

GSD for breeding, either as a stud dog or as a brood bitch, be aware that you will be taking on a great deal of responsibility. No dog with genetic problems should be bred. At the very least, both sire and dam should be x-rayed and certified free of hip and elbow dysplasia. This alone can result in a significant investment of resources. The investment of time and finances necessary to whelp, raise and socialize a litter of puppies is also significant. The average litter of GSDs is 6. If you have decided that breeding is not for you, then please have your pet spayed or neutered. Your dog's disposition will not change by removing his or her reproductive capability nor will your pet become lazy or obese because of spaying or neutering. Having a litter of pups is in no way beneficial to a female but conversely can sometimes lead to health problems in later life. It has been proven that spayed females are generally healthier and live longer than unsplayed females. Neutered males cannot develop testicular cancer and have a much lower risk of developing prostate cancer.

Each year the GSD proves to be one of the most popular breeds in Canada. More GSDs are registered in Canada each year than any other breed. The GSD is probably the most recognizable breed in the world. It is the breed preferred by those interested in numerous working functions, but most of all, it is the breed preferred by most for its role as a GOOD COMPANION.

### ***HAVE FUN AND ENJOY YOUR DOG!***

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### **RECOMMENDED BOOKS ON THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG**

**The Total German Shepherd Dog** - Fred Lanting  
(Alpine Publication)

**The Book of the German Shepherd Dog** -  
Anne Katharine Nicholas (T7H Publications)

**The German Shepherd Book** - Susan Barwig (Hotlin Publishing)

**The German Shepherd Dog** - Ernest H. Hart (T7H Publication)

**The German Shepherd Today** - Winifred Strickland &  
James Moses (MacMillan Publishing Company)

**The German Shepherd Dog, It's History Development and Genetics** - M.B. Willis B Sc PhD (Arco Publishing Co. Inc., New York)



### **CONGRATULATIONS, and welcome to the world of the GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG OWNERSHIP.**

Congratulations on your acquisition of a German Shepherd Dog. Many people who own or have a German Shepherd Dog feel that ownership is indeed an experience of ongoing enjoyment due to the loyalty and affection given by their dog. Many feel that ownership of a German Shepherd Dog is one of the greatest experiences of their lives.



### **THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF CANADA INC. (GSDCC Inc.)**

The GSDCC Inc. is one of the largest single breed clubs in Canada. Established in 1922, it is the oldest single breed club recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club. It is an organization made up of breeders, fanciers, trainers, handlers and pet owners from around the world, but primarily from across Canada and the USA. Members come from all sectors of the community and from all walks of life. The GSDCC Inc., is committed to the betterment of the German Shepherd Dog and through this brochure, hopes to provide you with some general knowledge about your new chosen breed.



German Shepherd Club of Canada  
**Proud Partner of Royal Canin**

**ROYAL CANIN**  
*Elite Breeder's Club*

## HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG

The first German Shepherd Dog was registered in Germany in 1899 by Captain Max von Stephanitz, "the father of the breed." By carefully breeding only selected animals, Capt. Von Stephanitz and a group of other dedicated individuals brought into being the German Shepherd Dog breed (Deutsche Shagerhunde). In the early 1900's the breed was making itself well known throughout Europe and North America. During this period the Canadian Kennel Club and the American Kennel Club granted individual breed registration in the name, German Shepherd Dog. In England the breed was known as the "Alsatian" until the name was officially changed to German Shepherd Dog in 1978. It is now known throughout the world as the German Shepherd Dog (GSD). Originally, the GSD was used as a herding dog but because of the breed's unique versatility, the dog was soon being used in many diverse ways. Today the GSD is enjoyed by most families as a pet and companion. Its aloof but gentle and loving disposition makes it an ideal breed for families with children. Its desire to please makes it an exceptional companion dog. Its use as a service dog throughout the world in search and rescue work, tracking, guiding the blind, sheep and cattle herding, police work, guard work, sentry work, detection work (sniffing for drugs, bombs, gas leaks, avalanche/ earthquake victims, etc.), or almost any other kind of work is well known. It is estimated that perhaps a full 90% of the world's service dogs are GSD's. The phrase "utility is the true criterion of beauty" was coined to describe the German Shepherd Dog.

## CARE AND FEEDING

The GSD's physical makeup and constitution allows it to adapt to virtually any living situation. Your dog will feel at home and comfortable if kept either indoors or outdoors. If your circumstances require that your new dog be kept outdoors, proper shelter must be given. A clean and dry 'dog house' or kennel along with a spacious 'run' is most ideal for outdoor dogs. Try to avoid chaining or tying the dog if at all possible, but if you must, tie only with a wide buckle type leather or fabric collar. Never tie the dog while using a chain or a choke collar. Your dog should never run free but does require regular daily exercise in order to maintain its physical and mental fitness. Without regular exercise your new dog may become difficult to live with because of the pent-up energy which can develop from confinement. Regular visits to your veterinarian are essential. Yearly vaccinations are vital and in most cases of North America, heartworm medication through the summer (mosquito season) is recommended. Always have a blood test done by your vet prior to beginning any heartworm medication. Proper nutrition is necessary. There is a wide variety of high quality dry dog foods available from numerous local pet food outlets. Use of these high quality foods will allow your puppy to grow properly without having to add "supplements" such as table

scraps, extra vitamins, eggs, calcium or other products which are advertised as necessary to help your puppy grow. Try to avoid switching back and forth between dog foods. Once you have decided upon a good, high quality dog food, stick to it. If it becomes necessary to change foods, try to do so gradually by mixing the old with the new. Puppies need to be fed more often than do older dogs. Once your dog has passed the puppy stage you can decide on how many feedings per day suit your dog best. Whether you decide to feed once per day or twice per day, try to keep your dog quiet and restrained for an hour before and after feeding. Always have fresh water available for your dog throughout the day. Although GSDs may vary with respect to coat length and colour, they should all have a soft, dense undercoat and a denser, longer outer coat. Regular grooming will keep both coats in good condition and will minimize shedding. With proper nutrition, regular exercise, grooming and veterinary care, your GSD should live a long and happy life.

## TRAINING

A good dog is a trained dog. The type and extent of training should be done to satisfy your own personal needs. Basic obedience training is an essential part of responsible dog ownership. Training will make your GSD a better companion as well as a better canine citizen and will help to establish a stronger bond between the two of you. Your GSD has an instinctive desire to please, and it is your responsibility to train this faithful companion to do as you wish. Basic 'good manners' or 'good citizen' training is easy to do and will be fun for both you and your dog. Training classes in basic obedience are available in most areas. Most obedience 'schools' advertise in local newspapers, through local pet food stores or via flyers at local veterinarians. If you can find no classes in your area, contact your German Shepherd Dog Club or local All Breed Kennel Club for information. For those of you who crave competition or desire a little more in training, obedience trials at dog shows are offered by local clubs. There are many good books and videotapes on dog training available. Most dogs will become territorial and protective of their home and the home of their master as they mature. Unless your special circumstances define a real need for a protection trained dog, it probably won't be necessary to train your dog for this type of work.

## BREEDING

As your GSD gets older and as you become more attached to your dog, you may begin to feel that having puppies would be 'nice'. You may also feel some pressure from your friends and acquaintances urging you to breed your dog so that they might have a puppy just like yours. Before you consider using your