

# USA BREEDING REGULATIONS

## 1. GENERAL

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USA) 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 USA 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 USA.

## 2. BREEDER

### 2.1. Breeders' Rights

Dog owners and caretakers who want to have USA Breed Book privileges (owners of male and female dogs and caretakers respectively) must be members of USA. 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 USA 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 USA Breed Book Office)

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

### 2.2. Breeding Leases

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

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

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

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

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

#### 2.2.1. Duties

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

#### 2.2.2. Frequency of Breeding Leases

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

#### 2.2.3. Breeding Leases With Foreign Countries

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

#### **2.2.4. Breeding Leases Involving Breed Book Ban**

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

#### **2.3. Kennel Name and Protection of Kennel Name**

An application for a kennel name must be made with USA and the kennel name must be protected by USA. 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 USA breed wardens are authorized to inspect litters. In case of an emergency, however, a licensed veterinarian can act as breed warden upon receiving instructions from the regional breed warden and signing a veterinary instruction form stating he/she is familiar with the duties of the breed warden. It is the responsibility of the regional breed warden to forward this form to the USA Office. Forms are available from the regional breed warden or the USA Breed Book Office.

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

### **3.2. Tattooers**

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

#### **3.2.1. Jurisdiction of Tattooers**

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

#### **3.2.2. Duties of Tattooers**

The tattooer must check the jurisdiction of the club breed warden; and, after making an appointment with the breed warden and the breeder, must tattoo the puppies not before the 50<sup>th</sup> day after birth. All puppies in the litter, including those being raised by a foster mother, must be presented for tattooing. After the 12<sup>th</sup> week of age, tattooing may only be done if the puppies are anesthetized. The tattooer must also check data on the litter registration application that has been signed by the club breed warden for completeness and correctness. If the tattoo number is later illegible, the USA Breed Book Office must be notified. The cost of follow-up tattooing falls to the breeder. Claims for reimbursement on follow-up tattooing expenses may not be made.

#### **3.2.3. Tattooing of Litters**

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

## **4. BREED WORTH AND PREREQUISITES FOR BREEDING**

### **4.1. Breed Worth**

The following classifications apply:

#### **4.1.1. Eligible for Breeding**

Eligible for breeding are all dogs entered in the USA Breed Book (if the owner resides in the United States), who on the day of breeding have at least one performance title (SchH1-3, VPG1-3, IP1-3, or HGH) obtained under a USA-recognized performance judge, a breed show rating of at least "good" obtained under a USA-recognized breed judge in the youth, young dog, or working dog class if not already breed surveyed under USA or SV regulations, and a USA-recognized hip certification.

#### **4.1.2. Recommended for Breeding**

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

#### **4.1.3. Suitable for Breeding**

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

#### **4.1.4. Not Suitable for Breeding**

Progeny of dogs classified as not suitable for breeding cannot be entered in the USA 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 USA Breed Book will decide appeals. The National Breed Warden will decide further appeals. The following faults preclude breeding:

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

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

- 4.1.4.3.** Dogs with the following faults:
- Faulty temperament, aggressive or nervous biters, or weak nerves
  - Documented hip dysplasia
  - Monorchids or cryptorchids
  - Disfiguring ear and/or tail faults
  - Considerable anatomical faults
  - Long coat or long stock coat
  - Considerable pigment deficiencies, including blues
  - Dentition faults as follows:
    - Missing one premolar #3 and one additional tooth
    - Missing one canine tooth
    - Missing one premolar #4
    - Missing one molar #1
    - Missing one molar #2
    - Missing three or more teeth
    - Missing molar #3 is not counted
    - Dogs having proof that the missing tooth or teeth had originally been in place are exempt from this rule. Proof must be entered on the pedigree, the Körschein, or a dental status form.
  - Faulty jawbones:
    - Overshot more than 2 mm
    - Undershot
    - Level bite
  - Oversized or undersized more than 1 cm, measured at the withers (maximum is males 66 cm/bitches 61 cm and minimum is males 59 cm/bitches 54 cm)
  - Females that have whelped three times by cesarean section
  - Severed musculus pectineus
- 4.1.4.4.** Surgical interventions for the purpose of correcting, obtaining, or improving a breed show rating (i.e., ears, tails, teeth, testicles, skeleton) entail a breeding ban and initiate disciplinary proceedings against the owner and/or all co-owners.

## **4.2. Breeding Requirements**

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

### **4.2.1. Minimum Age for Breeding**

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

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

### **4.2.2. Breeding Frequency**

#### **Males**

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

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

#### **Females**

Healthy females may be bred twice per year.

#### **4.2.3. Breeding Act**

The selection of the stud dog is left to the breeder. The owner of the stud dog approves the females for his/her dog. The stud dog owner shall verify the completion of the breeding act by signing the stud certificate/report of breeding card. Owners of stud dogs may not issue blank report of breeding cards. The owner of the female must submit the stud certificate/report of breeding card to the USA Breed Book Office and must also notify the club breed warden of the breeding.

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

#### **4.2.4. Number of Puppies in Litter**

The dam may rear all puppies whelped.

#### **4.2.5. Litter Announcement**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **4.2.6. Pedigrees**

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

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

Pedigrees are owned by USA. 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 USA Breed Book Office must be submitted to the USA Breed Book Office without delay.

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

### **4.3. Breeding Procedures**

There is a differentiation between the following breeding procedures:

#### **4.3.1. Purebred Breeding**

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

#### **4.3.2. Inbreeding**

Breeding based on close blood relationships. One ancestor must be present in the pedigree at least once on the sire's and dam's side. Inbreeding also includes breeding between siblings. The term blood relationship is limited to the first five generations (inbreeding). Inbreeding is subdivided into:

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

**4.3.2.2. Inbreeding:** Breeding between relatives of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree.

**4.3.2.3. Linebreeding:** Breeding between relatives of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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. USA Breed Book**

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

**5.1.1. Breed Survey Breeding**

Offspring descending from two breed surveyed parents.

**5.1.2. Performance Breeding**

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

**5.2. USA 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 USA Breed Survey Book is a supplement to the USA 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 USA Breed Survey Regulations.

**5.3. USA Breed Show Records**

USA maintains records of all dogs that have participated in a USA 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 USA breed shows.

**5.4. USA Performance Records**

USA maintains records of all dogs that have participated in a USA 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. USA Registry of Dogs Without Acceptable Proven Ancestry**

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

**EXCEPTIONS TO SV REGULATIONS:**

**1. Breeding Frequency**

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

**2. Number of Puppies in Litter**

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