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February 2024

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

**2023 Officers
President-Debbie McHenry
Vice President- Valerie Shultz
Treasurer-Pat Robinette
Recording Secretary-Jeanne Harmon**

2024 Board Members

**Lynette Stone
Rosi von Fintel
Nelson Hinman Jr.**

President's Message:

Welcome back members. We are finally out of the deep freeze and enjoying some sunshine. Our new board and officers have been hard at work planning the calendar for 2024 . We have lots of fun activities and programs to offer in '24 starting with our two conformation shows May 11th -12th this year. These shows will be at the Purina Farms venue in Gray Summit, MO. We also are planning to hold Rally Trials this year! This is new for our club, and we are holding THREE trials in one weekend, July 13-14th at the Greater Kansas City Training Club Building. This means that three qualifying scores results in a title in one weekend...Woo Hoo! We are planning to hold Rally instruction at each monthly meeting starting in March at 6PM prior to the general meeting, FREE for all members and their dogs! Never tried Rally? Come to the February meeting and find out how you can get involved in this very popular dog sport! Looking forward to seeing YOU in February.

Debbie

Meetings

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

North Kansas City Community
Building; Ryan Hall at 1201 Clark Ferguson Drive, North Kansas City, MO

64116.

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

German Shepherd Dog Club of America

If you're not already a member of the GSDCA, you should join. There is very informative articles, what's happening with our breed, show schedules, etc.

<https://www.gsdca.org/>

What Is a Titer Test for Dogs?

A titer test for dogs involves measuring the level of antibodies against a particular disease in a sample of blood. Antibodies are produced in response to an antigen, or stimulus. Your dog's body can produce antigens after vaccination or after being infected with bacteria or viruses.

[Vaccines](#) provide a benign or altered version of the actual disease. These small, foreign invading cells stimulate the immune system to make specific antibodies, or disease-fighting cells. Then, your dog's immune system will have an army of cells prepared to fight an illness quickly if they are infected. As a result, your dog will have no illness or significantly lessened symptoms of illness.

A titer test measures those specific antibodies for immunologists and veterinarians to interpret. It can provide evidence whether an animal has antibodies against a disease, which may correspond to protection.

Dog Titer Tests and Antibody Levels

A positive or high value may suggest that your dog has many antibodies to fight the potential infection, while a negative or low value could indicate your dog does not have protection and may require a booster.

However, the immune system is constantly learning, changing, and attempting to protect the body from all sorts of invaders. Because of this, a high titer today does not necessarily guarantee immunity.

Titers are, effectively, a snapshot of your dog's antibody level at a single moment in time. Antibody levels can change or be influenced by numerous factors, including:

- Type of antigen stimulus
- [Stress](#)
- Previous vaccination
- Medications
- Health status
- Genetics
- Maternal antibodies, in younger dogs

State Laws and Dog Vaccinations

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) is the authoritative source of evidence-based recommendations and expert opinions on vaccines. There are two categories: core and non-core vaccines.

[AAHA considers the following vaccines "core,"](#) or of critical importance to vaccinate:

- DAPP ([DHPP](#))
 - [Distemper virus](#)
 - Adenovirus-2 virus
 - [Parvovirus](#)
 - +/-Parainfluenza virus

- [Rabies virus](#)

Most state laws do not accept antibody titers as proof of protection for fatal and zoonotic diseases, such as [rabies](#).

Other vaccines fall into the "[non-core](#)" [vaccination](#) category, allowing veterinarians to vaccinate at their discretion.

Veterinarians look at a variety of factors when determining if and when an adult animal needs vaccine boosters, including:

- The pet's lifestyle
- The pet's risk factors and history
- Disease prevalence in the area
- Vaccine manufacturer's instructions

Is a Titer Test Right for My Dog?

Vaccine titers are more expensive than vaccines, but they can help you and your veterinarian make the best decision for your pets. They are especially important in these situations:

- If your dog travels often and is frequently exposed to diseases
- If your dog has adverse reactions to vaccines
- If your pet is already ill, especially with immune-mediated diseases or cancer
- If your pet is taking drugs that suppress their immune system, such as:
 - Steroids
 - Chemotherapeutic agents
 - Immune-modulating drugs
- If you adopt an adult dog with an unknown vaccine history. Titers can show what they've already received or been exposed to.
- If your dog is a "non-responder." This means that even if your dog has multiple vaccinations, they never reach a protective antibody level. This is important because it may mean your dog is more susceptible to diseases and may necessitate a change in lifestyle to best accommodate their immune status.

Work with your veterinarian to keep your dog healthy and free from diseases.

Discuss your dog's needs for vaccines or titers to keep them free from infectious and deadly diseases.

<https://www.petmd.com/dog/general-health/titer-tests-dogs#>