



WUSV/GSDL British Regional Group

Statement Regarding GSD Breed Council Survey Changes

Please see attached a letter from the GSD Breed Council to member clubs regarding decisions made at the Breed Surveyors meeting on 26th March, 2016 to be ratified at the next Breed Council Meeting.

The GSD League of Great Britain and British Regional Groups have serious concerns about the decisions and their impact upon our exhibitors.

We believe that it is in the interest of exhibitors that they are able to undertake their surveys at shows because this allows them to plan the survey into their calendars with minimal impact upon other activities and commitments and cuts down on the expense of travelling to obtain a survey.

Additionally, only £5 of the £20 breed survey fee goes to the club hosting a breed survey to cover costs of a venue and expenses of a surveyor. When a survey is held in conjunction with a show then these costs are shared. It is difficult for clubs to cover costs of a show and it is likely to be even more difficult to cover costs of a survey day and so many may decide not to host future surveys.

The letter mentions that there will be a reduced number of surveys and we understand that the current suggestion is 4 per year. (There were 14 surveys with 80 dogs surveyed in 2015). We believe this will be hugely restrictive on exhibitors and will cause greater expense and less opportunity to obtain a survey.

We are wholly in support of educational events for owners and breeders but are unconvinced that the proposed survey day will be a popular format, the suggested trial on 5th June will hopefully receive constructive feedback on the changes.

The matters that have been discussed at recent Breed Council Meetings have been of an administrative nature with forms not being sent to Sheila Rankin promptly, Sheila not being notified of surveys with sufficient notice, missing data on survey sheets and exhibitors not providing the proper paperwork promptly. We understand that at the surveyors meeting additional information came to light whereby exhibitors had observed and questioned specific details on specific breed survey information that had been published e.g. the height of specific dogs being questioned.

We believe that the proposed solution of 3 surveyors to carry out a survey and to check such detail is not a correct response and questions the competence and integrity of all the surveyors – as a consequence devaluing a breed survey pass.

It is decided that the 3 surveyors who will officiate at surveys will be nominated from those in attendance on the day and notified on the day. We do not believe that this will be acceptable to many

exhibitors and have first hand experience of attempting this “for fun” at the first Christmas Cracker – many exhibitors did not like it and we did not repeat it. That was “for fun” and breed surveys are not “for fun” so we believe that exhibitors will like this proposal even less and will be even less willing to attend specific survey days.

In summary, the decisions of the surveyors to be ratified at the next Breed Council Meeting are:

- No surveys to be carried out at shows
- Fewer surveys per year (4?)
- 3 surveyors for each dog
- Surveyors to be announced on day
- Attendees and spectators to be able to ask questions for surveyors to answer
- Class one and two to be abolished

Whilst we have received confirmation that the breed survey can be held at the forthcoming Southern GSD Group Puppy and Young Dog Show, we understand that other clubs have been told that survey dates are not being approved until after the surveyors decisions have been ratified at a Breed Council Meeting – date as yet unknown.

The decisions made by the surveyors will have a serious impact on the exhibitors at Regional shows and until the Breed Council Member clubs have had the opportunity to discuss the matters arising there is a great deal of uncertainty and difficulty for exhibitors to obtain the necessary breed survey pass for entering adult classes. We have therefore decided to suspend with immediate effect the requirement for a GSD Breed Council Survey at Regional Shows.

The GSD League and British Regional Groups hold health testing and identification of exhibits as a very important matter of principle and will be introducing the “GSD League Certificate of Health Testing and Identification” – more details to follow after our meeting on the 17th April. This will cover hip and elbow scores, haemophilia, DNA and tattoo / micro-chip identification and we will make the process as straightforward and easy as possible. This certificate will replace the requirement for a breed survey at regional shows until further notice and will be launched at the Southern Group Puppy and Young Dog Show on 15th May, 2016. Dogs who already have a GSD Breed Council breed survey will still be eligible to show at Regional Shows and will not require a GSD League Certificate of Health Testing and Identification unless their owners want one.

Again, in summary

- No GSD Breed Council breed survey required for the adult class at Regional Shows until further notice
- Any dog entering the adult classes of a Regional Show without a GSD Breed Council survey pass will require a GSDL Certificate of Health and Identification.

This decision has been taken pending full discussion of the surveyor’s decisions and consultation with our members with regards to British Breed Surveys.