



# The German Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland (Inc)



**The German Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland Inc. (GSDCQ) established in 1957 is the official custodian of the breed in Queensland and along with the other GSD State Clubs is affiliated with the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA). Together, these organisations work to safeguard the development of the breed in Australia through the various National Council Breed Improvement Schemes.**

The GSDCQ promotes and encourages both responsible dog ownership and dog breeding. Members live in all areas of this large State and the Management and Committee recognises those members and encourages breed activities in regional areas. The club's calendar includes two championship shows, two restricted obedience trials, Open show, State Breed Exhibition and at least five Breed Surveys. We have Club Representatives in both Zone 2 and Zone 3 and we regularly conduct breed events on a needs basis in these areas. Members work closely with the non-profit Breed Rescue Group 'GSD's In Need' as well as running a free GSD rehoming service.

## Breed Description

The German Shepherd Dog is a strong, active, very intelligent and loyal dog making him an ideal family companion. He requires plenty of ongoing socialization, training, and regular exercise to make him a good canine citizen. The German Shepherd Dog is a medium sized breed with male dogs standing between 60-66cms high at the withers and weighing between 30 - 42 kg, females stand between 55 - 61cms at the withers and weigh 22 - 32 kg.

The German Shepherd is a working dog and as such he is responsive to a wide range of training. He is employed in many roles including the Australian Defence Forces, Police Dogs, Drug Detection and Search and Rescue. They also excel in other activities such as Obedience Trials, Sheep Herding, Endurance Trials, Delta and Therapy Dogs however the majority of dogs in Australia are faithful family companions.

## Breed Improvement Schemes

The German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia Breed Survey scheme is the cornerstone of breed improvement. Prior to breeding, each animal is presented to a panel of qualified Breed Surveyors who assess its breed value as compared to the Breed Standard. To be classified as suitable for breeding the animal must be considered above the breed average, both physically and temperamentally. Animals that cannot achieve successful classification are not recommended for breeding. Prior to submitting to a Breed Survey each animal must have passed the GSDCA Hip and Elbow Dysplasia schemes and in certain cases the Haemophilia Scheme. This dedication by the GSDCQ breeders and the GSD Council of Australia has been responsible for the continued improvement of both the quality and health of the German Shepherd Dog Australia wide.





## Buying a Puppy

Many people buy a cute little puppy without considering the future consequences of a much larger adult dog. In the right home that puppy will be a loved family member. All dog buyers must carefully consider the exercise, fencing, shelter and particularly the socialization and training requirements of a new German Shepherd puppy. Are you prepared to find the time in your busy schedule to accommodate the demands of this new family member? You need to remember that this little puppy will, in a relatively short time become a much larger adult with a lifespan of approximately 10-14 years. The initial purchase price is the commencement of outlay.

Unbelievably a puppy can be quite costly over the course of its lifetime. You will need to budget for vaccinations, worming, food, Council registration fees, membership fees etc. and the possibility of Veterinary expenses that can become quite high. We recommend you purchase your puppy from a breeder who complies with the GSDCQ 'Puppy Listing' criteria using the GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes to assist as a safeguard towards good health and more importantly the sound character and temperament of your future family companion.

If you do go ahead and decide to purchase a puppy you must commence the puppy's socialisation and training from day one. This is essential. It is recommended that you join your local obedience dog club to assist you.

## General Health Care and Grooming

The German Shepherd Dog is generally a healthy, hardy dog. However, like all breeds it can have a few potential health problems about which owners should be aware. Skin and gut sensitivities can occur but adequate coat care and feeding a balanced diet will usually prevent these problems. Like most large breeds, it can suffer joint problems in the form of hip and elbow dysplasia. Excessive weight can exacerbate these conditions. The GSD must never be allowed to become overweight particularly during times of rapid growth (6-12mths). Having a double coat, they do shed and have a major coat change usually twice a year. A quick comb/brush to remove excess hair and dirt at least twice weekly and preferably daily when it's shedding is all that is required to keep the coat in good condition. The ears need regular checking as they are large, erect, and open and can attract dirt and foreign matter causing irritation. The nails should be kept well-trimmed.

## Growth and Development

The German Shepherd is a slow maturing dog. He can go through some unruly growth spurts displaying, at times, some, or all the following; loose ligaments, loose hocks, lack of coordination, ears up and down, soft pasterns, splayed feet etc. He can be a gawky teenager! These issues will usually settle down as he matures. The ears will usually be fully erect by 4-6 months. Sometimes they may take longer. **DO NOT OVER SUPPLEMENT** as this can cause an imbalance possibly leading to more serious growth problems. Most premium dog foods are already nutritionally balanced. **DO NOT OVERFEED.** Excess weight can put a strain on his young joints and ligaments. Always keep in touch with the Breeder of your puppy who can advise you if you have any concerns. If your Breeder is not available, contact the Club for advice. (See GSDCQ website for contact details).

## Exercise

Should you exercise your young German Shepherd Puppy? A mistaken belief of many owners of our breed is that a young puppy (up to 12 months of age) should have "plenty" of exercise. In fact, as the German Shepherd is such a fast-growing breed, the opposite is more correct. The strain of over-exercise on the skeletal make-up of the framework can and will do harm to the young puppy and may lead to problems in adulthood. Consider a young Shepherd equivalent to a 3-4-year-old human child – certainly not ready to run a marathon (even though the spirit may be willing!) but with growth and maturity that time could come. As a rule of thumb and guideline for novice owners, "on-lead" exercise should be limited until final growth and height is achieved at approximately 10–12 months of age. After 12 months, hips and elbows can be x-rayed through the GSDCA Scheme. Until then, it should be 'careful and slow'.



For more information  
visit our Website  
[www.gsdclld.org.au](http://www.gsdclld.org.au)

