

SV Character Assessments – Update January 2019

We have now received confirmation from the SV that the results of a character assessment carried out in the UK by an SV approved character assessor will be recognised and recorded by them.

The WUSV Working Group will be meeting in the near future to discuss any procedures required to ensure the proper running and integrity of assessments carried out in the UK.

As an interim step the following process has been put in place:

- Character Assessments can be organised by BAGSD branches, BAGSD IGP clubs, GSDL IGP clubs and GSDL-BRG Groups. These clubs must follow the normal protocols of their own organisations with regards to permission for holding an event.
- The club must confirm with an SV approved character assessor their willingness to carry out an assessment and availability.
- The club must apply for SV approval release through the WUSV Working Group Secretary, Carole Lister – giving details of date, time and assessor. We understand normal SV fees apply including the doubling of fees for any event with less than 8 weeks' notice.
- The club must appoint one of the UK apprentice assessors that has trained under the WUSV Working Group initiative to oversee the correct running of the event.
- The fee for entry to an assessment will be £25.
- Entries must close 7 days prior to the event and a list of all participants sent to the WUSV Working Group Secretary at least 3 days prior to the event.
- The event must be open to all BAGSD and GSDL members as well as members of any other WUSV member club.

SV Approved character assessors

The SV approved character assessors are noted with B-W on the list of approved judges:

https://www.schaeferhunde.de/fileadmin/SV/Documents/Broschueren/vrz_mw_600_anschriften_s.v.pdf

UK Apprentice Assessors

- Henriette Bohnstedt
- Paul Bradley
- Shirley Hutchinson
- Heather MacDonald
- Wayne Vessey

Just as a reminder, the requirements for character assessments are as follows:

German Shepherds Registered in the UK.

There are currently no requirements for any dog bred in the UK and registered with the Kennel Club to undertake any character assessment.

If the current WUSV breed harmonisation programme is adopted in the UK, character assessments will be introduced and will become a requirement for shows held under WUSV guidelines. However, this will not be made mandatory until such time as there is adequate opportunity in the UK for dogs to undertake the assessment.

A UK bred and registered GSD born after 1/7/2017 which is to be shown in Germany in the working class or is to take an SV koerung, will require a character assessment.

German stud dogs CAN be mated to bitches without a character assessment if the puppies are to be registered outside of the SV (eg with the Kennel Club).

The standard age for an assessment is from 9 months to the end of their 13month. There is no upper age limit to the character assessment. To enter a dog over 13 months special permission must be applied for and granted by the SV (with a hefty fee of €100). If a dog does take a character assessment over 18 months of age, it cannot be entered for a trial or koerung for 5 months after the assessment.

[German Shepherds Registered in Germany](#)

All German Shepherds registered with the SV after 1/7/2017, must have a character assessment if they are to be shown in the working class or undertake a Koerung.

[IGP](#)

The character assessment is a criteria for breeding and breed shows, we have not received any indication at all that it will become a criteria for IGP but clearly affects working enthusiasts who wish to undertake an SV koerung.

[UK Character Assessors](#)

The apprentice UK assessors noted above undertook a comprehensive seminar and practical assessment in November 2018 and are equipped to being assessments as soon as possible. However, we await information from the SV as to how they will be recognised and the validity of those assessments for koerung wherever taken and showing in Germany.

The WUSV Working Group will continue to pursue their approval and lay the pathway for others to follow in order to make the running of character assessments in the UK more economically viable.

It is our understanding that those dogs who passed the practical assessments in November will be recognised by the SV – we await the update of SV-dox to reflect this.