



United Schutzhund Clubs of America

“For the German Shepherd Dog”

Breed Survey Regulations

Revision 2023

1. GENERAL

The USCA is a German Shepherd Dog breed organization guided by the rules of the founding organization of the German Shepherd Dogs, Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) in Germany, with the objective of preserving the breed in accordance with the breed standard a working dog.

The USCA breed survey regulations coincide with the SV regulations; however, they have been somewhat modified to conform to the needs of USCA. The USCA Breed Survey regulations govern all breed survey activities for the German Shepherd Dog. The purpose of the USCA Breed Survey regulations is to select breeding animals that, according to their temperament, performance, and anatomical characteristics are suitable for maintaining and improving the breed.

2. USCA SURVEY ORGANIZATION

2.1. Breed Book Office

The USCA breed Book Office checks all breed survey paperwork for correctness, then processes and file the reports. The USCA Breed Book Office publishes a USCA Breed Survey Book annually containing the data on all dogs that have been breed surveyed in a USCA event.

2.2. Breed Survey Masters

USCA appoints experienced USCA breed judges to serve as breed survey masters and also uses SV Koermeisters. The breed survey masters have no legal claim to yearly breed survey assignments. Selection of breed survey masters lies with the local clubs. Stick contact will remain in effect for the USCA only Breed Survey. Foreign Koermeisters who are not permitted to judge stick contact to the dog by their organizations, will not be permitted to judge a USCA only breed survey.

2.3. Breed Survey Season The season for breed surveys is from January 1, through December 31 of each year. Dogs may be presented for surveying one time during each season.

2.4. Breed Survey Entry Maximum The number of dogs for each survey is limited to 50. If more than 50 dogs are entered, an additional half-day must be added on the same weekend.

2.5. Breed Survey Regional Notification of Breed Survey

Clubs must send notice to their regional clubs a minimum of 4 weeks prior to SV breed survey event due to SV imposed entry deadline.

2.6. USCA/SV Breed Surveys “Registration list of the Breed Survey”

For all USCA/SV Breed Surveys, clubs must send the SV “Registration list of the Breed Survey” form to the USCA Office 14 days prior to the event due to the SV imposed entry deadline. This can be done via email transmission.

2.7. Legal

2.7.1. The decision of the breed survey master is final. Objections are not permitted.

2.7.2. Obtaining or losing breed survey status gives no legal claims to interested parties or outsiders. Any claims for damages from interested parties (owners) or outsiders arising from obtaining or losing breed survey status are denied.

2.7.3. The owner of the dog is liable for any damage caused by the dog.

3. PREREQUISITES FOR BREED SURVEY PARTICIPATION

3.1. USCA Registration

Dogs must be registered with USCA if the owner resides in the United States.

3.2. WUSV Membership

Owners of the dogs must be current members of WUSV organization.

3.3. Age Requirement

Dogs must be a minimum of two (2) years old in the year of the survey.

3.4. Performance Title

3.4.1. For a USCA/SV breed survey, dogs must have at least one performance title IGP/IPO 1 (IPO 1 must be earned December 31, 2018 or before, VPG , HGH, or RH2 -B) obtained under a USCA recognized performance judge, and a BH obtained under a WUSV recognized judge.

3.4.2 For a USCA only breed survey, dogs must have at least one performance title USP 1, IPO 1, IGP 1, VPG , HGH, or RH2 –B obtained under a USCA recognized performance judge,-and a BH obtained under a WUSV recognized. Dogs with an HGH title are not required to have a BH title.

Endurance Test

- 3.4.2.** For a USCA/SV breed survey, dogs must have passed an endurance test (AD) under an SV licensed judge or AD pending the next day under an SV licensed judge at the same breed survey event; however, this requirement is waived for dogs with an HGH title and dogs that are six (6) years or older. Final decision to allow dog for breed survey for a dog that is AD pending the next day at the same event lies with the officiating judge.
- 3.5.2** For a USCA only breed survey, dogs must have passed an endurance test (AD) under a USCA recognized judge, or AD pending the next day at the same breed survey event; however, this requirement is waived for dogs with an HGH title and dogs that are six (6) years or older. Final decision to allow dog for breed survey for a dog that is AD pending the next day at the same event lies with the officiating judge.

3.5. Hip and Elbow Certification

- 3.5.1.** For USCA only or USCA/SV breed survey, dogs must have a WUSV/USCA recognized hip and elbow certification with ~~tattoo~~ or microchip identification or pending WUSV/USCA recognized hip and/or elbow certification with ~~tattoo~~ or microchip identification. Note: Check with the USCA Office for a current list of recognized hip and elbow certifications. Final decision to allow dog for breed survey for a dog that has hd/ed pending lies with the officiating judge. Note: Starting in year 2020, OFA hips and elbows will no longer be accepted by the SV for USCA/SV breed survey and for dogs born after 10/1/2022, OFA hips and elbows will no longer be accepted for USCA only breed survey.

3.6. Breed Show Rating

- 3.7.1** Dogs must have a breed show rating of at least 'good' under a USCA recognized breed judge in the Youth, Young dog, Adult Untitled Class or Working dog class or pending breed show rating of at least "good" under a USCA recognized breed judge in the young or working dog class in the conformation show the next day at the same breed event. Final decision to allow dog for breed survey for a dog that is show rating pending the next day at the same event lies with the officiating judge. ***only pending breed rating from the young or working dog class because the dog must be minimum IPO 1 for breed survey and minimum age for IPO 1 is 18 months so that excludes a breed survey pending rating in the youth class***
- 3.7.2** For USCA/SV breed survey, show rating in the Adult Untitled Class must be under SV judge.

3.7.3 A dog over 3.5 years of age with no breed survey can be eligible for a breed show rating of V provided they are entered in and pending successful completion of the breed survey the next day at the same conformation show, at the same breed event. Dog must be placed at the end of any other V dogs which already have a valid breed survey. If the dog does not successfully complete the breed survey, the show rating is invalid and will be marked in the catalog as such. Any awards for the placement of this dog will be withheld until successful completion of the breed survey and be awarded to the dog after completion of the breed survey. Final decision to allow dog for show rating V on a dog over 3.5 years of age with no breed survey provided they are entered in and pending successful completion of breed survey the next day at the same event lies with the officiating judge.

~~3.7.~~ Character Assessment Test (WB) ~~(ZAP)~~

3.7.1. For USCA/SV Breed Survey, the completion of the Character Assessment Test (WB) ~~(ZAP)~~ will be required on all dogs born on or AFTER July 1, 2020.

3.7.2. For USCA only Breed Survey, the completion of the Character Assessment Test (WB), will be required on all dogs born on or after 1/1/2025.

3.8. Jump Test

3.8.1. For USCA breed Survey there will be a Jump Test which will be mandatory for the First Time Breed survey for any dogs under 8 years of age. For dogs over 8 years of age going for a Lifetime Breed Survey, the Handler can decide if they want their dog to perform the Jump Test.

3.8.2. The Jump Test will be recorded on the breed survey report at the end of the overall description of the dog. The Judge will write a short description of the dog's ability to jump up onto a platform or over a jump. Dogs who fail this test can continue with remark on the breed survey "failed Jump Test". Any dogs injured during the jump test can also continue with a remark on the breed survey that says, "Injured during Jump Test".

3.8.3. The Jump Test must follow the Protection Phase of the Breed Survey.

3.8.4. The dog can perform the Jump Test up onto a sturdy platform or over a jump. It is the Handler's decision which Jump Test they want their dog to complete. During the Jump Test, the handler may not physically support the dog while performing the exercise. The Handler is allowed to give their dog up to three jump commands at the start of the Jump Test. The Handler can decide if they want their dog to perform the Jump Test on or off leash.

3.8.5. The platform should be of sturdy construction and approximately 1 meter x 1 meter in size and at a height of approximately 0.8 meters tall. The jump should be set at approximately 0.8 meters.

3.9. USCA Recognized Judges

The judges who are recognized by USCA are USCA Judges, WUSV organization Judges, SV Judges (including foreign judges), Canadian Judges, and FCI Judges from WUSV member organizations.

3.10. Additional Prerequisites

- 3.10.1.** Sick animals may not be presented.
- 3.10.2.** Females in season must be reported to the breed survey master who controls participation.
- 3.10.3.** Females in whelp must be reported to the breed survey master who controls participation.
- 3.10.4.** Females cannot participate after 42nd day of pregnancy and before 42nd day post-delivery.
- 3.10.5.** Dogs must be identifiable by a recognizable tattoo and/or microchip number.

4. SPONSORING LOCAL CLUBS

4.1. Prerequisites

- 4.1.1.** Venue with the necessary accommodations and restrooms.
- 4.1.2.** Trained assistants.
- 4.1.3.** Breed Survey Secretary.

4.2. Required Equipment

- 4.2.1.** Shelter for the breed survey master and breed survey secretary.
- 4.2.2.** Sufficiently large ring.
- 4.2.3.** PA, Loudspeaker.
- 4.2.4.** SV breed survey measuring stick.
- 4.2.5.** Measuring tape (in metric system).
- 4.2.6.** Scale to weigh (metric system).
- 4.2.7.** Two (2) blank guns (6mm) with adequate blank ammunition.
- 4.2.8.** Numbered bibs or armbands for dog handlers.

4.3. Duties of Breed Survey Secretary

- 4.3.1.** Mail breed survey entry forms to participants a minimum of three weeks in advance.
- 4.3.2.** Check submitted documents for accuracy and completeness, check the eligibility of the dogs entering the breed survey.

- 4.3.3. Prepare Korlisten (breed survey forms) and temporary breed survey certificates and have them ready for the breed survey master either prior to, or at the start of the survey. The forms are available from the USCA website.
- 4.3.4. Inform the breed survey master regarding receipt and number of entries.
- 4.3.5. Provide a catalog-type list of participants that is divided by males and females, and first time, and repeat breed surveys.
- 4.3.6. Submit the checked documents for each dog to the breed survey master before the start of the breed survey.

5. REGISTERING FOR THE SURVEY

The following documents must be submitted no later than the day of the breed survey

- 5.1. Original USCA recognized pedigree-demonstrating proof of USCA registration.
- 5.2. Original Breed Show rating card/book, demonstrating proof of Breed Show rating.
- 5.3. Original scorebook showing proof of; AD, BH, and one (1) performance title.
- 5.4. Original hip, and elbow certificate showing proof of USCA or SV recognized hip/elbow certification with tattoo or microchip number identification, if not entered on the pedigree.
- 5.5. Original ZAP certification (for SV breed surveys only for dogs born AFTER July 1, 2020)
- 5.6. Original Breed Survey report (if a resurvey).
- 5.7. Original signature authorization form for dogs that are co-owned, unless previously submitted to the USCA Breed Book Office (this form is available from the USCA Breed Book Office).
- 5.8. Photocopy of WUSV membership card.

6. SURVEY PROCEDURE

6.1. Temperament Test

The Breed Survey Master must subject each dog individually to a temperament test. The Temperament evaluation may extend throughout the entire survey. According to the standard, the dog must display sound temperament; i.e. be carefree, self-confident, and good-natured and have steady nerves.

6.2. Gun Test

From a distance of at least 15 paces, at least two (2) gunshots must be fired from a 6mm blank gun. The dog must not have a negative reaction to the gunfire.

6.3. Protection Work – Surprise Attack on Handler with Guarding

- 6.3.1.** The handler reports to the Breed Survey Master with the dog on leash.
- 6.3.2.** Upon instruction by the Breed Survey Master the handler assumes the basic heel position at a marked spot, 25 meters/30 paces away from the blind, and takes the leash off of the dog .
- 6.3.3.** The leash must be placed around the shoulder or inside of the pocket of the handler.
- 6.3.4.** Upon a signal from the Breed Survey Master, the handler/dog will walk toward the blind with the dog free heeling.
- 6.3.5.** The dog must stay closely at heel position until the handler reaches a marked spot 7 meters/9 paces in front of the blind. Repeated verbal commands are permitted. Touching the dog is not permitted. If handler and free heeling dog reach this marked spot, the helper, upon a signal from the Breed Survey Master, will perform an attack while making threatening noises. If the dog breaks the heel before reaching the marked spot, the helper shall not attack. The handler has two more opportunities to reach the 9 paces mark with his dog in heel position. Should the dog fail to heel to the 9 paces mark in all three attempts, the protection phase will be terminated due to lack of obedience. The dog can be presented again for breed survey with a maximum of three attempts within the same calendar year.
- 6.3.6.** The dog must counter the attack immediately and confidently and must bite hard and full.
- 6.3.7.** For UCSA only Breed Survey, once the dog has a grip on the sleeve, the helper applies two (2) stick hits with a soft stick on either the thighs, the sides, or in the area of the withers.
- 6.3.8.** For USCA/SV Breed Survey, once the dog has a grip on the sleeve, the helper applies stick pressure but there will be no stick contact to the dog.
- 6.3.9.** The handler may verbally encourage the dog to counter the attack.
- 6.3.10.** Upon a signal from the Breed Survey Master, the helper stops the attack and stands still.
- 6.3.11.** The dog must release the grip either on its own or upon receiving the verbal command 'out/aus' and then must guard the helper.
- 6.3.12.** The Breed Survey Master gives the handler the instruction to step forward up to the dog.
- 6.3.13.** The handler puts the leash on the dog and receives the instruction from the Breed Survey Master to step into the assigned blind.

6.4. Protection Work Execution - Attack on the dog out of motion, Fight and Guarding

- 6.4.1.** The Breed Survey Master tells the handler to leave the assigned blind and take the position on the centerline of the field.

- 6.4.2. The handler will take the leash off of the dog, and may hold the dog by the collar.
- 6.4.3. The dog must stay in this position until he is sent to counter the attack with the verbal command of “Go on/ voran”.
- 6.4.4. Upon receiving a signal from the Breed Survey Master, the helper leaves the assigned blind, which is located at a distance of approximately 70-80 paces from the handler, and runs (not walks) across the field to the centerline then turns to attack.
- 6.4.5. The handler may give a verbal command to stop the helper, “Stop, Standstill, or I will send my dog”
- 6.4.6. The helper ignores the command and performs a frontal attack on the handler and the dog. The handler must remain still in position, and may not approach the dog during the fighting phase
- 6.4.7. Immediately after the attack begins, the Breed Survey Master will give the handler the instruction to counter the attack/ and send the dog.
- 6.4.8. The handler immediately sends his dog with the verbal command “Go on/voran”, remains standing still and may not approach the dog during the fighting phase until after the Out, and is signaled to approach the dog
- 6.4.9. The dog must energetically counter the attack with drive, and with a strong, full, sure, and calm grip.
- 6.4.10. Once the dog has a grip on the sleeve, and after a brief pressure phase, the helper stops the attack - on a signal from the Breed Survey Master. No stick hits are given.
- 6.4.11. Thereafter, the dog must release either on its own, or upon receiving the verbal command “Out/aus” and must guard the helper.
- 6.4.12. Upon a signal from the breed survey master, the handler walks directly to the dog at a normal pace and puts the leash on the dog.
- 6.4.13. With the dog on leash, the handler reports to the Breed Survey Master and then leaves the field.

6.5. Protection Work Scoring - Release

- 6.5.1. After the helper stops the attack, the dog must release on its own.
- 6.5.2. The handler may give the first “Out/aus” command on his/her own - after a reasonable time.
- 6.5.3. If the dog does not release after the first “Out/aus” command, the Breed Survey Master will instruct the handler to give another “Out/aus” if necessary, the handler is permitted one more, a total of three (3) Out/aus commands.
- 6.5.4. When giving the “Out/aus” command, the handler must stand still and may not influence the dog in any way.

- 6.5.5. If the dog's name is used, it will be counted as an “Out/aus” command.
- 6.5.6. If the dog releases on its own when the handler approaches, it can still be counted as a release; however, the handler must be at least five (5) paces from the dog at that time.
- 6.5.7. If the dog releases on its own or in response to the “Out/aus” command after the attack and after the defense exercise; the rating “Does Release” is awarded.
- 6.5.8. If the dog does not release—even once on its own, or in response to the “Out/aus” command after the attack or after the defense exercise, the dog will receive the rating “Does Not Release.” In this case the breed survey is terminated. The dog can be presented again for breed survey with a maximum of three attempts within the same calendar year. It is not possible to present a dog more than three times per calendar year, regardless if the breed survey was stopped due to lack of obedience or not releasing.
- 6.5.9. The Breed Survey Master stays near the handler during the entire protection routine, and keenly observes the behavior of dog and handler until after the handler has picked up the dog.

6.6. Protection Work Scoring– Evaluation of Instinctive Behavior, Self-Confidence, and Ability to Cope with Stress (TSB)

- 6.6.1. The overall rating of the protection exercises is scored as “Pronounced,” “Present,” or “Insufficient”.
- 6.6.2. Pronounced: Self-confident, intense, goal-oriented and secure gripping and holding, no negative reactions to the stick hits, and close and attentive watching in the guarding phases.
- 6.6.3. Present: Deficiencies, for example, in self-confidence, in goal-oriented behavior, in grip and stick behavior, as well as in the guarding phases.
- 6.6.4. Insufficient: Lacking self-confidence, strong deficiencies with respect to hardness, and disinterest in the helper.

6.7. Measurement and Weight

The breed survey secretary or an assistant may weigh the dogs and take measurements for chest depth and chest circumference. The Breed Survey Master must take measurements of the height at the withers.

6.8. Examination of Standing Dog - Evaluation of Movement

During this examination the Breed Survey Master will write the breed survey report. The handler must refrain as much as possible from influencing the dog during this examination.

6.9. Reports and Certificates

After completing the survey for each dog, the Breed Survey Master announces the results over the PA. The owners of the dogs receive a temporary breed survey certificate signed by the Breed Survey Master that shows the survey result. This certificate is proof of breed survey and replaces the original paperwork while the USCA Breed Book Office is processing the breed survey.

7. BREED SURVEY

7.1. The Breed Survey is the highest breed survey classification that is awarded. Dogs that comply with the breed standard will be included in this class:

7.1.1. Measurements, weight, and structure conform to the standard

7.1.2. Overall temperament is self-confident and good-natured, with TSB rating of "Pronounced."

7.1.3. TSB rating of "present"

7.1.4. Faultless dentition with no missing teeth; however, double premolars #1 are allowed

7.1.5. Dentition faults as follows:

Missing one premolar #1 or one incisor or

Missing two premolars #1 or

Missing one premolar #1 and one incisor or

Missing one premolar #2

Slight level bite of the middle incisors

7.1.6. Minor anatomical faults

7.1.7. Oversized or undersized up to 1 cm, measured at the withers (maximum size for males 66 cm and bitches 61 cm. The minimum for males is 59 cm and bitches 54 cm). ~~Size limitations are suspended until 12/31/2020.~~

7.2. Breed Survey Improvements

The owner of the breed surveyed dog (fist/resurvey) is allowed to present the dog for breed survey improvements. This can be done no sooner than the following year of the original breed survey and it's allowed only once for each instance of survey (first/resurvey)

7.3. One (1) Year Deferment

A one-year deferment is possible for the following reasons:

7.3.1. The physical development of the dog is not advanced enough for surveying, but the dog is expected to reach desirable development

7.3.2. The TSB evaluation of the dog is insufficient to pass the breed survey

7.3.3. A one-year deferment is only possible one time for the same reason. If the dog

fails a second time for the same reason, the dog is not suitable for surveying

7.4. Not Suitable for Survey

The following faults preclude a breed survey:

- 7.4.1. Considerable anatomical faults
- 7.4.2. Oversized or undersized more than 1 cm, measured at the withers (maximum is males 66 cm/females 61 cm and minimum is males 59 cm/bitches 54 cm)
- 7.4.3. Testicle faults
- 7.4.4. Dentition faults as follows:
 - Missing one premolar #3
 - Missing two incisors
 - Missing one premolar #2 plus one incisor
 - Missing one premolar #2 plus one premolar #1
 - Missing two premolars #2
- 7.4.5. Considerable pigment deficiencies
- 7.4.6. Dogs with long coat or long stock coat without undercoat

7.5. Survey Duration

- 7.5.1. The duration for initial survey and survey after lapse is two years. The dog must be presented again during the second year of the current breed survey for the resurvey for life
- 7.5.2. Resurvey is effective for life
- 7.5.3. The survey duration for females that are in an advanced stage of pregnancy or are nursing may be extended for an additional year without the female being presented for evaluation (survey extension). Survey extension is not possible for any other reasons and may be granted onetime. On the day of the breed survey the following proof must be presented:
 - Proof of pregnancy of at least 42 days by submission of the stud certificate/report of breeding card.
 - Certificate issued by the local breed warden or a licensed veterinarian verifying that the female is visibly pregnant,
 - Certificate issued by the local breed warden or a licensed veterinarian verifying that the female is nursing if no more than 42 days have elapsed from the whelping day to the survey day.

7.6. Termination of Survey Status

- 7.6.1. If a surveyed dog is not presented for resurvey, the breed survey status expires at the end of the calendar year.

7.6.2. Breed survey status is terminated by “breed survey status repeal.” Breed survey status is repealed upon application of the Breed Survey Master or breed judge directed to the USCA Breed Book Office. Breed survey status may be suspended during the time the application is being processed.

8. BREED SURVEY CERTIFICATE AND BREED SURVEY BOOK

The USCA Breed Book Office returns to the owner in a timely manner the original documents submitted at the breed survey. Upon processing of the breed survey, the breed survey results will be published in the next possible issue of the USCA magazine. The owner receives a translation of the breed survey report from the USCA Breed Book Office. The breed survey result is noted on the original pedigree. Data on dogs surveyed during each year are published, separated by gender, in the USCA Breed Survey Book. The Breed Survey Book contains comprehensive information for the dogs recommended or suitable for breeding, including physical characteristics and temperament. Together with the comments of the Breed Survey Master with respect to breeding recommendations, this information makes this book a comprehensive and indispensable reference source for the serious breeder.

1/20/2023 proposed changed by Heidi Theis, NBW to align with SV, FCI no stick contact order for IGP, and add new USCA performance titles, USP