

## SV Character Assessments

Further to our earlier communications about the introduction of character assessments by the SV which will also form a critical element of the WUSV Breed Harmonisation Programme, we have been gathering information and have summarised below our understanding to date. Please be aware that the introduction of these assessments by the SV has been a mammoth logistical task and there are significant areas of development yet to come.

### 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.

As part of the WUSV breed harmonisation programme, character assessments will be introduced in the UK and will become a requirement for shows held under WUSV guidelines including the British Sieger and GSDL-BRG regionals. 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.

It is currently not possible for character assessments to be held in the UK but we have managed to have this issue raised on the agenda of the SV meeting in December 2018 and hope for positive progress after that. There is most definitely recognition that the German Sieger entries will suffer greatly if character assessments are not rolled out worldwide very soon.

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.

It has been widely rumoured that it is impossible to find spaces on German character assessments and whilst it is absolutely true that such events are heavily subscribed, it is not impossible and several UK breeders have already secured places. Details of planned character assessments can be found on the SV website – Events Calendar.

### 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.

### IPO

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 IPO but clearly affects working enthusiasts who wish to undertake an SV koerung.

### UK Character Assessments

The WUSV Working Group are moving ahead to train a first tranche of UK assessors and their initial training and assessment will take place under Herr Joachim Stiegler on November the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 in the Midlands.

## WUSV Working Group of GB

In order to carry out this training, we need 12 dogs to undertake the character assessment. If you have a dog of a suitable age (from 9 months to the end of their 13 month) and would like to take part please contact the WUSV Working Group Secretary, Carole Lister [carolelister21@gmail.com](mailto:carolelister21@gmail.com)

There is no entry fee for this test. We have been advised in writing from Herr Stiegler that assessments which are undertaken as part of this training will be accepted and processed by the SV. The WUSV Working Group have no reason to doubt Herr Stiegler but we are attempting to have this confirmed by the SV Head Office and cannot guarantee it until that is received but we do feel very hopeful of that recognition.

Places are limited and will be allocated to GSDL / BAGSD members on a first come, first served basis. All entries must be received by 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018 latest.