

Judge Paul Root

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

PR-17 yrs. 3 to 4

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

PR-Yes...Rivendell GSD

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

PR-27 yrs...Obedience then Conformation

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

PR-Yes...the ones with the best dogs.

Do you have a color preference?

PR-Certainly not...

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

PR-No

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

PR-Only to the point of not noticing the handler. A good handler lets the dog remain the center of attention as it should be.

What importance do you place on missing teeth?

PR-Serious fault...but not a show stopper.

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

PR-Improved...I can't remember the last time I excused a dog for temperament and my loose lead examination is very telling.

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

PR-Not prefer...demand...and if not done and I tell the handlers it will be reflected in their placings.

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

Coming/Going: 3

Sidegait: 6

Temperament: 10

Teeth: 2

Coat: 1

Pasterns, hocks, feet: 5

Pigment: 1

Structure: 8

Shoulder/Reach: 7

Attitude: 4

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

PR-It's OK if it's done well...the problem is it usually is not. If a doubler destroys the picture I want to see by over zealous doubling, it will also be reflected in their placings.

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

PR-Movement 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 ?)

PR-No...I seemed to have mellowed with age. That said...my previous response to your questions are a guide of how to please or displease me.

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

PR-Loose lead at the dogs best speed.

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

PR-Get the best bitch you can possibly afford. Find a mentor to assist you in your efforts. Go to herding trials. And do your best to create a picture of the requests of the Standard in your mind.

Any final comments? Thanks for the opportunity...I haven't done this for many years...last time was for "Da List" and it's pretty kewl that little has changed re answers in those many years.

Paul Root