

Judge Bob Drescher

How long have you been judging the breed? How many times a year do you judge German Shepherds? I have been an AKC licensed judge since 1999. I average 3 to 4 assignments a year.

Are you an active breeder of German Shepherd Dogs? Do you have a kennel name ? I am still breeding (usually as a co-breeder now) very sparingly under the kennel name I have always used...Malibar.

How long have you been in the breed? When and how did you get started? I have always been in love with the breed since I was a child and ached to own one, which I did as soon as I was able. I purchased my first German Shepherd puppy, "Blitz", in 1971. After a while, I took him for Tom and Jane Bennett to see, as they were family friends, and was informed that my dog was of "pet quality". I was shown a GSD Review and given a Parent Club membership application and the rest is history. I was lucky in that my "pet quality" dog had the most outstanding temperament and personality. I also was lucky in that I met an exceptional trainer who tirelessly taught me all the best fundamentals. We trained to a level where we were in demand to perform and made dozens of public appearances including television and the newspapers. In my early years I was active in the working aspects of the GSD, e.g. obedience, tracking, protection (1976 re-organized the K-9 program for Lancaster County Prison) as well as conformation. I have been a member of the GSDC America since 1974. It was then that I purchased my first show puppy, a GV Scorpio daughter (one of the "D" girls) from Twyla Miner. I have been fortunate to breed, own, exhibit, train and handle many fine dogs, including numerous Champions and Futurity and Maturity winners, and Selects. I was a co-owner of the last German import to attain the "Select" title at the U.S. National – 1990 Select Ch. Dingo v. Haus Wurdemann, SchH III. I believe strongly in the "Total Dog" concept as the term relates to appearance, working ability, temperament and health, as well as movement.

Do you judge both all-breeds and specialties. If so, which do you prefer ? I sometimes judge all-breeds, but mostly specialties, which I prefer due to the size and quality of the entries, usually.

Do you have a color preference? When judging, I am color-blind, unless all things being equal between two animals (theoretically, because it never really is), then I am going to favor dark, strong rich colors as I do in my breeding program.

Do you find it harder to judge solid blacks ? If so, why? No, I don't.

When judging the dog, do you also judge the handler? Please elaborate if possible. Never. I don't care who is handling. (I do sometimes wonder why they present the dog the way that they do.) I often don't even remember who the handler for a given dog was.

What importance do you place on missing teeth? The importance is in accordance with what the Standard calls for with PERHAPS some slighter leniency if the animal is a bitch rather than a dog.

Please discuss temperament in the ring today. Has it improved? Declined? Please explain. I don't know if temperament has improved or not, but I'm pretty certain that training methods and handling and double-handling techniques to cover up people shyness have. To me, temperament is an over-simplified catch-all term we use to describe the many facets encompassing character and personality (which includes much more than being able to tolerate a neutral stranger's approach). While I believe in and am extremely grateful for the loose-lead exam, if done properly, I think that we have to understand that what we are really seeing is only a dog's "behavior" under a certain set of circumstances, which may not be reflective at all of its overall true character and temperament. When I judge, each dog has one chance to pass or fail this behavior test on that day, and I make no assumptions or representations about the dog's character based on the outcome of that test. I may make a slight exception for a young puppy, however.

Do you prefer a dog to be shown on a loose lead? Of course. It gives you the most "honest" look at the dog. Most dogs look better on a loose lead – unless there is something to hide.

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

Coming/Going: 10
Side gait: 10
Temperament: 10
Teeth: 10
Coat: 10
Pasterns, hocks, feet: 10
Pigment: 10
Structure: 10
Shoulder/Reach: 10
Attitude: 10
They're all important.

In your opinion should double handling be allowed? Please explain. Yes, if done properly (which is too long of a subject to go into here). It is more natural for our breed to be tuned in on their "master" than a chunk of liver.

Do you feel more emphasis should be put on the total package, and less on movement? I look at everything. In the end, they have to be able to move, but you probably won't see me putting up a mover without proper type and soundness. Of course, you can only judge what you have in the ring that day.

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?) Poor sportsmanship – you know what all that includes. Handlers – don't race the dogs. Show clean dogs, and please take care of your dogs' teeth.

Do you have any suggestions for owners or handlers regarding anything they should ALWAYS do when showing under you? Handlers – on the loose lead exam I want the dog on a LOOSE lead with no double handling. Also, my procedure is very consistent. If you

watch a class, you will know what I want you to do when you are in the ring, and we can save a lot of time.

Do you have any advice for people who are relatively new to showing and/or breeding?
Leave your egos at the door. Become a student of the breed and the "game". Listen to a lot of different opinions, pick mentors from among those who make the most sense, and always reserve the right to think for yourself. Start with the best quality bitch you can get your hands on and improve from there.

Any final comments? Remember, if you're in this for the long haul, no one show, or win, or one dog's record, is more important than your reputation and the relationships that you'll make that will last you a lifetime. Try to keep it all in perspective, have fun and breed better dogs, and everything else will take care of itself.