

The German Shepherd by Design Judges' Questionnaire

Bob Grady

How long have you been judging the breed? How many times a year do you judge German Shepherds?

First assignment 1999. Two to four times a year.

Are you an active breeder of German Shepherd Dogs? Do you have a kennel name ?

Not since receiving my judges license. Although I have just bought a new puppy that we will be showing as soon as she grows up.

How long have you been in the breed? When and how did you get started?

Going to show my age here: Loved the looks of them from Rin Tin Tin, Strong Heart, and Roy Roger's Bullet. First personal contact came in 1954 while stationed in Tripoli, Lybia with the K9 section of the Air Police Squadron. We got our first after I left the USAF in 1964. As with most of us she was a pet. We had a Grade A dairy, and without any formal training she became our herd dog. When she was around 2 years old Nadine could stand at the fence of a 40 acre pasture, in the middle of the night and she would bring in 200 cows without direction. Got our first "show dog" 1968. Joined with Dottie and Ernie Weight in the late 70's to form Weicho Kennels. A very good history of Champions and Futurity/Maturity winners. Almost all of them owner handled. Didn't mean to write a book here but think I could.

Do you judge both all-breeds and specialties. If so, which do you prefer ?

Both, prefer Specialties. I just love judging

Do you have a color preference?

Everyone knows I love Sables, but while judging color means nothing

Do you find it harder to judge solid blacks ? If so, why?

No

When judging the dog, do you also judge the handler? Please elaborate if possible.

Nope

What importance do you place on missing teeth?

Standard says it all. However I will not put a dog of lesser quality over one I think is better because of a missing tooth

Please discuss temperament in the ring today. Has it improved? Declined? Please explain.

Tough question. The last couple of years I have had to excuse dogs. Didn't have to do that before. I think the loose lead test is helping to show it. A big thank you to the two "Old Pros" Bob Penny and Jim Norris, for getting this started.

Do you prefer a dog to be shown on a loose lead?

YES. We pick our show puppies in the back yard without a leash, then teach them to charge around the ring like idiots.

How would you rate the following in sequence of importance? (On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best).

Coming/Going: 8

Sidegait: 10

Temperament: 15 sorry couldn't help myself. Without temperament u don't have a GSD

Teeth: 6

Coat: 8

Pasterns, hocks, feet: 8

Pigment: 5

Structure: 10

Shoulder/Reach: part of sidegait

Attitude: 8

In your opinion should double handling be allowed? Please explain.

If done right I have no problem with it. Just that so many people destroy their dogs with it'

Do you feel more emphasis should be put on the total package, and less on movement?

Movement, with a disclaimer: THEY HAVE TO LOOK LIKE A GSD

Do you have a pet peeve about anything owners or handlers do concerning the showing of dogs? (Do you have any suggestions for owners or handlers regarding anything they should NEVER do when showing under you ?)

NEVER, EVER SHOW BAD SPORTSMANSHIP. Listen to me, do as I say not as I did. OWNERS: Have fun. It is only a dog show and there is always tomorrow.

Do you have any suggestions for owners or handlers regarding anything they should ALWAYS do when showing under you ?

See Above

Do you have any advice for people who are relatively new to showing and/or breeding?

Enjoy your wins, take your loses with grace and sportsmanship. Most of all enjoy the people. Showing dogs is a great sport but it is not life and death.

Any final comments? Very good questions Becky