

SV Rules for Breeders and Breeding

© Copyright 2013 by Fred Lanting

1. General

2. The Breeder

2.1 Breeders' Rights

2.2 Leasing for Breeding

2.2.1 Obligations

2.2.2 Frequency of Leased Breedings

2.2.3 Leased Breedings, Foreign Countries

2.2.4 Leased Breedings, Studbook bans

2.3 Kennel Names, Protection/Registration

2.4 Breeder and Assistant/Foster Breeder

3. Breeding Advice and Supervision

3.1 Local Clubs & the Breed Warden

3.1.1 Local Breed Warden's Responsibility

3.1.2 Local Breed Warden's Duties

3.2 The Tattooer, Microchips, etc.

3.2.1 Responsibility

3.2.2 Extent of Mission

3.3. Identity and Assurance of Ancestry

3.3.1 Genotype - database

3.3.2 Proof of Identity Through X-rays

4. Breed Value and Breeding Requirements

4.1 Zuchtwert (Breed Value)

4.1.1 Dogs Allowed in the Gene Pool

4.1.2 Dogs Suitable for Breeding

4.1.3 Dogs Recommended for Breeding

4.1.4 Dogs Not Qualified for Breeding

4.1.5 Breeding Procedure

4.2 Breeding Requirements

4.2.1 Minimum Age for Breeding

4.2.2 Frequency of Breeding

4.2.3 The Mating Acts

4.2.4 Litter Size

4.2.5 Foster Mothers (Nurses)

4.2.6 Litter Birth Announcement

4.2.7 Ahnentafeln (Pedigrees/Registrations)

5. Hip Dysplasia - Procedures

5.1 General

5.2 SV's Preventive Measures

5.2.1 Investigative Procedure

5.2.2 Other Instructions for Breeders

6 Elbow Dysplasias - Procedures

6.1 General

6.2 Examination Procedures

7. Conservation & Advancement, Breeding

7.1 The Studbook (Breed Book)

7.2 Survey Record Book

7.3 Working Trials Scorebook

7.4 The show card

7.5 Record of Dogs, Breeding Advice
7.6 Working-title Dog Registry
Appendix: Plan for the battle against HD.

SV Rules for the Breeder

1. General

The club for German Shepherd Dogs (SV) is the parent club of the breed, recognized by the VDH and the FCI. The breeding rules of the SV serves the advancement of breeding the German Shepherd Dog in both coat varieties “*Stockhaar*” and “*Langstockhaar mit Unterwolle*”, and regulates the entire area of the breeding activity. The following are part of the club rules and are obligatory for all members of the club.

2. The Breeder

2.1 Breeding Rights and Privileges

Membership in the SV is required for owners and holders of German Shepherd Dogs who want the privileges of the breed book (“studbook” or register) of the SV, whether concerning dogs, bitches, ownership, and/or handling. The breeder of a litter is the person who owns or leases the dam at the time of mating. A transfer of the breeder’s rights is also possible at the sale of a covered (bred) bitch. In this case, the Studbook (*Zuchtbuchamt*) office is to be presented with:

- a) Proof of ownership transfer through submission of the *Ahnentafel* (pedigree/registration),
- b) (re the certificate of mating): Proposal (specified form) for transfer of the breeders’ rights is to be submitted to the SV before whelping.

These documents must be submitted to the *Zuchtbuchamt* (Studbook/breed-book office) immediately after the sale or, at the latest, on the 49th day after the mating. Permissions for exceptions cannot be given. A breeder can breed a maximum of 10 litters per calendar year under his kennel name. This calculation is based on the whelping date.

2.2 Leasing a Bitch

The lease of a bitch to breed (for a fee) is possible, but must be approved by the SV. The lessee is considered the breeder of the litter when the following requirements are fulfilled. The Studbook office is to be presented with:

- a) Lease document (copy of the contract/form)
- b) Proposition for transfer of the breeders’ rights (another form).

These documents must be submitted to the *Zuchtbuchamt* (Studbook/breed-book office) at the latest on the 49th day after the mating. Permissions for exceptions cannot be given.

2.2.1 Obligations

The fulfillment of the obligations emerging from the lease is incumbent on the lessee.

2.2.2 Frequency of Leased Breedings

A breeder can transact a maximum of five leased breedings per calendar year. This calculation is based on the whelping date. If the leased breedings are successful, this will lead to entry in the studbook and/or *Anhangregister*. Additional authorizations are not permitted.

2.2.3 Leased Breedings with Foreign Countries

Leased breedings outside of German boundaries are not allowed. Exception can be given for prior arrangements, which must be confirmed by the responsible *Landesgruppen* and *Ortsgruppen* breed wardens, through the Studbook office. The authorization of the breed book office must be given before the day of mating. The authorization is only a possibility, and the bitches still must meet the breeding requirements according to the German rules.

2.2.4 Leased Breedings and Studbook Ban

A person prohibited in a Studbook ban is forbidden to assign breeders’ rights for a bred bitch to another person (to lease it to someone). With the imposition of a Studbook ban, the embargo of a co-owned dog or bitch in the possession of such other person becomes automatic. Stud notices for dogs that reside in the property of a person for whom the studbook is blocked by the SV, may not be published in the SV *Zeitung* (magazine). Dogs may not be mated on the property of a person against whom a prohibition of breeding is imposed.

2.2.5 The holder (person leasing or having care or custody of the dog) has to show in the appropriate application, section 278 BGB, what are the responsibilities of the owner who offers his dog in a lease agreement, regarding fulfillment of those obligations derived from the breeding rules to the same extent as if they were his own.

2.3 Kennel Names and Kennel Name Protection (Registration)

Application for protection of an appropriate kennel name is to be made at the SV breed book office before the breeder begins activity. This proposal is made in advance, so that the protection of the kennel name can be published before the event of a bitch's mating. Kennel name protection is initially the responsibility of the local breed warden, who investigates the expertise of the applicant and the fitness of the property where the activity will take place. A kennel name can be registered and protected only for adult persons who have their main place of residence in Germany. Transfers of a kennel name by the kennel owner (or authorized person) to another person need to follow a procedure at the stud book office that explicitly authorizes it.

The protected kennel name expires at the death of the owner, if an heir does not apply for the passing of the name to himself. A kennel name can be awarded to, and newly protected for, someone else 30 years after the last entry in the *Zuchtbuchamt* by the previous owner.

Each breeder is obligated to possess a *Zwingerbuch*, a compilation of records in which he documents all relevant breeding data.

If several persons have ownership of a bitch, we count as the breeder the one who the Studbook office has on record as being authorized to sign the official papers. Puppies from leased bitches are registered under the kennel names (*Zwingernamen*) of the persons doing the breeding, as long as the requirements of the determinations of paragraph 2.2 are fulfilled. If several persons have ownership at a bitch, the *Zuchtbuchamt*-registered breeder is the one who is authorized to sign for all. If one of the owners who is not authorized to sign should want to breed the bitch, an explanation of agreement is required by the one who *is* authorized to sign.

2.4 Breeder or Person Raising the Litter:

The breeder can authorize a proxy or representative to rear and care for a certain litter, but the latter must be a resident in the Federal Republic of Germany and a member of the SV. This person is called an *Aufzüchter* and is the one listed in the litter registration document. This *Aufzüchter* has to conform to the corresponding application of § 278 BGB in regard to the responsibilities of foster litter-raisers, fulfilling the obligations of the breeding rules to equal extent as his own responsibility. [In some old pedigrees, you may see the word *Ammenaufzucht*, referring to the use of a foster mother or wet-nurse bitch.]

3. Breeding Advice and Breeding Supervision

3.1 Local Clubs' Breed Wardens (*Ortsgruppen-Zuchtwarte*)

There are breed wardens in the local clubs who are responsible for the control and supervision of breeding activity at the local club (or regional groups) level. Litter acceptance and registration normally can be made only through them. If there is no local breed warden in office, the SV will provide (designate) one for the local club on demand, through a *Landesgruppe* (LG), a regional warden. This LG assigns someone to do the impending litter inspection and registration on demand, or does it himself.

3.1.1 Responsibility of the Local Breed Wardens

The jurisdiction over breeders is determined by the respective *Landesgruppe*, the major geographical region, that they are in. The principal LG jurisdiction can hereby be determined by either of these two factors:

- a) jurisdiction based on the place of residence of the breeder or *Aufzüchter*;
- b) jurisdiction based on the breeder's local club membership.

In case of a member belonging to several *Ortsgruppen* ("OG", local clubs) in the same LG, the local-chapter breed warden who is nearest to the residence of the breeder is the one responsible. If memberships are held in several OGs in different regional groups, the responsible breed warden where the breeder has his residence is the one to be recruited. Local breed wardens are chosen by local clubs but confirmed by the LG *Vorstand* (the SV regional executive committee) as well as breeders and/or persons whelping and raising litters, whose place of residence determines which *Landesgruppenzuchtwart* (regional breed warden) has the responsibility. If a breeder holds memberships in several *Ortsgruppen*, the place of residence of the breeder and/or foster litter-raiser determines which breed warden is used.

If it is not possible for the designated breed warden to make the first inspection within 5 days, the breeder can consult his proxy or representative in the local club, or else the breed warden of an adjacent jurisdiction. In such cases the litter registration document is to be signed by both breed wardens.

3.1.2 Duties of the Local-club Breed Wardens

The local breed warden is obliged to clear up any breeding questions the members within his local chapter have, and to consult on the breeding activity and the breed organization. Arising out of this is the obligation for the breed warden to constantly update his knowledge by participating in the “breed warden courses” which are regularly given by the LG. The breed warden is particularly responsible for the care and record-keeping of litters in his region. The breed warden has to be first notified of a litter or pup in his jurisdiction no later than the 5th day after the whelping, and must view the bitch from then on regularly, at least three times, to observe and take note of their appearance. The tattoo or microchip number of the dam is to be verified at this time.

The suitable care of the dam and pups is to be particularly considered during these visits and in the report. Any applicable legal situation is to be considered. These breed warden’s examinations are to be accommodated by the breeder; they also have to show suitably polite behavior.

The breed wardens have to supervise the breeding of German Shepherd Dogs within the sense and spirit of the rules. They have to report violations against these rules, and also any “wild” (unplanned/accidental) breedings, to the breed wardens of the responsible regional groups (LGs).

3.2 Identification (ID) & Agents/Delegates

For the purpose of identification, puppies are registered at the local-club level with a microchip. Microchip is now a requirement for entry into the studbook *Anhangsregister* (registry). The club has arranged for delegates or agents in the respective regions to insert microchips for positive identification.

3.2.1 Responsibility of the ID Agent

The responsibility of the ID agent is assigned by the regional organization of breeders and foster-litter raisers. The regulations under 3.1.1 of these breeding rules are analogous. Deviations from them are only possible with authorization from the responsive regional breed wardens (*Landesgruppenezuchtwartes*).

3.2.2 Field (the job) of the ID Agent

The ID agent has the task to determine the responsibility of the local breed warden and schedule dates with him and the breeder and/or *Aufzuchter* of the puppies from the 50th day of life (at the earliest) and before completion of the 12th week of life at the latest, for microchipping and a blood test. The inserting of microchips and the taking of blood for the DNA test can only be accomplished at the breeder and/or *Aufzuchter* and has to include the entire litter (foster mothers included).

The ID agent furthermore has the task to examine the litter registration documents copied by the responsible local breed warden regarding completion and accuracy of the forms. If the microchip falls out later, it is to be reported to the SV studbook office. The dog once more is taken to the “chipper” for clear identification including a blood test for proof of identity. The costs of the microchipper, the making of the blood test, as well as the entry in the pedigree (*Registrierbescheinigung* and *Anhangregister*) are carried by the owner of the dogs. Claims for damages against the ID agent from consequences of the inserting microchips and removal of the blood for testing are forbidden. Alternatively, the breeder can have the microchip identification undertaken by a veterinarian. The regulations under 3.2.2. are to be observed, however.

3.2.3 Inoculation of the Puppies

Before presenting the puppies for microchipping, the vaccination must be accomplished through a veterinarian. This is to be noted by the veterinarian on the litter registration document. The chip number is reported in the process of injecting the chip.

3.2.4 Delivery (Sale, Removal) of the Puppies

The sale or other delivery of the puppies is permitted at the earliest after the completion of the 8th week. Up to this point in time all puppies must remain in the custody of the breeder or litter raisers and *Ammenaufzug* (foster mother).

3.3. Identification and Guarantee of Pedigree

3.3.1 Genotype Database (DNA)

The Club (SV) has ordered a DNA genotype database for the sure identity and verification of the lineage of dogs, on the basis of a molecular-genetic ancestry investigation.

3.3.1.1 The Process with a Blood Sample

The procedure is as follows:

- a) The specified, authorized veterinarian takes a blood test.
- b) The contracted veterinarian guarantees to the SV the identity of the dog to be examined through personal examination of the tattoo number and/or microchip code, and his comparison with the number in the original *Ahnentafel* (combination pedigree-registration document).
- c) The name, studbook number, registration numbers, tattoo number (if any) and microchip number of each dog are put on the furnished medical report, and with the blood sample these are sent by the specified vet to the designated institution.
- d) The evaluation, the establishing of the DNA formula and the ancestry investigation are accomplished centrally through that contracted institution.
- e) The HG (SV's headquarters office) demands the pedigrees and/or registration certificate (*Registrierbescheinigungen*) with *Anhangregister* (any addendum) from the owners.
- f) Upon receiving the findings, the SV applies an ink stamp to the pedigree and other documents.
- g) If DNA data exist for father and mother, the descent (ancestry) is examined and verified. In these cases an additional stamp is placed on the papers. This assures that the correct descent from the parents is proven.
- h) An exception or appeal regarding one or both parents can be sent to the *Zuchtbuchamt* (stud-book office) within a time limit of 4 weeks after delivery of the objection decision. An expert authority is required by the SV headquarters. This expert makes a final decision based on the information. Objections are not allowed. The costs are at the expense of the applicant (this regulation valid as of August 2001).

3.3.1.2 Procedures using the Go-Card System

Observing the determinations according to section 3.2.2 of these breeding rules, the breeder must observe the breeding rules by having the puppies microchip-identified by the responsible ID delegate (agent) and allow him or the veterinarian do blood tests of the entire litter.

The procedure has these following steps:

- a) The ID agent and/or the veterinarian takes blood samples for testing.
- b) The ID agent and/or the veterinarian guarantees to the SV the identity of the respective dogs through personal control of the chip number.
- c) On the litter registration document, the ID agent and/or veterinarian notes the blood sample test.
- d) The ID agent and/or veterinarian at the contracted institution records the complete names and chip numbers of the dogs on furnished medical reports as well as on the completely-labeled samples on file. Copies of the medical reports with the breeder's birth documents are submitted by the breeder to the *Zuchtbuchamt* (studbook or breedbook office). The SV becomes the owner of the test materials. The cost of sampling is borne by the breeder.
- e) The test materials and results are stored. By application of the breeder, a DNA profile is prepared by the institute. The proposal can be accomplished immediately with the test or at a later point in time. On receipt of the finding, a stamp gets applied to the pedigree (registration).
- f) Accordingly, the DNA profile becomes available, and if DNA profiles exist for both parents, the ancestry is verified. In these cases, a stamp gets added to the pedigree (*Ahnentafel*). Thus, the correct descent from the parents is proven.
- g) Likewise, the ID agent and/or veterinarian can take blood from an already mature dog for testing.

3.3.2 Proof of Identity via X-rays

Before completing his 31st breeding, each stud dog is examined again with HD-ED (hip and elbow) radiographs. This second radiography is to be done at a university hospital. If the first radiograph had been taken at a university hospital, a different university hospital is to be chosen for the second radiograph. Simultaneously, a blood test is to be taken for scientific purposes.

The second film made at this time is examined by an HD-ED expert assigned by the SV, who compares it with the initial radiograph and verifies identity. Sedation of the dog at the second radiography is not required. This expert decides on the usefulness of the second radiography with regard to the required examination.

4. Breed Value and Furtherance of the Breed

This breed, the German Shepherd Dog, is allowed only two varieties of “*Haararten*” (coat types): (1) straight-hair, medium-length topcoat, and (2) *Langstockhaarigen* (longcoat with woolly undercoat present). Breeding the harsh-short-coated (normal) with longcoated dogs is not allowed. Dogs from such combinations can be allowed no entry in the studbook or supplemental registries (*Anhangregister*). Breeding such dogs is only allowed with others that are registered as being of the longcoat variety.

4.1 Breed Value (*Zuchtwert*)

Here are distinguished or qualified the following:

4.1.1 Dogs Permitted to Breed

Dogs qualified to breed are all entered into the SV studbook with the date of mating, their training degrees earned under SV judges (SchH 1-3 or IP 1-3, including at least 80 points in the protection phase C, or an HGH, or an equivalent acknowledged training degree), and in addition a breed (conformation) show rating by an SV judge, with breed evaluation of at least a “Good” rating. Also required are the ‘a’-stamp on the pedigree, a DNA archives number, and (for dogs born after 01.01.2004) the “ED” stamp on the pedigree with the finding “normal”, “almost normal” or “still permitted.”

DNA of dogs born after 01.07.1999 must be examined. For dogs not in the SV breed records, which might be of use to the SV and the breed, the DNA determinations are independent of their whelping dates.

4.1.2 Dogs Suitable to be Bred

Dogs suitable for the breed are those that have a breed survey made by the SV.

4.1.3 Dogs Not Suitable to be Bred:

- a) Dogs without the requirements in 4.1.1 to 4.1.2
- b) Dogs from the former “working dog registry” of the SV
- c) Longcoated dogs are not to be bred to normal-coat-length dogs
- d) Dogs with following defects:

- Poor, weak-character, and nervous biting dogs
- Dogs with evidence of “medium or severe HD”
- Dogs with evidence of “medium or severe ED”
- Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchids
- Dogs with distorted ear and/or tail faults
- Dogs with deformities
- Dogs with these tooth faults:

Missing:

- 1 third premolar and 1 additional tooth, or
- 1 fang, or
- 1 fourth premolar, or
- 1 first molar, or
- 1 second molar, or
- a combination of any 3 or more teeth.

Any absence of a third molar remains unconsidered. [*Explanatory note: As long as the lower jaw’s four premolars and two of the molars on each side are present, an absence of the tiny third molar(s) is inconsequential and need not be taken into account.*]

Exceptions to the missing-teeth rules are such dogs whose owners/handlers show proof of the original presence of the tooth or teeth on the pedigree or other SV-originated or approved documents.

- Dogs with considerable pigment faults, also blue [or liver] pigment
- Longcoat dogs without any woolly undercoat.
- Dogs with any of these tooth faults:
 - More than 2 mm overbite
 - Undershot
 - Pincer (“level”) bite in the entire incisors
 - Dogs whose incisors are overshot or undershot by more than 1 cm
 - Bitches that have produced litters three times by Caesarean (C-section)

e) If a suitable dog is used to influence phenotype development, this is to be reported to the *Zuchtbuchamt* (studbook office) which decides in each individual case whether the dog is permitted to remain available to the

breed. An internal (club) legal proceeding may be made against the owners for not informing of such action. The breed value of such dogs is limited considerably - see 4.1.4. They are not to be used therefore in the breed. Progeny from these dogs cannot be enrolled or found in the SV studbook and/or other register. The decision on the uselessness to the breed is made known by registered letter to the owners of such dogs immediately. An objection to this decision is possible within 14 days after delivery. The studbook manager makes the initial decision, but in case of further objection or appeal, the SV president or chief breed warden finally decides.

4.1.4 Breeding Procedures

Different breeding procedures and rules are to be distinguished within these meanings:

- Purebred = pairing of animals of the same breed. This naturally leads one to exploit inheritance values through family relationships, called inbreeding.
- Inbred = more narrow kinships, in which an ancestor is represented at least per once on both father and mother side. Inbreeding is defined as limited to the first five generations of ancestors and also includes siblings' breeding relationships, (Related term: Linebreeding). Inbreeding more closely than 2-3 or 3-2, or dogs bred to siblings, is not allowed.

4.2 Breeding Requirement

In addition to the requirements under 4.1, these determinations apply here:

4.2.1 Minimum Age of the Breeding Animal

The stud dog must be at least 2 years old at the time of the breeding. Bitches must have completed the age of 20 months at the time of her first breeding (date of mating). After the bitch has reached her 10th year, she may no more be used for breeding.

Unintentional matings before the respective minimum age are to be reported immediately to the local club's breed warden, the regional group's breed warden, and the SV breed book office. The SV studbook manager, together with these other local and regional officers, decide on a course of action.

4.2.2 Frequency of Breeding Use

For co-owned dogs and bitches, one person must be declared to the studbook office as the agent or representative as authorized to sign for all (called the *Halter* or holder). The declaration of who is authorized to do so must be signed by all co-owners and presented to the SV studbook office within 30 days after any ownership transfer. If a dog stands at stud on the property of such an agent (holder), the SV studbook office is to be informed immediately (at the latest by 14 days) by the owner or any agent authorized to sign (see 4.2.2.), specifying the exact date. The authorization to sign breeding certificates is to be given to the *Halter*. This authorization must be confirmed (signed) by the owner/s and by the holder. At a change in holders, the studbook office is to be informed immediately and a new authorization to sign presented. Upon the return of dogs to the owner or agent authorized to sign (see 4.2.2.) the studbook office is to be informed immediately. This must be accomplished independently of whether the dog is held for breeding in Germany or in foreign countries. Sales of the services of stud dogs are to be immediately indicated to the studbook office, signed by all co-owners. For registration of pups, the above-mentioned owner and/or agent is responsible.

4.2.2.1 Stud Dogs

Stud dogs that meet the requirements of these breeding rules, may get a maximum of 90 matings per calendar year. The distribution of the matings in Germany versus foreign countries is optional for the owner of the stud dog. However, the dog may only complete a maximum of 60 matings to domestic bitches (those in Germany). These matings are to be divided proportionately: half during the first 6 months and half in the remaining 6 months, and these are to be distributed as uniformly as possible within these respective half-years. If a dog first reaches 2 years old during the calendar year concerned, he is permitted only a fractional (pro-rated) number of matings, calculated from the point in time of his reaching the age of 2 years.

If a dog is affected by a temporary breeding ban, his permissible number of matings is to be shortened proportionately for the corresponding portion of the year. High frequency of matings (one shortly after another) is to be avoided for the sake of certain fertilization, and the dog's constitution. Matings by a dog with the same bitch within 28 days is counted as one mating.

If the owner or the agent acts against these determinations (see 4.2.2.), he is to be punished as follows:

1. At a proven first violation (allowing too many matings), a fine in an amount of € 515 is imposed, along with the threat to impose three-month embargo of the dogs in cases of recurrence.

2. At a second violation of allowing too many matings a fine in an amount of another € 515 and another three-month embargo of the dogs is imposed, and an SV court's legal proceedings introduced. The punishment of violations is applied to the owner and/or agent, independent of whether resident this of Germany or in the foreign countries. The violations expire at the end of a 5-year time limit, as long as the owner or agent has not committed a renewed violation.

4.2.2.2 Bitches

Bitches can be bred twice in a 12 months period (if the regulations under 4.2.4 are not affected). Bitches may not be covered in one estrus period by different dogs.

4.2.3 Matings

The owner of stud dog and/or the person authorized to sign is obligated to possess and maintain a matings records book. The choice of the stud dog and the selection of bitches to be used are up to the stud owner and the breeder or his authorized dog handler/manager (see 4.2.2). The owner of the stud dog and/or his agent gets a certificate of mating from the SV studbook office with prices (fees) and the forms to fill out and sign and fill out with information as to the place of issue and the dates of matings. It is forbidden to give out blank breeding certificate forms not filled in and signed.

The mating certificate is to be countersigned by the bitch's owners/holders on the day of mating. The studbook office is to be informed in writing by the owner of the stud dog or his agent within 10 days after the day of mating. The time limit applies if the notification to the studbook office within this time can be proven. This applies as well for German residents as for owners of stud dogs that stand at stud in foreign countries. The owner of stud dog has to take care that the matings information is entered in time at the breed book office. The registration law and the time limits to send these papers in applies as much for owners of stud dogs residing in foreign countries, if the dog also covers (breeds) German bitches. In this case, all matings by the dogs are to be reported. The breeder of the litter and the stud dog's owner/agent (see 4.2.2.) are responsible for checking if these are published in the Studbook and published breeding (mating) records. If this is not the case, they have to indicate this to the breed book office immediately. The breeder or person to raise the litter is obligated and ordered by the studbook office (through the regional breed warden) to do spot-checks on these expected litters in these records.

According to breeding rules, upon evidence of falsifying the day of mating, the stud dog receives a breeding ban for the duration of six months, and the concerned bitch receives a ban (for hiding of evidence) until the next possible use for breeding.

If the owner or agent offends by failing his duty to notify the SV according to Section 4.2.3, Paragraph 4, in reference to a dog, this is punished as follows:

1. A first offense exists if the studbook office is informed late or not advised about five matings of a dog. For this, a fine in an amount of € 515 will be imposed.
2. A second offense exists, if the studbook office is not advised (or is informed late) regarding ten matings of the dog. This results in a fine of € 1030 independent of whether the fine according to paragraph 1 (above) has already been paid. Additionally imposed would be a three-month breeding embargo of the dog.
3. A third offense is recorded if the studbook office is not advised about more than ten matings per dog being late. For this, one gets a fine of € 1545, independently of whether a fine already has been paid for previous offenses (paragraphs 1 and 2 above). Besides that, a three-month embargo is imposed over the dog concerned, and legal proceedings introduced against the owner in an SV court.

These punishments of violations affect the owner and/or the agent of the dogs, independently of whether they are resident in Germany or in foreign countries. Time limit: Violations such as matings reported too late or not at all are cancelled at the end of 5 years.

Inasmuch as the stud-dog owner or his agent, meanwhile does not honor the duty to notify (furnish the information) according to numeral 4.2.3, Paragraph (4), the fine is published in the SV magazine (*Zeitung*) under "Miscellaneous fines/penalties" (*Ungenannt Buße*) as a violation of the rules, sections 4.2.2.1 and 4.2.3. The studbook office (*Zuchtbuchamt*) is responsible for supervision and punishment under the rules' sections 4.2.2.1. and 4.2.3. After the hearing of the owner of stud dog and/or agent has been accomplished, the decision is delivered per registered letter. The person affected can register an objection against the decision within 14 days after delivery by the studbook office. The SV executive committee then decides what to do about the objection.

At the first report or suspicion of a pathological fertility disorder in a dog (not producing pups after breeding) the owner and/or agent, at his own cost as ordered and imposed by the studbook office to, has only up to four weeks to have the dog checked by a university veterinary clinic.

If it is ascertained that a dog is not fully procreative able to produce [with good sperm count in the case of males], the animal can be removed from breed-survey status, denied breeding rights, and blocked from the registry. In such case of evident deficiency of sperm or infertility, or of bitches remaining “empty” (not getting pregnant), the owner can demand return of the full stud fee.

After an accomplished mating—that is, the performance of the stud dog and the requirement for the payment of the agreed fee for stud service have both been fulfilled, a free mating is to be granted for this bitch if she remains not pregnant. The “staying empty” of the bitch is to be indicated to the owner of stud dog or his representative immediately. If the dog no longer stands at stud due to sale or death, half of the paid stud fee is to be returned to the owner or tenant/agent (lessor, *Handler*) of the empty bitch. The owner or agent of the stud dog is obligated to return the full fee if it remains at stud for other remaining bitches, or if through his fault the dog should be blocked completely or occasionally for the breed.

A litter with two different sires is not allowed entry into the studbook or the registry supplement (*Anhangregister*) of the SV. Sperm collection for artificial fertilization, the artificial fertilization itself, as well as any clone are forbidden. Puppies produced in this method are not accepted into the studbook or the registry supplement of the SV.

4.2.4 Litter Size

A bitch may rear (nurse) no more than eight puppies per litter. Surplus puppies that she whelps beyond that number are to be raised by means of a wet-nurse, called an *Amme*. The club maintains a registry or information on wet-nurses, or *Ammen*, in each Landesgruppe (region). If the bitch must retain more than 8 puppies, she may be not be bred again for at least 6 months after the whelping date.

4.2.5 Ammenaufzucht (Rearing by Foster Mothers)

The nurse to be used must have a withers height of at least 50 cm, be robust and healthy, and have good character. A nurse may be used to nurse only puppies of one other bitch, and of course at most eight, including the puppies that she has delivered herself. If a nurse raises no litter of her own, she can nurse puppies from two different litters, if the puppies are marked so that a mistake is not possible. The breed warden has to supervise the foster mother and to confirm the sure labeling.

The puppies are to be put on the *Amme* at the latest on their 10th day of life. The foster mother must be approved by the responsible breed warden in the litter registration document and confirmed with a foster-dam certificate (form). The puppies raised with such a wet-nurse are to be marked in that document with the symbol “A” (not the same mark as the ‘a’-stamp for hips).

Breeding a bitch exclusively for the purpose of providing an *Amme* is not admissible. The use of bitches having false pregnancy is not allowed. If a foster mother has come into the arrangement beyond the 10th day after whelping, this can be allowed only if the SV’s regional breed warden or the studbook office grants such authorization. The choice of pups to be retained, and which ones to go to the *Amme*, should be made at the latest on the 10th day of life, and not more than eight puppies are retained for further nursing by the mother, the remaining ones going to the *Amme* to be raised [until weaned].

Puppies with any deformities, and such that have no longer appeared to be viable or have kept up with their littermates, and are [significantly weaker than the rest] of the litter, can be euthanized (at the latest on day 11) painlessly and only through consultation with a veterinarian or other competent person; they are to be killed only under anesthesia. In special cases the SV headquarters is to be tuned in. Every other divergence from natural raising is not permissible.

Dewclaws (also called “wolf-claws” and found as a small fifth digit on the hind leg) are appropriate to remove in the first week of the puppies’ life.

The puppies are not given away before their identification by means of microchip. This rule also about moving the pups to new homes applies only if they are healthy, and there are no contagious diseases in the kennel.

Puppies may be marked only at the location of the breeder by means of microchip. If puppies have been placed in foster homes with an *Amme*), they must be fetched back to the litter for this labeling by means of microchip.

The repatriation from foster mothers to the dam may be accomplished after completion of their sixth week of age, at the earliest. If the puppies are not marked by means of microchip directly after the repatriation, the *Aufzüchter* (person raising the litter) has to furnish proof of the identities of the mother and foster mother.

4.2.6 Announcement of Whelping

The breeder informs the breed warden directly after the pups are delivered. Before the microchip identification, the litter registration document (*Wurfmeldeschein*) is to be filled out (copies for the breed warden, ID authorities at SV, and breeders). The completed application form with the listed necessary documents is to be submitted to the SV headquarters by the breeder within four weeks after the microchipping of the puppies. A late filing is considered a violation of the breeding rules and is punished with a warning. In the cases of recurrence within three years, a six-month studbook ban is imposed.

The application for issuance of official pedigrees for the pups are to be enclosed with:

- Litter registration document
- Pedigree and/or *Registrierbescheinigung* (registration certificate or supplement/addendum) of the bitch (if a change in ownership has occurred)
- Certificate of mating
- If necessary, foster dam (*Amme*) certification
- If necessary, a copy of *Haftungsfreistellung* (exemption from liability) for ID authorities

4.2.7 Pedigrees and Registration Certification (registry supplement)

Pedigrees are proof of ancestry. Studbook entry (publication) means that the SV *Zuchtbuchamt* (pedigree and breeding records office) confirms the true and faithful identity. SV Pedigrees are certificates of authenticity, which are acknowledged by the VDH and the FCI. An SV *Ahnentafel* (combination pedigree and registration certificate), and any registry supplement count as documentary evidence in the legal sense. Pedigrees and registration certificates (registry supplement) remain the property of the SV. Custody of the pedigree and/or *Registrierbescheinigung* (registry supplement) is with the owner of the dog. The pedigree and/or that supplement can also be in the hands of the lessee of the bitch or breeder-owners during the duration of the lease. This applies also for holders of stud dogs that are used for mating.

The breeder is obligated, after receipt of the pedigrees and/or registration supplement, to examine and to confirm their accuracy and sign it on page 1. The delivery of the litter's pedigrees (and/or supplements) can be accomplished only by the breeder personally.

Changes in ownership of dogs are to be confirmed on the reverse side of the pedigree, with names, address of the buyer, date, and signature of both the seller and the buyer. Such change is to be made known immediately to the SV main office. It is forbidden for the owner to sign such pedigrees and/or supplements, without the buyer being identified in the proper space on the form.

If a dog is the property of several persons, it is imperative to proceed as directed in Rule 4.2.2. Upon any violation of against the determinations in these agreements, Rule 4.2.7. can be introduced, and in cases of recurrence, an SV court's legal proceedings will occur.

5. Hip Dysplasia (HD) Procedures

5.1 General

Hüftgelenkdysplasie (HD, hip dysplasia) is a pathological change of the hip joints in the region of the sockets and femoral heads. The shaping of the disease ranges without demarcation [i.e., gradually and continuously] from slight up to the severe form. Since 1966, the SV has developed procedures for the breeders' fight against HD, and up to the present time has shown outstanding results concerning selective breeding [in that regard]. In addition, the club has set up an obligatory breeding program for the fight against hip dysplasia with the method known as *Zuchtwertschätzung* (Breed Value Assessment).

Offenses or violations of the HD control rules are punished as follows:

- a) At the first violation, an admonition is given with the threat of a one-year studbook ban for the breeder. That first litter, however, is entered into the records.
- b) In the case of recurrence (another violation), a one-year studbook ban is made against the breeder. The litter is entered, however, [with a notation].

5.2 SV's Preventive Measures

5.2.1 Investigative Procedures

The inquiry into the status of the hip joints is ascertained through radiography. The procedure has the following features and rules:

- a) The radiography can be accomplished fundamentally only once.
- b) The minimum age of the dogs for this investigation is 12 months.
- c) The contracted veterinarian guarantees to the SV the identity of the dog being examined through personal control via tattoo or microchip number, with the comparison of this number in the original pedigree and/or original *Registrierbescheinigung* (registry supplement).
- d) These, with the name of the dog and the aforesaid number showing on the x-ray film, will be forwarded from the examining veterinarian with his evaluation of the hips, to the SV headquarters office. The SV becomes the owner of the radiograph.
- e) The evaluation and examination is made at those SV headquarters or its designated central place for interpretation.
- f) At a finding of either “normal,” “almost normal,” or “still permitted” [*normal, fast-normal, noch zugelassen*], an ‘a’-stamp is placed by the SV on the pedigree (and/or registry supplement). Dogs that have been so identified as having a medium or severe form of the HD are blocked from breeding registry; they are considered non-breedable [if they produce any offspring, these cannot be registered... they are blocked with a breeding ban].
- g) An objection against the first finding can be entered at the studbook office within a time limit by 6 months after the decision has been made. Only the person authorized to sign (owner or his agent) is authorized to object or appeal. Expert authorities are made available by the SV headquarters upon request. For these experts, two new radiographs of the hip joints are necessary: one with legs stretched out [while the dog is lying on its back] and one with upper thighs vertical (at 90-degree angle with the torso). These films may be prepared only by an approved university hospital. The expert authorities used are officially accepted as having made a conclusive, definite, final finding. Objections are impossible. The costs are at the expense of the applicant.
- h) At the investigative procedures described in paragraphs 5.2.1 or 6.2, a blood sample is taken for scientific purposes, in regard to the determinations under numeral 3.3.1.1, a) to c) if a blood test has not already been done in the procedure described in paragraph 3.3.1.1. The costs of these investigative procedures are to be borne by the participant (person owning, leasing, or keeping the dog).

5.2.2 Other Instructions and Information for Breeders

- a) For show evaluations of Excellent-Select (VA) and Excellent (V), the ‘a’-stamp is required;
- b) For admission to the breed survey, the ‘a’-stamp is required;
- c) Surgical alterations with the goal of acquiring breedability status is forbidden, and results in the commencement of an internal (SV) criminal proceeding.

6. Elbow dysplasia (ED) - Procedures

6.1 General Introduction

Elbow dysplasia is a pathological change of the elbow joints, a disease that can have different forms, leading to the development of arthroses in these joints. The severity of the disease ranges from slight to severe. The club has arranged, as of 01.01.2002, a voluntary procedure for the fight against elbow dysplasia.

6.2 Investigative Procedure

The inquiry into the status of the elbow joints is ascertained through radiography. The procedure has these terms or requirements:

- a) Basically, the radiography can be accomplished only once. The minimum age for the investigation is 12 months.
- b) The contracted veterinarian guarantees to the SV the identity of the dog to be examined through personal observation of the tattoo or chip number and comparison of that number with the one in the original pedigree (*Ahnentafel*) or supplement.
- c) The name of the dog and the tattoo/chip number are to be on the films of both elbows, which radiographs are sent from the examining veterinarian with his judgment, to the studbook office. The SV becomes owners of the radiograph.
- d) The evaluation and final examination is done by the SV’s designated and central place of interpretation.

- e) The finding of “normal,” “almost normal,” and “still permitted” [same designations as used in hip evaluations] is stamped on the pedigree by the SV. Dogs found to have a medium or severe form of ED are blocked from SV registration.
- f) Objection against the initial finding can be made at the studbook office within a time limit of 6 months after reception of the decision regarding that first finding. Authorization to protest is given only to a person authorized by the owner. The headquarters office will require an approved expert authority, who will take the following necessary radiographs: both elbows in a radiographic side view (mediolateral) with flexed joints, as well as a cranio-caudal view. These films may be prepared only by an acceptable veterinary university hospital. If desired by the applicant, a computer-tomographic evaluation can also be included. The expert authorities’ findings are final. Objections are not allowed. Costs are borne by the applicant.
- g) During the investigative procedure according to numeral 6.2 and/or 5.2.1, a blood test is simultaneously made for scientific purposes by the determinations described under numeral 3.3.1.1, a) to c)—that is, if a blood test is not already stored according to that section 3.3.1.1. The costs for these investigative procedures are to be paid by the participant [owner or agent].

7. Arrangements for the Conservation and Advancement of Breeding

Performance tests, shows, and the breed survey are for this purpose. Details are determined in the survey rules, show rules, and working trial rules.

7.1 Studbook (*Zuchtbuch*)

The entire GSD breed (qualified dogs) in the SV registry is contained here. Applications can be taken only from persons who are over 18 years old. The studbook (also called the SZ registry) was developed for the breeding of the GSD and forms a record of progeny of the animals used in creating the breed base. To attain a most inclusive possible knowledge about the ancestry and descent within the breed, the studbook must include a record of the entire breed, within the meaning of the breeding rules, listing qualified animals in the registry, even when it should turn out later that they are not suitable for breeding for any reason. Also it is necessary to record these dogs, because thereby we create the necessity and ability to manage both good and bad traits within the breed.

The pedigree of a dog is derived from information in the “studbook” (*Zuchtbuch*), which not only gives information about the names and descent of the individual ancestors, but also about their working ability (training titles). It also gives information on the color and markings of the siblings as well as the color, markings, and breed-survey results (*Körung*) of the parents, grandparents, and *their* siblings. In the studbook and in the pedigrees, progeny are identified as to breed-surveyed parents. If, besides having two such training-titled parents, they are called “Leistungszucht” when they also have all four grandparents with such training degrees, and there is a notation about that. [Such information is needed for determination of eligibility for the VA rating at Sieger Shows, for instance.]

7.2 Survey Record Book

A dog can not be entered into the registry supplement (record book, or *Anhangregister*), without an SV pedigree or else an acknowledged pedigree from the VDH and/or the FCI. Requirement for such entry includes a positive phenotype evaluation by an SV conformation judge. Such judgment can be accomplished only if the dog is at least 12 months old and can be identified by means of microchip or tattoo number. If it is a longcoated dog [new to the SV registration], data on three generations in its pedigree must appear in that *Anhangregister* supplement. Then, the fourth generation in the studbook is accepted.

Owners and holders of German Shepherd Dogs are required to hold membership in the SV, in order to have their dog(s) entered in the *Anhangregister*. The SV regulations for breeding permission apply likewise to the dogs with an acknowledged FCI-provided pedigree, with the exception of the requirement for the DNA evaluation and notation in that *Anhangregister*.

7.3 Breed Survey Record Book (*Körbuch*)

Through the breed survey, breeding animals are selected that appear suitable in their character, performances, and anatomical construction (including particular measurements), for the conservation and advancement of the breed and its working ability. The *Körbuch* is a studbook and registry supplement and, together with it and official show and trial reports, preserve this utilitarian breed. The survey is accomplished in accordance with particular *Körordnung* (breed survey rules).

7.4 Working Trial Record-book (*Leistungskartei*)

This takes in all animals entered in the studbook or record that have participated in a training achievement test recognized by the SV. The working trial scorebook records the name of the dog as found in the studbook, its registration numbers, training degrees, and the overall evaluation acquired on each achievement test, with appraisals for the individual sections of the test— namely: tracking, obedience, and the courage/protection test.

7.5 Show Record File

This is for all dogs entered in the studbook or registry supplement that are acknowledged by the SV as having participated in a conformation show. Besides that studbook information, it contains the name and breed of the dog, and all show evaluations.

7.6 Record of dogs with Progeny Registration Ban

This file contains the names of dogs blocked from the registry and the reason why progeny of such dogs are not allowed entry into the studbook and/or registry supplement of the SV. This is published regularly as “*Nachrichten des Zuchtbuchamtes*” (news of the breed book office). Upon this breeding rule taking effect, all earlier determinations lose their validity.

These 2013 breeding rules replace all earlier determinations.

Appendix (Breeding Program for the Fight against Hip Dysplasia):

1. General

The German Shepherd Dog is one of those breeds known for having hip dysplasia. A hereditary disposition is responsible for it appearing in the individual. The formulated measures that follow are meant to serve for genetic improvement of the breed. In addition, it represents advice for the suitable breeding, nourishment and care necessary in rearing pups from infancy.

2. Determination of the Genetic Risks

The SV has developed (is responsible for) the estimation or calculation of the average genetic makeup of the breed in a program called a Breed Value (BV) assessment or *Zuchtwert* (ZW). Presently, the process uses the best available statistical tools and procedures such as MMP (Mixed Model Prediction) and MME (Mixed Model Estimate) which include all relationship info. The results are expressed as relative breed value, with a ZW number. The numerical reference of ZW 100 is the average genetic makeup of animals with the HD classification of *Fast-normal* (nearly normal). That number represents a hypothetical animal that we can compare real dogs to, [and is close to the average or median hip quality in the breed when all dogs are considered].

3. Information

The *Zuchtwert* appraisal system and the HD classifications of the FCI serve as information for the general direction of the breed. Subsequent knowledge—for example, from early radiographic pictures—is processed according to its importance.

4. Responsibility for Reporting the Calculation Results Regularly

The ZW Breed Value Assessment is published at least quarterly. The current numbers are made accessible to the breeder in suitable ways. At the beginning of each quarter, the members, breeders and local clubs can get the ZW numerical values over the Internet. In addition, the ZW numbers are updated on “S.I.D.” (Information Software, obtainable from SV headquarters.) These numbers are obligatory for the progress for which our breeding program is committed.

The regional groups name delegates (representatives) for the ZW program, who are responsible for getting that info from the Internet and dispersing it to the members and breeders in their regions. The breed value of the relevant dogs and bitches also gets published in the monthly “*Nachrichten des SV Zuchtbuchamtes*” which is the news of stud services, and which documents the owners of the canine breeding partners. Current ZW (breed value) numbers can also be obtained from the SV headquarters for a fee.

5. Progress

Animals with medium and severe HD are not permitted to breed (according to § 4, paragraph 1.3 of the VDH breeding rules). [VDH is the all-breed national dog club that the SV is associated with.] Dogs, which are qualified to breed in reference to other features, and in accordance with the *Zuchtordnung* (breeding rules) of

the SV, may only be paired if the risk of the puppy developing HD does not overstep a certain limit. The limit is expressed through the average ZW of both dogs in the breeding pair. At this time, a limit or upper boundary for that average is decided to be 100. Striving for lower values is recommended.

The breeder must inform himself regarding the suitability or evidence of the bitch being permitted for such a pairing. In figuring the ZW average of the breeding pair, the respective dogs' ZWs in the quarterly report on date of mating will apply. If the date of mating should be within 2 weeks after publication of the current ZW numbers, the prior quarter's breed values can also be used.

6. Violations

Violations against the progress of this breeding program are punished as rules violations.

7. Effective Validity Date

This breeding program became effective July 1, 1999.

SID issue, published by the SV – “Der Zuchtausschuss informiert”

Translated by Fred Lanting.

*Please attribute and refer readers to: Fred Lanting, Mr.GSD(at)Juno.com and articles on:
[http://siriusdog.com/article/author/Fred+Lanting-\(or\)-www.FredLanting.org](http://siriusdog.com/article/author/Fred+Lanting-(or)-www.FredLanting.org)*
