

Judge Helen Gleason

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 of German Shepherd Dogs since 1985; I am also approved to judge the Herding Group and Best in Show. I judge German Shepherds about 5 times each year.

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

My kennel name is Nocturne Acres and I breed 1 litter every year.

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

I rescued a German Shepherd while I was in college, attending Penn State University but my love for the breed began while I was a youngster watching Rin Tin Tin in the movies. My graduation present from college was a registered German Shepherd Dog, a wonderful animal who helped me appreciate this wonderful breed as we were completing his UDT title.

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

Do you have a color preference?

I prefer strong rich colors whether sable, black and tan etc. I have no problem judging solid blacks and in the past year I have had the privilege of seeing 3 of the most beautiful solid blacks I have ever seen.

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

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

I judge only the dog.

What importance do you place on missing teeth?

Our standard specifically states that complete dentition is to be preferred. Any missing teeth other than first premolars is a serious fault

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

I believe that temperament has improved in the ring today. I think that more people are spending quality time with their dogs to give them the opportunity to encounter new situations and prepare them for the stressful environment that the show ring represents.

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

In my opinion the only way to properly evaluate a dog is on a loose lead. I give the handlers the opportunity to present them the way they feel they look best and ask them then to present them on a loose lead.

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

Coming/Going:

Sidegait:

Temperament:

Teeth:

Coat:

Pasterns, hocks, feet:

Pigment:

Structure:

Shoulder/Reach:

Attitude:

In evaluating the German Shepherd dog I feel that the following are rated in the sequence of importance to me:

#1 Temperament and attitude

#2 Structure , side gait, coming/going, shoulder/reach

#3 Pasterns, hocks, feet

#4 Teeth, pigment and coat

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

Anyone who attempts to double handle a dog during a temperament test should be severely penalized. I have no objection to a dog being encouraged to move easily around the ring as long as it does not interfere with the spectators or other exhibitors.

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

The total dog should be evaluated against the Standard.

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?)

I would ask that owners spend time with their animals to train them properly so that they readily permit examination of their mouths and bite. Train the youngsters to move easily on a loose lead.

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

Never double handle their animal while I am conducting a temperament test.

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

Any final comments?