

**The German Shepherd by Design Judges' Questionnaire**  
**Frances J. Rood**

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

Since 1996, but took a break from that while my girls were in college . They both were athletic scholarship students and both did very well and are in the record books in the universities that they chose to attend. Of course, my husband Jerry and I have a lot of fun traveling around the country to watch them play. Now they are both graduated and I decided it would be fun to get back into judging.

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

I am still breeding, but very limited. April 1st was the first litter here at Hylock in quite a few years. Hylock Kennels is the name we chose.

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

I got my first Shepherd from my husband in 1967. Started out in Obedience, but soon fell in love with the conformation competition.

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

I have judged both all-breed and specialties shows. I prefer the specialties.

**Do you have a color preference?**

Color does not make a difference to me at all.

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

I have owned a few black dogs and I don't find it hard at all.

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

I am hired to judge the dogs and that is what I do. Handlers are paid to present the clients dogs and I am hired to judge the DOGS. I am not concerned with who is handling.

**What importance do you place on missing teeth?**

If I have two equal dogs the one with no missing teeth will win.

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

I have not judged in a few years so this question is a little hard to answer. When I did judge I did not see a lot of bad temperament, but I do remember a few that I questioned.

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

I have to see a dog on a loose lead at least once around the ring. Slow and easy, and the handlers that showed under me can testify to that.

**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:7**

**Coat: 5**

**Pasterns, hocks, feet: 7**

**Pigment: 7**

**Structure: 9**

**Shoulder/Reach:10**

**Attitude: 7**

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

If it does not interfere with my temperament test and is not obnoxious I will tolerate it. BUT if I say stop I mean Stop.

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

Total package is temperament and movement . You cannot have one without the other.

**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?)**

Smelly dogs, unclean teeth are the biggest of my peeves. That shows me that the person with the dog does not want to win. You are there to present your dog at its best. You have to face it, is a beauty contest. Can you imagine a Miss America contest with women who haven't brushed their teeth is a year, and smiling with green fuzzy teeth??

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

Present your dog at all times, you never know when I will scan down the line looking. Smiles never hurt , even if you lose.

And handlers,,,, do not try and influence me I do know what I am there for.

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

Go to shows, Look at what it takes to win, read the standard (more than once) , talk to people, and listen to everyone, ask a lot of questions, and then make up your own mind as to what you want to breed.

**Any final comments?**