

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

held on Sunday, 4th June 2017
at “Best Western Airport Motel & Convention Centre”,
33 Ardlie Street, Attwood, Victoria



Chair – Mr. Vince Tantaro - GSDCA President.

The meeting was declared open at 9.12am.

Attendees:

President	Vince Tantaro
National Breed Commission (NBC) Chair	Melanie Groth
Judges Committee Chair	Robyn Knuckey
Secretary	Val Moody
Treasurer	Jane Pike
Editor, Quarterly National Review	Jacinta Poole
Obedience Committee Chair	Julie Urie
Minute Secretary	Barbara Blythe
German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria – President	Vince Ebejer
German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria – Vice President	Tony Mercieca
German Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland – President	Sharon Ballantyne
German Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland – Secretary	Diane Ballantyne
German Shepherd Dog League – President	Terry Jarvis
German Shepherd Dog League – Vice President	Graeme Stevenson
ACT German Shepherd Dog Association – President	Wolf Meffert
ACT German Shepherd Dog Association – Committee Member	Sam McGregor
German Shepherd Dog Club of South Australia President	John DeLucia
German Shepherd Dog Club of South Australia 1 st Vice President	Jenny DeLucia
German Shepherd Dog Club of Tasmania – Breed Affairs	Janet Haase
German Shepherd Dog Club of Tasmania – Secretary	Gabrielle Peacock
German Shepherd Dog Association of Western Australia - President	Ian Marr
Newcastle & Hunter Region German Shepherd Dog Club - President	Sean Lynch

Apologies:

GSDC of Tasmania President – Dave Griffin.

ACTGSDA Delegate – Jenny Kenworthy.

1 Opening & Welcome – Mr. Vince Tantaro, President GSDCA

Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to today’s session and to assist the new people around the table, presented a brief history of EVENTS OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS.

We are meeting to discuss matters raised yesterday by the CDO. I want to re-iterate the fact that what was presented yesterday was clear and precise and gave the WUSV position on a number of matters. What he presented was 23 Schedules that need to be brought forward to members for decisions.

Schedule19 is the hard question. I assume that if this council votes against that, I can almost guarantee that our affiliation with the WUSV will be terminated almost immediately. I can only emphasise this is about the GSD in Australia. We have modeled ourselves on the SV and their ideals for 57 years. Secondly as an English speaking WUSV member we have set the pace for breed improvement schemes in what was an ‘all breeds’ unfriendly world. As an organisation the membership took on board the

ideals as set by the SV founder Capt. Max Von Stephanitz many years ago. What we achieved in a relatively short time cannot be denied by anyone in the GSD and wider canine world. The only missing brick in all the things we have achieved is the fact we have not, because of political and our culture, do not support or condone the conduct of IPO/Dogsport.

When it comes down to it, the CDO was correct when he started with the “ideal world” but in the end it all comes down to Schedule 19. If we do not support 19, then there could be serious consequences, resulting in disaffiliation from the WUSV. The discussion today is really about Schedule 19, what we need to do if we agree, is to rescind our own policy and then both us and the WUSV work to see the implementation of Dogsport in Australia. The Executive, contrary to some clubs’ beliefs, all have their own views on the matter and for clarity I again repeat the policy that sees the Executive own as a collective the decisions it makes. Its members, like all of you are encouraged to be frank and open in the matters we will discuss today.

The Chair then presented a preamble for discussion to matters as raised by CDO at 1st GSDCA –WUSV Meeting held 3rd June 2017 to begin the day’s deliberation.

OUR MISSION

As guardians, protect and ensure the welfare and betterment of the GSD in Australia

The Last 57 Years:

- The GSDCA has modelled itself on the ideals as set by the SV.
- We were the first English speaking WUSV member to put in place well before the majority of other WUSV members, in an environment where ‘ALL BREEDS’ ruled- a number of breed improvement schemes and initiatives that more than met our mission.
- In fact we set the path for many other Breed Councils to follow with regard to welfare / canine health.
- The only missing ‘brick’ is that of an animal to be breed surveyed must have a working title (IPO) qualification.
- This matter has to the best of my knowledge been considered; the GSDCA conducted a study/ survey and considered whether or not IPO/SCHUTZHUND should be introduced.

It was narrowly defeated and the current policy was put in place.

- The GSDCA Temperament Instinct Character Test as developed by Tom Luxton and others- again despite wide spread promotion by the leadership group at the time, it was rejected by the membership.
- Mooted calls for another form of TIC was made, but never went ahead.
- The GSDCA Character Working Assessment was accepted narrowly in 2014.
 - This is the first CWA to be accepted!
 - Its acceptance was achieved by offering it as voluntary and fact it was most basic in concept and execution.
 - Its acceptance has followed the well proven path of initiating change with regard to breed improvement schemes- we crawl, we walk and then we run.
 - It was decided that before we would conduct the CWA that we needed clarification, procedure & verification of assessors.
 - 2016 The first CWA’s were conducted according to the manual.
 - We now have open criticism that it is so easy, why bother.
 - There was little feedback from Member Clubs before adoption in 2014 and or during the review of the manual for its conduct.
 - There is no reason why it cannot be hardened up!

GSDCA & ANKC Policy on Schutzhund/IPO/Dogsport.

The ANKC position on Schutzhund/ Dog Sport as adopted (2005- 2014) saw:

- All previous resolutions regarding Schutzhund up to and including May 1994 are rescinded.
- ANKC will not take responsibility for the management nor control of Schutzhund in Australia. Also, the ANKC will not recognize any Schutzhund titles awarded in Australia or to any dog awarded a title resident in Australia.
- **No Member body of the ANKC** shall recognize or approve Schutzhund training activity or conduct Schutzhund Trial competition and any member taking part risks disqualification.

ANKC Member Bodies consider Schutzhund training is not in the best interests of their activities

ANKC Ltd. Policy Statement: Attack Training adopted 2014:

- *The Australian National Kennel Council Limited and its Member Bodies totally and unequivocally oppose the practices of training of any dog to attack humans or any other animals, or of causing dogs to fight.*
- We totally support any State or Federal laws that outlaw this practice. Such practice is an offence against all Member Bodies' Regulations.
- Whilst appreciating that dogs are pack animals and that aggression may be natural canine behaviour, we expect all members to have their dogs under their effective control, particularly whilst in public places. Members should endeavour to ensure that their animals do not become involved in aggression incidents at any time.
-

ANKC rules state that it is an offence for members to participate in an activity that is not recognised/approved by the ANKC.

GSDCA Policy:

The GSDCA does not support or condone Dogsport/IPO in Australia.

- *1989: We accept the statement of the President (i.e. Mr Louis Donald), "With regard to Schutzhund in Australia the Council takes the official view that whilst Schutzhund training is clearly of great benefit to the dog and has equally great sport and social benefits, the potential political problems associated with Schutzhund in Australia are such that the Council cannot give support to this activity"*

Schedule 19.

The basic question that we must ask and resolve is

- Do we recommend to the membership that the current GSDCA Policy is rescinded?
- And
- That the GSDCA and WUSV work together to implement IPO/DOGSPORT in Australia.

It is now over to the Clubs to start the discussion.

Schedule 19

ANKC Submission

- a) The GSDCA shall put a recommendation with rationale to the ANKC that any of its club affiliated members who wish to participate in the sport of IPO may do so providing it is done with compliance of State or Territory law
- b) Subject to the above 19a being approved by the ANKC, the GSDCA shall, subject to normal processes, affiliate ANKC affiliate German Shepherd Dog only Dogsport clubs, Such clubs and their members shall be subject to compliance with the GSDCA - ANKC processes, constitution and rules.
- c) Subject to the above 19b being approved, the GSDCA shall formulate rules, policies, regulations and procedures including training regimes, judges training and licensing that complies with WUSV IPO rules and regulations. These rules, policies, regulations and procedures shall apply to all GSDCA affiliates and their members.

A lengthy and sometimes emotional discussion took place with members asking if they were expected to change what has been the GSDCA/ANKC policy in order to accommodate those very few GSD members who belong to the WGSDCA and or other Clubs. Local Government in some states around Australia, do not allow Dogsport to take place on their public grounds. Currently, in the main those participating must do so on private properties.

Discussion, comments and questions included but were not limited to the following:

- ◆ We are asked essentially do what is set out except for the bite work.
- ◆ Not many of our dogs do tracking or obedience. Is the idea that a motion would be developed to take back to our membership re the path we are going to go down.

The Chair's response was that the Clubs could move that the Schedules 1-23 be put to the members. This is the package Professor Messler wants us to agree to.

- ◆ Are we being asked to answer whether or not we go with the Harmonisation plan?

The Chair replied yes and that 90% of the Harmonisation plan is acceptable, but essentially we have a policy that we do not support or condone Dogsport/IPO in Australia. We have had this policy in place since 1989. Schedule 19 is the first question we need to address before we further look at the Harmonisation plan.

We cannot go forward unless we rescind our own policy.

- ◆ Does this meeting in principle, support meeting the Harmonisation plan?
- ◆ Bringing in Schedules 1, 2 and 3, and based on previous culture and experience when bringing in a simple test like CWA, will prove problematic.
- ◆ If we approach the ANKC and ask them to consider IPO/Dogsport, and if they say NO, then that is the end of the conversation. The WUSV will have to accept that. Professor Messler's opinion was that he would have to accept the Australian Kennel club's position on Schutzhund work. Are we prepared to ask the question of the ANKC? It will show our good will. If we do not, then it is all over. Are we going to take this approach?

- ◆ We will find it hard to go to Ministers of Government to defend our breed if an IPO trained dog, attacks people. In a case where two children were savagely bitten by a failed IPO dog SA assured the Government that we do not do nor condone IPO. The Executive's line was we do not do bite work. The SA club will not support bite work.
 - In Queensland, at least 20% of our membership participates in local IPO clubs. We do have a percentage of our members who would like us to go down that path. Why haven't the Queensland IPO clubs gone to the ANKC to put their case to have IPO recognised? What pressure has the Qld club put on to have it supported?
- ◆ Historically, the GSDCA did support Judges for that sport until the ANKC policy came into place, and this occurred all prior to dangerous dogs/restricted dog's legislation being enacted. Our reaction and work at that time was aimed at not having the GSD listed by Government as a "restricted breed".
- ◆ It appears the WUSV want to see the WGSDCA (Sydney organisation) affiliated with us and the GSDCA are to do all the work. Why hasn't the WGSDCA approached the ANKC themselves?

The South Australian club put forward the following motion:

Motion: That the GSDCA do not approach the ANKC to pursue Schedule 19
Moved: South Australia
FOR: SA
AGAINST: GSDCV, GSDCQ, GSDL, ACTGSDA, GSDCSA, GSDCT, GSDAWA.
 N&HRGSDC.

Motion Lost.

Chair again put that under Schedule 19, the Dogsport clubs would become affiliate members of our organisation, but politically that may not be a smart move to make it GSD specific. We need to promote a national approach that sees us put the case forward for the ANKC to take control of the activity and utilise the breed councils whose breeds are working dogs to conduct and govern it. The National Breed Councils should be responsible. Hence, if accepted by the ANKC that the activity can be offered to its members then those members would need to become members of Breed Clubs in their State and or territory in order to legitimately participate in an activity that has to be frank conducted on the fringe of canine affairs in this country.

Hence questions to be asked are:

- ◆ Are we going to rescind our policy on Schutzhund/IPO/ Dogsport to allow us to go to the ANKC?
- ◆ If we go to the ANKC and are refused, will the WUSV consider we have fulfilled our obligation?

From discussion the Chair has had with Brian Parker, President Dogs South Australia and Vice President ANKC it was clear that the ANKC were against IPO. The question was asked of the ANKC 2 years ago and whilst it was discussed the Directors voted NO to its introduction. It is also noted that the ANKC membership of the FCI is not dependent on ANKC allowing conduct of IPO/ Dogsport in Australia."

The Chair advised the meeting of a response sent to the SV regarding ANKC position on its members and or affiliates sponsoring or supporting the conduct of IPO. As a result of this ultimatum that would see the GSDCA Member Clubs and Council disaffiliated the GSDCA AGM in 2007 decided that we could no longer sponsor judges to judge IPO events by Clubs who are not members of the ANKC.

Another question to be asked is, do we wish to *endeavour* to change the existing policy. If the answer is yes, then face to face meetings with the ANKC, provision of as supporting documentation to the application and perhaps include a representative from the SV to put forward their case, would show the WUSV that we did everything we possibly could to put the case forward. Letters would not suffice.

Consider a scenario where the ANKC agree to change of policy; the road would be very complex. In Germany two years ago, 25% of the animals failed the test. Consider the time to train, the cost. Would members embrace the change?

Should we consider accepting ZAP1 as the first step and then ZAP2 with AD and then BH without the bite work? Or do we need to offer bite work to our members if they want to go down that path? As an organisation our current policy is against IPO dog sport. Do we change that policy? We are obliged to adhere to the ANKC policy currently in place.

Discussion then centered around putting together an information package to be presented to the members at Special General Meetings to be arranged by Clubs. The package would need to inform members of what the WUSV is asking us to do, what the changes to existing policy would mean, how disaffiliation from the WUSV would affect us. The motions put at the Special General Meeting must include very clear and precise rationales that members will understand.

It was suggested that we ask the ANKC to introduce IPO under the ANKC banner to be managed by breed councils. We do the leg work to get the ANKC to listen to us to convince them to change their stance on it will be difficult. The impetus would then be that all other breed clubs would have to do the same. We do not want to be involved in any one else's governance.

The question was asked if we want to rescind our current policy. Our current policy is and what we have been quoting to the SV/WUSV since 1989:

In 1989 - We accept the statement of the President (i.e. Mr Louis Donald),

With regard to Schutzhund in Australia the Council takes the official view that whilst Schutzhund training is clearly of great benefit to the dog and has equally great sport and social benefits, the potential political problems associated with Schutzhund in Australia are such that the Council cannot give support to this activity.

Further discussion resulted in differing views as to whether or not we should rescind our current policy. Should we consider "setting aside" our policy rather than rescind it and rely on the ANKC policy? The current ANKC policy provides far better clarity and is more specific than our own policy.

The following motion was put to the meeting:

Motion: That the GSDCA rescind our current policy on Schutzhund.
For: GSDCV, GSDCQ, GSDL, ACTGSDA, GSDCT, GSDAWA, N&HRGSDC.
Against: GSDCSA

CARRIED.

The meeting agreed to the following:

- ◆ Rescind current policy based on fact current is far more explicit with regard to what members cannot do shows good will on our part that the matter of Dogsport as raised by the WUSV has been taken seriously.
- ◆ Allows us to question the ANKC Policy.
 - In light of fact GSDCA has rescinded its policy we can then submit a proposal that promoted IPO/Dogsport as an activity that can be controlled and managed by the Breed Councils whose breeds can be trained for that activity.

- In our case the focus to be on German Shepherd Dogs but noting fact we must convince them in the first instance its IPO that must be approved first and not that only GSD be allowed to participate in this activity.

The Chair then said that the next step will be to write a submission to the ANKC. The following motion was put to the meeting:

Motion: That the GSDCA shall put a recommendation to the ANKC that any of its club affiliated members who wish to participate in the sport of IPO may do so providing it is done with full compliance of state or territory law.

Moved: Tasmania.

For: GSDCV, GSDCQ, GSDL, ACTGSDA, ACTGSDA, GSDAWA, N&HRGSDC. & GSDCSA
Carried Unanimously.

If the members vote for the above motion, then the next step will be to organise consultation with the ANKC. The makeup of the working party to organise the submission will be made at the Special General Meeting to decide on Schedules 1-23.

It was decided that as a collective and as the Leadership Group we must show solidarity with respect to putting this question initially to the membership and then if supported to the ANKC.

To recap discussion so far:

Schedule 19.

It was decided that until such time as a decision is made by the ANKC with regard to conduct of IPO/ Dogsport as a sanctioned activity that this will need to be revisited.

- ◆ When we present the 23 Schedules to the membership, we need to be absolutely clear with the rationale.

The Chair informed the meeting that the matter of receiving CDO supporting material did not eventuate and reassured all that the Executive did not receive any of the material as presented yesterday prior to the meeting. CDO explained that even up until the meeting he was in communication with Professor Messler and Imran Husain further clarifying matters.

GSDCA Breed Harmonisation Schedules

The meeting then commenced discussions on each of the 23 GSDCA Breed Harmonisation Schedules.

Schedule 1. Change the start date to “all dogs born after 30 December 2019”. In order to ensure process, verification of assessors and training manuals are well in place before test is offered on an official basis.

Agreed that this could be introduced.

Action: CDO to provide clarification with the appeal process if a dog fails or what process is in place for animals over the age of 12 months to participate.

Clarification from CDO:

ZAP Part 1:

- *If a dog fails, providing it is under 13 months of age it can re- present. If it subsequently passes, it is noted on its report that it was re-presented and the reason why it failed initially and on the re- present is noted on the report.*
- *If a dog fails in its first test, represents and fails again the dog may proceed to the next step. Dogs that are older than 13 months cannot do the test but may proceed to the next stage without penalty.*

Schedule 2. Change the first dot point to read “all dogs born after the 30th December 2019 shall be required to pass” etc.

It was noted that because of the very large distances in Australia some members may find it impossible to train for the BH at obedience clubs in remote areas. The endurance aspect would be seen to be reasonable, but the BH test will be problematic.

The Chair commented that we can look at the endurance aspect being more acceptable. To achieve these tests, then they will need to be graduated, i.e. the ZAP test, then the ED and the BH.

Members were concerned that this requirement could mean the end of breed survey as we know it and members will breed with un-surveyed stock as they can do under the ANKC umbrella. It was agreed that we will face reluctance in this country for members to achieve a working title in order to present for breed survey. It will impact on the future of the breed as it has done all over the world. Whilst members can show their dogs in the open classes without being breed surveyed, the awarding of the Excellent grading is tied to breed survey.

When it was suggested that we could perhaps use our own obedience titles, i.e. CD, Novice etc, the meeting was reminded that the CDO stated that BH was essentially non negotiable. The WUSV want the 3 elements in place. It was further suggested that we vote on what is currently in the schedule and put it to the members. If it is rejected then we could propose some of our Australian obedience titles in its place bearing in mind the CD and Novice do not include a character and temperament test component. The argument is that our breed survey system will possibly be decimated by 70% and fact is that unless IPO is approved by the ANKC we will not be structured to conduct BH whereas the ANKC has numerous working titles and the structure in place to award same. Not preempting the decision of the members, we should be able, if this fails, to put the facts of the matter to the WUSV via the CDO and negotiate a credible solution.

ACTION: Schedules 1 2 and 3 to be taken to the Membership.

Schedule 4. – Microchip/Tattooing - Agreed

Schedule 5 - DNA National Identification Scheme and Procedure. Agreed.

This is a process that could be put in place if membership agrees Whilst the WUSV want a world data base record, if we show good will on the DNA we might be able to renegotiate on the HD/ED requirements in Schedule 5. The biggest problem is the cost .Total process is Euro 65.00 per puppy at today's prices. \$30 (Euro 19 for every dog), but when activated an additional \$75 (Euro 46).

The ANKC is looking at a compulsory DNA storage for parentage testing about 12 months away and to be introduced at a set date. This will be compulsory for all dogs registered on the main register. Consideration of another system could be futile. If the DNA profile has been done in Australia, could it be sent to Germany to be proven for a fee? Unless the systems are interchangeable, then we will have to undertake both.

The Proposed ANKC draft DNA scheme is as follows:

Proposed DRAFT DNA Scheme

Draft planning for scheme as per discussion with ANKC Vice President 26 May 2017.

1. The ANKC is looking to introduce DNA Storage for parentage testing which at least 12 months down the track for all breeds of dogs and will be introduced after a set date.
2. DNA will be taken and stored after microchipping for whelps registered on the Main Register.

3. Whelps on the Limited Register, DNA will not be required as they are not to be bred with.
4. If DNA is not provided for whelps on the Main Register by the time the animal is 6 months of age, registration will be transferred to the Limited Register.
5. If a breeder was only keeping 1 or 2 puppies from a litter, DNA would only need to be stored for those puppies as they are potentially going to be bred with.
6. Frozen Semen will be exempt due to the cost of freezing and loss of semen.
7. DNA will only require to be proven if parentage is in doubt.
8. The ANKC will not require animals to be DNA proven prior to being bred with.
9. Each Canine Control will have a bank where the DNA Cards are stored.
10. Cost to store DNA from 1 puppy would be approximately \$3.
11. DNA would be taken by Veterinarians or trained DNA Collection agents which could be either saliva or blood.
12. GSDCA Club officials MAY be able to become DNA Collection agents after suitable training through an appropriate RTO.
13. GSD's could be DNA proven after HD & ED x-rays are taken i.e. 12 months plus of age, and prior to presenting them to Breed Survey after 18 months of age or breeding. This could be a separate GSDCA regulation put in place by the GSD.

As this scheme will be introduced and will be compulsory for all dogs registered on the Main Register, the GSD will need to comply with the ANKC requirement therefore consideration of any another scheme could be futile.

Action: Rationale to put to Membership.

Schedule 6. Minimum breeding age for males: noted should not present a problem
ANKC, GSDCA, Member Club & States Canine Control requirements attached.

Schedule 7 – Minimum breeding age for females. Noted should not present a problem
ANKC, GSDCA, Member Club & States Canine Control requirements attached.

Schedule 8 Maximum number of studs per year – 90 studs max. – Agreed.

Schedule 9 – Maximum number of litter's females. Noted should not present a problem
ANKC, GSDCA, Member Club & States Canine Control requirements attached.

Schedule 10 Re X-ray. This can be done for hips and elbows.
We need to seek more detail i.e. if a dog fails the re x-ray, is that dog out of the breeding scheme and no longer breed surveyed? What about AI? We would need to say "registered litters or registered studs". If the bitch misses, that stud should not be included.

Action: Seek further information from CDO.

Clarification from CDO: If a dog fails re X-ray, it is no different to failing on the first – Its Breed Survey status is terminated.

Schedule 11 Artificial Insemination. ANKC policy allows use of AI.

Action: Seek further information from CDO.

Is there is a minimum distance applied and whether or not semen from a dog now deceased can still be used.

Clarification from CDO: This information is not available – it is a work in progress

Schedule 12 In breeding limits.

The GSDCA has the following in place:

"Animals born after 1 July 2011 to be classified at breed survey must not have any line-breeding closer than (3-2) or (2-3)". Animals born prior to 1 July 2011 exempt.

NBC will be presenting not closer than 3/3 for discussion at the NBC Meeting in July.

Schedule 13 – HD Scheme & X-rays. – meeting recommendation: to be supported.

Schedule 14 ED Scheme and X-rays. – meeting recommendation: to be supported.

Schedule 15 HD/ED Procedure.

Seek clarification in respect of our readers and their qualifications and would they be acceptable. Recommend that for our scheme of 40 years to remain as is. Having our radiologist certified by the German official is aspirational to standardize around the world.

Action: *CDO to seek clarification with respect of GSDCA continuing with its own scheme but having its readers accredited by WUSV and possibility of sharing our data to value add to WUSV scheme.*

Clarification from CDO: *The WUSV Board has stated the current processes remain as is but at some future point in time the reader will reside in Germany. Again, this is a work in progress and a lot of water to go under the bridge before clarity is provided. For the record, what is suggested here was conveyed to the WUSV some months ago but I have had no response other than to say the suggestion has been received and noted.*

Schedule 16. Minimum show grading “Good” - meeting recommendation: to be supported. The N&HRGSDC said they try to encourage owners to get their dogs x-rayed and breed surveyed even though they do not want to show. It is thought that the minimum show grading of Good has been brought into play by the WUSV for the working dog fraternity.

Schedule 17 Breed Survey meeting recommendation: to be supported

Schedule 18 Pedigrees as per ANKC meeting recommendation: to be supported

Schedule 19 ANKC Submission – This has been dealt with.

Schedule 20 SV Working Dog Judges.

The GSDCA have a regulation regarding this. This policy has been in place for many years since 2007 and effective from the GSDCA AGM 2008. This item will be held in abeyance until we go through Schedule 19 process with the ANKC.

Schedule 21 WUSV World IPO Championships – Australian representative
This item will be held in abeyance until we go through Schedule 19 process with the ANKC.

Schedule 22 Grading of Excellent. Requires clarification.

This item is stipulating DNA proof and gun test by 2018. We have established we can organise this to happen. The date of 2018 might be harder to put in place. If it is in place when the Germans judge at the National and we deny the gun test, then the animals will not get excellent. Date it around December 2019. SA has had their schedule approved. We should be able to move the date out. We need clarification based on the fact that if this comes in as a rule for all SV judges to follow and there is no gun, what then?

Action: Seek further information from CDO: If gun test will be compulsory before 2018 National we need to know now. We cannot have the situation where judges will not award excellent if gun test is not carried out.

Clarification from CDO: *I have been told the gun test will be mandatory forthwith. Notwithstanding, I believe there is room for a timely introduction to avoid any problems for clubs my recommendation is subject to show schedules not already approved – the gun test needs to be a condition of entry - the gun test should apply to any SV judge judging in Australia.*

Comment from the Executive: The motion as placed in the agenda for the Special General Meeting reflects the need for common sense to prevail and that if agreed to, will apply to all shows where the schedule has yet to be approved.

Schedule 23 – Grading of Excellent Select - Aspirational.

This award is given on breed worth only. Our shows are based on ANKC policy. The GSDCA decides if we are going to introduce this Excellent Select grading. “VA” and would only be awarded if and when this Council decides to hold a “National Breed Show”. It is offered at one breed show per year.

That now concludes the discussion regarding the 23 Schedules.

Below is the itemized table outlining the Schedules and recommended changes

Schedule	Breed Harmonisation Item	Implementation Date	Recommended Change.
1.	Working Test – ZAP	In place December 2019	Change the date to all dogs born after 30 December 2019. Take to the Membership.
2.	Working Test – ZAP plus BH	In place December 2020	Change the date to all dogs born after 30 December 2019. Take to the Membership.
3.	Working Test – ZAP plus BH plus AD	In place December 2021	Consider alternative Australian obedience titles. Take to the Membership.
4.	Microchip/Tattooing	In place now.	Agreed.
5.	DNA National DNA Identification scheme and procedure.		Agree in principle and when the ANKC compulsory system is in place revisit with the WUSV.
6.	Minimum breeding age males – 18 months	In place July 2018	ANKC policy in place. Members to send each States Canine Control requirements to the GSDCA Secretary.
7.	Minimum breeding age – females – 18 months.	In place July 2018	ANKC policy in place. Members to send each States Canine Control requirements to the GSDCA Secretary.
8.	Maximum number of studs per year – 90 studs	In place July 2018	Agreed
9.	Maximum number of litters females – 3 litters max during 24 months.		ANKC policy in place. Members to send each States Canine Control requirements to the GSDCA Secretary.
10.	Re X-ray HD after 30 studs.	In place December 2020	Seek further detail.
11.	AI – allowed	In place now.	Seek clarification if a minimum distance is to be factored in and if the dog has died, can his semen be used?
12.	In breeding limits – Minimum inbreeding 1/1,2/1, 2/3, 3/2	In place now	To be raised at NBC meeting in July 2017.
13.	HD scheme and X-rays	In place July 2018	Agreed.
14.	ED scheme and X-rays.	In place July 2018.	Agreed.
15.	HD/ED Procedure.	In place July 2018.	Seek clarification regarding our readers and their qualifications and procedures.
16.	Minimum Show Grading – Good.	In place July 2018	Agreed.
17.	Breed Survey – other than amendments to reflect breeding matrix.	In place now	Agreed.
18.	Pedigrees as per ANKC	In place now	Agreed.
19.	ANKC submission		
20.	SV working Dog Judges		Held in abeyance until process with ANKC re Schedule 19 has been determined.
21.	WUSV World IPO Championships – Australian representative		Held in abeyance until process with ANKC re Schedule 19 has been determined.
22.	Grading of Excellent /Vorzuglich		Requires clarification.
23.	Grading of Excellent Select /Vorzuglich Ausiese		Requires Clarification. Subject to Schedule 19 being approved by the ANKC and if the GSDCA decides to hold a National Breed Show.

The Chair then discussed the “Agreement in Principle” the CDO asked be sent to the WUSV with the following wording:

At a meeting of the GSDCA Executive and Presidents of all member clubs held in Melbourne in June 2017 it was unanimously agreed that the GSDCA will support the principle and specification objectives of the WUSV Breed Harmonisation Programme and that it will to its best endeavours work toward the compliance of those stated objectives.

At the WUSV meeting last year, it was agreed in principle to agree with the Breed Harmonisation programme. Now that we have had the opportunity to discuss each and every item, there are aspects of the programme that we are unable or cannot agree with. Given that fact, the above wording needs to be revisited.

This meeting has agreed that we will, in principle, support the principles and objectives of the programme. Given that agreement, the suggested amended wording for the letter to be sent to the WUSV is as follows:

At a meeting of the GSDCA Executive and Presidents of all member clubs held in Melbourne 4th June 2017 it was unanimously agreed that the GSDCA will in principle support the objectives of the WUSV Breed Harmonisation Programme and that it will, to the best of its endeavours, work towards the compliance of those stated objectives.

In favour of the amendment. **Unanimous**

The Chair said that it will be interesting to see how these suggestions are received by our members. It is important that we engage the membership as a whole. We need to get as many breeders, exhibitors, especially the younger ones to understand these changes. They need to be aware the GSD fraternity is different to other dog clubs as we are idealistic. All Presidents will need to be proactive.

In relation to the 45 day response the CDO asked for, we have a Presidents meeting in July before the NBC meeting, no reason why we can't bring forward. Put this as an Agenda item for the President's meeting. From our point of view this is something people need to digest and we need supporting material.

Action: The President to discuss the 45 day response timeline with the CDO.

The 45 day motion timeline is problematic due to constitutional requirements. We can aim for 28th July where a Special General Meeting (SGM) will be called to discuss and get the member's feedback, then move forward from there. We have told Professor Messler that we cannot rush things in Australia with eight Member Clubs and different States.

In closing this part of the meeting, the Chair thanked everyone for their very valuable and structured input. Our hope now is that we can push things forward, but if no, we will face those challenges in due time.

Action: The Chair will obtain clarification from the CDO as to what the ramification will be if we are disaffiliated.

Clarification from CDO: Disaffiliation has wide ranging implications, some unknown.

A few that comes to mind:

- **No SV judges**
- **No WUSV judges**
- **Aside from the above, a likely difficulty in procuring judges that are closely associated with the WUSV/SV**
- **No semen from Germany and other close tied EU member countries should this eventuate**

- **The likelihood of the arising of a new SV supported WUSV member organization**

Personally, based on the first two items and with full consideration accorded to the last item, I think within 5/6 years, disaffiliation would see a 'significant decrease' in the number of dogs and enthusiasts attending Specialist GSD Shows and participating in Breed Improvement Schemes such as Breed Survey.

Comment from the GSDCA Executive:

We believe that disaffiliation should be avoided regardless of the outcome of decisions to be taken at the coming SGM. There must be a willingness to find an amicable solution through compromise on both sides and realisation that not all may be taken on board due to a number of circumstances. Namely not all can be done immediately and without realistic timelines: after all we have over the last 57 years demonstrated our ability to serve the welfare and betterment of the GSD. This excellent track record has been applauded by the ANKC, many SV judges and WUSV members!

Yes, if we are disaffiliated then it is possible that the show scene may suffer due to lack of SV judges, but fact is that apart from the National not many SV judges actually judge our shows. Whilst we understand SV foreign list (SVFL) and the soon to be introduced new category of WUSV Judges (currently there are no WUSV judges as such), may have WUSV embargos placed on them, it must be noted, they are first and foremost FCI judges as approved by their own Canine Controls. Therefore, if invited by a non WUSV member, they would like they do now if invited by ALL Breed clubs, they judge all over the world, still be able to judge Member Club Shows.

Life will continue as is the case now- the fact is that currently the ANKC and its members will not recognise more than one Breed Council and/or other GSD Clubs respectively! Their policy is in fact one breed council, one breed club per state and/or territory (where multiple breed clubs exist they are recognised, but in cases as has been the case of one of our Member Clubs that was one of three GSD clubs in NSW folded, it cannot be replaced. There are now 2 GSD clubs in NSW!

Further, based on the WUSV Harmonisation and noting the importance of IPO in that matrix and likelihood IPO will not be approved as an ANKC sanctioned activity any new GSD organisation as accepted by the WUSV would sit on the fringe like the many Clubs/groups do now without ANKC affiliation. Further, it must be noted that IPO in this country is practiced by at best 100 GSD owners.

The GSDCA structure, via its Member Clubs current and future outreach into the community and the fact it is the only GSD Breed Council the ANKC currently recognises cannot be dismissed.

Our approach has been to be proactive and offer compromise where possible with matters raised to date and enact the membership's wishes on the question of WUSV Harmonisation and introduction of IPO.

If we are disaffiliated by the WUSV we will survive well past 5/6 years and continue to serve the GSD and ensure it is protected, its health and welfare improved and maintain the breed standard through credible breed improvement schemes as put in place well before many members of the WUSV and the SV itself did or have done so to date.

The question was asked how will being disaffiliated with the WUSV affect us, and what are we getting for our subscriptions. The cost of our subscription increases every year as will be seen from the table below:

WUSV CHARGE 2015-2017 WITH FORECAST FOR 2018

		Price per member	Number of members	Total for each member	Membership Fee	TOTAL CHARGE	Exchange Rate
FORECAST							
2018	EURO	0.50	4628	2,314.00	750.00	3,064.00	0.6194
<i>Based on Exc Rate 2/6</i>	AUS	0.81		3,735.87	1,210.85	4,946.72	
ACTUALS							
2017	EURO	0.30	4628	1,388.40	500.00	1,888.40	0.6693
	AUS	0.45		2,074.41	747.05	2,821.46	
2016	EURO	0.30	4405	1,321.50	500.00	1,821.50	0.6063
	AUS	0.49		2,179.61	824.67	3,004.29	
2015	EURO	0.30	4205	1,261.50	500.00	1,761.50	0.646
	AUS	0.46		1,952.79	773.99	2,726.78	

Chair stated when you ask what do we get for our membership, then we need to ask what our purpose is and why are we all here today. We are here to promote, support and look after the German Shepherd Dog in Australia. It also connects us to the rest of the world fraternity.

Conclusion:

The Chair thanked everyone for making the time to attend this weekend after being given such short notice. Louis and Gail were again thanked as they were supposed to be at a wedding but decided this meeting was too important. In the end we now have a greater insight as to where things stand in regard to Harmonisation and IPO.

I urge all Presidents try and get maximum participation as what transpires will affect the way we operate. A no vote means we may not be a member of the WUSV. If our response in relation to Schedules 1, 2 and 3 outlining what is permissible in Australia and Professor Messler finds that response unacceptable, then, I imagine our affiliation will cease to be. Members might ask why be a member of the WUSV? There are challenging times ahead for the leadership group and the need to promote idealism has never been more important.

Thank you again to all the Delegates and Executive for your valued input. I would also like to thank Val and Jane for organizing in quick time the admin and travel arrangements and again a very special thank you to Barbara for taking the minutes of what have been two days of challenging discussion and resolution.

Meeting closed at 2.56 pm.