

Important Upcoming Breeding Regulation Changes

By Heidi Theis, USCA National Breed Warden

I have some very exciting, breeding related news to share! I have instructed your Breed Advisory Committee and USCA Conformation Judges on the changes we have implemented regarding the WUSV three tiers of breeding permission. Your Regional Breed Wardens may answer any questions that you have on this information and on our Breed Registry for those interested in registering litters with USCA.

We have a very tough situation within our country due to the kennel club with which everyone registers their dogs. The breeding of untitled dogs is more rampant than ever before because that kennel club allows anything to be registered. As a breed judge, I am seeing more and more untitled parents in show catalogs. And considering we are a WUSV organization, we need to do better. Breeders, stud dog owners, we need to do better, we can do better, it is our duty to do better for this great German Shepherd Dog breed. I believe these three tiers of breeding permission will drastically help us with this untitled breeding issue, as it can give breeders more options. Please review the WUSV breeding program. For your ease, I have included the information following this article. It may also be found at www.wusv.org/fileadmin/Documents/WUSV_Breeding_Programm-State_24.09.2019.pdf

To quickly summarize, the three tiers of breeding permission are “at time of breeding” and are as follows:

Basic

- Microchip Identification
- WUSV Recognized Pedigree
- SV DNA-Stored or SV DNA-Tested
- Females 20-months minimum age, males 24-months
- WUSV Recognized HD/ED Certification
- Minimum Show Rating of “G”
- Character Assessment Test (WB) (dogs born after 7/1/20)

Advanced

- Microchip Identification
- WUSV Recognized Pedigree
- SV DNA-Stored or SV DNA-Tested
- Females 20-months minimum age, males 24-months
- WUSV Recognized HD/ED Certification
- Minimum Show Rating of “G”
- Character Assessment Test (WB) (dogs born after 7/1/20)
- BH, AD
- IGP1, IGP2, IGP3 with 80pts protection in any level, or ZAP

Premium

- Microchip Identification
- WUSV Recognized Pedigree
- SV DNA-Stored or SV DNA-Tested
- Females 20-months minimum age, males 24-months
- WUSV Recognized HD/ED Certification
- Minimum Show Rating of “G”
- Character Assessment Test (WB) (dogs born after 7/1/20 going for SV Breed Survey, we will not require WB for USCA Breed Survey until 1/1/25)
- BH, AD
- IGP1, IGP2, IGP3 with 80pts protection in any level
- Breed Survey

*****Only progeny from a premium male to premium female are eligible for VA show rating at a Sieger Show provided all other requirements are met for VA as outlined in USCA's Sieger Show regulations.**

I STRONGLY encourage breeders who have been, or are, breeding untitled dogs to please start to adhere to the Basic Breeding Level at the minimum as soon as possible. I understand this requires a Character Assessment Test (WB) and USCA is still working on the challenges of travel for WB seminar, apprenticeships, and

licensing for some of our USCA judges. Until we have judges licensed, we need to rely on the SV judges that come to the US and clubs willing to host these tests.

We have been granted a transitional period until 1/1/2025 to implement these breeding tier changes but I have chosen to do so now, with the backing of the BAC and the EB. I believe from now until 1/1/25 (3-years) is a good length of time for us to continue to educate our breeders and help get everyone back on the best road for the German Shepherd Dog breed.

By 1/1/2025 our breeders will need to follow at least the minimum breeding level of Basic in order for their litter progeny to be eligible to participate in USCA events for breed purposes (conformation shows, breed surveys, character assessment test). We will disqualify breed related entries firmly starting on 1/1/25 to dogs or litter progeny that are not born from, at the minimum, a Basic Level Breeding.

Thank you all for your commitment to and perseverance with our breed and this awesome organization!