

# **UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA**



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## **RULES AND REGULATIONS MANUAL**

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*Updated 07/2024*

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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 MEMBERSHIP RULE**

An Executive Board Member, Officer, Regional Director, Judge, standing committee member or elected individual may not be a member of a competing German Shepherd Dog Organization

[\(EBB# 36-17\)](#)

## **USCA JUDGES RELEASE FEES FOR NON USCA EVENTS**

USCA Judges Release Fees for non USCA Events to \$ 150.00 for all non USCA Club level Trials and \$ 300.00 for all non USCA Championships. [\(EB Ballot #12-17\)](#)

# USCA DOG AGGRESSION POLICY

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

## **1<sup>ST</sup> 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.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> 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.

## **3<sup>RD</sup> 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 MICROCHIPPER/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 Microchipper/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/microchippers.

**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 microchippers/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 microchippers/tattooers. Local wardens and microchippers/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 microchippers/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 microchippers/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.

**4.1.5.** A licensed veterinarian can act as a breed warden by 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 USCA Breed Book Office.

## **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. MICROCHIPPER/TATTOOER**

### **5.1 Election and Eligibility**

**5.1.1** The microchipper/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 microchippers/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 microchippers/tattooers cannot serve breeders of the same household.

**5.1.5** A licensed veterinarian can act as a microchipper/tattooer by 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 USCA Breed Book Office.

### **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 microchipper/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 microchipper/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 microchipper/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](#))

1/2023 updates approved at 2022 GBM & [EBB #01/22](#).

# 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 regulations cover all requirements in terms of breeding for German Shepherd Dogs in consideration of animal welfare and the breed regulations as laid down and amended by the SV.

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. Duties of the Breeder

#### 2.2.1. Requirements for approval of breeder

Applicant has to be major of age and possess expert knowledge/skill

Verification and inspection of the breeding site

International Kennel Name Protection (according to FCI)

The verification of the requirements completed by USCA office

#### 2.2.2. Microchip

All puppies must be marked by an implanted microchip before they are sold.

#### 2.2.3. Vaccination of Puppies

Before puppies are sold, they must be vaccinated by a veterinarian. The microchip number of the animals must be entered into the vaccination certificate.

#### 2.2.4. Documentation

The breeder is obligated to maintain record documentation of all relevant data of his or her breeding site.



### **2.2.5. Litter Notification**

The breeder is obligated to notify USCA of all reports of breeding. They are then further obligated to inform USCA (breed wardens) at the time of birth of all litters as well as enabling inspections by breed wardens to the breeding site to examine the litter, the mother dog, the rearing conditions, and overall situation of the breeding site.

### **2.2.6. DNA**

All USCA litter registrations will require SV DNA on all dogs born after 1/1/2023.

## **2.3. 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.

### **2.3.1. Duties**

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

### **2.3.2. Frequency of Breeding Leases**

A breeder is limited to five breeding leases per calendar year

### **2.3.3. 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.

### **2.3.4. 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.

## **2.4. 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. A licensed veterinarian can act as breed warden by 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 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. Microchippers/Tattooers**

For identification purposes, the puppies are microchipped under the guidance of USCA. Microchipping is a prerequisite to registration in the USCA Breed Book Office. To carry out the microchipping, USCA has established microchip districts within the regions. Breeders are required to have their puppies microchipped by a licensed veterinarian and are also permitted to have their puppies tattooed by the Microchipper/Tattooer in addition to the required microchip. (microchip required, effective January 1, 2022)

#### **3.2.1. Jurisdiction of Microchippers/Tattooers**

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

#### **3.2.2. Duties of Microchippers/Tattooers**

The microchipper/tattooer must check the jurisdiction of the club breed warden; and, after making an appointment with the breed warden and the breeder, must microchip/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 microchipping/tattooing. The microchippers/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 microchip/tattoo number is later failing or 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 microchipping/tattooing expenses may not be made.

#### **3.2.3. Microchipping/Tattooing of Litters**

Only USCA microchippers/tattooers and USCA regional breed wardens are authorized to microchip/tattoo litters. A licensed veterinarian can act as microchipper/tattooer upon receiving instructions from the regional breed warden and signing a veterinary instruction form stating he/she is familiar with the microchipping/tattooing procedure. It is the responsibility of the regional breed warden to forward this form to the USCA Office. Forms are available from 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 and Suitable for Breeding**

Eligible for breeding are all dogs entered in the USCA Breed Book (if the owner resides in the United States) that meet the minimum breeding requirements of Basic Breeding level, as outlined in this document in "Section 5.1. USCA Breed Book".

#### **4.1.2. 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:

**4.1.3.** Do not meet requirements set forth under 4.1.1. and Section 5.1. USCA Breed B

**4.1.4.** Dogs registered in the Performance Register

**4.1.5.** Dogs with the following faults:

- Faulty temperament, aggressive or nervous biters, or weak nerves
- Documented hip or elbow dysplasia (moderate or severe)
- Monorchids or cryptorchids
- Disfiguring ear and/or tail faults
- Dogs with long stock coat without undercoat
- Dogs with long hair
- Considerable pigment deficiencies, including blues, livers
- 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 via dental notation at the USCA office, the Körschein showing original full dentition, or by a previously recorded dental status form showing original full dentition.
- 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 after whelping three times by cesarean section
- Severed musculus pectineus
- 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.
- The breed value of the dogs as described above is considerably limited as a result. For that reason, they shall not be admitted for breeding purposes. Descendants of those dogs cannot be admitted to the breed book or the amendment side register. The owner of the dog affected shall be immediately informed about the decision in terms of the unsuitability for breeding.

## **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.

Quality Control X-raying. Before the 31<sup>st</sup> stud service, the stud dog has to be subjected to a so-called quality control x-raying, including identity check. For further details, stud dog owner may contact USCA Breed Book Office.

#### **Females**

Females may not raise more than three litters in a period of 24 months. Relevant is the day of giving birth. Females in their heat cycle may not be subjected to multiple mating by different males.

### **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 and must report all breeding services to USCA Breed Book Office via the breeding card. Owners of stud dogs may not issue blank report of breeding cards. The stud dog owner must keep documentation/copy of breeding card in their records.

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 cannot be entered into the USCA Breed Book. ([2022 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 microchipping/tattooing, the litter registration application must be completed, with copies for the club breed warden, microchipper/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
- Microchip/tattoo book slip (original)
- Microchip/tattoo control strip
- Certificate of foster raising, if applicable (available from the USCA Breed Book Office)
- DNA

#### **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 recognized by the SV and WUSV. Litters whelped in the United States can be registered with USCA and/or AKC.

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.

The population of Stock hair and long stock hair with undercoat are separate breed bases. Dogs from the two different breed bases may not be used for breeding together. Stock hair animals must be bred to stock hair animals and longstock hair with undercoat animals must be bred to longstock hair with undercoat animals.

#### **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 3-3 (applies for dogs born on or after October 1, 2021), 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 ([revisions, EBB #01/22 & GBM 22](#))**

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, dna testing 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: Premium, Advanced, Basic and Performance.

#### **5.1.1. Premium Level Breeding (pink pedigree)**

Offspring descending from two breed surveyed parents.

- 5.1.1.1.** The identity of the presented dog shall be explicitly verified by the dog's chip number or the tattoo.
- 5.1.1.2.** Only German Shepherd Dogs with pedigrees that are recognized by the WUSV/FCI, and who have completed the minimum age of 18 months shall be admitted for the procedure of breed admission. Female dogs are admitted for breeding from the age of 20 months and male dogs from the age of 24 months.
- 5.1.1.3.** Verification of a WUSV recognized hip diagnosis (FCI categories A, B, or C, respectively WUSV categories normal, almost normal or still admitted).
- 5.1.1.4.** Verification of a WUSV recognized elbow diagnosis (FCI categories 0 or 1, respectively WUSV categories free, intermediate, or mild ED).
- 5.1.1.5.** Verification of a minimum breeding evaluation (conformity to standard) "Good/Gut" under a judge recognized by the national WUSV member club.
- 5.1.1.6.** Verification of DNA examination based on the pedigree entry DNA- tested, DNA-on file, or the entry DNA-stored as confirmed by the USCA subcontractor or AKC DNA.
- 5.1.1.7.** Verification of a successfully passed Character Test (WB).
- 5.1.1.8.** Verification of a successfully passed Endurance Test (AD).
- 5.1.1.9.** Verification of a successfully passed working title IPO 1-3, IGP 1-3, HGH, or RH2A.



- 5.1.1.10.** Verification of a successfully passed Breed Survey examination (initial breed survey valid for two years, indefinite breed survey valid for lifetime). The procedure for breed surveys is defined in the respective regulations.

Descendants of dogs for whom the above mentioned applies shall not receive a newly issued pedigree – however – the up-grade shall be noted down in the pedigree.

### **5.1.2. Advanced Level Breeding (green pedigree)**

- 5.1.2.1.** The identity of the presented dog shall be explicitly verified by the dog's chip number or the tattoo.
- 5.1.2.2.** Only German Shepherd Dogs with pedigrees that are recognized by the WUSV/FCI, and who have completed the minimum age of 18 months shall be admitted for the procedure of breed admission. Female dogs are admitted for breeding from the age of 20 months and male dogs from the age of 24 months.
- 5.1.2.3.** Verification of a WUSV recognized hip diagnosis (FCI categories A, B, or C, respectively WUSV categories normal, almost normal or still admitted).
- 5.1.2.4.** Verification of a WUSV recognized elbow diagnosis (FCI categories 0 or 1, respectively WUSV categories free, intermediate, or mild ED).
- 5.1.2.5.** Verification of a minimum breeding evaluation (conformity to standard) "Good/Gut" under a judge recognized by the national WUSV member club.
- 5.1.2.6.** Verification of DNA examination based on the pedigree entry DNA- tested, DNA-on file, or the entry DNA-stored as confirmed by the USCA subcontractor or AKC DNA.
- 5.1.2.7.** Verification of a successfully passed Character Test (WB).
- 5.1.2.8.** Verification of a successfully passed Endurance Test (AD)
- 5.1.2.9.** Verification of a successfully passed working title IPO 1-3, IGP 1-3, HGH, or RH2A.

Dogs who in the meantime qualified for a higher-level Premium may be registered for an up-grade and thus obtain the next higher levels according to the latest qualification.

Descendants of dogs for whom the above mentioned applies shall not receive a newly issued pedigree – however – the up-grade shall be noted down in the pedigree.

### **5.1.3. Basic Level Breeding (orange pedigree)**

- 5.1.3.1.** The identity of the presented dog shall be explicitly verified by the dog's chip number or the tattoo.
- 5.1.3.2.** Only German Shepherd Dogs with pedigrees that are recognized by the WUSV/FCI, and who have completed the minimum age of 18 months shall be admitted for the procedure of breed admission. Female dogs are admitted for breeding from the age of 20 months and male dogs from the age of 24 months.
- 5.1.3.3.** Verification of a WUSV recognized hip diagnosis (FCI categories A, B, or C, respectively WUSV categories normal, almost normal or still admitted).
- 5.1.3.4.** Verification of a WUSV recognized elbow diagnosis (FCI categories 0 or 1, respectively WUSV categories free, intermediate or mild ED).

**5.1.3.5.** Verification of a minimum breeding evaluation (conformity to standard) "Good/Gut" under a judge recognized by the national WUSV member club.

**5.1.3.6.** Verification of DNA examination based on the pedigree entry DNA- tested, DNA on-file, or the entry DNA-stored as confirmed by the USCA subcontractor or AKC DNA.

**5.1.3.7.** Verification of a successfully passed Character Test (WB)

Dogs who in the meantime qualified for a higher level such as Advanced or Premium may be registered for an up-grade and thus obtain one of the next higher levels according to the latest qualification.

Descendants of dogs for whom the above mentioned applies shall not receive a newly issued pedigree – however – the up-grade shall be noted down in the pedigree.

## **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 Appendix Registry – Performance Registry**

The registry is called the "Performance Registry". The Performance Registry serves for the entry of dogs with a WUSV pedigree with missing information within the first 3 generations or for entry of dogs without a pedigree or with a pedigree that is neither recognized by the WUSV nor the FCI, and who was subjected to a phenotype evaluation with positive results by a USCA recognized breed judge for German Shepherd Dogs.

A phenotype evaluation may only be carried out from the minimum age of 12 months on, and if the dog in question can be reliably identified by microchip or tattoo number.

**5.5.1.** Furthermore, dogs are registered in the Performance Registry who descend from dogs that were already in the registry (possible only in terms of basic breeding level) and if three consecutive generations of ancestors were verified in the registry, from the fourth generation on, the descendants can be admitted to the USCA Breed Book.

**5.5.2.** The German Shepherd Dogs contained in this registry will start with a “P” registration number. All dogs must be Microchipped and can also be tattooed in addition to the microchip.

**5.5.3.** Performance Registration will be a gray pedigree stamped with “Does Not Meet WUSV Basic Harmonization Requirements”.

# 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. (updated GBM 2022)

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

## I. DEFINITIONS AND JURISDICTIONS

### 1. We Distinguish Between

#### 1.1 Local breed shows.

**1.1.1** USCA clubs organize, and host breed shows for stock hair and long stock hair with undercoat. The judging of the dogs is to be carried out separately and in accordance with their type of coat, subdivided into classes and breed groups. See I.2.

#### 1.2 Regional breed shows.

**1.2.1** USCA clubs organize, and host breed shows for stock hair and long stock hair with undercoat. The judging of the dogs is to be carried out separately and in accordance with their type of coat, subdivided into classes and breed groups. See I.3.

#### 1.3 The USCA Sieger Show (odd years) and the USCA National Show (even years).

### 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**

Every WUSV member country shall only organize and hold one national winner show called the Sieger show per year where the ranking of Excellent Select (VA) may be granted. USCA conducts the United States Sieger Show (odd years) by agreement with the other WUSV club located in the United States.

**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 – I.4, a printed catalogue must be issued.**

**1.1** A printed breed event catalogue shall be mandatory. The catalogue must indicate name, registration number, their microchip or tattoo number, their date of birth, their trial titles, breed survey information if applicable, the hd/ed certifications, sire and dam information (name, registration, titles), name of the breeder, and name of the owner (and co-owner) for each dog entered.

**1.2** Only dogs fulfilling conditions below may be entered and listed in the catalogue and only dogs in the official catalog shall be subject to evaluation.

**1.2.1** Must present a WUSV or FCI recognized pedigree.

**1.2.2** Must have microchip or tattoo.

**1.2.3** Are free of all signs of illness.

**1.2.4** Are not barred from progeny registration.

**1.2.5** Females cannot be presented from the 42<sup>nd</sup> day of pregnancy on. Lactating females may only be shown 70 days after giving birth to the litter.

**1.2.6** The owner must be a member of a WUSV organization.

**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 closing date for class division shall be the first day of the show in case an event is scheduled for longer than one day. The dogs shown at a breed event are divided into the respective classes for stock hair and long stock hair with undercoat.

**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** Open Dog Class applies to dogs older than two years without working title.

**2.4** Working Dog Class applies to dogs over 2 two years old, after having successfully passed a character test (WB), proof of hd/ed certification on the pedigree, a recognized trial title (IGP 1, IPO 1, RH 2-A, HGH). (WB will be required to enter working class for all dogs born on or after 1/1/2025.)

**2.5** Herding Dogs fall under the age definitions set forth in II.2.1 to II.2.4. The herding dog class only includes dogs serving in a herding capacity. Working Dog Herding Class is limited to dogs who have earned a Herding Dog title.

**2.6** Breeders' (Kennel) Groups — Each Kennel Group consists of a minimum of (3) three dogs and a maximum of (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 with a minimum rating of “G” “Good”. The dogs must be of the same coat variety. Breeders may enter more than one Kennel Group. Stock Coat and Long Stock Coat Kennel Group will be judged separately. The judging will be based on uniformity of the group, quality of the individual animals and the most possible combinations of parents.

**2.7** Progeny Groups may be presented. The groups must consist of a minimum of (5) dogs that were born by at least three different mothers.

**2.8** The Maternal Family consists of 4 animals (dogs and/or bitches) from one Kennel, which can be attributed to the direct dam line (maternal kennel name), and must bear the same kennel name. For registration purposes at the Show, the entry “Maternal-Family” will be an individual registration form A minimum of 4 dogs entered from 1 maternal name – male or female – must be presented. The dogs must come directly from the dam’s line and must have the maternal kennel name. The Maternal Family may consist of either permitted coat type (SC/LC). The presentation and evaluation of maternal family is a separate competition. 50% of the participating animals do not have to be shown in their respective classes. However, registration applies for all animals entered. All dogs must have the appropriate qualifications for their age in terms of titles, breeding surveys and HD/ED results.

1. Dogs over 2.5 years of age with no working title are not eligible.
2. Dogs over 3.5 years without a breed survey are not eligible.
3. All dogs entered must be from parents that are titled/breed surveyed
4. At least one of the dogs must be presented in the working class.

If a dog entered in the Maternal Family class becomes ill before the final evaluation, the breeder is free to continue competing or to withdraw the Maternal-Family. If the minimum number cannot be reached due to a dog falling ill, the Maternal Family cannot participate in competition. The evaluation of the Maternal-Family will take place in the ring for Breeders Group Mother-Family Class. Presentation will immediately precede the performance of the Progeny Group. Participation in the Maternal-Family competition must be recorded in the catalog. All dogs that are part of the presentation must be listed individually, under the maternal name. A breeder may register several Maternal Families in the same event.

**2.9** 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](#))

**2.10** 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 and they must meet the same qualifications as the Working Dog Class.

### 3. Assessments

In puppy classes under paragraph 2.8 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 I.1 – I.4, the following ratings can be issued:

**Excellent Select – VA – Only awarded at the United States Sieger Show** – Animals in the Working Classes who, after undergoing a thorough examination, fully conform to the breed standard, who are self-confident, outgoing, and indifferent to gun fire. Must be minimum IGP 2 or IGP 3 if vying for 2nd United States VA title. Must have proof of the “a” stamp normal or fast normal rating from WUSV approved hd/ed certification stamped on the pedigree. OFA elbows are not accepted for dogs born after October 1, 2021. Must have a valid breed survey and the first breed survey examination must be with TSB pronounced. Must have DNA stored with USCA office. Parents and grandparents must be titled prior to breeding and parents/grandparents must be breed surveyed within the calendar year after the birth of the litter.

**Excellent** – Animals in the 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 proof of WUSV recognized hd/ed certification; and, when more than 3-1/2 years old, must be breed surveyed. (At a Sieger Show, the dog must have a breed survey to achieve an excellent rating.) Double premolars #1 are allowed. OFA elbows will no longer be accepted for dogs born on or after October 1, 2021.

**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** 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 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. Breed Shows shall be open to the public.
3. On all breed events, the mentality in terms of tolerance of the dogs shown has to be taken into consideration. The possibility for appropriate gait exercises has to be guaranteed.
4. The steadiness to gun shot is verified at a distance of approximately 15 steps with a 6mm caliber starter pistol.
5. 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.
6. Ratings awarded by a judge during a breed show are final. Protests are not permitted.
7. The exhibitor must give truthful information about his dog. Attempts to mislead result in USCA penalty proceedings.
8. 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.
9. Only judges who are recognized by USCA are authorized to judge breed shows that are subject to the WUSV breeding program.
10. 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. The 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.
11. 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 and National Conformation Show Rules

## **I. GENERAL**

Show rules are based on USCA Breed Show Regulations, which are binding unless otherwise stated herein. Entrants are advised that they must submit the following original documents: pedigree and registration papers from the country of origin upon registration check-in for the dog being entered into the show as well as proof of training titles, breed survey, and hip/elbow certification, if applicable or awarded. Acceptable training titles are IPO, IGP, RH 2a, DPO, HGH, and others deemed acceptable by the Breed Advisory Committee. Dogs brought to the show must provide proof of proper vaccination, this is required by law.

Not acceptable for entry into the show are dogs that seem to be unhealthy or have an unhealthy appearance.

Dogs not entered in the show cannot be brought into/onto the show grounds.

Should a dog entered in class's 12-months and older become sick after the Stand Exam, the dog must be presented 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 injury/damage to any dogs, damage caused by another dog and/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 non-refundable. The exhibitor is responsible for sportsmanlike behavior and presentation. The exhibitor is also responsible for truthful statements about his/her 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 eight classes:

These classes will be judged on the first day of the event

Baby Puppy Class (4-6 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very Promising (VP), Promising (P), Less Promising (LP)

Junior Puppy Class (6-9 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very Promising (VP), Promising (P), Less Promising (LP)

Performance Test Working Dog Class (24 months with working title) will be judged prior to the Puppy Classes

Senior Puppy Class (9-12 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very Promising (VP), Promising (P), Less Promising (LP)

Youth Dog HGH Class (12-18 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

Youth Dog Class (12-18 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

Young Dog HGH Class (18-24 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

Young Dog Class (18-24 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

Adult Untitled Class (24+ months without working title) - Ratings awarded are: Very Good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

RH 1, RH 2a Class (24+ months with RH 1, RH 2a title) – Ratings awarded are: Very Good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

These classes will be judged on the second day of the event

Veteran Classes (over the age 6+ years) - Rating is not awarded, just a placing

HGH Dog Class (over 24 months with HGH title) - Ratings awarded are: Excellent (V), Very Good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

Working Dog Class (over 24 months with working title, including RH 2a) - Ratings awarded are: Excellent-Select (VA) (VA only awarded at Sieger Show), Excellent (V), Very Good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M). Working Dog Classes will be judged in the Performance on the first day of the event, prior to the puppy classes

These classes will be judged on the third day of the event

After the Performance Test, all dogs that receive the evaluation of Pronounced will be judged in the Standing Examination on Saturday morning. Any dog not presented for the stand or gaiting that has passed the performance test, must have the permission of the presiding judge or they will receive a rating of insufficient. 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 dog. 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 be eligible for the rating of V Excellent, dogs must possess the “a” Stamp or OFA Certification for hip & elbows, when over the age of three and one-half years, the dog must have a current Breed Survey. The age of the dog for determining the proper class placement will be determined by the age of the dog when it is presented before the judge (meaning the day the dog steps into the ring).

### **Kennel Group**

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 dogs must be of the same coat variety. Breeders may enter more than one Kennel Group. Stock Coat and Long Stock Coat Kennel Group will be judged separately. The judging will be based on uniformity of the group, quality of the individual animals and the most possible combinations of parents.

### **Maternal Family Class**

The Maternal Family consists of 4 animals (dogs and/or bitches) from one Kennel, which can be attributed to the direct dam line (maternal kennel name), and must bear the same kennel name.

For registration purposes at the Show, the entry “Maternal-Family“ will be an individual registration form. A minimum of 4 dogs entered from 1 maternal name – male or female – must be presented. The dogs must come directly the from dam’s line and must have the maternal kennel name

The Maternal Family may consist of either permitted coat type (SC/LC)

The presentation and evaluation of maternal family is a separate competition. 50% of the participating animals do not have to be shown in their respective classes. However, registration applies for all animals entered

All dogs must have the appropriate qualifications for their age in terms of titles, breeding surveys and HD/ED results

1. Dogs over 2.5 years of age with no working title are not eligible
2. Dogs over 3.5 years without a breed survey are not eligible
3. All dogs entered must be from parents that are titled/breed surveyed
4. At least one of the dogs must be presented in the working class

If a dog entered in the Maternal Family class becomes ill before the final evaluation, the breeder is free to continue competing or to withdraw the Maternal-Family. If the minimum number cannot be reached due to a dog falling ill, the Maternal Family cannot participate in competition

The evaluation of the Maternal-Family will take place in the ring for Breeders Group

Mother-Family Class presentation will immediately precede the performance of the Progeny Group

Participation in the Maternal-Family competition must be recorded in the catalog. All dogs that are part of the presentation must be listed individually, under the maternal name. A breeder may register several Maternal Families in the same event

### **Progeny Group**

Each Progeny Group requires a minimum of at least five (5) dogs born from at least three (3) different mothers. Dogs exhibited in the Progeny Class must also be entered and shown in a regular class. There is no entry fee for the Progeny Group class. The judging of the Progeny Group 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 breeding's 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 entered into the Working Classes (male and female) at the USCA National Show must participate in the Performance Test prior to proceeding to the other phases of the show (stand and exam, ring work). Dogs that do not earn a rating of Pronounced, "a" (minimum point rating of 3/3 out of possible 5/5) will not proceed to the other phases of the show (stand and exam, ring)

The "Performance test" will be held on the first day of the Show as the first event of the show. The "Performance Test" will use two (2) helpers one (1) for the front half exercise "Attack on handler" and one (1) for the back half exercise "Attack on Dog Out of Motion" (courage test) and will be judged by the USCA Director of Judges or in his/her absence a designee appointed by the Director of Judges and approved by the USCA Breed Advisory Committee.

"Attack on Handler" (front half exercise, "Attack out of the Blind"). The distance from the starting point of free heeling (off leash) to the blind will be 60 feet. The dog will have three (3) attempts to perform the free heeling exercise to the "Attack on Handler" and it must reach the predetermined minimum distance of twenty feet (20) from the blind to pass. The actual attack will commence when the dog has passed the marked distance of twenty (20) feet from blind but before it reaches fifteen (15) feet from the blind. The judge will signal the helper to attack the dog when it is between fifteen (15) and Twenty (20) feet from the blind.

The judge will evaluate performance work as it is described in USCA's 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 work shall be evaluated as "sufficient" (vh) in courage earning a score of less than 3 points in either portions of the 5/5 point evaluation as described below, an unwillingness to engage or leave the helper or continue to work will be evaluated as "insufficient" (ng) with a score of 0 or 1 and be Disqualified (DQ).

The “out” should show the dog clearly off the sleeve and in the guarding phase. The only command permitted is one (1) word for the out such as: out, aus, or any other single command meaning out or release. The handler has up to three (3) attempts using the out command to make the dog out (release the sleeve). The first out command is at the handlers choice within 3-5 seconds after the pressure phase has ended (helper has stopped drive / moving). If the dog requires additional commands to out the handler may give an additional two (2) commands or the judge will indicate to the handler to give additional out commands as needed to show the dog clearly off the sleeve. If the dog is not out after the third (3) out command the dog is disqualified (DQ) “no out”. The commands of sit or down to affect the out are not permitted here and will result in “sufficient” (vh) or “insufficient” (ng) and/or disqualification (DQ) as determined by the judge based on how it influenced the dogs performance. The dog, however, may sit, down or stand upon the out command, but may not bother the helper during the guarding without incurring deductions. As the handler approaches the dog, the sit may be reinforced at a distance of up to 10 (ten) feet from the dog if necessary. Only with a single command of sit, additional commands are faulty. The use of the command “down” or “platz” or similar to keep the dog with the helper are a disqualification (DQ).

The handler may after the attack, leash their dog without physical restraint (such as, grabbing the dog to prevent re-grip) or choose not to leash the dog. The dog may receive an extra command to out in order to put the leash on the dog as long as it does not exceed the total of three (3) out commands with no penalty; however, a dog that must be physically restrained or taken off of the sleeve physically will be disqualified. Once the dog is secured on lead it may be “heeled on leash” or ‘free heeling off leash “may be displayed to move the dog away from the helper a minimum of five (5) paces. Exercise completed.

The repositioning down field for the "Attack on Dog Out of Motion" will be a minimum of fifty (50) paces or the full field as determined by the judge based on the USCA Rulebook. The dog must remain under the handlers control, a loss of control while repositioning will be reason for disqualification (DQ). Special merit in the Performance Test (5/5) Rating will be placed on dogs that show control and wait in the "watch position" in a calm manner.

“Attach on Dog Out of Motion” (back half exercise, “long grip, courage test”). With the dog and handler in “basic position” at the predetermined distance for the exercise, the dog may be held by the collar (dog remaining on handlers left side in “basic position”) but not verbally or physically encouraged / stimulated. The dog should be in the basic position as the helper runs from the “blind” and proceeds to the middle of the field and turns towards the dog / handler to start the exercise. The helper will be verbal and physically threatening as he/she turns towards the dog. The handler will release the dog upon a signal from the judge, a dog that is released or breaks away before the helper has made the turn towards the handler will be disqualified (DQ), a dog that is released or breaks away from the handler after the helper makes the turn towards the handler but before the judges signal will be considered faulty and be evaluated at a lower Performance rating.

The performance work and the out will be evaluated the same as described above in the attack on handler exercise.

The handler may not move down field towards the dog until the dog has clearly shown the out and the judge signals the handler to pick up the dog. The handler must walk at a normal pace to his dog (running to pick up the dog is faulty and will cause a lower Performance rating). During the guarding phase (as described above in “Attack on Handler) the handler may reinforce the dogs’ position with an additional sit command as the handler approaches and is within 10 paces of the dog. In this exercise the dog will not initially be placed on leash (lead), the dog/handler must attempt to free heel away from the helper five (5) paces to report out to the judge). The handler will be allowed up to three (3) commands

/attempts to free heel (off leash heel) the dog away from the helper without a mandatory Performance Rating (5/5 scoring) deduction. If the handler is unable to free heel the dog away from the helper with three (3) commands / attempts or less the dog may then be placed on leash (lead) and show five (5) paces on leash (lead) heeling away from the helper to the judge. If the leash (lead) is required to heel the dog away from the helper the dog may still be rated "Pronounced" ("a") based on the dogs' "TSB" (instinctive behavior, self-confidence, ability to handle stress) behavior shown in the "fighting / guarding" portion of the exercise, but the total "Performance Score" cannot be rated higher than four (4) points and the dog will not be eligible for a Performance Award.

Any handler not following the judges directions (example: not waiting to be called in to pick up the dog at the judges signal, encouraging the dog), will be evaluated at a lower rating for "handler help / extra commands" to help the dog complete the exercise and this will earn a lower Performance Rating (5/5scoring). If it affects the dogs performance this may change the "TSB" rating as well. If the dog is unable to be heeled away from the helper after being placed on leash it will be disqualified (DQ) with no TSB rating and will not proceed to the ring due to DQ out of control.

Loss of control of the dog during any part of the Performance Test is cause for Disqualification (DQ).

#### Evaluation of the Performance Test

Dogs that do not demonstrate a correct performance test cannot receive the rating of Excellent–select (VA).

Dogs that continue to bump or re-grip after the "out" will be faulty and rated at lower ratings.

Dogs that do not perform the "out" exercise, or receive the evaluation of "sufficient" ("vh") or "insufficient" ("ng") cannot continue in the Show (Stand and Exam or Ring). No show rating will be given.

#### Explanation of Performance Test Ratings

In order to improve the Performance Test (TSB) rating system for the Sieger Show the SV implemented a rating scale of 5/5 as described below. USCA will also use this 5/5 rating system for performance to help further clarify the overall performance of dogs in each rating category (insufficient "ng", sufficient "vh", pronounced 'a') in the Performance Test for the Sieger Show. This 5/5 scoring system better defines the differences in performance as it applies to each category and will be given in addition to the normal rating of "ng" – "vh" - "a". This brings more transparency and a more specific description of the performance in each category (Front Half exercise "Attack on Handler" and Back Half exercise "Attack on Dog Out of Motion").

The following contains a more detailed description about the 5/5 performance rating as it applies to the particular phases of the TSB test.

Pronounced "a" is a rating of 3-4-5. These dogs will proceed to show in the ring

Sufficient "vh" is a rating of 2. These dogs will not proceed to the stand and exam or ring

Insufficient "ng" is a rating of 1 or a "DQ". These dogs will not proceed to the stand and exam or ring

Only dogs receiving an overall score of 4/5, 5/4 or 5/5 (total of 9 or 10 points) will be awarded USCA Performance Awards at the Sieger Show or National Show.

#### General Explanation of 5/5 Rating for Performance

Rating: 5

The dog reacts immediately to the attack with behavior to include confidence, directly to the attacker, energetic and convincing manor. It shows an effective, calm, firm and full grip in all phases of the defense exercise (engagement, drive and transition). The dog releases after the allowed command to out and then shows powerful guarding with natural intensity, aggression and willingness to take direction from the handler

**Rating: 4**

The dog reacts at immediately and convincingly, it shows a good grip but may not be completely full and/or calm it may be somewhat anxious in all phases of the defense exercises. It releases after the allowed command (may be slightly slow out.) and shows good natural intensity in the guarding phases with good intensity, aggression and willingness to take direction from the handler.

**Rating: 3**

The dog reacts with a slight /a little hesitation in the attack, it should show more speed and commitment in the attack (may slow a little). It shows a shallow grip and/or a hectic active grip which should be clearly fuller and calmer; it may regrip under the pressure from the Helper. The dog must still show sufficient intensity and hardness. It releases after the allowed command (may be slightly slow out) and shows still sufficient natural intensity in the guarding phases.

**Rating: 2**

The dog reacts with a clear hesitation, is unsure in its commitment to engage, the grip is hesitant, very shallow, ineffective and weak. The dog is anxious and shows weakness during the pressure phase (drive) from the helper. It releases after the allowed command (may be slightly slow out) but it should be much more attentive and powerful in the guarding phases.

**Rating: 1**

Doesn't react to the helpers threat, engage or guard.

Terminate (Discontinue) the Performance Test, TSB = Ng:

The dog cannot handle the stress of the defense exercise and does not engage or leaves the field.

The dog leaves the helper during the guarding phase before the handler is within 3 meters of the dog and returns to the handler.

Disqualification (DQ):

Unable to show the heeling to the Attack on Handler after three (3) attempts

The handler "excites", pumps up the dog prior to the release after being stopped by the judge one time.

The handler intentionally leaves their position and moves closer to the dog prior to the judges' command to pick up the dog

The dog doesn't release (out) after three commands.

The dog grips anything or part of the helper other than the protective sleeve.

Any intentional unsportsmanlike action of the handler.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING DISCUSSION AND PROPOSED CHANGES BY THE BAC FOR 2017 - 2019 SIEGER SHOW PERFORMANCE TEST** (Please contact any member of the BAC (RBW, NBW or DOJ) with suggestions regarding future changes or requirements)

2017 – After exercise #2 the "Attack on Dog out of Motion" (long grip, courage test) all dogs will be required to be able to "free heel (off lead) five (5) paces from the helper to report out to the judge. Failure to show free heeling away from the helper will be evaluated as sufficient (vh") for this portion of the Performance Test and receive a mandatory point score of 2 (vh) out of the 5 points available and will not proceed to the stand and exam or ring.

2018 - After exercise #2 the "Attack on Dog out of Motion" (long grip, courage test) all dogs will be required to be able to "free heel (off lead) five (5) paces from the helper to report out to the judge. Failure to show free heeling away from the helper will be evaluated as insufficient ("ng) and be disqualified (DQ) for the Performance Test

2019 - After exercise #1 the "Attack on Handler"(attack out of the blind) all dogs must be able to free heel from the out down field to the watch position for exercise # 2 the "Attack on Dog out of Motion"

(long grip, courage test) after the out they must be able to free heel five (5) paces from the helper. Failure to show free heeling away from the helper will be evaluated as insufficient (“ng”) and be disqualified (DQ) for the Performance Test

#### Explanation of Conformation Assessments and Ratings:

Puppy Classes: The following assessments are made. The assessments cannot be interpreted as an evaluation of breeding worth.

VP (very promising): Animals conforming fully to the breed standard or have minimal anatomical shortcomings.

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

LP (less promising): Animals who are not outgoing enough or have faults which make them unfit for breeding.

Adult Dog Classes: The following ratings can be issued.

VA (excellent-select): (ONLY awarded at Sieger Show): Animals in the Working Classes who, after undergoing a thorough examination, fully conform to the breed standard, who are self-confident, outgoing, and indifferent to gun fire, whose pedigree reflects proof of the “a” stamp normal or fast normal rating, and when more than 3–1/2 years old, must contain a current breed survey. Double premolars #1 are allowed. OFA not accepted for dogs born after October 1, 2021. All dogs must have SV a-stamp hips and elbows if born after October 1, 2021.

- Must be minimum IGP 2 or IGP 3 if vying for 2<sup>nd</sup> VA title (must be IGP 3 regardless of if first VA was done in USA or in another country)
- First Breed Survey examination with TSB pronounced
- Parents and grandparents must be titled and breed surveyed prior to breeding
- A-stamp normal or fast normal
- DNA verification (beginning 1/1/2023)

V (excellent): Animals in the Working Classes who, after undergoing a thorough examination, fully conform to the breed standard, who are self-confident, outgoing, and indifferent to gun fire, whose pedigree reflects proof of the “a” stamp or OFA certification and when more than 3–1/2 years old, must contain a current breed survey. Double premolars #1 are allowed. OFA not accepted after October 1, 2021.

SG (very good): Highest rating given in the Youth and Young Dog Classes for animals who fully conform to the breed standard. In the Working 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.

G (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.

A (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 awarding of a higher rating. M (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.

M (insufficient): mandates issuance of a “Unavailable for Progeny Registration” notation which must be requested by the breed judge.

Explanation of the hip ratings:

a1 = “a” normal, OFA (E) = OFA excellent, a2 = “a” fast normal, OFA (G) = OFA good, a3 = “a” noch zugelassen, OFA (F) = OFA fair, a6 = foreign certification

Explanation of Entry Information:

An \* before a dog’s name means that the dog is breed surveyed. Dog’s registered name, date of birth, (age in years, months) USCA registration, additional registration, tattoo, micro-chip, working titles, breed survey rating, hip certification, (sire’s name, sire’s registration, sire’s working titles, dam’s name, dam’s registration, dam’s working titles. B: breeder’s name and country of origin, O: owner’s name, country of origin, Co–O: co– owner’s name.

#### IV. ADDENDUM

Officiating Judges are not allowed to judge any dog(s) at a Breed Show which they have owned, co-owned or those which have been in their possession at any time in the past 12-months (the date of notification of the transfer of ownership shall be decisive in cases of possession). Nor will they be able to judge those dogs which have been bred by them, as well as any dogs owned or co-owned by, or in the possession of, close relatives (1st and 2nd degree). For this purpose, the term “close relatives“ also refers to life partnerships, groups of owners and shared households. In this respect, please note that, as of immediately, any dogs which fulfill the criteria mentioned may not be judged by the Judge of the respective class at a Breed Show.

\*\*Updated 1/9/2020 - EB 01-20, NBW Heidi L. Theis\*\*

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## **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 \$67.60 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 April 1, 2018, all Non-USCA members will pay an additional \$100.00 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 #05-18](#))
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 April 1, 2018, the fees are \$4 per USCA member and \$100 per non-USCA member. The \$100.00 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. ([EBB# 05-18](#))

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 \$104.00.

- 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 participation is not required for entry into the USCA GSD National Championship if the handler / dog team participated in the USCA-GSDCA WUSV Qualification Trial representing USCA or represented USCA on the WUSV World Team or was selected for the AWDF FCI World Team as a USCA Entry. ~~Regional Participation is also not required if the handler / dog team entered and participated (starting in at least 1 phase of the event) in the USCA Working Dog Championships (WDC) in lieu of entering a USCA Regional Championship. This will be effective December 1 2017B. USCA WORKING DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS ([EB-Ballot #18-17](#))~~

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/handler team that competes in the FH Championship must have previously earned an FH at any time. ([EBB #02-17](#))
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 May 1 of the same year the WUSV World Championship is held (Ex. May 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 (4407 Meramec Bottom Rd Suite J. / St. Louis, MO / 63129) 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

## **I. USCA UNIVERSAL SIEGER AND SIEGERIN 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 were originally submitted by the Breed Advisory Committee and have been approved by the Executive Board at the meeting in Bangor, Maine.

1. The United Schutzhund Clubs of America will recognize and award a “USCA Universal Sieger and Universal Siegerin (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 have a WUSV recognized pedigree
- The Dog must be breed surveyed
- The dog must be shown in the USCA GSD National Championship and at the USCA Universal Working Class Conformation Show to be held in conjunction with the USCA GSD National Championships in the same calendar year.
- USCA Universal Working Class Conformation Show to be judged by a USCA Conformation Judge
- The dog must be pronounced and at least G at the USCA Universal Working Class Conformation Show
- The dog must be pronounced with a minimum of 80 points in protection and at least G score overall at the USCA GSD National Championship

3. The dog receiving the highest number of points combined in both events will be declared as the USCA Universal Sieger and Siegerin (year).

4. The following points will be awarded for Health, USCA Universal Working Class Conformation Show, USCA GSD National Championship (sections A-G):

Maximum points to be obtained are 600 (100 for health, 200 for conformation, 300 for nationals performance).

Only dogs can take part in the show ranking who made at least 70 points in sections A, B, D, & E and 80 points in section C.

### **A. Nationals Performance**

- Tracking Phase
  - Points earned between 70-100

### **B. Nationals Performance**

- Obedience Phase
  - Points earned between 70-100

### **C. Nationals Performance**

- Protection Phase
  - Points earned between 80-100
  - Must earn minimum 80 pts in protection

#### **D. Health**

- The results of the HD and ED diagnostics (only accepted from SV recognized evaluation offices) shall be included in the rating list.
  - HD: A / ED: A = 100 Points
  - HD: A / ED: B or HD: B / ED: A = 95 Points
  - HD: B / ED: B = 90 Points
  - HD: A / ED: C or HD: C / ED: A = 80 Points
  - HD: B / ED: C or HD: C / ED: B = 75 Points
  - HD: C / ED: C = 70 Points
- a-normal = A, fast-normal = B, Noch Zugelassen = C
- Dogs who obtained worse results are not permitted.

#### **E. Conformation Rating**

- The show section shall be rated according to the classes and be divided by MALES and FEMALES. Both hair varieties are presented and rated in their respective classes. The breed show is held according to the requirements of the GHKL working dog classes (WUSV Breeding Program).
- The class winner shall be awarded 100 Points, the second winner 98 Points, etc. (with a downgrading of two points for each of the next following ranking).

#### **F. Conformation Rating**

- In addition, breed valuations are offered. The ranking is carried out as follows:
  - Excellent/ Vorzüglich = 100 Points
  - Very good/ Sehr gut = 90 Points
  - Good/ Gut = 80 Points
  - Sufficient/ Genügend = 70 Points
  - Insufficient/ Ungenügend = 60 Points
  - Unsatisfactory = 50 Points Disqualification
- Only dogs can take part in the show ranking who made at least 70 points in sections A to E and 80 points in section C.

#### **G. American Bred Dogs**

- Those dogs bred in America will have 5 points added to their total earned in sections A-F

If there is a tie breaker necessary, the points received from the performance in the GSD National Championship will dominate the other points. If an additional tie breaker is necessary, the points received from C. Nationals Performance (protection phase) will dominate. If an additional tie breaker is necessary, the points received from B. Nationals Performance (obedience phase) will dominate. If an additional tie breaker is necessary, the points received from A. Nationals (tracking phase) will dominate. If an additional tie breaker is necessary, the points received from D. Health will dominate. If an additional tie breaker is necessary, the points received from F. Conformation Rating, show rating will dominate.

5. The Universal Sieger and Siegerin (year) are important titles 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.

6. The Universal Sieger and Universal Siegerin will be recognized on the front cover of the USCA magazine within the following year of winning the award.

7. The Universal Sieger and Universal Siegerin will receive a trophy award immediately following the declaration.

8. The breeder and or the owner of the Universal Sieger and Universal Siegerin will receive an award certificate immediately following the declaration.

## **II. WUSV Universal Sieger Team Selection**

The USCA will have a combined team with GSDCA. USCA and GSDCA will alternate Team Captains yearly. If there is a WUSV team of five members, the organization that has the Team Captain will send two members and an alternate, the organization without the team captain will send three members. One of the dogs must be a bitch on the combined team. If the WUSV has six members then each organization will send three members and the captain will be alternated year to year. In the event one organization does not send its allotted quota of team members the other organization may make up the difference to make a full team.

### **First Qualifier**

The Universal Sieger and Siegerin are automatic qualifiers for the WUSV Universal Sieger Team. A female dog must represent the Team if possible. If for any reason, the Universal Siegerin cannot represent the Team, the next available female must be selected.

### **Second Qualifier**

Any additional Team members and alternates will be selected using the following process. The dog and handler team must participate in the current year's USCA GSD Nationals and USCA Universal Working Class Conformation Show (held in conjunction with the current year's Nationals). The dog and handler teams will be ranked according to the above method in section I., items A-G.

### **Final Qualifier**

If there are no additional Team members and alternate selections available after First and Second Qualifiers, the remaining Team members and alternates will be selected using the following process, Team members and alternates will be chosen in the following numerical order until Team is filled.

1. The dog and handler team must participate in the current year's USCA Working Dog Championship (WDC) and the USCA Sieger Show or USCA National Show. Any additional dog and handler teams will be ranked according to the above method in section I., items A-G.
2. The dog and handler team must participate in the current year's USCA Working Dog Championship (WDC) and a USCA Regional Conformation Show. Any additional dog and handler teams will be ranked according to the above method in section I., items A-G.
3. The dog and handler team must participate in the current year's USCA Working Dog Championship (WDC) and a USCA Club level Conformation Show. Any additional dog and handler teams will be ranked according to the above method in section I., items A-G.

All Team Members must meet the minimum qualifications as established by the WUSV for entry into the World Universal Sieger competition. i.e. the dog must be Pronounced with a minimum of 80 points in protection at the USCA GSD National, receive minimum show rating of a G with Pronounced Performance rating at the Sieger Show. All dogs declaring for the WUSV Universal Sieger Team must have SV recognized hip and elbow certification for entry, OFA hips are no longer accepted by the WUSV for entry. A list of accepted hip and elbow certifications is on the USCA website and on file with the USCA office.

In the event the WUSV allows long stock coats into the WUSV Universal Sieger Championship and USCA has long stock coat entries for the Universal Sieger team, USCA will combine the stock coat and long stock coat dogs into one show class for the selection process.

#### **REVISION HISTORY:**

05/06/98 Universal Sieger Regulations approved.

11/03/05 The dog must be pronounced and at least SG at the Sieger Show.

11/03/05 The dog must be pronounced and at least G at the GSD National Championship.

12/11/17 EB Ballot #19-16 Update USCA Compliance with WUSV Sieger Competition Rules (Section II)

03/18/2019 EB Ballot 10-19 proposed changed by Heidi Theis, NBW to align document with new IGP titles and universal sieger team selection process with move of Sieger & National Shows to fall.

### **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.

Every year, the United Schutzhund Clubs of America will recognize and award the first three most successful breeders of each 3 breeder levels of German Shepherd Dogs.

There will be two different annual awards breeders can apply for, based on their preference. There will be a "USCA Performance Breeders Cup" award (suited for working line breeders) and a "USCA a Breeding Evaluation Breeders Cup" award (suited for showline breeders). A breeder can apply for both awards.

For each award there will be 3 breeder levels and there will be annual, 1st to 3rd place awards for each level.

First Level Breeder Award will include breeders producing only 1-3 litters per year.

Second Level Breeder Award will include breeders producing 4-9 litters per year.

Third Level Breeder Award will include breeders producing 10+ litters per 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:



The dogs must be bred by the same person under the same USCA-registered kennel name.

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.

Beginning in year 2025, only dogs which have been registered as a complete litter under the regulations of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America can be recognized.

The three (3) breeders in each level and each award type, earning the highest number of points of the current year will receive the "USCA Performance Breeders Cup" award or the "USCA Breeding Evaluation Breeders Cup" award.

The following points will be awarded for the USCA Performance Breeders Cup Award. Only one of each title level can be claimed per dog, per that year earned. (I.E., multiple IGP 3's in the same year can only claim one IGP 3).

USCA National Champion = 15 pts  
USCA Regional Champion = 12 pts  
Regional Universal Sieger or Siegerin = 12 pts  
USP 3 = 10 pts  
USP 2 = 8 pts  
USP 1 = 6 pts  
IGP 3 = 6 pts  
IGP 2 = 4 pts  
IGP 1 = 2 pts  
IGP-FH = 10 pts  
FH 2 = 7 pts  
FH 1 = 4 pts  
BH = 1 pt

The following points will be awarded for the USCA Breeding Evaluation Breeders Cup Award. Only one breeding evaluation rating can be claimed per dog, per year earned.

USCA Sieger or Siegerin = 15 pts  
USCA Regional Sieger or Siegerin = 12 pts  
USCA Regional Sieger or Siegerin = 12 pts  
VA = 10 pts  
V-1 = 8 pts  
V = 6 pts  
SG-1 = 5 pts  
SG = 4 pts  
G = 2 pts  
Breed survey = 20 points  
Performance Award at USC Sieger Show = 10 pts  
AD = 1 pt  
WB = 1 pt

The winners of the two types of Breeders Cup awards will be announced in the USCA magazine as soon as results are available (after April 15th of the following year).

The winners of the USCA Performance Breeders Cup Award will receive their awards at USCA National Championships. The winners of the USCA Breeding Evaluation Breeders Cup Award will receive their awards at USCA National Show (even years) or USCA Sieger Show (odd years). If any of these Championships are cancelled, awards will be mailed by the USCA office.

## **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**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Points</b>
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
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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](#))

## **Club Regional Affiliation Status**

To allow clubs to affiliate or maintain full member status belonging to a region outside of the geographical borders of the region they reside within.

"Special Exceptions" may be made to allow a forming "affiliate" USCA club or a "full member" USCA club to request that they be recognized and a club of a region or be moved to a region other than the region that the club is located with approval from Executive Board. Clubs may only be approved to be moved to one of the "adjoining geographical regions" to their location (the region they are requesting to be moved to must board the region they fall into by location).

To be considered for this "Special Exception" a club must at least meet the minimum following criteria and be approved by the USCA Executive board.

1. They can demonstrate strong valid and reasonable cause that they should not be required to be a part of the region that they are located within
2. If the reason is due to relationships between clubs within their region or with the regional officers, they must show that they have made strong efforts to solve or resolve these

“differences” or “problems” prior to the request to be moved to another region. A USCA Executive Board Member may be recruited to help as a “go between or arbitrator” to facilitate communication with all involved and help with an attempt to work out any problems prior to moving or making the request to move regions.

3. If circumstances change in the future to alter the reason for “Special Exception” the club must agree to a possible review by the Executive Board to be moved back into the region that they are located.
4. Any USCA Clubs in good standing at the time of this motion passing that are or have been moved to another region will be “grandfathered” in to remain in that region unless they request to be moved back to the region where they are physically located.
5. If the request is approved and the club is allowed to become a club of a different region:
  - 6.1 The club will request and receive event authorization from the Regional Director of the region they have been approved to be a member of
  - 6.2 The club will adhere to all regional policy of the region that they are members
  - 6.3 The club will notify the Regional Director of the region they reside in within then (10) days of receiving an approved EAF from their Regional Director and will notify all clubs of both regions per USCA policy a minimum of twenty one (21) days in advance of the event with a flier and entry form.
  - 6.4 The club and Regional Director will check with the Regional Director of the region the club is physically located within before issuing any event authorization to avoid conflict with adjoin Regional Events.

[\(EBB #07-16\)](#)

## **CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TEST REGULATIONS**

### **1. GENERAL**

- 1.1. Preparation for the assessment
- 1.2. Character assessor
- 1.3. Procedure
- 1.4. Requirements for participation
- 1.5. Minimum number of participants
- 1.6. Test Days and Registration

### **2. EQUIPMENT**

### **3. CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

- 3.1. Impartiality
- 3.2. Social behavior
- 3.3. Noise sensitivity
- 3.4. Confidence with movement
- 3.5. Play and prey instinct
- 3.6. Basic character

*General abbreviations used in these regulations:*

<b>AI</b>	Assessor Instruction
<b>BDTA</b>	Breeding Disposition Test Assessor
<b>W-B</b>	Character Assessor
<b>USCA</b>	United Schutzhund Clubs of America
<b>USCA HO</b>	USCA Head Office
<b>TR</b>	Testing Regulations

USCA implements these regulations for the examination and classification of each German Shepherd Dog to be used for breeding in a character assessment. Licensed character assessor judges shall objectively record the assessments and the dog presented receives an assessment as an annex to the pedigree. The Test Regulations allow for one type of assessor within the meaning of the USCA Judging Regulations:

**1. Character Assessors (W-B)**

It is possible for a person with the appropriate expertise to be appointed as a W-B and as a Breeding Disposition Test Assessor (B-ZAP) for both activities, however, ZAP is not offered by USCA and therefore, not included in these regulations at this time. An IGP test is not a substitute replacement for a character assessment.

**CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

**1. GENERAL**

**1. Preparation for the assessment**

The dates shall be coordinated in the Region and assigned in agreement with the USCA Head Office.

The club shall inform the regional clubs in advance of the appointment of a head assessor and an email address for the entries.

The assessors to be used shall be coordinated by the club and appointed after consultation with the Regional Director and the USCA HO.



The nationwide dates of the character assessments shall be published in the USCA Magazine and on the USCA website, events pages, along with the details of the assessor and head assessor.

Character assessments shall always be carried out in public.

## **2. Character assessors**

Each W-B shall arrive at the appointment with their own assistant, or an assistant can be appointed by the hosting club. This assistant must be experienced and will actively accompany the character assessor.

The USCA HO has the possibility to send an additional character assessor to attend the appointment.

## **3. Procedure**

For an objective, uniform assessment of character, it is necessary to carry out the entire procedure in a standardized manner and in the order of specified stations.

The order of the procedure and the nature of the equipment for all character assessments are therefore specified below.

Structure of the character assessment:

1. Impartiality check
2. Social behavior
3. Noise sensitivity
4. Confidence with movement
5. Play and prey instinct
6. Basic character

This is followed directly by a public discussion of the behavior shown during the entire character assessment.

## **4. Requirements for participation**

All German Shepherds registered in the USCA breed registry or annex register or in a breed registry or annex register recognized by USCA and which can be identified by a chip number or tattoo are eligible to participate.

The participating dog must not be younger than nine months and not yet thirteen months old at the time of the character assessment.

The owner/handler must be a member of USCA or a member of a WUSV organization in order to participate in the character assessment.

Each handler is allowed to present a maximum of two dogs at each character assessment.

## **5. Minimum number of participants**

The minimum number of participants is four dogs with four different handlers; the maximum number per day and assessor is sixteen dogs.

## **6. Test days and registration**

As a rule, test days should take place at the weekend and on public holidays. Friday tests may be applied for in conjunction with a Saturday or Sunday.

Fridays may only be approved if more dogs are entered on Saturday than can be shown.

Days before weekday public holidays may not be approved.

The public holiday regulations of the respective states must be observed.

The closing date for entries 12:00 midnight at the end of the day 15 days before the event. The local club organizing the event shall send the entry forms to the USCA Breed Registry Office immediately after the closing date (on the following day, 14 days before the event).

The organizer must inform the assessor of the number of dogs entered.

The participants shall be published in SV-DOxS by the SV Breed Registry Office and/or in the USCA online database by the USCA Breed Registry Office.

## **2. EQUIPMENT**

The following equipment is to be kept available by the club in charge of the character assessment.

- Assessment sheets pre-filled in.
- At the beginning of the assessment, the order of the dogs shall be determined. The fixed procedure shall be announced on a noticeboard.
- The handlers must wear a start number during the assessment.
- A public address system is desirable for public discussion of the dogs but not required.

For the character assessment stations the following equipment is required:

### **1. Impartiality check:**

- Chip reader
- Breed survey measurement stick
- Measuring platform
- Table to store the W-B's documents

## 2. Social behavior

- Ball on a rope, Bringsel with loop, chew tug, etc. (to be brought by the handler)

## 3. Noise sensitivity

- Chainsaw (without blade)
- Chain (stable iron chain, approx. 150 cm)
- Sheet metal (approx. 100 x 100 cm)
- Starter pistol 6 mm

## 4. Confidence with movement

- Wobble table (industrial pallet with a smooth surface (120 x 100 cm) with fixed 10 cm round timber in the middle, underneath the pallet)
- 6 standard beer garden tables or build tables with same measurements
- Climbing aid (fixed beer garden table or similar with non-slip base as a climbing aid)

## 5. Play and prey instinct

- A toy known to the dog (ball on a ribbon, chewing sausage etc.)
- Fruit crate made of perforated plastic or similar.
- Room with a smooth floor (tiled floor approx. 30 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Metal food bowl
- Place where the dog can be secured (post, fence or tree, which must not be on the training grounds).
- 1.5 m leash (better: a thin steel chain with a carabiner)

# 3. CHARACTER ASSESSEMENT

## 1. IMPARTIALITY CHECK

### • Exercise 1 - ID check

The handler reports with their dog on a leash to have its chip checked. The W-B checks the dog's identity by means of a chip reader. The W-B records and describes the dog's behavior during the identification check.

### • Exercise 2 - Dental check

The handler shows the dog's teeth to the W-B or their representative. It is, of course, also possible to delegate the active part of the dental check to the W-B or their representative. In this case, the W-B records and describes the dog's behavior during

the dental check. The dental status is not entered in the assessment sheet and the result is not recorded.

- **Exercise 3 - Measurement on platform**

The handler leads their dog onto the platform. The dog must stand freely and not restrained. The handler is permitted to hold the dog. The W-B or their representative measures the height at withers and the depth of chest. These values are not recorded. If the dog is male, the testicles are also checked. The W-B records and describes the dog's behavior during the measurement and the testicle check, the latter of which is obligatory for male dogs.

## **2. SOCIAL BEHAVIOR**

- **Exercise 4 - Dog/handler relationship**

The handler approaches the assistant standing alone at a distance of about 15 metres. The handler unleashes their dog on command and moves casually with the dog. Voice commands to call the dog are permitted. The dog's bond with its handler is recorded and described by the W-B.

- **Exercise 5 - Behavior in a group of people**

After exercise 4, the dog is called by its handler and leashed. The handler hands over their dog to the assistant on a leash and moves away behind the group of at least eight people. On command, the dog is called by its handler. The assistant unleashes the dog and releases it. The dog should move happily and directly through the group to its handler. The handler then moves casually through the moving group with their dog still following freely. The dog's behavior is recorded and described by the W-B.

- **Exercise 6 - Encounter with an unknown dog**

For this exercise, the next team should be ready. The handler walks their dog on a leash to the left past an unknown dog two times at a distance of about 3 metres. The other dog is also on a leash. The W-B records and describes the dog's behavior during the encounters with the unknown dog.

## **3. NOISE SENSITIVITY**

- **Exercise 7 - Noise source: chainsaw, without blade**

The handler goes to a designated position and remains there with the dog on a leash. The assistant walks neutrally around the dog at a distance of about 4 meters with a motor (chainsaw without blade) running at different speeds and then switches off the

motor and place it on the ground if necessary. The handler then goes with their dog to the source of the noise. The dog's behavior in relation to the noise source is recorded and described by the W-B.

- **Exercise 8 - Noise source: chain**

The handler goes to a designated position (about 5 metres away from a metal base) and remains there with their dog on a loose leash. The dog faces the W-B. The assistant should 5 PO ZAP - Wesensbeurteilung Fassung 2021\_E have previously positioned a chain in such a way that it falls on to a sheet metal plate on command. As soon as the chain falls, the handler and their dog go directly towards the source of the noise. Verbal assistance during the approach by the handler is permitted. The dog's behavior in relation to the chain as a noise source is recorded and described by the W-B.

- **Exercise 9 - Shot sensitivity**

The handler takes the dog on a leash to a designated position and stays there. The dog must remain standing on a loose leash with its handler. The assistant fires two shots with a 6 mm starter pistol at an interval of 5 seconds. The dog's behavior in relation to the shot as a noise source is recorded and described by the W-B.

#### **4. CONFIDENCE WITH MOVEMENT**

- **Exercise 10 - Wobble table**

The handler goes with their dog on a leash to the prepared wobble table, which consists of an industrial pallet with a smooth surface. The dog should stand freely on the pallet on a loose leash. The assistant moves the pallet with their feet accordingly. The dog's confidence with movement and motor skills are recorded and described by the W-B.

- **Exercise 11 - Target on wobble table**

After exercise 10, the dog is offered its motivational object by the handler. The object was given to them by the assistant at the beginning of the exercise. The assistant moves the pallet in the same way as in exercise 10. The W-B records and describes how intensively and with what motor skills the dog engages with its motivational object under stress.

- **Exercise 12 - Climbing/height sensitivity**

The handler goes with their dog on a leash to the stairway. The handler leads their dog on a loose leash up the stairway on to the arranged tables (total length of the set-up, without stairway, L-shaped: 5 tables, approx. 11 metres, width of tables approx. 70 cm, 10 cm gap in front of the last table). When the dog reaches the end, it turns and goes back. The dog may jump off or be carried. During the exercise only verbal assistance is permitted. The dog's behavior with regard to its motor skills and lack of sensitivity to height is recorded and described by the W-B.

## **5. PLAY AND PREY INSTINCT**

- **Exercise 13 - Play with the handler**

The handler goes with their dog on a leash to the designated position near the assistant. The assistant gives the motivational object to the handler. The dog is taken off leash and the handler plays with their dog. The W-B records and describes the intensity of the dog's play with its handler.

- **Exercise 14 - Play with the assistant**

After exercise 14, the handler throws the motivational object to the assistant. The assistant motivates the dog to play with them. The assistant may also moderately block the motivational object. The assistant gives the dog the opportunity to bite and, after briefly preying with the motivational object, leaves it to the dog. The W-B records and describes the intensity of the dog's play with the assistant.

- **Exercise 15 - Inclination as a retriever**

The dog is handed over to the assistant on a leash at the designated place. The handler goes with their motivational object to the prepared, fixed vegetable crate and places the motivational object under it. The motivational object must be completely covered by the crate. The handler goes to the assistant to get the dog back. The dog is taken off leash and released by the handler. Verbal aid is not permitted. The W-B records and describes the intensity of the dog's efforts to get the motivational object.

- **Exercise 16 - Confidence with movement on a smooth surface**

The handler goes with their dog on a leash into the prepared clubhouse. A firm, smooth floor (e.g. tiles, laminate) is mandatory. The handler moves through the room with their dog off leash following the W-B's commands. In this phase, background noise is produced by dropping a metal food bowl. The dog's confidence with movement, boldness and motor skills are recorded and described by the W-B.

- **Exercise 17 - Play and prey instinct on a smooth surface**

The handler plays with their dog briefly on command and throws the motivational object into a concealed corner of the clubhouse. They then release the dog on command. When the dog has found the object, the handler takes it from the dog and hands it to the assistant. The assistant briefly motivates the dog, held by the handler, to play and hides the object in a concealed, not freely accessible place in the clubhouse. As soon as the assistant is back with the handler, the handler releases the dog. The intensity of playing and searching for the motivational object is recorded and described by the W-B.

## **6. BASIC CHARACTER**

- **Exercise 18 - Behavior when left alone**

After exercise 17, the handler goes with their dog on a leash to the designated position (not on the exercise grounds), ties their dog to a leash about 1.50 metres long and leaves the area. The handler must be out of sight. No other people may be in the dog's field of vision. After the dog has been left alone for at least five minutes, the W-B moves neutrally towards the dog, passes it neutrally and returns to their basic position. The handler collects their dog when instructed and puts its leash back on. The W-B records and describes the behavior of the dog left alone. The W-B then publicly discusses the behavior shown throughout the character assessment. If the W-B terminates the character assessment in the dog's best interest, the W-B must document this on the assessment sheet and submit it to the SV Home Office and/or the USCA Home Office. Termination in the dog's best interest may also take place in the event of injury or illness of the dog. It is at the discretion of the W-B to terminate the character assessment. The dog may then be presented at the next possible appointment. If the dog is older than 13 months, the assessment may be repeated within three months without any special permission. Repeating at a later date requires special permission from the SV and/or USCA Breed Registry Office, which is subject to a fee.

### **3. Assessment Documents**

Each participant receives an assessment sheet and, if desired, a certificate after successfully completing the character assessment. The Character Assessor enters the character assessment

into the pedigree. If participation was successful, an additional stamp is placed on the first page of the pedigree. The results must be reported by the assessor to the SV and/or USCA Breed Registry within seven days. The results are published by the SV Breed Registry in SV-DOxS and/or by the USCA Breed Registry in the USCA database.

#### Revision History

Date	Description	Updated By
4/2019	Eliminate WDC as qualification trial for USCA National (EB Motion 30-18)	