



March 2022

The Schaferhunde News
The German Shepherd Dog Club of Greater Kansas City
Founded 1923

2021 Officers

President - Debbie McHenry
Vice President - Sally Hamm
Treasurer - Mike Kennedy
Recording Secretary - Jeanne Harmon

2021 Board Members

Nancy Kennedy
Jose Lemus

Lynette Stone
Ken Sanders
Iryna Sanders

President's Message:

March is here! Everyone is thinking about getting outside with their dogs doing all those fun Spring activities. Have you seen "Spring nose" in your tracking dog? As the ground "wakes up" so do all the critters, making tracking that much more challenging! We have a special guest speaker this month that you won't want to miss. Roger Becker DVM is a popular veterinarian in the metro and always has great information for German Shepherd Dog owners. Obedience trials are on the schedule for this Spring and Summer as exhibitors can now get back in the ring to work those skills they have been training all winter. Always wanted to see an Obedience or Rally trial in person? Venues are now back open to spectators; locally there is a three day trial March 25 - 27th sponsored by our training partners at GKCDTC.org.

Don't forget to plan to come out to the event we sponsor; Boneanza at Waggin' Trail Dog Park on April 9th; 1:00pm come for the egg hunt! We are working hard to get everything ready for our three day conformation shows June 10 - 12th. Entry premium will be on our website shortly. Please volunteer to help us with set up or tear down (not to be confused with blown down like last year!) We need YOU! Spend a day enjoying the gorgeous dogs and visiting with your GSD friends.

See you in the park,
Debbie

GSDCGKC GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Laura Hills, owner of The Dog Spot in NKC, was our guest speaker. She spoke about her business, located only minutes from our meeting site and she spoke about puppies and brought along for purchase her new book: Your Puppy and You, A step-by-step guide to raising a freak'n awesome dog.

After the program, Debbie began the meeting.

The minutes from the last general meeting were posted in the Newsletter. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. All voted in favor to accept the minutes as posted.

Mike Kennedy presented the treasurers report. He has paid the insurance and AKC fees for the upcoming show and the only revenue we took in were from dues. Debbie mentioned to accept the treasurers report. All voted in favor to accept.

Board of Directors met and Ken Sanders is the new Chairman of the Board. He reported that the board met on Sunday February 6, 2022 via zoom. He said we were talking about doing a temperament test for the Conformation show in 2022, as we are not having an Obedience Trial in 2022, but in 2023 our 100th anniversary. We could also do the September picnic here or maybe somewhere out south as an option.

CONFORMATION COMMITTEE:

Conformation show is in June. Sally is trying to get a signed contract and will contact the Parent Club after that. Then she will work on the premium list. Ribbons were priced at Hodges and we will be going back to Rau where we can get more ribbons for the price. We will inventory what we already have to determine just what we need. There was a motion

made THAT THE CLUB WILL PAY RAU UP TO \$300.00 FOR RIBBONS FOR ALL 3 CONFORMATION SHOWS IN JUNE 2022. Tammy Peterson 2nd the motion and all voted in favor.

The Temperament test would be on Saturday and Steve Dobbins the Sunday Judge was asked to judge the temperament test. He said he did not want to do that as it would be awkward to then judge on Sunday. Bobbie Schiffelbein will call and check to see if Butch Stieferman would be interested in doing the temperament test.

In 2023 we have won the bid from the National Club to hold the futurity. We need 5 club members who are also Parent Club members to be on this committee. The 5 members of both clubs who were at this meeting were, Becky James, Tammy Peterson, Bobbie Schiffelbein, Lynette Stone, and Sally Hamm.

Bobbie Schiffelbein said that Mary Tripp has picture decals for cars, ornaments, etc., and wants to get rid of them and wanted to give them to us.

OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE: Nancy Kennedy, Chairman, will try to have an obedience trial in 2023, there needs to be a committee, please volunteer. There is no location or date yet.

TRACKING: In 2022 it is the Golden Retriever club's turn. The tracking event will take place in December, 2023, it will be the 100th anniversary of the club.

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES: Nancy Kennedy said the directories are here and available this evening for pick up. No new applications at this time.

HOSPITALITY: Iryna Sanders will have a sign-up sheet for members to bring food to the next club meeting. We would appreciate 2 people per month. She brought a delicious meal for us tonight. THANK YOU!

TRAILER: Smithville has sent an email saying the field will be worked on. The trailer has been cleaned and inventoried.

PROGRAMS: Jeanne Harmon reported that next month Dr. Roger Becker is scheduled to speak, and April the program will be presented by the kennel manager of Elkhound Dog Ranch. In May we are trying to secure a search and rescue group. She will contact The Dog Pool for our July meeting. They are located in Raymore, Mo.

BYLAWS: Jose Lemus is looking for at least one other member to help him with any revisions, as it needs updating.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: September picnic will not be at the Festival Shelter. Iryna is the chairman and will check out some other places.

NEW BUSINESS: We will be doing a raffle at each club meetings. Bobbie has the raffle tickets. Sally brought this evening's raffle prize. We made \$14.00 on this evenings raffle.

What about a calendar for 2023, our 100th anniversary? Becky mentioned the cost has really gone up to about \$18.00 to do. Sally thought Snapfish was a little cheaper. We would need to get pictures in by 10/ 31/ 22.

Membership pins were priced by Nancy Kennedy and they were around \$500.00 to order 100 pins. There was a motion TO DO A CERTIFICATE FOR 5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP. It was seconded and voted all in favor.

April is our first event at the Wagon Wheel Park for the Bone-Anza, on April 9, 2022 from 1:00-2:30

We had no new announcements or brags.

We did the evening raffle of M&M's , Charlie Schiffelbein, guessed the closest number and won the prize.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Harmon



Meetings & Programs

Don't forget that our meetings are held on second Tuesday of the month at the Macken Park Community Building; 7pm:

March 8th program is Dr. Becker from Independence Animal Hospital with "Everything German Shepherd !!

April 12th program will focus on Boarding Your German Shepherd Dog ...what to know.

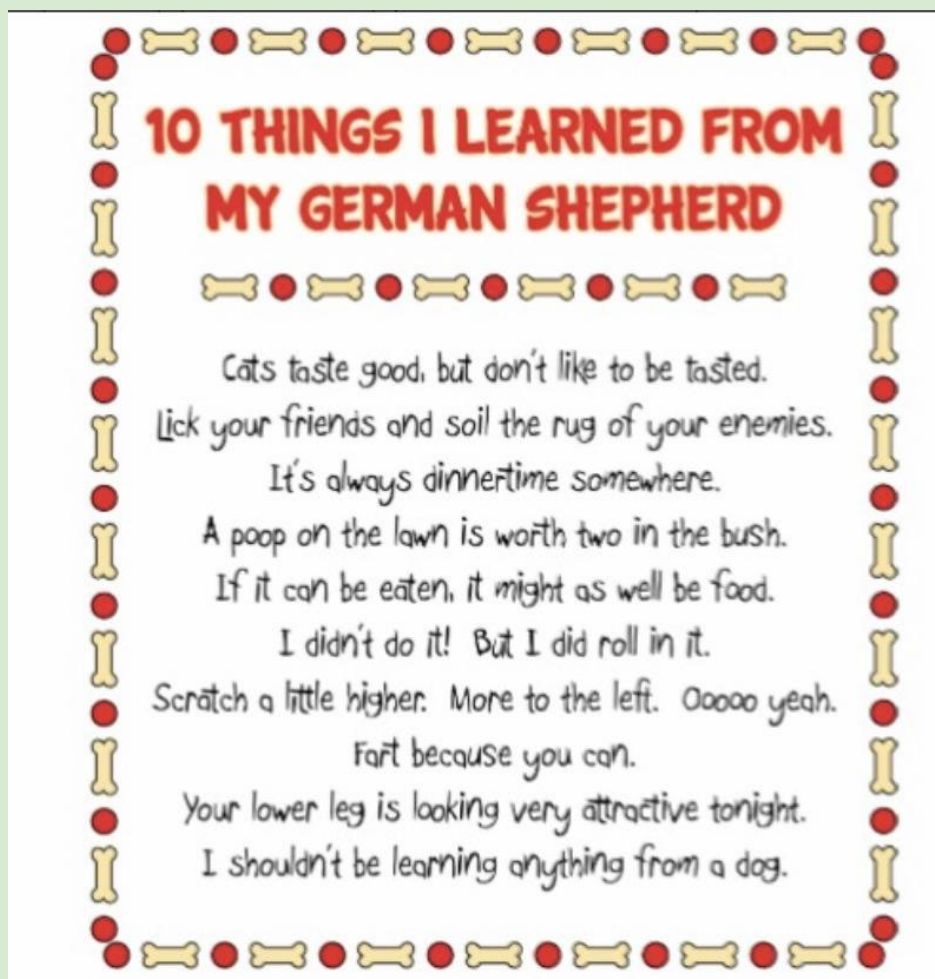
April 9th is BONEANZA at Waggin' Trails Dog Park, a fun interactive Easter Egg Hunt event for dogs/people.

June 10-12th. Is our conformation shows at Smithville Lake.

Training continues at the Greater Kansas City Dog Training building on Friday morning. Do you need help getting ready for the ring? Contact Debbie for help or if you plan to attend one of our training sessions.

March 10th - 13th is the
Heart of America Kennel Club, Inc./ Leavenworth Kennel Club, Inc
All breed conformation show. Some of our members are entered, come on out and cheer
us on.
HALE ARENA • 1701 American Royal Ct • Kansas City, Missouri 64102

As soon as the judging program is available I'll reply to this newsletter with rings and times.



Please send your brags to me, Tammy Peterson at ibperfect1@icloud.com

Laura with The Dogs' Spot mentioned that they do Dog of the Month every month.

We pick a winner at the beginning of the month and they are featured on our Waggin' Trail Facebook page and receive a prize from The Dogs' Spot. They can enter at www.nkcparksandrec.org/dogofthemoth. Attached is our ad for March and we will be accepting submissions until Sunday, March 6.

nkcparksandrec.org/dogofthemoth.' At the bottom right, there are two logos: 'WAGGIN' TRAIL PARK' with a paw print and 'The Dogs Spot Dog Training Center' with a dog's head."/>

FEELIN' LUCKY?
ENTER TO BE DOG OF THE MONTH!

Winner will be featured on Waggin' Trail's Facebook Page and receive Beer Paw's Peanut Butter Flavor Beer Biscuits.

Enter at nkcparksandrec.org/dogofthemoth.

WAGGIN' TRAIL PARK

The Dogs Spot
Dog Training Center

Early Spay/Neutering

For the past three decades, there has been a trend toward early spaying and neutering of dogs for reasons such as avoiding unwanted breeding and reducing some diseases such as mammary and prostate cancers. Some people believe that spaying and neutering helps to avoid behavioral problems. The impact has been dramatic, with an estimated 85 percent of dogs in the U.S. currently being spayed or neutered.

Breeders have an important role in helping puppy buyers determine at what age to neuter or spay their dog. They may require puppy buyers to neuter or spay their dog to avoid indiscriminate breeding, thus their recommendation is key in helping owners decide when to spay or neuter their German Shepherd Dog.

A retrospective study evaluating the long-term effects of spay-neuter surgeries in German Shepherd Dogs, published in 2016 in the journal *Veterinary Medicine and Science*, may change breeders' views about the safest age to recommend the procedure. The study reported a significant increase in cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) tears, or ruptures, in male and female German Shepherd Dogs neutered before 1 year of age, and it also noted a significantly higher incidence of urinary incontinence in female German Shepherd Dogs spayed before 1 year of age.

"I used to recommend neutering my puppies before they reached sexual maturity or at least spaying females before their first estrous season," says Ginny Altman, of St. Paul, Minnesota, breeder of Rivaden German Shepherd Dogs since 1981. "Now, if the owner wants to neuter, I recommend waiting until the dog has matured and certainly waiting until they have quit growing, which is usually between 18 and 24 months of age."

Altman attributes her change in perspective to the recent study in German Shepherd Dogs.

The American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation helped to sponsor the research, which was funded by the AKC (American Kennel Club) Canine Health Foundation.

The research was based on the veterinary records of 1,170 intact and neutered German Shepherd Dogs in the medical database at the University of California-Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. The report examined joint disorders and cancers previously associated with neutering that occurred in dogs from Jan. 1, 2000, to June 30, 2014. The analysis involved a comparison of disease incidence in intact dogs with those neutered before 6 months of age, between 6 and 11 months of age, between 12 and 23 months of age, and from 24 months through 8 years of age. Three joint disorders, CCL, hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia, and four cancers, osteo-sarcoma, lymphoma, hemangiosarcoma, and mast cell tumor, were followed through 8 years of age. Mammary cancer in females was followed through 11 years of age.

Lead investigator Benjamin L. Hart, DVM, PhD, DACVB, distinguished professor emeritus at the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, says, "In general, larger dogs seem much more adversely affected with regard to joint disorders by spaying or neutering, but there also is breed and gender specificity. Thus, the risk-benefit ratio depends on the severity of the conditions affected by neutering, the conditions' overall prevalence in that breed, and the degree to which neutering affects the risk of those conditions. One size does not fit all when it comes to deciding whether to neuter."

Dr. Hart, a clinical animal behaviorist, researches the behavioral effects of neutering or spaying in animals. An ongoing study of the health effects associated with spay and neuter surgery will provide analyses of a total of 31 breeds for which data has been compiled. When the work is completed later this year, the information will be available on an open-access website as a resource for breeders, owners, veterinarians, and researchers.

German Shepherd

"Thus far, our findings have not associated an increase in diseases due to spaying or neutering in small breeds, and in the other breeds, disease risk was dependent on gender and whether spay or neuter surgery was performed before or after 1 year of age," says Dr. Hart. "There is much misconception related to the impact neutering has on an animal and whether the age of neutering makes a difference. We knew we needed the research to be breed-specific rather than generalizing across breeds."

In one of their publications, Dr. Hart's team compared the long-term health effects of neutering in Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers and found that neutering before 6 months of age doubled the incidence of one or more joint disorders in Labradors, and

increased the risk in Golden Retrievers by four to five times. Spaying female Golden Retrievers through 8 years of age increased the rate of at least one cancer by three to four times that of intact females.

Increased Incidence of CCL Rupture

The decision whether to neuter or spay a dog often relates to the dog's purpose. A German Shepherd Dog being campaigned at dog shows is not eligible for neutering or spaying because conformation involves judging dogs for their breeding potential. Dogs that compete in herding trials, obedience or rally, agility, tracking, and Schutzhund may be neutered or spayed, as these performance events are exempt from the breeding purpose that governs dog shows. However, owners may wish to avoid increasing the risk of a joint disorder such as hip dysplasia or CCL, as this could interfere with performance.

People who buy German Shepherd Dogs for companions may want to neuter or spay their dog to help prevent unwanted litters, to avoid bitches coming into season, and to lessen aggression and roaming tendencies in males, though Dr. Hart says evidence shows that neutering males after 1 year is as effective in controlling aggression as neutering before 6 months of age.

Neutering or spaying German Shepherd Dogs training for police or military work is optional. However, it is important that these dogs be healthy and fit to do their jobs, and neutering or spaying before 6 months of age could increase the risk of a debilitating joint disorder such as hip dysplasia or CCL.

Among all German Shepherd Dogs studied, hip dysplasia, a frequent disease in the breed, is doubled in risk to 7 to 8 percent by early spaying or neutering. However, CCL occurs in less than 1 percent of intact dogs but is increased in risk to 8 to 12 percent with early spay-neuter surgeries, resulting in this disease being the main joint disorder impacted by early neutering in German Shepherd Dogs.

As the most common joint disorder in spayed or neutered dogs, CCL rupture also can shorten a dog's working career, is expensive to treat and requires weeks of rehabilitation. A critical stabilizer of the stifle (knee) joint, the CCL functions as a rope as it stabilizes the femur (thighbone) to the tibia (shinbone), preventing the stifle bone from shifting during activity. Without the normal CCL stabilization, a dog's movement is compromised and painful osteoarthritis develops.

In intact male German Shepherd Dogs, 6.6 percent were diagnosed with at least one joint disorder. The main joint disorder reported was hip dysplasia, which results from a loose connection between the pelvis socket, or acetabulum, and the thighbone ball, or femur head, which creates laxity in the hip joint. Degenerative joint disease, or osteoarthritis, commonly accompany this disease, causing pain and disability.

Male German Shepherd Dogs neutered before 6 months of age had an incidence rate of 20.8 percent of developing one joint disorder —three times greater than in intact males. In dogs neutered from 6 to 11 months of age, the incidence was 16.4 percent —two times greater than in intact males. Although CCL rupture occurred in less than 1 percent of intact males, in dogs neutered before 6 months of age and from 6 to 11 months of age, the rate increased significantly to 12.5 percent and 8.3 percent, respectively.

Similarly, intact female German Shepherd Dogs showed an incidence rate of 5.1 percent of having at least one joint disorder. In contrast, those spayed before 6 months of age had an incidence rate of 12.5 percent —more than double that of intact females. In those spayed between 6 to 11 months of age, the rate was almost 17 percent —three times higher than in intact females. CCL, which was diagnosed in less than 1 percent of intact females, occurred in 4.6 percent of females spayed before 6 months of age and in 8.3 percent spayed between 6 and 11 months of age.

Because joint disorders can be related to body weight, the researchers also looked at whether the increased weight of neutered dogs could be responsible for CCL rupture, but they did not find a connection. Using a body condition score (BCS) based on a scale of 1 to 9, with 5 being ideal, they compared the body condition of neutered males with CCL ruptures to neutered males without CCL ruptures and found that the median BCS for both was 5. The median BCS for spayed females with CCL ruptures was 5.75 compared to spayed females without CCL ruptures having a BCS of 5.

“We think that early neutering prevents the gonadal hormone secretion that normally stimulates closure of long-bone growth plates as a dog approaches maturity,” Dr. Hart explains. “The bones grow slightly longer than normal, which, in turn, disrupts joint alignment enough to lead to clinically apparent joint problems in some dogs.”

Elbow dysplasia was virtually nonexistent in intact and neutered German Shepherd Dogs. This condition is caused by growth disturbances in the elbow joint due to a misalignment of growth between the two bones in the foreleg between the radius (elbow) and ulna (wrist).

Anoteworthy finding was that “dogs of either sex neutered after 1 year of age did not have significantly more joint disorders compared to intact dogs,” Dr. Hart says.

Risks Related to Urinary Incontinence & Cancer

Urinary incontinence is a disorder mainly affecting elderly female dogs in which they involuntarily pass urine. It is mostly diagnosed in neutered large-breed dogs. As expected, the condition was not reported in intact female German Shepherd Dogs, yet 7 percent of females spayed before 1 year of age were incontinent in their elderly years.

Fortunately, of the cancers followed in German Shepherd Dogs through age 8, there were few reports regardless whether a dog was intact or neutered. The research team cautioned that cancer rates could increase at later ages, though they did not study this.

Mammary cancer was tracked through 11 years of age because this type of cancer characteristically occurs later in life. About 4 to 5 percent of intact females and those spayed from 2 through 8 years were diagnosed with mammary cancer in contrast to no cases diagnosed in females spayed before 6 months of age.

Spaying has been attributed to helping to reduce the risk of mammary cancer, though a 2012 published study found neutering provided no apparent protection against mammary cancer. Dr. Hart notes that the protective factor could be breed specific. Regardless, in German Shepherd Dogs, the incidence of mammary cancer is fairly low.

A Proactive Preventive Approach

Given the results of this study showing the increased incidence of CCL rupture and urinary incontinence in German Shepherd Dogs that had early spay-neuter surgeries, breeders should consider the pros and cons before deciding the best age to recommend that puppy buyers spay or neuter their dogs. The purpose of a dog also should be considered in determining what is best for a companion dog, a working police dog, or a show or sporting competitor could be different.

A German Shepherd Dog that is neutered or spayed before 1 year of age and has a CCL rupture could be out of commission for months for surgery and rehabilitation. Urinary incontinence is an inconvenient disorder for owners to deal with because it requires frequent cleaning of urine from floors and bedding. It also is attributed to dogs being relinquished to shelters.

German Shepherd

The most important finding in German Shepherd Dogs is that there is no advantage of neutering or spaying before 12 months of age. “I advise owners of German Shepherd Dog

puppies to be in no hurry to neuter a male or spay a female,” Dr. Hart says. “I always tell them to wait until their dog is at least a year old before neutering.” Altman believes that Dr. Hart’s research will help make it easier to convince breeders and owners that early neutering is not the healthy choice for German Shepherd Dogs it was once thought to be. “This study has been eye-opening for our breed,” she says. “Waiting until a dog is 1-year-old to be neutered or spayed is a simple way to help prevent the risk of these disorders.”

1 Percentage of Dogs That Are Spayed or Neutered. APPA National Pet Owners Survey. American Pet Products Association: Greenwich, CT. 2017-2018:78.

Purina appreciates the support of the American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation (AGSDCF), particularly Ginny Altman, current vice president and health liaison of the Foundation, and a past president and former chair of the Health and Genetics Committee of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America, in helping to identify topics for the Purina Pro Plan German Shepherd Dog Update newsletter. The AGSDCF board of directors also contributes to helping to identify topics.

Have a blessed day

