

Judge Evan Ginsburg

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

About ten years. I limit myself to two shows a year, since I am still working full time and showing dogs.

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

Yes, the kennel is named ASGARD.

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

I have been in the breed over 35 years now. I got started in Michigan when I bought a puppy for my wife, from Wyn Dean Kennels. The puppy, not my wife. The puppy was not well, so they exchanged her from a show dog, and from there we had our first show dog, and our first breeding bitch, who carried the double sable gene. After 40 sable puppies, we were in it for good.

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

I do both, but prefer the specialties.

Do you have a color preference?

No, but I don't see a black as easily as other colors. I have put up all colors.

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

See above. I have a hard time seeing an all black, and so look more closely. I would love to find a good black, and will some day.

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

I seldom notice who the handler is. A good handler is never seen, by a good judge.

What importance do you place on missing teeth?

If more than pre-molars, I might consider it. I don't find missing teeth to bother me. I finished, went winners bitch at the national, and twice Select with a bitch with a missing tooth. It didn't bother me then, and now I seldom fault it.

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

It has improved in and out of the ring. We used to hear the excuse that "the dog was mistreated as a puppy" to make up for poor temperament. It has greatly improved due to the stress put on it by breeders.

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

I have to see a loose lead at least one time in the ring. After that, when I know what I have, then I no longer care what they do.

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

Sidegait: 10

Temperament: 9

Teeth: 5

Coat: 3

Pasterns, hocks, feet: 5

Pigment: 3

Structure: 10

Shoulder/Reach: 12

Attitude: 9

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

I have no opinion. If it makes the owners happy, it is fine with me. I see no problem with it, if the judge can see what the dog is doing, the rest is just something for the owners to do to be involved.

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

No. This is a moving breed. Without movement, you could see any breed. But, the German shepherd moves, or it isn't a German shepherd.

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 try to show me who owns the dog. I usually know anyway, don't care, and can't imagine that anyone thinks I do. Not that there is anything wrong with that.

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

Show your best dog, enjoy the show, and have fun.

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

Always remember that the better dog often wins. If you don't win, think carefully about what you are showing and stop thinking it is about politics. It is about the quality of the entry.

Any final comments?

Never take a survey. They are just your opinion, and it is no more valuable than any others. I know I never take part in them.