8 weeks after birth). These visits are done by appointment and must follow the protocol and paperwork established by USCA.

Ensures that all puppies are free of dewclaws and conform to the guidelines of the standard of the German Shepherd Dog (no whites, blues, and crippled puppies).

Verifies that mother and puppies are in good physical condition and are of a healthy constitution. In no way shall the breed warden evaluate puppy conformation or otherwise pass judgment on the quality or value of individuals.

The breed warden simply records the number of German Shepherd puppies born who are healthy and are of certain sexes, colors, and markings.

During the second visit the breed warden verifies that puppies have been raised in accordance with the suggested guidelines issued by United Schutzhund Clubs of America.

4.2.4 The breed warden oversees that all rules and regulations pertaining to the registry are being adhered to by breeders as well as stud dog owners, and that cleanliness is being maintained wherever puppies are being kept.

4.2.5 Is assigned a geographical area of responsibilities to prevent interference with the responsibilities of other breed wardens. These assignments will be done in cooperation with each club president.

4.2.6 Maintains statistical information to assist the regional breed warden and the registry in all inquiries.

4.2.7 Ensures that the highest level of integrity regarding the standard is being maintained; and that all prospective, as well as experienced, breeders are being treated equally.

4.2.8 The breed warden will not receive monetary rewards other than paid mileage for the services rendered.

4.2.9 It is the expectation of Local Breed Wardens to conform to all of the USCA National, Regional, and Local Breeding Guidelines.

5. TATTOOER

5.1 Election and Eligibility

5.1.1 The tattooer must be a person of good character; preferably a breeder with experience and knowledge in the areas of breed guardianship.

5.1.2 This person should work well with the breed warden, who supervises his/her activities.

5.1.3 The approval of tattooers is the responsibility of the regional breed warden. The regional breed warden must send notice of approval to the National Breed Warden and the USCA Office within 14 days.

5.1.4 The tattooers cannot serve breeders of the same household.

5.2 Responsibilities

5.2.1 Maintains close, cordial relationships with all breeders of German Shepherd Dogs within the framework of a local club or region.

5.2.2 Conducts proper and humane tattooing of German Shepherd puppies as prescribed by the rules and regulations of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.

5.2.3 When invited by the breeder, the tattooer shall perform these duties and functions in the presence of the breeder and the breed warden.

5.2.4 Maintains impeccable records on behalf of the organization to avoid duplications in numbers or other errors.

5.2.5 The tattooer will not receive monetary reward other than paid mileage. An optional fee of \$2 per puppy may be charged by the local club or region which owns the tattoo set to help finance the tattoo set and needed supplies.

5.2.6 Will collect all fees and paperwork from the owner of the litter before the puppies are tattooed and forward this paperwork on to the USCA Office.

5.2.7 Collects and forwards fees and paperwork for individual registration if the tattoo number used was not issued by the USCA Office. If the number was issued by the USCA Office, it is the breeder who is responsible for submitting fees and paperwork. The tattooer must ask the breeder to provide a copy of the letter showing the USCA-issued tattoo.

REVISION HISTORY

2/24/01 Breed Warden/Tattooer Regulations approved.

10/2001 3.2.8. Acts as local breed warden and/or tattooer in areas where they have none. Addition shown in semibold italic. Breeders Cup Award Program 1 of 1 Approved May 1998 USA

1/29/15 revision RBW/NBW Regulations ([EBB #02-15](#))

USCA BREEDING REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USCA) is a German Shepherd Dog breed organization guided by the rules of the founding organization of German Shepherd Dogs, the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) in Germany.

The USCA Breeding Regulations serve in the promotion and planned breeding activities of the German Shepherd Dog, and govern all breeding areas. They are binding for members who wish to register their litters with USCA.

2. BREEDER

2.1. Breeders' Rights

Dog owners and caretakers who want to have USCA Breed Book privileges (owners of male and female dogs and caretakers respectively) must be members of USCA. The breeder of a litter is the owner or lessee of the dam at the time of breeding. Transfer of breeding rights is possible when a pregnant female is sold. In this case, the following must be presented to the USCA Breed Book Office:

- Proof of change of ownership by submission of the pedigree
- Stud certificate or report of breeding card
- Application for transfer of breeding rights/Antrag (available from USCA Breed Book Office)

A transfer of breeding rights is not required if the female has more than one owner, and the signature-authorized owner uses her for breeding. If one of the owners who is not signature authorized wants to use the female for breeding, the signature-authorized owner must give his/her written consent.

2.2. Breeding Leases

Leasing (or leasing out) of a female for breeding is possible, but documentation must be submitted to USCA. The lessee becomes the breeder of the litter after meeting the requirements listed below. The following documents must be presented to the USCA Breed Book Office:

- Lease contract/Vertrag (available from USCA Breed Book Office)
- Stud certificate
- Application for transfer of breeding rights/Antrag (available from USCA Breed Book Office)

A lease contract/transfer of breeding rights is not required if the owner of the female lives in the same household as the person who wants to use the female for breeding and they are related in one of the following manners:

- Parents/grandparents
- Parents-in-law
- Spouses
- Siblings
- Children/grandchildren

In this case the owner has to only give his/her written consent and the agreement must list in which way owner and breeder are related.

2.2.1. Duties

The lessee must meet the obligations set forth in the breeding contract.

2.2.2. Frequency of Breeding Leases

A breeder is limited to five breeding leases per calendar year.

2.2.3. Breeding Leases With Foreign Countries

Breeding leases with parties who reside outside the United States of America are not permitted. Exceptions can be made if the USCA Breed Book Office gives permission. The breed wardens of the appropriate region and local club must approve exceptions.

2.2.4. Breeding Leases Involving Breed Book Ban

A person subject to breed book ban may not transfer the breeding rights of a pregnant female to another person. When the breed book ban takes effect, it automatically also affects any male and/or female owned by this person. Breeding announcements for dogs owned by a person under breed book ban may not be published in the USCA magazine. Male dogs owned by persons under breed book ban may not be placed with a caretaker and accepted by any person for breeding purposes.

2.3. Kennel Name and Protection of Kennel Name

An application for a kennel name must be made with USCA and the kennel name must be protected by USCA. The kennel name lapses on the death of the breeder unless his/her heir applies to have it transferred to him/herself, or 30 years after the last entry under the kennel name. Kennel names are not assigned to other breeders for 30 years after the death of the previous kennel name's owner.

Puppies bred under breeding lease conditions are entered under the kennel name of the lessee.

3. BREEDING CONSULTATION AND SUPERVISION

3.1. Club Breed Wardens

The club breed wardens have jurisdiction over consulting in and supervising of the breeding activities of their local clubs.

3.1.1. Jurisdiction of Club Breed Wardens

The region assigns the breed warden's territory and has two choices:

- Jurisdiction according to the breeder's domicile
- Jurisdiction according to the breeder's local club membership

If the breeder belongs to several clubs in the same region, the breed warden of the club closest to the breeder's domicile has jurisdiction. If the breeder belongs to several clubs belonging to different regions, the breed warden of the region where the breeder lives has jurisdiction.

3.1.2. Duties of Club Breed Wardens

The club breed warden is required (within the framework of his/her local club) to answer questions and advise club members with respect to breeding activities and breed-related events. Therefore, the club breed warden is required to participate regularly in breed warden training courses held by the region. The club breed warden is especially responsible for the care and formal inspection of litters in his/her club. The breed warden must inspect litters born in his/her club within five days of the date of birth and again

around the time of tattooing. The tattoo number of the dam must be checked during these visits. The breeder must see to it that the breed warden has access to the litter. The litter inspections must also include evaluation of rearing conditions.

The club breed warden must supervise breeding activities in accordance with breeding regulations. The club breed warden must report violations against the breeding regulations as well as unreported breedings to the regional breed warden who has jurisdiction over that club.

3.1.3. Inspection of Litters

Only USCA breed wardens are authorized to inspect litters. In case of an emergency, however, a licensed veterinarian can act as breed warden upon receiving instructions from the regional breed warden and signing a veterinary instruction form stating he/she is familiar with the duties of the breed warden. It is the responsibility of the regional breed warden to forward this form to the USCA Office. Forms are available from the regional breed warden or the USCA Breed Book Office.

In cases where the breed warden cannot carry out the first inspection of the litter within five days of the date of birth, a breed warden from the same club or a breed warden from an adjacent club must be used.

3.2. Tattooers

For identification purposes, the puppies are tattooed under the guidance of USCA. Tattooing is a prerequisite to registration in the USCA Breed Book Office. To carry out the tattooing, USCA has established tattoo districts within the regions.

3.2.1. Jurisdiction of Tattooers

The tattooer (or his/her representative) designated for the breeder's (caretaker's) residence has jurisdiction over tattooing activities.

3.2.2. Duties of Tattooers

The tattooer must check the jurisdiction of the club breed warden; and, after making an appointment with the breed warden and the breeder, must tattoo the puppies not before the 50th day after birth. All puppies in the litter, including those being raised by a foster mother, must be presented for tattooing. After the 12th week of age, tattooing may only be done if the puppies are anesthetized. The tattooer must also check data on the litter registration application that has been signed by the club breed warden for completeness and correctness.

If the tattoo number is later illegible, the USCA Breed Book Office must be notified. The cost of follow-up tattooing falls to the breeder. Claims for reimbursement on follow-up tattooing expenses may not be made.

3.2.3. Tattooing of Litters

Only USCA tattooers and USCA regional breed wardens are authorized to tattoo litters. In case of an emergency, however, a licensed veterinarian can act as tattooer upon receiving instructions from the regional breed warden and signing a veterinary instruction form stating he/she is familiar with the tattooing procedure. It is the responsibility of the regional breed warden to forward this form to the USCA Office. Forms are available from the regional breed warden or the USCA Breed Book Office.

4. BREED WORTH AND PREREQUISITES FOR BREEDING

4.1. Breed Worth

The following classifications apply:

4.1.1. Eligible for Breeding

Eligible for breeding are all dogs entered in the USCA Breed Book (if the owner resides in the United States), who on the day of breeding have at least one performance title (SchH1-3, VPG1-3, IPO1-3, or HGH) obtained under a USCA-recognized performance judge, a breed show rating of at least “good” obtained under a USCA-recognized breed judge in the youth, young dog, or working dog class if not already breed surveyed under USCA or SV regulations, and a USCA-recognized hip certification.

4.1.2. Recommended for Breeding

Dogs recommended for breeding are those breed surveyed in Breed Survey Class 1 (KKL1) at a USCA-recognized breed survey.

4.1.3. Suitable for Breeding

Dogs suitable for breeding are those breed surveyed in Breed Survey Class 2 (KKL2) at a USCA-recognized breed survey.

4.1.4. Not Suitable for Breeding

Progeny of dogs classified as not suitable for breeding cannot be entered in the USCA Breed Book. The dog owner is informed of this decision by certified mail. Appeals against this decision must be made within 14 days of the decision date. The person responsible for the USCA Breed Book will decide appeals. The National Breed Warden will decide further appeals.

The following faults preclude breeding:

4.1.4.1. Do not meet requirements set forth under 4.1.1. to 4.1.3.

4.1.4.2. Dogs registered in the Performance Register.

4.1.4.3. Dogs with the following faults:

- Faulty temperament, aggressive or nervous biters, or weak nerves
- Documented hip dysplasia
- Monorchids or cryptorchids
- Disfiguring ear and/or tail faults
- Considerable anatomical faults
- Long coat or long stock coat
- Considerable pigment deficiencies, including blues
- Dentition faults as follows:
 - Missing one premolar #3 and one additional tooth
 - Missing one canine tooth
 - Missing one premolar #4
 - Missing one molar #1
 - Missing one molar #2
 - Missing three or more teeth
 - Missing molar #3 is not counted

- Dogs having proof that the missing tooth or teeth had originally been in place are exempt from this rule. Proof must be entered on the pedigree, the Körschein, or a dental status form.
- Faulty jawbones:
 - Overshot more than 2 mm
 - Undershot
 - Level bite
- Oversized or undersized more than 1 cm, measured at the withers (maximum is males 66 cm/bitches 61 cm and minimum is males 59 cm/bitches 54 cm)
- Females that have whelped three times by cesarean section
- Severed musculus pectineus

4.1.4.4. Surgical interventions for the purpose of correcting, obtaining, or improving a breed show rating (i.e., ears, tails, teeth, testicles, skeleton) entail a breeding ban and initiate disciplinary proceedings against the owner and/or all co-owners.

4.2. Breeding Requirements

In addition to the conditions listed under paragraph 4.1.1, the following requirements must be met:

4.2.1. Minimum Age for Breeding

At the time of breeding, males must be at least 24 months of age and females must be at least 20 months of age.

Unplanned breedings occurring prior to minimum age must immediately be reported to the club breed warden, the regional breed warden, and the USCA Breed Book Office. The USCA Breed Book Office, together with the National Breed Warden, decides on the eligibility for registration of such litters.

4.2.2. Breeding Frequency

Males

Males who meet breeding regulations may be bred up to 90 times per year. These breedings must be evenly distributed over time; with 50% each for the first and second half of the year, and then evenly spaced over the months of each half-year. Frequent breedings in close succession are detrimental to the constitution of the dog and jeopardize fertilization, and must therefore be avoided. Breeding to the same female more than once within 28 days is counted as one breeding.

If the male reaches the two-year age requirement during the calendar year, only the proportional number of breedings, calculated from the day the dog reaches the two-year age requirement, is permitted. This rule applies for breedings with domestic and foreign females.

Females

Healthy females may be bred twice per year.

4.2.3. Breeding Act

The selection of the stud dog is left to the breeder. The owner of the stud dog approves the females for his/her dog. The stud dog owner shall verify the completion of the breeding act by signing the stud certificate/report of breeding card. Owners of stud dogs may not issue blank report of breeding cards. The owner of the female must submit the

stud certificate/report of breeding card to the USCA Breed Book Office and must also notify the club breed warden of the breeding.

In cases where males or females have several co-owners, one person must be designated to represent the owners at the USCA Breed Book Office and a written agreement covering this designation must be submitted. Signature authorization forms are available from the USCA Breed Book Office.

After completion of the breeding act, the stud dog's obligation is considered fulfilled and the prerequisites for payment of the agreed upon stud fee have been met. One free breeding must be granted if the female does not conceive. Miscarriage or failure to conceive must be reported to the stud dog owner without delay. If the stud dog is no longer available (death or sale), half of the stud dog fee must be reimbursed. Stud dog owners are required to reimburse the entire stud fee if, through a fault of their own (fraudulent or other reasons), the stud dog should have been partially or completely banned from breeding.

If it is established that the stud dog is not fertile, or only partially fertile, the dog may lose breed survey status and a progeny registration ban may be instituted. The owners of females who did not conceive because the male is not able to reproduce have the right to ask for a full refund of the stud fee.

A litter having two different sires cannot be entered into the USCA Breed Book.

A litter conceived through the use of artificial insemination can be entered into the USCA Breed Book. ([2007 GBM](#))

4.2.4. Number of Puppies in Litter

The dam may rear all puppies whelped.

4.2.5. Litter Announcement

The breeder informs the club breed warden immediately after the whelping of a litter.

Prior to tattooing, the litter registration application must be completed, with copies for the club breed warden, tattooer, and breeder.

The person applying for USCA litter registration must be a USCA member.

The litter registration application must be received at the USCA Office within six months after the litter is whelped. If the application is received later than six months after the litter is whelped, the litter registration can still be processed; however, a penalty fee of \$10 per puppy will be charged in addition to the registration fee.

The litter registration application must include the following (if not previously submitted):

- Pedigree of the female (in cases of ownership change)
- Stud certificate/report of breeding card
- Litter registration application
- Tattoo book slip (original)
- Tattoo control strip
- Certificate of foster raising, if applicable (available from the USCA Breed Book Office)

4.2.6. Pedigrees

Pedigrees are proof of ancestry. The USCA Breed Book Office confirms identity by entering the animals into the USCA Breed Book.

USCA pedigrees are only an addition to the AKC registration papers. Litters whelped in the United States must be registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC) to have internationally-recognized registration papers, since AKC is the only FCI-recognized breed registry in the United States.

Pedigrees are owned by USCA. The dog's owner has the right to physical possession of the pedigree. Physical possession of the pedigree can also be transferred to the lessee of a bitch for breeding and remains there for the time the lease contract is in effect. The same applies for caretakers of male dogs placed with them for stud service purposes.

After receipt of the pedigrees, the breeder must verify that they are correct and confirm this by signing on page 1 of the pedigrees. The pedigrees may only be mailed directly to the breeder.

Ownership changes must be entered in the transfer of ownership section on the back of the pedigree by entering the date of sale in the first column and the name and complete address of the owner in the second column on the appropriate line. The seller must verify the transfer by signing in the third column; and the buyer must sign in the fourth column on the same line.

The pedigree or a transfer of ownership form available from the USCA Breed Book Office must be submitted to the USCA Breed Book Office without delay.

Dog owners may not sign pedigrees where the ownership change has not been documented.

4.3. Breeding Procedures

There is a differentiation between the following breeding procedures:

4.3.1. Purebred Breeding

Breeding of animals of the same breed. This method, without our intervention, leads to the utilization of the available genetic material by the interbreeding of family members and relatives or inbreeding.

4.3.2. Inbreeding

Breeding based on close blood relationships. One ancestor must be present in the pedigree at least once on the sire's and dam's side. Inbreeding also includes breeding between siblings.

The term blood relationship is limited to the first five generations (inbreeding). Inbreeding is subdivided into:

4.3.2.1. Incest Breeding: Breeding between parents and offspring, grandparents and nieces and nephews, and also breeding between relatives of the 1st and 2nd degree (nieces and nephews or siblings and cousins). Inbreeding closer than 2-3 or 3-2, and among siblings, is not permitted.

4.3.2.2. Inbreeding: Breeding between relatives of the 3rd and 4th degree.

4.3.2.3. Linebreeding: Breeding between relatives of the 4th and 5th degree.

4.3.3. One-Time Outcross

The one-time introduction of outcross blood into a bloodline that is already well established.

4.3.4. Outcrossing

Breeding of animals of the same breed that are not related to one another.

As almost all purebred breeds are based on a narrow genetic pool, linebreeding is sufficient. The goal of linebreeding is to find a link to ancestors that reproduced well. Bloodlines based on inbreeding must repeatedly be renewed by the introduction of genes from a genetic pool that is not too closely related. This process helps avoid the introduction of undesirable genetic traits.

5. BREED PRESERVATION AND ADVANCEMENT MEASURES

5.1. USCA Breed Book

The USCA Breed Book, maintained for the breeding activities of the German Shepherd Dog, contains a listing of the progeny of all animals available for breeding within the USCA system. In order to obtain comprehensive information regarding the hereditary characteristics of the breed, all animals available for breeding under breeding regulations must be entered into the breed book even if it is later established that the dogs, for some reason or other, are not fit for breeding. It is necessary to list the unqualified dogs because it makes it possible to gain extensive information about positive and negative genetic characteristics within the breed.

The USCA Breed Book forms the basis for the dog's pedigree, which not only lists the name and lineage of ancestors, but also gives information regarding their usefulness for service. It provides data regarding color and markings and type of coat of the siblings; and color and markings, type of coat, performance titles, breed show ratings, breed survey results, and hip certifications of the parents and grandparents and their siblings. The USCA Breed Book and the pedigrees also make special mention of progeny descending from the following breedings:

5.1.1. Breed Survey Breeding

Offspring descending from two breed surveyed parents.

5.1.2. Performance Breeding

Offspring descending from two parents and four grandparents with recognized performance titles.

5.2. USCA Breed Survey Book

The breed survey facilitates the selection of breeding animals that, according to their temperament, performances, and anatomical characteristics, are especially suitable for maintaining and advancing the working capabilities of the breed. The USCA Breed Survey Book is a supplement to the USCA Breed Book, and together with it and the breed show and performance trial reports, serves as a reference for goal-oriented breeding activities. The breed survey is carried out in accordance with the USCA Breed Survey Regulations.

5.3. USCA Breed Show Records

USCA maintains records of all dogs that have participated in a USCA breed show. In addition to the name of the dog and breed book/registration number, the breed show records list the show ratings obtained in USCA breed shows.

5.4. USCA Performance Records

USCA maintains records of all dogs that have participated in a USCA performance trial. In addition to the name of the dog and breed book/registration number, the performance records list the performance titles, the total scores awarded at trials, and the scores for the individual trial phases.

5.5. USCA Registry of Dogs Without Acceptable Proven Ancestry

The registry is called the “Performance Register,” and it contains dogs that have appropriate breed characteristics but do not have acceptable proven ancestry. The breed characteristics must be verified by a USCA or SV judge (breed judge or performance judge), USCA breed warden, USCA tattooer, or USCA regional director. The German Shepherd Dogs contained in this registry receive a “PR” registration number for scorebook purposes only. All dogs must be tattooed. The necessary forms are available from the USCA Office.

EXCEPTIONS TO SV REGULATIONS:

1. Breeding Frequency

- SV Regulation: A female may be bred twice within twelve months unless she is raising more than eight puppies in the litter. In this case she may be bred again six months after the date of whelping.
- USCA Regulation: Healthy females may be bred twice per year.

2. Number of Puppies in Litter

- SV Regulation: The number of puppies that a female may nurse is restricted to eight puppies per litter; the other puppies must be raised by a foster dam.
- USCA Regulation: The dam may rear all puppies whelped.

3. Artificial Insemination ([2007 GBM](#))

- SV Regulation: The use of artificial insemination is prohibited.
- USCA Regulation: The use of artificial insemination is allowed.

USCA CONFORMATION SHOW HOST GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America, Inc. (USCA) is a German Shepherd Dog breed organization. In order to preserve and develop the breed, to accomplish the goals laid down in Article II and III of the constitution and bylaws of USCA in general and in particular, and to put on breed shows indispensable for the maintenance of the breed, USCA sets down the following Breed Show Regulations which are submitted by Johannes Grewe as a modified translation of the SV Breed Show Regulations, Edition 1996, and officially published in 1998.

These regulations have been recommended by the 1998 Breed Advisory Committee, and have been approved by the Executive Board at the meeting in Bangor, Maine on May 6, 1998.

The adoption of these Breed Show Regulations invalidates all previous ones.

I. DEFINITIONS AND JURISDICTIONS

1. We Distinguish Between

- 1.1 Local breed shows.
- 1.2 Regional breed shows.
- 1.3 The USCA Sieger Show.

2. Local Breed Shows are held by and are the responsibility of local USCA clubs.

- 2.1 Show dates for local breed shows must be approved by the region.
- 2.2 Planning and scheduling of the local breed shows is carried out by the respective region.
- 2.3 Selection of the judges and payment of the judges' expenses is the responsibility of the local clubs.
- 2.4 The local club sponsoring the breed show must prove that insurance coverage has been arranged for the event.
- 2.5 The sponsoring local club is responsible for the flawless organization and execution of the show and observance of all applicable USCA rules. This includes availability of a sufficiently large ring.

3. Regional Breed Shows

- 3.1 Each region is obligated to hold one regional breed show per year. The regional office may delegate the event in its entirety or in part to one of its local clubs.
- 3.2 The date of the yearly regional breed show is chosen by the region sponsoring the show.
- 3.3 Selection of the judges for the regional breed shows is made by the region holding the shows.
- 3.4 The date of the regional breed show must be approved by USCA headquarters.
- 3.5 Insurance must be provided as set forth under 2.4.

4. USCA Sieger Show

USCA conducts one Sieger Show per year.

- 4.1 USCA is the sponsoring organization, which delegates the event to a region. Implementation of the show may in part be delegated to the region; however, the USCA President has final authority.
- 4.2 The show date is determined by USCA.

4.3 Judges are selected by the Board of Directors.

4.4 In addition, special directives published in the information materials (USCA magazine, catalogue, i.e. etc.) apply.

II. ORGANIZATION OF BREED SHOWS

1. For breed shows described under I.1, a printed catalogue must be issued.

1.1 The catalogue must indicate name, registration number, date of birth, name of sire and dam, name and address of the breeder, and name and address of the owner for each dog entered.

1.2 Only dogs fulfilling conditions below may be entered and listed in the catalogue:

1.2.1 Must be registered with a WUSV registry.

1.2.2 Must be registered with USCA when owned by a resident of the United States of America.

1.2.3 Are over 12 months old.

1.2.4 Are free of all signs of illness.

1.2.5 Are not barred from progeny registration.

1.2.6 The owner must be a USCA member when they are a resident of the United States of America.

1.2.7 May not be owned by persons barred from exhibiting dogs.

2. Show Classes

Dogs exhibited at breed shows are subdivided into classes. The key date for shows of more than one day is the first show day.

2.1 Youth Class applies to dogs older than 12 months, but under 18 months.

2.2 Young Dog Class applies to dogs older than 18 months, but under 24 months.

2.3 Adult Dog Class applies to dogs older than two years more than 2 years old.

2.4 Working Dog Class applies to dogs over 2 two years old and they must have at least at least a SchH1 or HGH title.

2.5 Herding Dogs fall under age definitions set forth in II.2.1 to II.2.3. The herding dog class only includes dogs actually serving in a herding capacity. Adult Herding Class is limited to dogs who have earned a Herding Dog title.

2.6 Breeders' (Kennel) Groups – A breeder's group consists of at least three and at most, six, animals per kennel who have been shown on the same day at the same show and have received a minimum rating of “good.” The breeders' groups are rated according to guidelines established for this purpose: uniformity (taking into account as many different parent animals as possible) and the quality of the individual animals. If several breeder's groups are presented, placings are made.

2.7 To promote breeding activities, a puppy show where no ratings are awarded may be held. Dogs between four and six months old, six and nine months old, and nine and twelve months old can be entered in this show. Puppy classes are only possible in conjunction with a regular breed show. The puppy classes must precede the breed show and take place on the same day. Assessment of the dogs must be made by SV, USCA, or USCA-approved judges. ([2003 GBM](#))

2.8 Dogs older than six years may be shown in a separate class, the Veterans Class. No ratings are awarded, but the animals are ranked and placed according to quality.

3. Assessments

In puppy classes under paragraph II.2.7 the following assessments are made:

Very Promising (VP) – Animals conforming fully to the breed standard or have minimal anatomical shortcomings.

Promising (P) – Animals conforming to the standard, but presenting clearly recognizable anatomical and developmental shortcomings.

Less Promising (LP) – Animals who are not outgoing enough or with faults which make them unfit for breeding.

The assessments cannot be interpreted as an evaluation of breeding worth.

4. Ratings

4.1 At breed shows as set forth under paragraph I.1.1.1. to 1.1.3, the following ratings can be issued:

Excellent – Animals in the Adult Working Class who, after undergoing a thorough examination, fully conform to the breed standard; who are self-confident, outgoing, and indifferent to gun fire; whose pedigree shows the “a” stamp or proof of OFA certification; and, when more than 3-1/2 years old, must be breed surveyed. Double premolars #1 are allowed.

Very Good – The highest rating in the Youth and Young Dog classes for animals who fully conform to the breed standard. In the Adult Classes, this rating goes to animals which meet the requirements for “excellent”, but show minor anatomical shortcomings. It also applies to anatomically faultless animals who measure up to one centimeter over or under size limits, or have one missing premolar #1 or one incisor.

Good – Applies to animals who conform to the standard, but show clearly recognizable anatomical shortcomings. Missing teeth as follows: two missing premolars #1; or one missing premolar #1 and one missing incisor; or one missing premolar #2; or one missing premolar #3; or two missing incisors; or one missing premolar #2 and one incisor; or one missing premolar #2 and one missing premolar #1, or 2 missing premolars #2.

Sufficient – Applies to animals who are on the day of the show, sensitive to gun fire, do not display the required outgoing behavior or whose overall condition including anatomical factors does not permit award of a higher rating.

Insufficient – Applies to animals who are gun shy, show poor character and/or do not display the required degree of outgoing behavior or have faults which preclude their use for breeding. This ranking applies also to animals that exceed the upper and/or lower measurement limits by more than one centimeter. The rating “insufficient” mandates issuance of a “Unavailable for Progeny Registration” notation which must be requested by the breed judge.

4.2 At the National Breed Show, the rating “Excellent-Select” is awarded in addition to the ratings shown under 4.1, which requires proof of the following criteria:

To qualify for a V-Select rating, dogs must have currently a breed survey ranking of Class 1, have complete and faultless dentition, or must have a dental notation as established by the breed book office, and must have at least a SchH2 title or equivalent. They must come from a survey and performance breeding. Dogs competing for the V-Select rating a second time must have a SchH3 title. ([2003 GBM](#))

4.3 Extraordinary circumstances which resulted in partial tooth damage or tooth loss do not affect breed ratings. The requirement here is that the previous presence of healthy, strong teeth and a faultless scissor bite without faulty incisor tooth line is established without doubt and this fact has been must be documented. The original presence of missing teeth can be documented by:

1. A certification of dental completeness by a USCA or SV conformation judge documented in the scorebook or the appropriate window of the pedigree.
2. The presence of the Breed survey documentation in which the dental completeness has been notified at the breed survey.
3. A dental notification entered by the USCA Office on the pedigree. ([2003 GBM](#))

III. OTHER REGULATIONS

1. Show entry fees must be paid for a dog entered but not shown.
2. Dogs who are present for examination (standing) and are then removed from competition without permission from the officiating judge, must receive an “Insufficient” rating. An “Insufficient” rating mandates that this dog's progeny be barred from registration. This ban takes effect at the same time this rating is issued and is reported to headquarters by the judge.
3. Ratings awarded by a judge during a breed show are final. Protests are not permitted.
4. The exhibitor must give truthful information about his dog. Attempts to mislead result in USCA penalty proceedings.
5. The exhibitor must display good sportsmanship when showing their dog. Offenses may entail disqualification of the dog, removal from the show grounds, and/or initiation of penalty proceedings. Anyone who purposely refuses to answer inquiries, or makes false statements, and anyone who changes the dog's appearance (including surgical interventions), in order to mislead the judge or permits others to do so, loses any awards already earned at this show and may, depending on the severity of the case, be excluded from further shows or may be fined by USCA.
6. It is not permitted to judge dogs at breed shows who are owned or who are in the possession of the judge officiating that day or whose caretaker he is. Utmost discretion should be practiced with dogs who are owned, are in possession of, or in residence with persons close to the judge. This includes close personal relationships, breeding partnerships, co-ownerships, and persons who share his residence.
7. It is not permitted to use acoustic enhancers (powered by electricity, gas, compressed air) when calling to the dog. It is also prohibited to use pistols, whips, or protection sleeves for double handling. Transgressions may lead to disqualification of the dog, removal from show grounds of the double handler, and the initiation of internal proceedings against the dog's owner and double handler.

USCA SIEGER SHOW REGULATIONS

I. GENERAL

The USCA Sieger Show is a three-day event. Entry is limited to German Shepherd Dogs listed in the USCA Breed Registry or other FCI-recognized breed registries. All dogs shown in classes 12 months and older must be registered with USCA when owned by a resident of the United States. A Breed Survey is not provided.

These Sieger Show rules are based on USCA's breed show regulations, which are also binding unless otherwise stated here. Entrants are advised that they must submit the original proper pedigree and registration papers of the dog during check-in, as well as proof of training titles, breed survey papers, and hip certification, if applicable or awarded. Acceptable training titles are SchH, IPO, DPO, HGH, and others deemed acceptable by the Breed Advisory Committee. Dogs brought to the show must provide proof of proper vaccinations required by law. Not acceptable are dogs that seem to be not healthy or have an unhealthy appearance. Dogs who are not entered in the show cannot be brought to the show grounds.

Should a dog entered in classes 12 months and older become sick after the stand exam, it must be brought to the show veterinarian for examination. A written note from the show veterinarian is required for withdrawal from the show. Without exception, this written note is to be delivered to the presiding judge of the appropriate class. Dogs that are withdrawn from the show without explicit permission of the presiding judge must be given the rating of insufficient.

Participants must be alert to prevent their dogs from coming into contact with other dogs. The show organizer is not responsible for damages to any dogs, damages caused by any dogs, or in the event of the theft of any dog. A judge's decision at a breed show is final. A protest is not permitted. For dogs entered and not presented, the full entry fee is payable. The exhibitor is responsible for sportsmanlike behavior and presentation. The exhibitor is also responsible for truthful statements about his dog. Violations lead to disqualification of the dog, expulsion from the show grounds, and/or the initiation of a disciplinary procedure.

II. CLASSES AND SCHEDULE

The dogs will be judged in seven classes:

Baby Puppy Classes (4–6 months)

Ratings awarded are: Very Promising (VP), Promising (P), Less Promising (LP).

Junior Puppy Classes (6–9 months)

Ratings awarded are: Very Promising (VP), Promising (P), Less Promising (LP).

Senior Puppy Classes (9–12 months)

Ratings awarded are: Very Promising (VP), Promising (P), Less Promising (LP).

The above classes will be judged on the first day of the event.

Youth Classes (12–18 months)

Ratings awarded are: Very Good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), and Insufficient (M).

Young Dog Classes (18–24 months)

Ratings awarded are: Very Good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), and Insufficient (M).

The above classes will be judged on the second day of the event.

Working Dog Classes (Over 24 months with working title)

Ratings awarded are: Excellent-Select (VA), Excellent (V), Very Good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), and Insufficient (M).

The above classes will be judged in the performance evaluation on the second day of the event following the Youth Classes and Young Dog Classes.

Immediately after the performance test, all dogs that receive the evaluation “pronounced” will then be judged in the standing examination. Judging will continue on the third day of the event after the judging of the Progeny Groups and Kennel Groups.

The judging in each class starts with the stand exam. The judge carefully studies the anatomy, structure, and character of the dogs. Also, the character of the dog is tested and the judge will always observe the dog in this respect. There will be a test for gun sensitivity steadiness in the rings. Puppy Classes are excluded from this test. Once this judging has been completed, the dogs will be required to start gaiting. The function of the bones and muscles, firmness of the ligaments and joints, rhythm of movement, strength and endurance, as well as liveliness are now very carefully evaluated.

To qualify for a V-Select rating, dogs must have currently a breed survey ranking of Class 1, have complete and faultless dentition or must have a dental notation as established by the breed book office, the “a” Stamp or OFA Certification, and must have at least a SchH2 title or equivalent. They must come from a survey and performance breeding dogs competing for the V-Select rating a second time must have a SchH3 title. ([2003 GBM](#))

To be eligible for the rating of Excellent, dogs must possess the “a” Stamp or OFA Certification and when over three and one-half years of age, must be currently breed surveyed.

The age of the dog for determining the proper class and other requirements shall be its age on the day prior to the first day of the show.

Kennel Groups

Each Kennel Group must have no more and no less than (5) five dogs that possess the name of the kennel. These dogs must come from at least two different mothers and two different fathers. Dogs entered in the kennel group must also be entered and shown in a regular class. The most possible uniformity, the most possible combinations of parents, and the quality of the individual dogs in each group are the basis for the judging of the Kennel Groups.

Progeny Groups

Each Progeny Group requires a minimum of at least six (6) dogs. Dogs exhibited in the Progeny Group must also be entered and shown in a regular class. There is no entry fee for this class. The judging of the Progeny Groups shows the quality of the progeny produced by the often-used stud dogs. It also shows which positive and negative factors may have been inherited by their offspring and what to look for in the future breedings of these dogs. Therefore, it is required to show all dogs belonging to the Progeny Group. It is not necessary that the stud dog be shown in the class. The Kennel Groups and Progeny Groups will be judged before the judging of the gaiting of the Working Dog Classes.

III. PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION TEST

All dogs of the Working Dog Classes must participate in the Sieger Show Performance Test. There will be two (2) helpers; one for the “attack on handler” and one for the “pursuit and courage test.”

The dog has three (3) tries to perform the free heeling exercise to the attack on handler and must reach a predetermined distance from the blind (20 feet) to pass. The actual attack will commence when the dog is between 10 to 15 feet from the blind. The distance from the starting point of heeling to the blind will be 60 feet.

The judge will evaluate the grip work as it is described in USCA's Schutzhund Rule Book, "The dog should counter the attack securely and energetically in stopping the attack by the helper." A lack of self-confidence in the grip work shall be evaluated as "sufficient" in courage.

The "out" should show the dog clearly off the sleeve and in the guarding phase. The only command permitted is one word for the out such as: out, aus, or any other single command of out. The commands of sit or down to affect the out are not permitted here. The dog, however, may sit, down, or stand upon the out command, but may not bother the helper. The sit or down may be reinforced at a distance of 10 (ten) feet, if necessary as the handler approaches the dog.

The handler should, after the attack, leash their dog without physical restraint (such as grabbing the dog to prevent re-grip). The dog may receive an extra command to out to put the leash on the dog with no penalty; however, the dog that must be physically restrained or taken off of the sleeve physically will be disqualified. Once the dog is secured on lead, this exercise is over.

On the pursuit or the long grip, the handler may encourage the dog while holding them by the collar at the basic position to initiate the release as the helper proceeds to the middle of the field to start the exercise. The handler will release the dog upon a signal from the judge. The gripwork and the out will be evaluated the same as in the attack on handler.

Evaluation of the Performance Test:

1. Dogs that do not demonstrate a correct performance test cannot receive the rating of Excellent-Select (VA).
2. Dogs that continue to bump or re-grip after the out will be placed at the end of whatever conformation rating they would achieve.
3. Dogs that do not perform the free heeling exercise within three (3) attempts, or dogs that do not perform the "out" exercise, or dogs that receive the evaluation of "sufficient" or "insufficient" cannot continue in the competition of the show. No rating is given.

DENTAL NOTATION PROCEDURE

(Effective April 1, 1999)

A decision was made by at the SV General Board meeting to change the procedure for dental notations regarding missing or injured teeth. This change will require that for all dental notations, an entry must be made by an SV Körmeister or a USCA or SV conformation show judge in the corresponding section of the dog's scorebook showing proof of complete dentition as soon as the dog receives permanent teeth. Even if an x-ray is provided as proof, it is still mandatory that the required entry be made in the corresponding section of the scorebook an SV Körmeister or a USCA or SV conformation show judge.

Since most scorebooks at this time do not contain a dental notation section, the required form is available on the USCA website on the Official Forms Page. You may print, cut out, and insert the form in your dog's scorebook for future use if ever necessary.

In summary, below please find the revised text paragraph 4.3 of the SV conformation show rules. This also applies to the breed survey rules as well.

Conformation show ratings are not influenced by teeth, which are partially or completely missing due to external influence. It is required to have proof of the existence of a previously healthy and strong dentition with a complete scissor bite. An entry must be made on the original pedigree.

The following proof is acceptable:

1. Entry by a Körmeister or conformation judge in the corresponding section of the scorebook, showing proof of complete dentition as soon as the dog receives permanent teeth.
2. Körschein showing proof of dental status at time of the first survey.
3. X-ray and a letter from a licensed veterinarian showing at least parts of the root or tooth space.

VETERINARY LETTER FOR DENTAL NOTATIONS

Quite often the veterinary letters for dental notation are missing important information. To keep the processing time as short as possible, the following information must be included in the veterinary letter.

1. Complete registered name of the dog as it appears on the pedigree.
2. Registration number.
3. Tattoo number.
4. Dental status:
 - a. Tooth is broken
 - b. Tooth is completely missing (due to external influence)
 - c. Tooth had to be extracted
5. Reason for dental fault.
6. Location (right/left-upper/lower jaw, please stand behind dog when determining the right or left side).
7. Description of the tooth (please pay attention to correct description, for example P1, 2, etc.).

RADIOGRAPHS

Dental faults occur in German Shepherd Dogs from time to time. Only genetically caused dental faults matter. Dental faults caused by external influence (however it may happen) cannot be passed on to future generations and do not lower the breeding value of the German Shepherd Dog.

If the tooth is missing completely, including the root or when a tooth is extracted, an x-ray is required. Before a tooth is extracted an x-ray must be taken in any case. The x-ray is required for dental notation. The SV only recognizes x-rays taken by a licensed veterinarian.

Please pay close attention to the following:

- X-ray must be taken before the tooth is extracted
- Clear description of the tooth (left/right)

Note: Teeth that are not completely emerged from the gum (or not correctly developed) cannot receive a dental notation on the pedigree.

A certification by a veterinarian and x-rays are only necessary for teeth that were injured or were extracted due to the external influence.

PROCEDURE FOR RECORDING DENTAL NOTATION

German Shepherd Dogs who have had a dental injury or have a dental fault must have the injury, tooth loss, or dental fault noted on the pedigree by the SV. The following items must be submitted to the USCA Office for processing of dental notations:

1. Original recognized registration papers, including pedigree.
2. Veterinary letter (please refer to the requirements listed under Veterinary Letter for Dental Notations).
3. Original scorebook to include the entry made by an SV Körmeister or a USCA or SV conformation show judge in the corresponding section showing proof of complete dentition.
4. X-ray (please refer to the requirements listed under Radiographs).
5. Dental notation fee of \$45.00 payable to the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.

If you plan to attend a USCA breed survey or USCA conformation show in the near future and any dental faults have not been recorded on the pedigree or registration papers by the SV, the dental notation can be applied for at the USCA event and submitted to the USCA Office by the club show secretary. In this case, please supply the above-required items to the show secretary to be forwarded to the USCA Office for processing.

TRIAL PROCEDURES

All full member clubs must hold at least one (1) USCA-sanctioned event per calendar year. Every other year, this must be a USCA-sanctioned trial. Affiliated clubs must hold an affiliation trial and be approved by the presiding judge before holding their first USCA-sanctioned trial.

All rules, variances, and guidelines regarding USCA Working Dog Events can be found in the [USCA Working Dog Trial Rule Book](#).

I. GENERAL TRIAL PROCEDURE

A. SCHEDULING AND AUTHORIZATIONS

1. Prior to the trial, each club must receive approval (authorization) signed by a Regional Director.
2. A Friday or Monday trial may be conducted in conjunction with a trial on the adjacent day of the weekend regardless of the number of dogs entered on the adjacent day. An event authorization that includes the Friday or Monday trial must have been issued; and event notice must have been given to all clubs in the respective region at least three weeks in advance of the event. ([EBB #24-06](#))
3. No USCA club shall schedule a trial or breed event on the same date as the USCA IPO3 GSD National Championship. In addition, no trial authorizations will be issued for trials which occur on the same date as the national event in that region. ([2002 GBM](#))
4. Beginning in 2005, USCA Regional Championships for SchH/VPG competition shall not be scheduled on the weekend before or the weekend after the FCI IPO Championship and the WUSV World (SchH/VPG) Championship. ([2004 GBM](#))
5. The Regional Director has the authority to automatically suspend a club for one year if it is found to have hosted another organization's event on the same day as that given on a USCA Event Authorization. This will also occur if a club is found to have hosted an event that is not authorized on a particular day, i.e., Friday afternoon, without event authorization. All suspensions will be printed in the magazine. Suspended clubs will need to be re-affiliated and that club's trial will not count toward the club's annual trial requirement. ([EBB #9-04](#))
6. An affiliated club that hosts an affiliation trial and is approved by the presiding USCA judge shall be allowed to host a USCA-sanctioned trial the following day. ([2009 GBM](#))

B. NOTIFICATION

1. Notification of USCA-sanctioned events is to be provided to all clubs in the respective region(s) at least three weeks (21 days) in advance of the event.
2. Event notices must contain the date, specific location, and time of the event, the judge for the event, the contact person's name and phone number for information, plus a link to the trial entry form and flier (*completed on EAF, or [Event Authorization Form](#)).
3. Any changes must be provided to all clubs in the region via electronic mail, and/or digital communication, and posted to both Regional and USCA websites.
4. If a club is found to have hosted an improperly publicized USCA-sanctioned event, it shall be reduced to affiliated status for one year, and shall be required to meet all the requirements once again to become a full member club

([EBB #05-14](#))

C. GENERAL TRIAL RULES

See the [USCA Working Dog Trial Rule Book](#) for all rules, variances, and guidelines regarding USCA Working Dog Events.

- a. No spectator(s) may be excluded from or ejected from USCA events: trials, shows, koerung, youth evaluation, etc., whether admission is charged or not, unless disruptive in an overtly, openly hostile manner. (1987 GBM). Spectators may be excluded from club trials held on private property.
- b. Any form of cash, prizes, or cash awards exceeding \$100 at USCA-sanctioned events is prohibited, with the sole exception of scholarship awards to youth members. ([2008 GBM](#))
- c. Rule changes will become effective 30 days after they are posted on the USCA Website and all regional directors are notified. ([2008 GBM](#))

D. ENTRIES

1. All entries in a USCA Trial must be current USCA members or members of a USCA-approved organization. Non-USCA entries into USCA events will be subject to additional entry fees. All residents of the United States must be a member of a United States USCA-recognized dog organization. Foreign residents may enter at club level competition, provided they have current membership in a foreign dog organization that is USCA recognized (FCI, WUSV Member Club, SV, DVG).
2. Effective March 21, 2013, all Non-USCA members will pay an additional \$25.00 filing fee for entry into any USCA local club trial, for any title/degree. Because of our existing reciprocity agreement with Canada, the GSSCC will be exempt from this additional fee. ([EBB #10-13](#))
3. Entrants must be a USCA member to be eligible to enter any USCA-sanctioned regional, national, or helper event. ([2009 GBM](#))
4. Entry into any USCA Championship Event requires current USCA Membership in good standing.
5. All dogs entered in a USCA event must have a USCA-issued scorebook or a scorebook issued from a USCA recognized organization. Scorebook bonds, in lieu of a scorebook, may be posted (by USCA members only) to enter a USCA trial.
 - a. Any Non-USCA member cannot enter a USCA trial without a recognized scorebook, and cannot post a scorebook bond at the trial. ([EBB #03-13](#))
 - b. **Scorebook bonds:** in lieu of a scorebook, the handler (USCA members only) can put forth a \$50 deposit (check payable to USCA) that is sent in with the paperwork to the Administrator, and upon receipt of the scorebook the check is refunded. Scorebook is to be received within ten days. It is up to the judge and he can refuse to judge the dog without a scorebook. (1985 EBM)
6. All dogs entered in a USCA event must be identified by a tattoo or microchip. Owners of dogs that are microchipped are responsible for providing the necessary equipment for the identity check. ([2004 GBM](#)).

E. H.O.T. DEFINITION

To be considered a H.O.T. (Handler Owner Trained) dog, dogs must have been titled from BH to current degree with listed owner/handler (any age). Verification will be done through evidence the

owner/handler provides and also copies of the scorebook pages showing the titles and the date the event was held including the judges' name. ([GBM 2002](#))

To qualify as Handler Owner Trained (H.O.T.), the following criteria must be met:

1. The dog must be owned and registered in the name of the handler.
2. A significant amount of the training of the dog may not have been done by someone other than the owner without the owner being involved in the training; e.g., the dog may not have been sent to a trainer for the retrieve, heeling, protection, or tracking.
3. The dog may not have been trained to the level of being ready to pass a BH before purchase. When purchasing a scorebook or entering a trial with a H.O.T. dog, the handler/owner may be required to sign a statement that the requirements listed above have been met. Falsely entering a dog as a Handler Owner Trained (H.O.T.) will result in the handler being disqualified for "unsportsmanlike conduct" from the entered event, and may also result in possible BOI charges that may include loss of USCA membership.

([2006 GBM](#))

F. HELPERS

1. All helpers participating at a USCA event must have a current USCA Membership and USCA Helper Book with current "classification" to be allowed to work the level of trial they are participating in.

Additional requirements and information are listed in the [USCA Working Dog Trial Rule Book](#) and in the [USCA Helper Program](#) available on the USCA website.

G. JUDGES

1. USCA judges receive free entry to USCA events. They pay to enter a trial, but may attend other functions free. ([1987 GBM](#))

Additional requirements, regulations, and information regarding judges are included in the [USCA Working Dog Trial Rule Book](#) and the [USCA Performance Judges Program](#) available on the USCA website.

H. TRACKLAYERS

Requirements, regulations, and information regarding tracklayers are included in the [USCA Working Dog Trial Rule Book](#) and the [USCA Tracklayer Program](#) available on the USCA website.

I. TRIAL SECRETARY AND TRIAL PAPERWORK

Duties of the trial secretary can be found in the [USCA Working Dog Trial Rule Book](#).

1. Trial Paperwork must be submitted with fees to the USCA office within five (5) days of the completion of the event. USCA requires an administrative entry fee per entry when submitting trial paperwork.
 - a. There are two fee structures; one is for USCA member entries and one is a different fee of greater amount for non-USCA entries. The amounts of these fees are determined by the Board of Directors. As of March 21, 2013, the fees are \$4 per USCA member and \$25 per non-USCA member. The \$25.00 filing fee will be the responsibility of the Non-USCA member entered in a local club trial. This fee is not the responsibility of the local hosting club.

For example: the filing fee for a USCA member in a USCA club trial is \$4.00. A Non-USCA member entered into a club trial will pay \$29.00.

- b. Individual clubs hosting the trial may also charge an additional “Trial Entry Fee” at an amount of their decision.

[\(EBB #10-13\)](#)

J. SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

USCA encourages and supports sportsmanship and camaraderie among all USCA members; however, local clubs reserve their right to refuse entries at their events. In the interest of good sportsmanship, entries should not be unreasonably denied.

The exception to this rule will apply to the host club for national and regional events where the right of refusal rests with the sponsoring organization. National Events are: USCA National Championship, North American and FH Championship, H.O.T. Championship, Sieger Show, and regional championships. [\(2004 GBM\)](#)

II. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

See “Regional Championships” under **Regional Policy** in this **Rules and Regulations Manual**.

1. A club that is hosting a regional championship event, working or breed, may host a trial on the day preceding the event. [\(2000 GBM\)](#)
2. USCA will sponsor a trophy for each Region, for the Highest Scoring Breed Surveyed Dog in a Regional Championship. [\(EBB #01-14\)](#)

III. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

USCA National Championship events include: USCA GSD IPO3 National Championship and USCA Working Dog Championship.

A. USCA GSD IPO3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Requirements for entry:
 - a. Restricted to SchH3 German Shepherd Dogs registered with either the USCA Breed Registry or the USCA/SV Breed Registry. [\(2002 GBM; EBB #7-05\)](#)
 - b. Limited to members in good standing with the United Schutzhund Clubs of America. [\(2002 GBM\)](#)
 - c. Scorebooks must be registered with the USCA Office. Individuals whose permanent residence is outside the US are exempt from these requirements. [\(2002 GBM\)](#)
 - d. A qualifying score of 270 points or better at the SchH3/IPO3 level at a USCA-sanctioned event. [\(1982 GBM; 2002 EBM\)](#)
 - i. Any SchH3 dog imported into the U.S. whose scorebook is registered with the USCA Administrator of Records Office after January 1 of any calendar year must attain a qualifying score by August 1 of the same calendar year for entrance into that year’s Nationals. This rule does not pertain to imported SchH1 or SchH2 dogs or their equivalent. [\(2001 GBM\)](#)
 - e. Participation in a Regional Championship. [\(EBB #18-03\)](#)

- i. To qualify for participation, the handler/dog team at a minimum must begin one or more phases of the trial. If while participating the dog is pulled due to injury or illness, the process outlined under “Pulling a Dog from a Trial” under the General Rules and Regulations in the **USCA Working Dog Trial Rule Book** will apply. A notation in the scorebook of “terminated (or discontinued) because of injury or illness” is acceptable to qualify for participation. A handler/dog team that cannot attempt the exercises or achieve a partial score due to a pre-existing injury is not qualified as having participated. Disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct does not qualify as participation. ([2005 GBM](#))
- ii. Regional Championship participation is not required for those individuals whose permanent residence is outside the 48 contiguous United States of America. Permanent residence will be the address provided to the Office with membership application or renewal. ([EBB #24-03](#))
- iii. Regional Championship participation is not required for entry to the GSD National Championship if the handler/dog team participated in the USCA-GSDCA WUSV Championship Qualification Trial representing USCA, or was selected by USCA or AWDF for a WUSV or FCI team and participated that year. ([2005 GBM](#); [EBB #17-13](#))

B. USCA WORKING DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS

The USCA Working Dog Championships was ratified at the [2007 GBM](#), and instituted in 2009.

1. The North American Championship, H.O.T. Championship, FH Championship, Youth National Championship, and Obedience National Championship shall be combined into an event titled the USCA Working Dog Championships.
2. The USCA Working Dog Championships will use the same window in May that the North American Championship and FH Championship now hold.
3. The North American Championship and the H.O.T. Championship will be merged into one event with placings for the top ten dog/handler teams overall and the top ten dog/handler teams for the H.O.T. USCA will sponsor the H.O.T. trophies.
4. The high-scoring SchH3 GSD/handler team at the USCA Working Dog Championships will receive an automatic placing on the USA WUSV team provided they also have a qualifying score of at least 270 points at the GSD National Championship or the AWDF Championship.
5. The North American Championship/H.O.T. Championship will also offer SchH1 and SchH2.
6. The USCA Working Dog Championship *recommended* schedule will be:

Wednesday

FH Championship and Obedience Championship (Draw night)

Thursday

FH Championship and Obedience Championship (Competition)

North American Championship/H.O.T. Championship (Helper selection)

North American Championship/H.O.T. Championship and Youth Championship (Draw night)

Friday

North American Championship/H.O.T. Championship (Competition starts)

Saturday

North American Championship/H.O.T. Championship (Competition continues)
Youth Championship (Stadium events)

Sunday

Youth Championship (Tracking events)
Closing Ceremonies

7. **FH Championship:** Any dog that competes in the FH championship must have received an FH within the previous year prior to entering the competition. ([EBB #20-12](#))
8. **Obedience Championship:** For economic purposes, the “Obedience Championship only entries”, and the IPO3 entries can be integrated, utilizing only one judge, and everyone will compete at the OB3 level.
 - a. All of the IPO3 dogs will be automatically entered into the Obedience Championship, and we include the “Obedience Only entries”—they will all draw the same, and do obedience in the flight(s) they draw.
 - b. The flight(s) which incorporates the ‘Obedience only entries’ will have (1) one less dog in tracking and protection.
 - c. If there are sufficient ‘Obedience only entries’, these entries could have their own flight(s). The decision can be made after the entries are closed.
 - d. The National Obedience Champion would be the highest scoring obedience dog, regardless of the outcome of the other phases (tracking/protection). i.e., If the IPO3 Dog/Handler team fail tracking, but score 99 in Obedience, the Team can still be awarded National Obedience Champion.
 - e. In the case of a tie, the tie breaker would go to the Judges score sheets in exercise order. The first dog to score higher than the other dog in exercise order wins. For example, both dogs receive 9.5pts in Free Heeling, both receive 9.0pts for Sit in Motion, however, Dog “A” received 10pts for the Down in Motion, and Dog “B” received 9.5pts. Dog “A” is the winner.
 - f. When Obedience is the tie breaker, we do not eliminate the ‘Obedience only entries’ from competing. This criteria does not put any extra importance on any particular exercise, just whomever scores highest first, in exercise order.
 - g. High Scoring Obedience Trophy is still ONLY for the IPO3 dog(s). If the IPO3 entry passed all three phases and tied (with another IPO3 entry), the tie breaker would be the Protection score.

([EBB #23-13](#))

C. PRACTICE FOR NATIONAL EVENTS

1. Competitors at National Events may reserve their times in advance either by using a website or by talking with the trial secretary. ([2003 GBM](#))
2. The NEC recommends two options for the handlers. Not everybody wants to practice obedience and protection during an 8 minute time frame. Obedience may be practiced at one time and protection at another. Two handlers can practice obedience at once, allowing 6 minutes total. Then, when all the obedience is done, if the handler wishes, they can have 5 minutes allotted for protection. This plan will speed up stadium practice and make for a more pleasant and fair competition. ([2003 GBM](#)).

3. All training collars (i.e., electronic collars, prong collars, etc.), when used humanely, will be permitted at all USCA events during practice sessions. At USCA national events, a committee shall be named to monitor practice sessions. At least two individuals from the committee shall be present for all practice sessions. All USCA officers (Executive Board) and USCA judges will also be part of enforcing the policy when present and witness to an incident. ([2008 GBM](#))

D. BID PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL EVENTS

1. National event bid forms for the USCA Working Dog Championships must be submitted to the National Events Committee by May 1st of the prior year. ([2007 GBM](#))
2. National event bid forms for the GSD National Championship must be submitted to the National Events Committee by November 1st of the prior year. ([2007 GBM](#))
3. Completed national event bid forms will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. The Executive Board will strive to approve host clubs that are geographically separated. ([2007 GBM](#))
4. The bid proposal should include the following information: host club and officers, insurance information, funds available for financing event expenses, and past regional and national event experience. Contracts for tracking, stadium and practice facilities, motels, and draw night location should be included. Also a video or photos of the stadium (with a dog working) and tracking are necessary. Finally, the number of USCA members willing to help and availability of sponsorship money should be included in the bid proposal. ([2004 GBM](#))
5. Regional directors must be involved in soliciting bids. ([2004 GBM](#))

E. USCA AS NATIONAL EVENT HOST

USCA will be the primary host for all working dog National Events, adhering to the following policies:

1. The USCA President will appoint an event chairperson for each event. The chairperson will be responsible for the organization and administration of the event while adhering to the USCA National Events Manual.
2. USCA as the primary host of the event will bear any financial loss the event may incur.
3. USCA as the primary host of the event will receive 70%, and the local host club will receive 30% of any net profit the event may generate.
4. A National Events Protocol will be developed and become part of the USCA National Events Manual. This protocol will detail the regulations the event chairperson must follow. The USCA Executive Board will approve this protocol no later than January 30, 2010.
5. A budget will be developed and adhered to for each event. The USCA Treasurer will process all financial transactions for the event.
6. The event chairperson and the USCA Treasurer will approve all contracts for the event. ([2009 GBM](#))

F. RESPONSIBILITIES OF HOST CLUB

Responsibilities of the host club are outlined in the **National Events Manual**.

WUSV WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

PREREQUISITES

Candidates who qualify to represent the United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USCA) in the WUSV World Championship must demonstrate the following.

1. Conduct that exemplifies good sportsmanship and self-discipline.
2. A strong desire to attend the WUSV World Championship and represent the United Schutzhund Clubs of America in international competition.

OVERVIEW

1. Teams representing USCA at the WUSV World Championship are restricted to German Shepherd Dogs.
2. Declared dogs must have an IPO 3 title.
3. Dogs declared must have a USCA recognized scorebook.
4. The deadline to declare for the WUSV World Championship Team is March 1 of the same year the WUSV World Championship is held (Ex. March 1, 2013 for the 2013 WUSV Championship).
5. Competition is restricted to one dog per handler.
6. Declared dogs must be registered with the USCA Breed Registry or USCA/SV Breed Registry no later than the declaration deadline.

HANDLER

1. The handler must be a member in good standing of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USCA) for one (1) year prior to the declaration deadline.
2. The handler must be a United States citizen OR a permanent resident of the United States.
3. The handler / dog team must remain the same throughout the qualification process and the WUSV championship.
4. The handler is not required to be the owner of the declared dog.

REQUIRED FORMS/PAYMENT

Candidates aspiring to be on the WUSV World Championship Team must submit the following declarant packet to the USCA Office (3810 Paule Ave. / St. Louis, MO / 63125-1718) postmarked no later than declaration deadline even though all of the qualifying events have not yet been held. **This deadline will be strictly enforced.**

- a. A completed USCA WUSV World Championship Team Candidate Information Form (see [WUSV Declaration Packet](#) on USCA Website)
- b. A declaration of consideration (see [WUSV Declaration Packet](#) on USCA Website)
- c. A declaration of club membership (see [WUSV Declaration Packet](#) on USCA Website)
- d. A copy of the dog's registration papers
- e. A declaration fee of \$250 must be submitted with the declarant packet. The fee will be returned if the candidate does not make the team. The fee will be refunded after the declarant completes

participation in the WUSV World Championship. The fee will be forfeited if the candidate makes the WUSV team and chooses not to participate as a team member in the WUSV World Championship.

REVIEW

The USCA Office will notify a candidate in writing (i.e., letter or email) if the candidate does not meet the necessary requirements. The notification will contain the reasons for the decision. The candidate may appeal this decision to the World Championship Committee.

QUALIFICATION PROCESS

The following process will be used to select the 10 dog-handler teams to compete for USCA at the USCA-GSDCA WUSV Qualification Trial.

1. The top five (5) dog/handler teams at the USCA German Shepherd Dog National Championship, who receive at least 270 points and at least 80 points in protection (pronounced), will earn an automatic bid to compete in the Qualification Trial.
2. The top five (5) German Shepherd Dog dog/handler teams at the USCA Working Dog Championship, who receive at least 270 points and at least 80 points in protection (pronounced), who have not already qualified, will earn an automatic bid to compete in the Qualification Trial.
3. The remaining spots (should 1 or more of the above not be filled) will go to the dog/handler teams that have competed in the USCA German Shepherd Dog National Championship and USCA Working Dog Championship. The spots will go to the teams with the highest average, calculated by using the scores from those 2 trials. First preference will go to dogs who receive at least 270 points and 80 points in protection (pronounced) in one of the 2 qualifying trials. Ties will be settled by average protection score; if still tied, the average obedience score will settle the tie. If tied in all 3-phase averages, then the spot will go to the youngest dog.
4. If positions remain to be filled after completing 1 through 3 above, the World Championship Committee may select additional dog/handler teams, giving consideration to teams that placed 6th or lower in the USCA German Shepherd Dog National Championship.
5. If positions remain to be filled after completing 1 through 4 above, the World Championship Committee may select additional dog/handler teams, giving consideration to German Shepherd Dog dog/handler teams that placed 6th or lower in the USCA Working Dog Championship.
6. Announcement of the team members will be made as soon as practical to the team members.

TEAM MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

1. All USCA members of the WUSV World Championship Team are representatives of USCA and shall strive to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner both on and off the field.
2. The USCA team members will be required to arrive at their event destination at least three (3) days prior to competition. Team members who want to arrive earlier must make their own arrangements.
3. All team members, including the alternate, shall wear their team uniforms during competition and at all official events such as draw night, opening ceremonies, and closing ceremonies.
4. Any member of the team who conducts him or herself in an unsportsmanlike manner shall be subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal from the team. The decision to dismiss a team member shall lie solely with the team captain.

5. Any disciplinary action taken against USCA team members for detrimental conduct shall be filed in an Exception Report with the World Championship Committee no later than 30 days after the WUSV World Championship, or within 30 days after the action became known to the filer. The World Championship Committee shall decide if further action is to be taken by filing charges with the Board of Inquiry, if necessary.

USCA TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The USCA Team Captain for the WUSV World Championship Team shall be responsible for:

1. Assisting dog and handler teams in preparation for international competition.
2. Organizing and managing a training program in the host country of the WUSV World Championship.
3. Advising all team members in all matters pertaining to their well-being and the well-being of their dogs pertaining to and at the event.
4. Acting as spokesperson for the USCA team in all matters pertaining to the USCA team's participation in the WUSV World Championship.
5. Making advance preparations for the WUSV team's visit to the host country and arrangements for competition in the championship. This shall include air travel reservations, ground transportation, lodging, uniforms, correspondence, etc.

(Updated by EBB #07-14)

FCI WORLD TEAM ELIGIBILITY

FCI World Team Eligibility is controlled by the **American Working Dog Federation**, or AWDF. Please see the AWDF website for more information on the FCI World Team. The FCI Declaration Packets can be found at: <http://www.awdf.net/documents.html>.

USCA AWARDS PROGRAMS

USCA UNIVERSAL SIEGER REGULATIONS

This program has been designed to promote the German Shepherd Dog breeding in the United States of America, addressing both physical qualities as well as character attributes as the foundation of the true German Shepherd Dog. These regulations have been submitted by the 1998 Breed Advisory Committee and have been approved on May 6, 1998 by the Executive Board at the meeting in Bangor, Maine.

1. Beginning with the year 1998, the United Schutzhund Clubs of America will recognize and award a “USCA Universal Sieger (year)” as a title for German Shepherd Dogs.
2. All German Shepherd Dogs owned by a resident of the United States of America who are members in good standing of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America are eligible to receive this title under the following conditions:
 - The dog must be breed surveyed and receive at least the KKL2 rating.
 - The dog must be shown in the USCA Sieger Show and USCA GSD National Championship in the same year.
 - The dog must be pronounced and at least SG at the USCA Sieger Show. ([2005 GBM](#))
 - The dog must be pronounced and at least G at the USCA-GSD National Championship. ([2005 GBM](#))
3. The dog receiving the highest number of points combined in both events will be declared as the USCA Universal Sieger (year). A minimum of 20 points is necessary.
4. Beginning with the year 2006, dogs bred in the USCA under the breeding regulations of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America will receive an additional five points. ([2005 GBM](#))
5. The following points will be awarded:

Points Sieger Show GSD National Championship

25 Sieger – Working Dog Classes National Champion

20 VA – Working Dog Classes V

15 V – Working Dog Classes SG

10 SG – Any Class G

6. In the event of several dogs achieving identical points (tie), the dog bred in the USCA under United Schutzhund Clubs of America regulations will be favored over any other dog. If there is still a tiebreaker necessary, then the points received from the performance in the GSD National Championship will dominate the other points.
7. The Universal Sieger (year) is an important title for our breeding goals and will therefore be recognized within the first two generations in the pedigrees of any progeny bred under the breeding rules of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.
8. The Universal Sieger will be recognized on the front cover of the USCA magazine within the following year of winning the award.
9. The person handling the Universal Sieger in the GSD National Championship event will receive a trophy award immediately following the declaration.
10. The breeder and or the owner of the Universal Sieger will receive at the following Sieger Show banquet an award certificate.

USCA BREEDERS CUP AWARD PROGRAM

This program is designed to encourage German Shepherd Dog breeders in the United States of America to follow the breeding regulations of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America for the German Shepherd Dog as a working dog balanced in character attributes and physical qualities.

These regulations have been submitted by the 1998 Breed Advisory Committee and have been approved on May 6, 1998 by the Executive Board at the meeting in Bangor, Maine.

1. Beginning with the year of 1998, the United Schutzhund Clubs of America will recognize and award every year the first three most successful breeders of German Shepherd Dogs based on the Breed Survey System.
2. The award is named:
 “USCA Breeders Cup”
 1st to 3rd place (year)

All breeders of German Shepherd Dogs, which are residents of the United States of America and are members in good standing with the United Schutzhund Clubs of America are eligible to participate under the following conditions:

- a. The dogs must be bred by the same person under the same USCA-registered kennel name.
 - b. Only dogs that are breed surveyed, either with the United Schutzhund Clubs of America or the SV in Germany can be recognized. It is the breeder’s responsibility to submit the Breed Survey Certificates before April 15th of the following year when the dog has been surveyed in Germany.
3. Beginning with the year 2000, only dogs which have been registered as a complete litter under the regulations of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America can be recognized.
 4. The three (3) breeders earning the highest numbers of points from their breed surveyed dogs of the current year will receive the USCA Breeders Cup Award 1st to 3rd place (year).
 5. The following points will be awarded:
 KKL 1 = 10 points
 KKL 2 = 7 points
 6. The winners of the “Breeders Cup” will be announced in the USCA magazine as soon as results are available (after April 15th of the following year).
 7. The winners of the “Breeders Cup” will receive their awards at the Sieger Show banquet of the following year.
 8. Breeders of USCA breed surveyed dogs from previous years back to 1992 will receive the same recognition and awards based on the same principles.

Because of the importance to identify the breeders of the “True German Shepherd Dog” in our organization, an ongoing list of the all-time top ten breeders based on these regulations will be established and published once a year in the USCA magazine in connection with the “USCA Breeders Cup Award.”

IPO3 / SchH3 CLUB

Applicant must comply with all of the following:

1. The titles of BH, IPO/SchH1, IPO/SchH2, and IPO/SchH3 must be earned by the same handler on a previously untitled dog. All protection scores must adhere to USCA standards.
2. All titles must be acquired at USCA event(s).
3. A copy of the scorebook showing proof of titles **MUST** be submitted with application for SchH3/IPO3 Club membership.

[\(EBB #24-13\)](#)

USCA SPORTS MEDAL PROGRAM

GUIDELINES FOR AWARDING USCA SPORTS MEDALS

1. Any USCA member in good standing is eligible to earn USCA Sports Medals.
2. Only USCA-sanctioned trials or trials in which the participant is an official USCA team representative are valid for the awarding of points toward a USCA Sports Medal.
3. The SchH1, IPO1, AWD1, and SchH2, IPO2, AWD2 titles obtained on an individual dog can only be counted once in a club trial, but may be repeated and counted at championships; while the SchH3, IPO3, AWD3, FH1, FH2, IPO-FH, and HGH titles may be repeated and counted.
4. The AD and BH titles obtained on an individual dog may only be counted once. The WH, SchHA, OB1, TR1, STP1, RH1 and OB2, TR2, STP2 titles obtained on an individual dog may only be counted once in a club trial, but may be repeated and counted at championships; while the OB3, TR3, STP3, RH2, RH3 titles may be repeated and counted.
5. Dogs that possess the SchH3, IPO3, AWD3 and are older than six years can be shown in the lower categories for points.
6. A handler may show several dogs in the same trial and receive points for each dog.
7. Handlers less than sixteen years of age can earn points if they pass the examination with a trained dog even if they did not train the dog themselves.
8. The dog must have been trained and handled for the title by the applicant in order for the points to be awarded. However, if the dog changes handlers, the new handler may receive points by repeating the SchH3, IPO3, AWD3, FH1, FH2, IPO-FH and HGH titles if those titles under the previous handler are more than one year old. The same rule applies for the SchH1, IPO1, AWD1 and the SchH2, IPO2, AWD2 for dogs more than six years of age. The borrowing of SchH3, IPO3, AWD3 or FH1, FH2, IPO-FH or HGH, STP3, RH2, RH3 dogs to repeat those titles in order to earn points is not allowed.
9. Handlers may receive points for successfully handling dogs in other actual working dog evaluations including Search and Rescue Dog and Police Dog certification events when participation is confirmed in writing by the authorities responsible for the event. If more than one level of evaluation is used (such as PD1 and PD2), the lower level is treated as a SchH2 and the higher level is treated as a SchH3. Where ratings are given, they will be translated into the appropriate SchH/IPO/AWD rating for the awarding of points. If no ratings are given, five and seven points will be awarded for level one and two, respectively. If there is only one level of performance eight points will be awarded.

10. An applicant must notify the USCA Office to be considered for a Sports Medal. A photocopy of the identification page and performance pages from the scorebooks of each dog used in the accumulation of points and a fee of \$20 per Sports Medal claimed must accompany the letter of notification. The applicant must clearly indicate those scores to be used in the accumulation of points.
11. The official records of trial results as maintained by USCA will be used to verify an applicant's claim. In the case of dispute, the official USCA records will prevail.
12. The actual award will consist of the medal (pin), a certificate, and recognition in *Schutzhund USA*.
13. Members are listed under the year the application for the Sports Medal was received and processed. The year of accomplishment may differ from the year of application.
14. In order to earn points the dog and handler team must pass with a rating of at least Good (G). ([2001 GBM](#))
15. The following describes the Sports Medals to be awarded, the point requirements, and the basis upon which the points will be awarded:

SPORTS MEDAL POINTS REQUIREMENTS

Sports Medal in Bronze	20 points within two years
Sports Medal in Silver	35 points within three years
Sports Medal in Gold	50 points within six years
Master Sports Medal	150 points plus Sports Medal in Gold

SPORTS MEDAL POINTS SCHEDULE

Title	Rating	Points
SchH1/VPG1/IPO1	Good (G)	3 Points
SchH1/VPG1/IPO1	Very Good (SG)	4 Points
SchH1/VPG1/IPO1	Excellent (V)	5 Points
SchH2/VPG2/IPO2	Good (G)	5 Points
SchH2/VPG2/IPO2	Very Good (SG)	6 Points
SchH2/VPG2/IPO2	Excellent (V)	7 Points
SchH3/VPG3/IPO3	Good (G)	7 Points
SchH3/VPG3/IPO3	Very Good (SG)	8 Points
SchH3/VPG3/IPO3	Excellent (V)	9 Points
AWD1	Good (G)	3 Points

AWD1	Very Good (SG)	4 Points
AWD1	Excellent (V)	5 Points
AWD2	Good (G)	5 Points
AWD2	Very Good (SG)	6 Points
AWD2	Excellent (V)	7 Points
AWD3	Good (G)	7 Points
AWD3	Very Good (SG)	8 Points
AWD3	Excellent (V)	9 Points
FH1	Good (G)	3 Points
FH1	Very Good (SG)	4 Points
FH1	Excellent (V)	5 Points
FH2	Good (G)	5 Points
FH2	Very Good (SG)	6 Points
FH2	Excellent (V)	7 Points
IPO-FH	Good (G)	7 Points
IPO-FH	Very Good (SG)	8 Points
IPO-FH	Excellent (V)	9 Points
HGH	Good (G)	7 Points
HGH	Very Good (SG)	8 Points
HGH	Excellent (V)	9 Points
RH1	Good (G)	3 Points
RH1	Very Good (SG)	4 Points
RH1	Excellent (V)	5 Points
RH2	Good (G)	5 Points
RH2	Very Good (SG)	6 Points
RH2	Excellent (V)	7 Points

RH3	Good (G)	7 Points
RH3	Very Good (SG)	8 Points
RH3	Excellent (V)	9 Points
SchHA/VPGA	Good (G)	2 Points
SchHA/VPGA	Very Good (SG)	3 Points
SchHA/VPGA	Excellent (V)	4 Points
OB1	Good (G) or above	1 Point
OB2	Good (G) or above	2 Points
OB3	Good (G) or above	3 Points
TR1	Good (G) or above	1 Point
TR2	Good (G) or above	2 Points
TR3	Good (G) or above	3 Points
STP1	Good (G) or above	1 Point
STP2	Good (G) or above	2 Points
STP3	Good (G) or above	3 Points
APR1	Good (G) or above	2 Points
APR2	Good (G) or above	3 Points
APR3	Good (G) or above	4 Points
IPO-VO	Good (G)	1 Point
IPO-VO	Very Good (SG)	2 Points
IPO-VO	Excellent (V)	3 Points

The USCA Sports Medal Program is effective January 1, 1980. All scores after this date apply toward the USCA Sports Medal.

Sports Medal Program last updated 2/12/13 ([EBB #02-13](#))

USCA WORKING CHAMPION TITLE/PROGRAM

The title of USCA Working Champion (USCA-WC) can be earned by all USCA members in good standing.

REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKING CHAMPION TITLE

1. IPO3 three (3) times with scores of at least 270
2. At least one (1) IPO3 (270+) must be accomplished at a Championship (Regional or National)
3. At least three (3) different Judges. A judge may not be the same for more than one trial where he/she has judged all three (3) phases. (If multiple judges are used for a Championship then the judge may also be used in another event)
4. Applicant **MUST** be a USCA member and owner of the dog
5. All events used to qualify **MUST** be done at USCA sanctioned events.

Applicant must send into the USCA office copies of dog's scorebook with qualifying events indicated, plus a \$10 processing fee.

Dogs that are awarded the Working Champion Title will be listed on the USCA website, printed in the magazine, and receive a "USCA Working Champion Certificate".

[\(EBB #13-13\)](#)