

Judge LaMar Frederik

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

Been judging since 1991 and have had some successes in breeding. Don't breed anymore - too old and the kids are all gone. Live in the city now - little room.

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

Bred under the name of Winchester Kennels. Bred one of the highest living (now dead of course) dams in the breed - Am/Can Ch. Lynrik's Shanon of Winchester, ROM, ROMC, TC and four other champions as well as CD's on several. Started in late 80's with obedience.

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

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

Do you have a color preference?

I like strong colors but don't have a problem with all blacks. Have had several myself.

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 watch the handler sometimes - particularly if there is an attempt to cover a fault. Handled myself and engaged several top handlers for our dogs. Know most of the tricks of covering faults. Temperament, color and attitude have improved over the mid to late 90's. Had some dogs during that time with substantial faults of movement but they seemed to win during that time. Would not win today and did not win under me during that time. Pissed off some very important people who said: "Look at the whole package, not just the faults of movement." I said: "read the standard – not the applause." Standard says "faults of gait, whether from front, rear or side, are to be considered **serious** faults." If they can't come and go correctly, including sidegait, falling on the hocks, locked hocks, poor fronts and a three or four piece dog in motion, how could they work in the field for any period of time? The standard says, quite clearly: "The ideal dog is a working animal with an incorruptible character combined with body and gait suitable for the arduous work that constitutes its primary purpose." Watch the working dogs and think about a fault of movement and how long they would last in "its primary purpose".

What importance do you place on missing teeth?

Teeth - which ones are missing? The standard is quite clear on that issue. Any missing teeth other than a premolar are a serious fault. While they may have enough to eat with, there is still the standard.

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

Do you prefer a dog to be shown 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 your opinion should double handling be allowed? Please explain.

I don't care about double handling as I state at the start of the event: "If your dog looks like a piece of crap because you double handle and screw up the dog, don't blame me for where your dog places." Sometimes double handling is believed necessary for younger dogs to get around the ring. I don't mind if it does not interfere with the movement of the dog. However, more often, the dog is not relaxed, meaning loose lead, enough to show their true movement. In my view, that is the handler's fault for not recognizing the way the dog is being presented and managing the ring experience. Paying a handler several ten's, or even hundreds, of dollars for showing the dog only to have the handler yell at you for poor double handling and then it is all the fault of the owner when the dog does not perform is not my way of working.

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

I have no idea what you mean by the total package. If you mean the dog cannot get out of its own way, is sloppy in the hocks and coming and going but looks beautiful when posed, is that the total package you are to consider? This is not a head breed, like Collies, Shelties and others, or coat breed like the toys, or field breed like the pointers and setters. This is a gaiting breed and while some judges say they overlook sloppy hocks, locked hocks and flying elbows because the dog is such a great sidemover (thus a great dog) is not looking closely at the standard and by doing so, helps perpetuate the problems of the breed (read the mid- to late 90's). The standard does not use the word "serious" before "fault" for any other reason than the judge should seriously and heavily penalize the animal displaying that fault. (This is also why during the mid to late 90s, most "specials" dogs could not get a placing in the all breed ring as their movement was a real problem for the all breed judge.)

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?)

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

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

Our initial experiences were with serious breeders and exhibitors, with grand victors and victrix champions, who took us under their wing but always said to listen to others as there is often a nugget of information to learn every day. Do not become kennel blind and continue to look for the best attributes of other breeders and breedings. Buy the best female one can afford because you can always "own" the best stud in the country for your bitch, for a day. Take the best female from that litter and again, "own" the best stud in the country for that bitch, for a day. Breeding up from a dog is very difficult; from a bitch, much easier.

Any final comments?

Just some musings.