

## **Judge Ileana Noguerras**

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

I've been licensed since 10/06, have had 7 assignments so far, and 2 more lined up. Right now, 2-3 assignments per year are just perfect. That work thing, you know?

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

Our kennel name is Inquest. We are not actively breeding.

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

Our breeds in the past were Dobies, Goldens and Norwegian Elkhounds. We purchased a long coat GSD back in the 1980's, fell in love with the breed and never looked back.

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

I judge both venues. Specialties afford the opportunity to showcase the animals as there are less time constraints, but I appreciate the All Breeds for the education you gain watching other breeds. A good dog can and does win in the all breed ring as it does in the specialty ring. Of course, it is always better when the All Breed Clubs and Specialty Clubs work together and the rings are larger than what we are used to.

### **Do you have a color preference?**

No.

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

Not at all. Check out GVX BO. A good dog is a good dog, regardless of the color.

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

Handlers are part of the equation. You see them, you talk to them, you instruct them, you just don't judge them. They are doing a job, and their job is to win. So the judge needs to be clear and ask, demand if necessary, that the dogs are shown correctly. If a handler is hindering the dog, it is my job to point to the handler what I want to see. Time is an issue, so if they continue to miss the point, there is only so much you can do. You have to account to what extent they are helping or hindering the dogs.

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

Teeth are important in ANY working breed. Our standard is clear on the importance of missing teeth. Personally, I wouldn't penalize an otherwise outstanding dog for a missing first pre-molar in favor of a lesser dog with a full mouth.

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

I think temperaments improved for a while, and then started declining again. But handlers and owners have become better at training the dogs for the rings. I think the loose lead temperament examination is a good tool to find some of the dogs with less than desirable temperament. Those eyes don't lie.

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

Absolutely. Loose Lead and at the dog's best individual speed. Not racing. I want to see that point of suspension.

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

-As I see them, Temperament, Structure and Movement.

Coming/Going: ---8

Sidegait: ---8

Temperament: ---10  
Teeth: ---7  
Coat: ---7  
Pasterns, hocks, feet: ---9  
Pigment: ---7  
Structure: ---9  
Shoulder/Reach: ---8  
Attitude: ---I think this goes along with temperament and character.  
You failed to address rear action, a functioning rear. I would grade that an 8 also.

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

Sure, as long as no one gets hurt, and you don't become a nuisance to the rest of the competitors, especially at All Breed shows. Be discreet and be considerate. Your dog isn't deaf, and neither are those around you.

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

This is not mitosis. You don't separate movement; it is part of the total package.

**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 ?)**

- Never be rude in my ring, to anyone.
- Never manhandle the dogs.
- Never show me a dog that won't pass the temperament test.
- Never double a dog during the temperament test.

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

- Always have fun.
- Always bring dogs to the ring that are sound of body AND mind.
- Always exhibit a clean dog. Teeth, coat, nails. Treat them like Champions.

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

Go to as many shows as you can afford to. Watch, learn, ask questions, do your research. Some will try to convince you this is serious, life and death. Any form of competition is serious, but it is NOT life and death. Relax; you and your dog will be better for it.

**Any final comments?**

Yes, if at all possible, get involved with your local, regional and national Rescue Groups. Become educated about "Animal Rights" and the issues facing our fancy. Think about how you are affecting the cause. Are you part of the problem, or part of the solution? Thanks for this forum. Best of luck to everyone at the shows.