

Judge Randy Chestnut

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

I have been judging for about 15 to 20 years. I judge 3 to 5 times a year.

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

I have not bred for about 12 years. My kennel name was Fantasy.

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

I have been in the breed since 1966.

I got started wanting a good German Shepherd. Picked up *Dog World Magazine*. Went to German Shepherds and bought my first show GSD from Lou Harris of LouRen German Shepherds.

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

Both. I do mostly Specialties. Very few all-breeds do I accept. I find the rings too small and footing to be unnatural for gaiting purposes.

Do you have a color preference?

No.

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

Yes. Because of the solid black color, one must look harder at transmission from the side. It can get lost if one is not careful, and understand proper shoulder opening, and rear transmission. Otherwise it a piece of cake.

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

Absolutely Not! Unless they are in Junior Showmanship.

What importance do you place on missing teeth?

Depends on the teeth that are missing. I give it the same importance as the Standard requires, but I will not through the baby out with the bath water.

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

Improved and continues to do so.

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

I insist upon it.

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

Coming/Going: 8

Sidegait: 10

Temperament: 10

Teeth: 7

Coat: 8

Pasterns, hocks, feet: 8

Pigment: 7

Structure: 10

Shoulder/Reach: 10

Attitude: 8

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

I have no opinion one way or the other. My concern is the middle of the ring. As long as it does not interfere with my judging, I have no problem with anything happening outside my ring.

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

Absolutely not. We would then have a bunch of beautiful pets. Without movement you do not have the total package, as far as I am concerned.

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 ?)

Dirty, ungroomed exhibits. Never attempt to double your dog when I am doing temperament evaluations. Never be rude or unsportsmanlike.

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

Always, always give me a loose lead when asked. I do not judge a pulling, or racing dog.

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

Find a good mentor.

Any final comments?

Not at this time.