

Judge Sandi Card

How long have you been judging the breed? Since 1979

How many times a year do you judge German Shepherds?

I judge 3-4 times a year.

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

My kennel name is HOLLAMOR and I no longer breed as I live in town but do some co-breeding with animals I co-own.

How long have you been in the breed? When and how did you get started? I bought my first GS in 1959 and started in obedience--then the bug bit me!

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

I do both but really prefer specialties.

Do you have a color preference?

Not really, as long as the animal has GOOD pigment and YES I do like a rich sable. Many folks think I do not like them.

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

Yes, in a way I do find them hard to judge, as they always appear to have less bone than one would like until you really get up close to them. Even then, when moving them around, they most often appear small. A judge really needs to take time when evaluating a solid black. I have put them up by the way and finished the awesome Elvira bitch.

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

Yes and no. I try to evaluate each animal on their own merits BUT if an inexperienced handler is unable to present the animal to its best advantage it becomes difficult.

What importance do you place on missing teeth?

Depends on what tooth/teeth are missing.

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

I think overall temperament has improved over the last 10 years. The big drawback in evaluating temperament, as a judge, is the double handling. I am not opposed to double handling EXCEPT during the temperament test. I ask the crowd (owners etc.) not to double during the temperament test. If they do, I feel I have to watch those animals closely and retest them at some point. At a futurity I judged a couple of years ago, I dismissed two animals because I really could not do a correct temperament test due to the owners failure to adhere to my request for no double handling during the temperament test. It was a real shame as I am not sure these animals had a bad temperament, but I could not evaluate them due to the double handling.

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

I ask for a loose lead at least one time around the ring. Dogs that can always be shown on a loose lead and have all the mechanics I am looking for certainly have an advantage.

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

Coming/Going: 6

Sidegait: 8 or could be 9

Temperament: 10

Teeth: 2? Depends on which ones and how many. 1 missing it not a big deal.

Coat: 3? Depends on what that means--out or in coat--a possible long coat or??

Pasterns, hocks, feet: 5 could be 6

Pigment: 4 Definitely no faded pigment

Structure: 9 but depends on what that means

Shoulder/Reach: 7

Attitude: 1 Not really my last choice but others seemed more important

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

Yes, under control and NOT during the temperament test.

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

I guess the right answer is 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 ?)

I really dislike owners that I know bringing their animals to the entry gait then handing them over to their handler. HELLO!

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

When I ask owners to back off on doubling because they are hurting their animal, I am giving them a break. Please do as I ask. Handlers should always slow down when I ask or they will be penalized. i.e. Their animal cannot gait at the speed I request without showing faults.

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

OH BOY! This question is really a hard one. I would hope new folks could hook up with a person in their area that has been showing and breeding successfully for a number of years. Nice folks in the breed are happy to take on a new person and educate and train them. If they do not know where to hook up, I would hope they go to the GSDCA site and find out who to contact. However, if they are so really new that they have never heard of the GSDCA, I guess we need to leave info at all vet offices so new folks can contact us.

Any final comments? My only final comment is that we are involved with the most wonderful breed in the world. We must always breed with the improvement of the breed in mind.