



Shep Gram

German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis/St Paul

March 2022

Shep-O-Gram

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Spring is coming and we have many events to participate in and/or to volunteer to help. All of you newer people and not so new, should consider coming to our events and volunteering. The specialty shows need lots of helpers for setup, selling raffle tickets, etc. At the scent work trial we will need volunteers to help out also.

Unless there are people who are willing to take over the Herding trial and the GSD Fun Day, we will be skipping those events this year.

Plans are being made to have conformation classes once a month on Fridays. Rally has been suspended for the time being.

In this issue, I have included an article on building confidence in puppies as well as some training tips from Amber Eisfeld.

Remember to get your reservations in for our annual awards banquet. The form has been sent several different ways and I have included it again on page 7 of this issue. Ann Jeddeloh is out and about collecting all sorts of great doggy related items for the raffle. The banquet is once again at the Lake Elmo Event Center.

I found a new article on treatment options for Hemangio Sarcoma. As you probably know that is a form of cancer which is plaguing many breeds including GSD's. Generally it is not discovered until it is too late.

On the last page I included a health advisory for a dangerous fungal infection which can afflict humans and canines and can be deadly.

For a little humor in a troubled world I have added a Soggy cartoon and a piece on How to Walk Your Human from a doggy perspective.

Stay safe, stay healthy.

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Index

Page 1 Editorial

Page 2 Upcoming Events

Pages 3-4 Building Confidence in Puppies

Page 5 Tips From Amber, Soggy

Page 6 Brags

Page 7 Banquet form

Page 8-10 Hemangio Sarcoma New Treatment Options

Page 11 Specialty Show, How to Walk a Human

Page 12 Ron Hallings Workshops

Page 13 Applications

Page 22 Upcoming Events, Health Advisory

March 18 Membership Meeting at the Animal Inn or by phone

Upcoming Events

March 18 Membership Meeting -Animal Inn and electronically -watch for the agenda

March 20 Ron Halling Workshop - Animal Inn

March 27 Annual Awards Banquet Lake Elmo Event Center -see the reservation form page 7 There will be raffle prizes!

April 1-3 Spring Agility Trial - On The Run -Ham Lake

April Membership Meeting-Animal Inn and electronically - watch for the agenda

April 23 Ron Halling Workshop - Animal Inn

May 14-15 Tending Clinic Swanville, MN
for information on tending contact Cynthia Curran
cyncurran@gmail.com

June 3-5 Specialty Show Dakota County Fairgrounds
Farmington

June 11-12 Scent Work Trial Canon Valley Fairgrounds
Canon Falls

Building *Confidence* in Puppies

From the time they are born, puppies begin to take in the world around them. Each new experience is associated with a reaction and helps shape the dog they will eventually become. The imprinting period from age 6 to 20 weeks is a defining time in a dog's life when habits develop and overall personality takes form. With help from you, a puppy can take on new situations with confidence and learn to adapt to a variety of circumstances.

Building confidence helps puppies learn that new situations should not be feared but can have positive outcomes. To help build confidence, introduce your puppy to a variety of dog-friendly adults and children who greet the puppy in a calm manner and have them give treats. This will help build the association that meeting people equals a reward. Likewise, bring treats to any new place you visit with your puppy to help build good associations with unfamiliar places. It is important to not push your puppy too far beyond

his comfort level with new situations. If he shows signs of stress, back up and try again slowly. Pushing too far can create a negative association and be detrimental to the progress you have made.

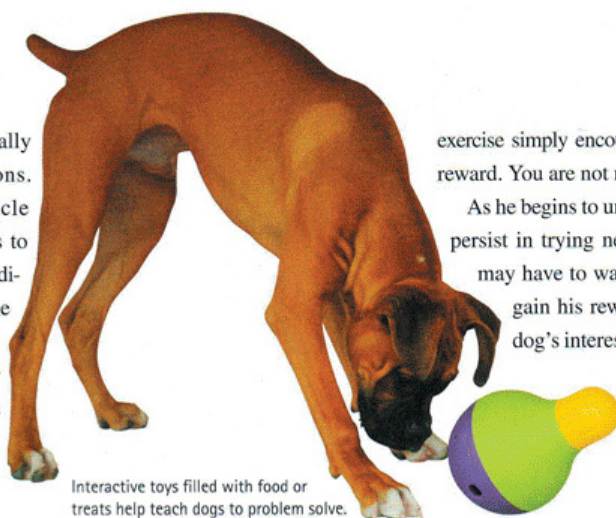
Reward-based obedience training, like clicker training, also builds confidence as the puppy learns that he is rewarded for desired behaviors. Clicker training is based on operant and classical conditioning and teaches a puppy to associate an auditory signal, like the clicker, with a pleasant outcome, like food rewards. The clicker is effective as it is clear, consistent and helps bridge the time gap between marking the behavior and sounding the reward.

Obedience exercises help when exposing a puppy to new experiences as the dog can focus on the task and be rewarded while in a new situation. More advanced applications of obedience exercises, like sitting to be greeted or going to a boundary stay when the



Agility tunnels help dogs gain confidence.

doorbell rings, are especially helpful in new situations. Puppy agility or obstacle classes help teach puppies to walk on new surfaces, coordination and navigation of the unfamiliar. Outdoor hiking trails are also good for these types of sessions as the ground surface is often uneven and made up of a variety of textures.



Interactive toys filled with food or treats help teach dogs to problem solve.

exercise simply encourages your dog to think of new ways to work for a reward. You are not necessarily working toward a finished action.

As he begins to understand how this new game works, your dog should persist in trying new things to make you click and reward him. You may have to wait a few moments before he tries something new to gain his reward. Sessions should be kept short to maintain your dog's interest. This exercise helps with future training as you will have an actively thinking dog that tries new things. It also is beneficial if you are planning for future competitive sport work.

Exercises like this reward active movement versus stationary exercises. When you teach your dog to sit on command, you reward the finished result once the dog sits. The above exercise shows the dog to keep

Creating an Active Learner

A dog that is an active learner has learned through self-directed training how to make choices and try new things in order to be rewarded. Basic obedience and manners training is still recommended as a foundation and for overall communication, however there are other methods of training to get your dog thinking in a more independent way.

First, select the object that you would like to use — a box or basket is most common in these exercises, but any object can be used. With any behaviors relating to the object, click and reward your dog. The movement can be looking or sniffing at the object or moving to the object. Click and reward your dog with any new interaction with the object. This



Target training involves teaching a dog to think of new ways to work for a reward. It can be used to advance learning and build on other training exercises.

moving until he performs the desired motion in order to be rewarded. Only rewarding a finished outcome of one exercise can make the dog become "stuck." This happens when the dog has been rewarded for successful completion of a command and then continues performing that exercise because he knows it will likely garner a reward. Reward both active and passive behaviors so the dog learns that he can be rewarded for moving exercise as well as for being calm and passive.

Use of interactive toys also encourages dogs to think independently. Toys that can be filled with treats or food and have to be manipulated in a certain manner make the dog try different things in order to get what he wants. Many interactive toys double as an appropriate outlet for chewing, which also acts as a stress reliever for dogs.

Puppyhood is the period that shapes how your dog will react to his environment and interact with people and other dogs. The more you can do to expose your dog in a positive manner to all the things he will likely encounter throughout his life, the more confidently he will greet the world around him. ■



Clicker training is used to teach obedience exercises like sit and down.

Triple Crown Dog Academy near Austin, Texas, offers training programs for trainers and dogs. Visit www.triplecrowndogs.com for information.

Used with permission from Today's Breeder, Nestle Purina PetCare Company

Training Tips From Amber - Big Leap of Faith



People often ask me how long and/or how many classes they should take when they bring home their new puppy/dog.

My answer is that dog training is a never ending affair. We work to build relationships by developing communication, trust, and enjoyment between us and our dog(s). Training doesn't mean hours on end however it does mean that we work on building consistency and expectations each and every day. We put more work in when they are young so when they are an adult they have skills and a solid foundation. The training then becomes part of their everyday living.

Yesterday, I signed Yuuna up for the UKC SPOT test which is a test that indicates that your dog can be a well mannered dog in public.

The test consists of:

1. Walking on a loose leash through a designated pattern
2. Leave distraction items
3. Doorway manners
4. Loading & unloading a dog in a kennel
5. Moving dog distraction
6. Greeting a stranger
7. Grooming exam
8. Sit and down on command
9. Stay in place
10. Come on command

Yuuna is 5 years old and has not been in a formal obedience class since she was 2 years old. However, the things I do on an every day basis allowed her to pass the SPOT test with no problems.

As owners we need to do a better job in putting in the work and making training fun rather than thinking training is a chore. If it is a chore then maybe we need to re-evaluate how we are training

SOGGY by Julie Swinland



2022 ©

Braggs



Jeanne Sutich-Kovacz earned his Rat S (senior) title today at the Bales and Tails Barn Hunt Club trial in Hutchinson. He was a very good boy! On to Masters!



PAM PACH Majestatisch Sie Hat Das Aussehen
Lila Madchen RN MXP3 MXPB MJB4 MJPB MFP PAX
T2BP SWA SCE CGC TKI
New Title ; Preferred Agility Champion
Breeder ; Rhonda Meath
Owner & Handler ; Rhonda Meath

Dam. ; Jirkova Anrebri Dvora Eimi SWN CGC
Sire ;

MACH3 Konas Mann Aus Stahl Vom Knochen BN RM
RAE2 MXC MJC MFB TQX T2B4 CGC TKI

Lila earns her PACH (Preferred Agility Champion) title on Sunday February 13, 2022 at the Miniature Pincher Club of the Greater Twin Cities under local Minnesota Judge Tom Slattery .



Pac owned by Amber Eisfeld

Send your brags to
blackforestgsd@msn.com
to be included in the Shep-O-Gram.



GSDCMSP
Annual Awards Banquet
March 27, 2022

Celebrating 71 years

Lake Elmo Event Center
3712 Layton Ave.
Lake Elmo, MN

There will be a slide show featuring our first 71 years!

Great RAFFLE Prizes! 11 FREE tickets per person!

Luncheon Buffet – **Social Hour 11:30 Lunch 12:15 pm**

Members **\$32.00**

Guests **\$35.00** (NON-MEMBERS)

Children 12 and under **\$16.00**

Luncheon Buffet Menu

Beef Bourguignon, Walleye Fillets, Mixed green salad, Fruit Platter,
Vegetable Medley, Coffee or Tea, Assorted Desserts

Reservation Form – RSVP by March 18, 2022

Name _____

Email _____

Guests Attending _____ Children _____

Amount enclosed _____

Send to Ann Jeddelloh 291 Day Farm Road Hudson, WI 54016

Make checks payable to GSDCMSP

Ethos Discovery

Hemangiosarcoma – Developing New Treatment Options August 12, 2020 Current Approach and Prognosis

Hemangiosarcoma is a common malignant cancer of dogs and carries a prognosis that is universally understood to be poor. Hemangiosarcoma's poor prognosis is due to its rapid onset of metastasis (spreading to other organs) and the high propensity for hemangiosarcoma tumors to spontaneously rupture, resulting in life-threatening internal hemorrhage (a condition known as hemoperitoneum when this bleeding occurs in the abdomen). Hemangiosarcoma can arise in just about any organ, however most cases originate from the spleen in dogs. The primary treatment for hemoperitoneum secondary to a bleeding splenic tumor is splenectomy (surgical removal of the entire spleen and its associated tumor). For dogs diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma, this is then followed by chemotherapy.

Even with this aggressive treatment approach, the reported survival times for dogs with splenic hemangiosarcoma is only around 4-6 months, whereas dogs with benign splenic tumors are often cured with surgery alone.

Splenic hemangiosarcoma is challenging to diagnose as dogs often only show symptoms of disease in later and more progressed stages. Most dogs aren't diagnosed until they have a rupture of their splenic tumor (causing hemoperitoneum), meaning that the cancer itself was diagnosed incidentally as a consequence of the severe internal bleeding and is often already in advanced stages. Currently no screening tests for early diagnosis of hemangiosarcoma exist. The fact that most dogs already have advanced stages of disease at the time of diagnosis may in part contribute to the reported poor prognosis for canine hemangiosarcoma, making new diagnostic tests capable of earlier detection a much-needed area of research.

Current Method of Diagnosis

The current gold standard method to diagnose hemangiosarcoma is to send a sample of the tumor to a diagnostic lab where it will undergo histopathologic (microscopic) analysis. Once submitted, the average turnaround time for this analysis is 3-5 days. In most cases this means that the decision to go to surgery to remove the spleen for dogs with hemoperitoneum must be made without knowledge of whether the mass is benign (cured with surgery) or malignant (often hemangiosarcoma). Previous retrospective studies report the incidence of hemangiosarcoma in dogs with hemoperitoneum due to a bleeding splenic tumor to be as high as 96%. This uncertainty around the preoperative diagnosis and the knowledge of the possible poor prognosis for dogs with hemangiosarcoma can often lead many owners to considering euthanasia rather than pursuing surgery. This choice can be even further complicated by the stress and confusion that most owners experience secondary to the unexpected and abrupt nature of hemoperitoneum.

There is concern that the decision to euthanize could result in some dogs with benign tumors, which could be cured with surgery alone, being put to sleep.

New Hope

Ethos Discovery recently completed one of the first prospective, nationwide studies in canine hemoperitoneum. This study showed an incidence of hemangiosarcoma to be 62% in dogs with hemoperitoneum, which is significantly lower than the previous reports of 96%. This study suggests that a larger proportion of dogs have benign causes to their hemoperitoneum than previously thought. Most dogs with hemoperitoneum present in critical condition and so another goal of the study was to evaluate mortality associated with splenectomy and factors that may predict higher risk cases. The study revealed that 95% of patients survived and were discharged from the hospital in under 40 hours. These findings bring hope to the owners of dogs with hemoperitoneum when they are faced with the need to decide whether to pursue surgical treatment. Furthermore, there are numerous prospective clinical trials open around the country that seek to improve the long-term outcomes in dogs with hemangiosarcoma. This provides further hope to the owners of dogs with hemangiosarcoma, as the results of these studies may not only benefit their own dog, but will also provide

valuable data towards developing a cure for this disease.
Improving Treatment Options Through Early Diagnosis

The ability to detect hemangiosarcoma sooner could alter the way hemangiosarcoma is treated and perceived. In patients that present emergently with hemoperitoneum, a rapid diagnostics could allow for a diagnosis to be made preoperatively, meaning that owners would no longer have to make the decision for surgery without knowing what their dog's diagnosis or long-term prognosis is. Additionally, an earlier diagnostic test for hemangiosarcoma could result in the cancer being diagnosed before tumor rupture occurs, allowing the pet owner and their family more time to consider options and treatment decisions in a non-emergent setting. Furthermore, having the ability to make an earlier diagnosis may result in improved patient responses to the current treatment options available for hemangiosarcoma, and could even allow for novel approaches to how we care for these patients.

The early detection of cancer is defined as the ability to achieve a cancer diagnosis before the disease is altering the patient's quality of life and prior to any local or distant spread (i.e. metastasis). In veterinary practice there are two requirements for the diagnosis of cancer:

Visualization of a tumor – This can include visually seeing or feeling a tumor on an animal or identifying it on diagnostic imaging (e.g. x-rays or ultrasound).

Confirmation of cancer cells – This involves obtaining a tissue sample from the tumor (fine-needle aspirate or biopsy), processing this tissue for evaluation, and then visually confirming the presence of cancer cells in the tissue.

While this process is standard practice and is highly accurate, it does have several disadvantages.

For instance, dogs with large splenic tumors often require surgery to sample the tumor (via splenectomy) because preoperative sampling can result in tumor rupture and severe internal bleeding.

Tumors can also be located in regions where sampling comes with a high chance of complication, such as tumors located near major blood vessels or deep within tissues.

Even when a tumor sample is obtained, there is always the potential that the selected section of tumor that is submitted for histopathologic evaluation is not representative of majority of the tumor, and a misdiagnosis can be made.

Finally, the standard turn-around-time for tissue samples submitted for histopathologic evaluation is 3-5 days, however these samples can sometimes require second opinions or special staining procedures to clarify a diagnosis, which can further delay the start of treatment.

Investigating Novel Diagnostic Approaches

Liquid Biopsy

Ethos Discovery is currently investigating the use of novel blood-based biomarkers for the diagnosis of hemangiosarcoma. A biomarker is a normal compound in the body that becomes elevated in times of illness or is a compound that is only present in the body when certain diseases exist (e.g. cancer). If these compounds are able to be accurately detected, they could provide reliable means to diagnose disease. Furthermore, blood-based biomarkers have the potential to be used to monitor therapeutic response more reliably than standard monitoring techniques (i.e. x-rays and ultrasound). In the area of early cancer detection, the use of circulating cell-free tumor DNA (cftDNA) has shown promise. cftDNA are small fragments of DNA from tumors that get released from the tumor and enter the bloodstream. Their detection in the blood indicates the tumor's presence and could even have the potential to indicate the degree of cancer burden. This ability to detect cftDNA in the blood of dogs with cancer is a process known as liquid biopsy. Ethos Discovery seeks to develop a liquid biopsy that will be accurate at diagnosing hemangiosarcoma in dogs.

Specialized Test for the Assessment of Molecular Prognosis (STAMP)

Many cancers are highly complex, with numerous genomic subtypes of the same cancer. Hemangiosarcoma is one of these cancers that is thought to have multiple subtypes. These subtypes often look the same under

a microscope but can carry different prognoses. This means that histopathologic diagnosis of a cancer is not sufficient enough for predicting the course of disease in that patient and the ability to detect the specific cancer subtype would more accurately inform an owner about the long-term prognosis for their dog. These subtypes also present patient-specific drug targets that could be used to direct therapy.

The current gold standard chemotherapeutic treatment for canine hemangiosarcoma is a drug called doxorubicin. The response to doxorubicin is variable among dogs with hemangiosarcoma, and the presence of these various subtypes may be an explanation for the variable therapeutic responses. Cancer treatments often target the specific genomic alterations that led to the development of that cancer, therefore preventing or delaying its progression. With the ability to now easily perform genomic analysis of patient's tumors, a new patient-specific approach can be taken by matching effective drugs with each patient's tumor subtype. This is a transition away from the "one treatment fits all" approach and the adoption of a more tailored approach for each patient. This method of treatment is referred to as precision medicine.

Ethos Discovery has shown that canine hemangiosarcoma consists of at least four different subtypes and is now in the process of developing a precision medicine test that would be capable of detecting each of the subtypes. The test would also be able to provide prognostic information about that subtype of hemangiosarcoma. This test will be called the Ethos Hemangiosarcoma Specialized Test for the Assessment of Molecular Prognosis (STAMP).

Ethos Precision Medicine Umbrella Study for Hemangiosarcoma (Ethos-PUSH)

Ethos Discovery will also soon be launching a second prospective, multicenter, nationwide study called the Ethos Precision Medicine Umbrella Study for Hemangiosarcoma (Ethos-PUSH). In this study, 400 pet dogs with naturally occurring hemangiosarcoma will have genomic profiling performed on their tumors to determine their genomic subtype. A precision medicine approach will then be used to match these dogs to the most effective treatments to determine if this results in improved long-term outcomes. You can read more about this study here. It is through this research that Ethos Discovery hopes to improve the outcome for dogs with hemangiosarcoma and take a similar path as to that of human childhood leukemia, which through significant research efforts went from a commonly fatal disease to a commonly cured disease.

Share

About the Author Sam Stewart, DVM, DACVECC

The GSDC of Minneapolis & St. Paul is offering a Herding Tending Clinic Presented by *Julie Degen*



When: May 14th – May 15th, 2022
Where: Swans Farm/Stanchfield MN
Sign up online by April 30th



*GSDCMSP member preference ends March 4th, sign up soon
Registration is now open at the following link*



German Shepherd Dog Club of
Minneapolis & St. Paul

GSDC of Mpls & St. Paul Annual Specialty Shows Dakota County Fairgrounds June 3rd - 5th 2022

- Friday(6/3): – Butch Stiefferman
 - 4-6 Puppy
 - Conformation
 - Junior Showmanship
 - Temperament Test
- Saturday(6/4): AM - Joe Beccia
 - 4-6 Puppy
 - Conformation
 - Junior Showmanship (Mary Murphy)
- Saturday(6/4): PM – John Bemont
 - Conformation
 - Junior Showmanship
- Sunday (6/5): – Donna Conod
 - 4-6 Puppy
 - Conformation
 - Junior Showmanship (Pat Jung)

HOW TO WALK A HUMAN A Dogs Guide

Humans need exercise. If they don't get it they become "chubby". It's up to you to save them.

1. Allow your human to tether themselves to you. This keeps them from wondering off or running away.
2. Your human will probably need breaks. Be considerate and stop and sniff often.
3. Bark frequently. Humans have short attention spans.
4. When you go to the bathroom, walk away. If you have trained your human correctly, they will pick it up. Good aerobics.
5. Periodically drag your human as fast as you can. This is called interval training.
6. Do not allow your human to shorten the walk. They are being lazy. Sit in protest if you must.
7. Once you return home, allow your human to remove their tether, then lick their face many times. This is positive reinforcement for a job well done.



by George

Upcoming Socialization and Obedience Workshops

Check out GSDCMSP's Socialization/Obedience Workshop on FaceBook for current information on the next Socialization/Obedience Workshop and training tips and videos.



Please watch announcements for dates and times.

Next Workshop is at the Animal Inn

February Sunday 20th

March Sunday 20th

April Saturday 23rd

May Sunday 22nd

We've made some changes to our structure over the last year that seem to help a lot more people get enjoyment and results for what we do. The Mini-session is for dogs that may not be quite ready to move right into a class setting will be a staple as we move on. This class runs 9:30-9:50 and helps dogs that are super shy to super aggressive and everything in between. Then the lecture.

At 10 am is the Lecture. How to successfully navigate the imprinting stages of a GSD and problem solving. The most common comment after a workshop is "I never knew there were so many people having the same issues as me". If we don't get to spend enough time on your issue we work one on one with you between the morning session and afternoon sessions. Following the lecture we adjourn for a potty break and reconvene in the ring. It's recommended to have an extra 20.00 on hand in case you choose to purchase a training collar that really works. (Our cost)

The 11 am Hands-on training. Here, we employ the training techniques talked about in the lecture while teaching you to communicate with your dog. We teach you the "marker" system that through demonstrated performance has proven to be one of the best training techniques for our highly intelligent breed. You'll leave feeling confident you know how to raise your pup through it's imprinting stages and in doing so have a GSD that people admire.

12ish, lunch. Due to COVID we are not able to do our Potluck lunches. If staying for the day you can purchase lunch from the American Legion and enjoy your meal under the roof of the picnic area on one of the many tables.

The 12:30 Afternoon Activity Class is different each month and is well thought out to present owners with activities functional to our breed according to the seasons. this month we'll focus on: heeling techniques while out meeting and greeting strange dogs and humans. This includes dogs that lunge and carry on when seeing another dog as well as building your shy or nervous dog's confidence. We'll be teaching you how to utilize dominance over obedience to overcome territorial issues and meeting/living with other animals.

Group Walk-usually a week later we'll blind copy the attendees on our email list the time and location of our Group Walk. These fortify what you have learned and while walking you see your dog meld into that day's "pack". If you peek at our webpage you'll see FOX did a news story with 38 GSD's that showed up. We also had a special walk with 55 dogs. The walk however is restricted to those that have attended a morning session. This is so everyone is familiar with the techniques needed to have a trouble free walk. Prices remain the same, 30.00, (cash), for either the morning or afternoon session, (must have attended a morning session prior to the Afternoon Activity class). It's an extra 15.00 to bring a second dog from your household or to stay for the afternoon session after attending the morning session. The location is Veteran's Park, Veteran's Park is located on the South side of Apple Valley American Legion Post 177614521 Granada Drive, Apple Valley, MN 55124 All of our information can be viewed at either our website or our Facebook pages @Thanks and hope to see you!

Our trainers, Andrea and Becca will be taking over the upcoming workshops.ahead of time. There may be changes in the schedule coming up.

Tips From Ron

There are How-To videos on topics such as Drop on Recall, stand for Exam, and dealing with an attacking dog, on Socialization/Obedience Workshop page on FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/GermanShepherdtrainers/>.



The German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Applicant Name (Please Print) _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate the name(s) of any other dog clubs you belong to: _____

Number of German Shepherds you own: _____ Number of litters bred in the last two years: _____

PLEASE INDICATE (X) THE AREAS IN WHICH YOU MAY BE INTERESTED:

Obedience: ☐ Rally: ☐ Conformation: ☐ Agility: ☐ Herding: ☐ Breeding: ☐ Other (please specify): _____

I would be interested in helping with the following activities:

Specialty Shows & Trials: ☐ Fun Matches: ☐ Programs: ☐ Sheep-O-Grass: ☐ Training: ☐
Hospitality: ☐ Fundraising: ☐ Fun Day: ☐ State Fair: ☐

PLEASE INDICATE HOW YOU HEARD ABOUT THE CLUB:

Breeder: ☐ Club Member: ☐ Facebook: ☐ Training: ☐ Rescue: ☐ State Fair: ☐ Friend: ☐
Show/Trial: ☐ Fun Day: ☐ Socialization/Obedience Workshop: ☐ Vet: ☐

I HEREBY MAKE APPLICATION TO THE ABOVE CLUB AND AGREE TO BE GOVERNED BY ITS BY-LAWS.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

MEMBER PROPOSED BY:

This application must be accompanied by a check for one year's dues and signed by a current club member sponsor. Dues are \$25 for a single membership or \$30 for a couple. Please make checks payable to the GSDC of Mpls & St. Paul. Return this application at a training class or club meeting or mail with check to:

Please Note: At the next Membership Meeting following the date applied, the applicant will be announced in the Minutes, whereas any Club members that may object to membership have 30 days to raise their concern. If no concerns are raised, the applicant receives Membership status as stated in the Bylaws which are on the website at www.gsdcmpl.org. Dues shall be assessed on a yearly basis from October 1 through September 30. Membership dues for applicants that become members between July of a given year and the December Membership Meeting date of that year will be waived for the following year.

Please direct any questions to _____

To be completed by Membership Chair:

Date Dues Paid: _____ Check: ☐ Cash: ☐ Club cash box: ☐ Online: ☐ Mailed with Application: ☐

Applicant's name added to membership list: ☐



German Shepherd Dog Club of America, Inc. Application for Membership

There are two types of membership. **Regular Members:** Minimum age of 18 years. Must be in good standing with AKC. Applicant (and renewing members) agrees to abide by the GSDCA by-laws and the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club. Two endorsements by current members must be provided by new applicants. Applicant's name will be published in the German Shepherd Dog Review. Provided no objections have been filed within 30 days of publication in the Review, applicant will be notified that he/she is eligible for all privileges including the right to vote. **Junior Members:** Must be 10 years of age and not more than 18 years of age and shall subscribe to the same criteria as Regular Membership with the exception of the requirement to pay dues. Junior members cannot vote, hold office, or serve on committees other than junior committees.

To apply and pay **ONLINE** with a credit card, please go to gsdca.org/join-the-gsdca/apply-online. You can **MAIL** this form to Laura Gilbert, 557 Dunning Lane, Chesapeake, VA 23322

Circle Your Desired Membership Type:

Membership Review Category	Delivery	One year	Three year	Five year
Single	Online only	\$45	\$130	\$215
Single	Print & online	\$75	\$215	\$355
Family	Online only	\$70	\$200	\$335
Family	Print & online	\$115	\$325	\$545
Additional delivery charges				
Delivery in poly wrap: \$5.00				
1st Class delivery: \$36.00				
Outside United States: \$24.00				

Membership Information (please print)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Date of Birth: _____ (Juniors Only)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

For **FAMILY Memberships**, provide **2nd member information**. (Family membership is defined as 2 people living in the same household -- principal & one other person).

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

What activities do you enjoy with your GSD? (Circle all that apply) Agility ☐ Conformation ☐ Herding ☐

House Pet ☐ Obedience ☐ Rally ☐ Schutzhund/Working Dog Sport ☐ Tracking ☐ Other ☐

Endorser 1 Printed

Name & Signature: _____

Endorser 2 Printed

Name & Signature: _____

Applicant/Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Check out the AKC.org website for articles on training.

GSDCMSP Class Schedule

Register online. <http://gsdcmosp.org/training.html>

Ring 1

.....Various classes, starting at 6:00

Ring 2 Look at web site to get updated schedule

Training Director:

Terry Berg

🚫 Health Advisory — Dogs & Humans 🚫

St Croix County - Boardman, New Richmond & residents near Willow River. A cluster of blastomycosis cases are being investigated, reports involve multiple dogs becoming ill and at least one dying from the fungal infection.



Health Advisory: Blastomycosis Cluster in St. Croix County



February 14, 2022

AT A GLANCE:

Healthcare providers should have increased awareness to promptly diagnose and treat blastomycosis in the setting of a blastomycosis cluster in St. Croix County.

BACKGROUND:

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health and St. Croix County Public Health are investigating a cluster of blastomycosis cases near the Willow River in the area of New Richmond and Boardman in St. Croix County. To date, we are aware of multiple cases in people and dogs, all with onset in December 2021 or January 2022. Case finding and interviews are ongoing and it is possible that more cases will be identified.

Blastomycosis is an infection caused by the fungal species *Blastomyces dermatitidis* or *Blastomyces gilchristii*. *Blastomyces* fungi are generally found in moist soil and are endemic to Wisconsin. Infection occurs when spores are aerosolized, often through activities that disrupt soil activities such as gardening, hiking, construction, or excavation. Frequently, blastomycosis is acquired from moist soil that has been recently disturbed, such as near riverbanks or in swampy areas. It is not spread from person to person, or between people and animals.

Approximately 50% of people infected with *Blastomyces* are asymptomatic. Symptom onset occurs 3 to 15 weeks after exposure. Common symptoms in people with blastomycosis include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chest or back pain, fatigue, and verrucous skin lesions. Typical radiographic features of pulmonary blastomycosis include patchy pneumonia, and mass-like infiltrates or nodules. Blastomycosis is frequently misdiagnosed as bacterial pneumonia, tuberculosis, sarcoidosis, or malignant neoplasm. Dissemination is common and may occur in up to 25% of cases; it most commonly involves the skin or bones and joints.

CLINICAL ACTION PLAN:

- Healthcare providers should have increased awareness to promptly diagnosis and treat blastomycosis.
- Consider testing for blastomycosis among patients with consistent symptoms, particularly among persons with pneumonia that have not responded to antibiotics.
- Increased suspicion for blastomycosis is warranted among patients who live or report hiking or engaging in activities near the Willow River, particularly near Boardman or New Richmond, Wisconsin.

TESTING:

Blastomycosis can be confirmed by culture, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), or visualization of the fungus (characteristic thick-walled, broad-based, single budding yeast cells) through direct microscopic examination of smears from sputum, tracheal aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavage specimens, cerebrospinal fluid, urine or histopathologic specimens. Results of serologic tests (immunodiffusion and complement fixation) lack adequate sensitivity and urine antigen assays may be suggestive of *Blastomyces* infection but are not confirmatory because of cross-reactivity with other fungal diseases.