

The German Shepherd by Design Judges' Questionnaire Bud Drew

How long have you been judging the breed? How many times a year do you judge German Shepherds? I started judging in early 1976. I guess that makes it about 32 years. I only judge once every couple of years.

Are you an active breeder of German Shepherd Dogs? Do you have a kennel name ?
I am an active breeder although I only breed a litter every year or two. My kennel name is Richterslusts German Shepherds

How long have you been in the breed? When and how did you get started?
I got my first German Shepherd in 1956. It was a pet that died very young. My next one wasn't obtained until 1962 when I acquired a Red Rocks Gino daughter when I was living in Norton, Mass. I got her from my next door neighbor who had lost his job and couldn't feed his bitch or her puppies, So I bought one of the pups and gave a couple of 50 lb. bags of dog food. When all the pups had been placed the bitch, Gina, somehow found out I had one of her pups and the owner couldn't keep her home so he gave her to me. When I moved to Las Vegas in '66, I brought her and the pup,

Do you judge both all-breeds and specialties. If so, which do you prefer ?
I have judged both All Breed and Specialties but prefer to judge specialties.

Do you have a color preference?
I don't have a color preference when I'm judging but I do want a good rich pigment whether it be sable. Black and tan or whatever but I prefer rich pigment.

Do you find it harder to judge solid blacks ? If so, why?
I don't find it hard at all.

When judging the dog, do you also judge the handler? Please elaborate if possible.
There has been a lot of discussion on the list of late about handlers. I judge the dog!! A lot of handlers if they are good at their job will try to hide any faults that the dog may have and it's my job to find them but not to fault judge. Some handlers try to intimidate. When that happens it just makes me mad.

What importance do you place on missing teeth?
I think our dogs should have a full mouth that being said, I'm not too hard on missing teeth if the rest of the animal is outstanding. An old breeder once said about missing teeth " Let one with a missing tooth bite you and see if you notice if it's missing" I prefer a full mouth.

Please discuss temperament in the ring today. Has it improved? Declined? Please explain.
I think we've gone full circle. When I first started in shepherds temperament was good. Then we went thru a period where it was bad. Lately it seems that most are sound mentally. I do think the loose lead temperament tests have helped.

Do you prefer a dog to be shown on a loose lead?
I insist on seeing a dog on a loose lead during the individual. If I don't get it, I don't make a big fuss about it, I just figure the handler is trying to hide something and weigh that into my final decision.

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

Coming/Going: 7

Sidegait: 9

Temperament: 10

Teeth: 5 depends on which ones and how many

Coat: 5

Pasterns, hocks, feet: 7

Pigment: 6

Structure: 10

Shoulder/Reach: 9

Attitude: 8

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

I think it should be allowed as long as it doesn't interfere with my judging and that nobody gets hurt or knocked down. I've been written up by a couple of reps for not stopping the doubling. My comment was, "I'm busy judging, doing the job I was hired for. You do the policing." I was told not to bother applying for other breeds.

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

I feel that if an animal IS the total package, it will also have the movement.

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 ?)

Don't ever show an ungroomed, dirty dog under me. It shows a total lack of respect for the animal and for me.

Do you have any suggestions for owners or handlers regarding anything they should ALWAYS do when showing under you ? Be cordial and friendly and I'll reciprocate.

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

GET A MENTOR!!! The country a large number of very knowledgeable breeders and handlers. Save yourself some time and money and make use of a good mentor. Most breeders are very willing to be helpful.

Any final comments?