

The
German Shepherd Dog
Club of Atlanta



The Guardian

Your Monthly Newsletter from
The German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta

April 2016 Issue

From the President

The German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta will hold its Monthly Meeting on April 14, 2016 at the Atlanta Humane Society. The **GUARDIAN** will give you times and directions. Also in the **GUARDIAN** this month is a continuation of our discussion on correct “structure” of the German Shepherd Dog. Your input, questions, and suggestions are encouraged at the meeting in April. Additional education at the April Meeting will be an overview of the Georgia Canine Coalition Meeting held at the Capitol Building, downtown Atlanta (very important information for all of us).

The Southeast Futurity/Maturity and accompanying Specialty Shows are coming up on the week-end of 16/17 April in Charlotte. The show grounds are great with large rings and are in close proximity to motels/hotels and great eating experiences. Get your reservations in while there are still rooms available.

Our fun match in March was just that – fun! Everyone pitched in and helped with setup and breakdown. The weather held out for us until just after Pauline Moon gave out her final awards. We might want to consider looking at other dates for our Fun Match due to regularly scheduled events held by other Clubs, this is particularly true for our obedience trial.

I can't say enough about the great success the Alpharetta K-9 Unit experienced with their first K-5 Human/Canine Foot race, approximately 300 runners and many dogs participated. Ron and I went and gave the Officers a donation in the name of the GSDC of Atlanta. There were several Shepherds there, we were approached with questions about our Shepherd and how she looked and walked. AOE Select Champion Heinerburg's Gone With the Wind DePahl was on her best behavior and the kids took turns hugging her and receiving kisses. Many dog owners could benefit from our Club's presence as a sponsor at this yearly event. As a major sponsor we would have a tent with articles, information, accompanied by well behaved and well bred German Shepherd Dogs.

Teaching and promoting dogs that make Good Citizens is a positive way to fight anti dog legislation, and speaking of anti-dog legislation ... at my request, Ron Mulvaney took time to attend the Canine Coalition Meeting held at the Capitol Building in downtown Atlanta. Unfortunately, due to work schedules and/ or previous commitments Ron was the only one available to attend. The possible pending legislation is **VERY SERIOUS**; if we do not want to be negatively impacted we must become involved in the process. Education of the public is one way we can fight for our right to breed and show our dogs. Ron will present a report on the information garnered at the Coalition Meeting.

Our thanks to Betty Ann Frederick for heading up the nominating committee; we are blessed with an outstanding slate for Officers and Board. Voting for new Officers and Board will take place at the June 2016 annual Meeting. My thanks to Joan Turner for residing over the March Meeting in my absence. I look forward to seeing you all at this month's meeting.

*Nancy Harper-Mulvaney,
President*

Member Brags

NEW CHAMPION!

Ch. MissMic Sanric Tallulah of Heartwood

Joan Turner's MissMic Sanric Tallulah of Heartwood finished her Championship last month in Ft Myers, FL. She is owned by Linda Clark and Joan Turner and Sandy Steinkopf. Joan says her sisters are coming next!!!

Jessica Ball's pretty girl, Barick's Here Comes Paradise, aka Maui, won Best of Breed under Judge Pauline Moon at our Fun Match in March!



Congratulations to our very own junior handler, Miss Phoenix Crowe for winning First Place at her Georgia 4-H District Project Achievement. Phoenix's powerpoint presentation was on grooming German Shepherd Dogs. Yay Phoenix!

Joye Evans - DAE Ch Kimberlite's Shangri-La Earned her RATO (Rat Open) at the Barn Hunt trials at Family Pet Obedience in Cumming under Judge Sue Benkiser. Nice going Edie!

Connie Irvine - Heinerburgs Eye of the Eagle V Drum, aka Theo, went Reasrve Winners dog from the Am. Bred class under Gloria Birch and then Doug Crane in Beaumont, Texas. The first place dog was Best Puppy at the National! Theo was pulled from the other shows as he was not feeling well but we are very happy with what he did! "Theo" is bred by Nancy Harper-Mulvaney and owned by Constance Irvine and Nancy Harper-Mulvaney -- handler Scott Yergin was also sick -- that's dedication folks!!!

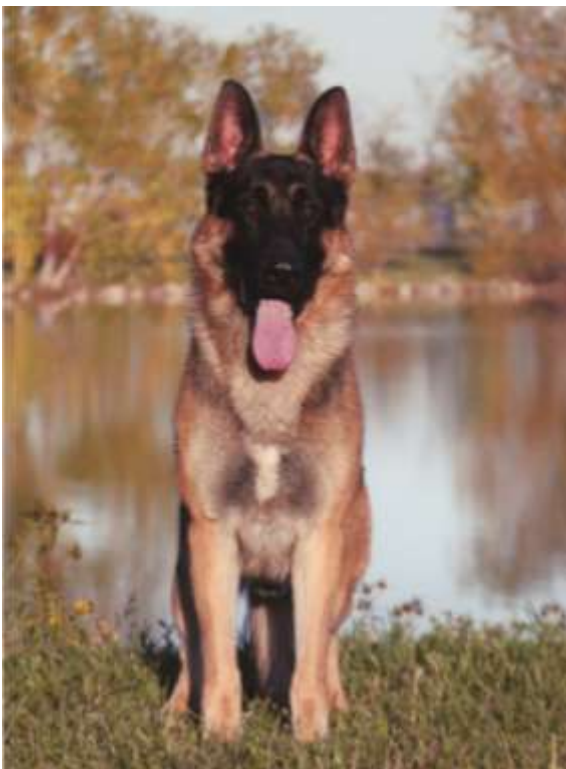
Miracle's Eligible Bachelor CGC, aka "Beau", earned his first AKC Title of Canine Good Citizen (CGC) on March 28th at the [Atlanta Obedience Club](#). At only eight months old, Beau was the youngest dog in the class to pass the CGC test. Beau is owned by John & Stacey Pollio, bred and handled by Stacey Pollio. That's our good boy!



“Let’s Talk Fronts”

By: Nancy Harper-Mulvaney

Why is it sooooo difficult to produce “good” fronts let alone the rarely seen “great” front in our breeding programs? ANYONE out there fill us in, will you? WHY should it be SO difficult? After all, there are only two bones in the shoulder of every breed of dog from a Terrier to a Mastiff!! Interesting how the size, shape, length, and angle of those two bones play a major role in determining how the dog looks when standing AND how it moves. For clarification, let’s identify some of the most frequently seen terms applying to the dog’s front or fore assembly. We see articles and read breed standards using various terms such as; Shoulder, Forehand Assembly, Shoulder Blade, Scapula, Upper Arm, and Humerus. All of these terms can and are used to describe structure of the dog’s “front”.



The long flat bone located at the “top” of the dog’s shoulder is known as the “shoulder blade” or “scapula”. The German Shepherd Breed Standard calls for length as well as lay back of the Shoulder Blade. Why? Because the *purpose* of our Breed requires the front assembly to be constructed in such a way as to permit the dog to move with an easy, out reaching and ground covering gait. A well laid back shoulder blade attached at the correct angle to an upper arm of similar length permits the German Shepherd Dog to gait in this desired fashion.

How do we go about determining the degree of shoulder angulation? Put your thumb and index finger of the right hand at the uppermost points of the shoulder blades and the same finger of the left hand where the shoulder blade meets the upper arm. Visualize a straight line extended to the ground in front of the dog. In most cases this line will mark the extent of the forward reach of the dog. A shoulder blade that is upright rather than laid back makes for a shorter neck and a longer back, which in turn throws off the dog’s balance. Interestingly, if a dog’s shoulder blade is short and upright it is USUALLY accompanied by a short upper arm – this incorrect structure prohibits the dog from achieving a ground covering gait. Given good lay and length of the shoulder blade and upper arm, we should also pay close attention to the ligaments, tendons, and muscles which hold the front assembly in place. Unlike the rear assembly – there are no balls and sockets holding the fore assembly together.

In a future article we will discuss the upper arm and its role in the ‘fore assembly’ of our dogs.

Over bites and Under bites

German Shepherd Dogs should have 42 teeth – 20 upper and 22 lower. The breed standard states that the teeth should be “strongly developed and meet in a scissors bite in which part of the inner surface of the upper incisors meet and engage part of the outer surface of the lower incisors. An overshot jaw or a level bite is undesirable. An undershot jaw is a *disqualifying fault*. Complete dentition is to be preferred. Any missing teeth other than first premolars is a *serious fault*.”

Another way to say this is that the perfect bite is a scissor bite where the incisor teeth from the top jaw are in contact with the incisor teeth from the bottom jaw but are positioned slightly in front, like two blades of a scissor if viewed from the side of your dog’s mouth. Any deviation from the traditional scissor bite is known as malocclusion in dogs.

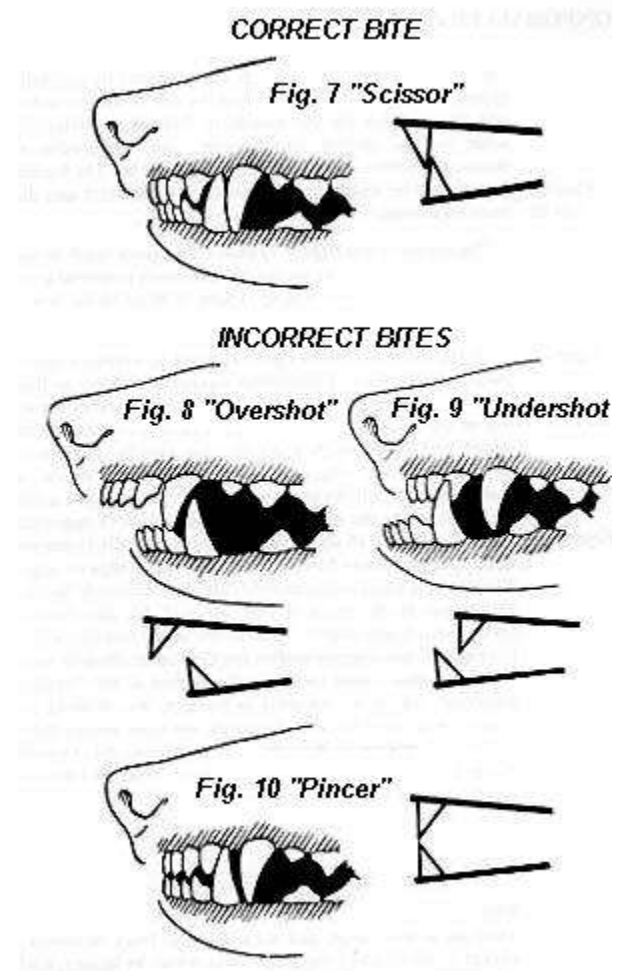
What is an Overshot Bite? An overshot bite (brachygnathism) is where the upper jaw extends past the lower jaw, causing a gap between the incisors of the upper teeth and the incisors of the lower teeth. This prevents the teeth from each jaw from fitting as snugly as they would normally be.

What is an Undershot Bite? An undershot bite (prognathism) is where the dog will have their incisor from the bottom jaw protruding past the incisor teeth of the top jaw to give a “Bulldoggy” appearance.

What is a Level Bite? A Pincer or level bite is where the incisor teeth from the bottom jaw meet directly on top of the incisor teeth of the bottom jaw.

Will an Over Bite or Under Bite affect my dog? The vast majority of under bites and over bites will not affect the dog’s ability to eat or chew and dogs with either of these bites still make wonderful pets.

If an over bite is very severe, the dog may require some surgery, such as a tooth extraction if a tooth is growing into the opposite gum, but these instances are rare.



Can an Over Bite or Under Bite be corrected? Some specialized veterinarians can perform surgery to correct incorrect bites but this is normally done only in extreme cases, usually in smaller breeds, and for the vast majority of cases the mouth is left alone. Many puppies will go through stages where it seems that they are over or under shot as they grow but will often have the correct bite when they are adults.

Club Meetings

Our monthly club meetings are at the Atlanta Humane Society, 981 Howell Mill Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30318.



CLUB MEETINGS - Held on - 2nd Thursday of each month at 8PM except for July, October and December. Visitors welcome, no need to call, just come and well behaved dogs on leash are welcome as well.

For directions to Club Meetings see our website, or click here -> [DIRECTIONS](#) to the Atlanta Humane Society, 981 Howell Mill Road, NW, Atlanta GA, 30318.

Guests and Friends are always welcome. Bring your dogs; a great opportunity to socialize your young dogs or puppies. All dogs must be kept on leashes, make sure your dog is up to date on vaccinations. Come and learn about the Club and its' German Shepherd Dog related activities. Refreshments are offered during break time. We are fortunate to have many knowledgeable breeders, exhibitors, and performance members. Educational programs are offered throughout the year.

Puppies!

Kimberlite Shepherds is offering an adorable long coated puppy girl, 8 weeks old on March 21, black and rich tan. Sire is Select Champion Regency's Ya Gotta Know When to Hold 'Em OFA H&E, dam is Jerrwen's Sunrise in Cheyenne OFA H&E. Health checked, vaccinations started. Co-bred with Cheryl

Olson and Lee Jewel, please contact Cheryl for more info at 315-278-6261, Canton GA.



Barbara Guzzo has a litter of AKC white German Shepherd puppies. Sired by Champion Cottonwood Ghost Cowboy CD, RA, HI, CHIC, OFA Hips and Elbows, DM normal and MDR1 Tested. Dam is Phenom"s R J Jessie of Cottonwood UR01, OFA Hips and Elbows, DM normal and MDR1 normal. Long coat puppies and stock coat. Puppies are AKC. Reunite chipped. AKC white German Shepherd Puppies also registered as and shown as White Shepherds in United Kennel Club and other associations. Contact Barbara Guzzo at (770) 480-0505. Email: blueflintcamping@yahoo.com Website: www.cottonwoodgermanshepherds.com

Joan Turner has litter of puppies born 1/27/16 - **Ch. Cedar Knoll's Malcolm v Van Cleve of Heinerberg** OFA GS-92897F33M / EL32300M33, bred to Missmic Sanric Leia who is preml. OFA good and is a Sel Ex DAE GRCh Campaigner's Lindel Time Traveler TC CHIC OFA GS-89685G24M / EL29679M24 daughter. 3 boys 4 girls... Contact Joan Turner at (404) 285-4152 missmicgsd@windstream.net

Upcoming Events

APRIL:

Our next regular club meeting will be on Thursday, April 14th at 8pm at the Atlanta Humane Society.

GSDCA ATLANTA MEMBERS AKC BREEDERS OF MERIT:

Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Roswell
Nancy Hart Battaglia, Roswell
Kim McNamara, Newnan
Joyce Quick, Palmetto
Nancy Harper-Mulvaney, Roswell

AKC Breeders of Merit



Breeders of Merit are listed on the websites of the American Kennel Club, The German Shepherd Dog Club of America, and the German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta. The requirements to be an AKC (American Kennel Club) Breeder of Merit are as follows:

1. Must have a history of at least five years involvement with AKC events.
2. Must have earned AKC Conformation, Performance or Companion* event titles on a minimum of four dogs from AKC litters they bred/co-bred..
3. Must be a member of an AKC club.
4. Must certify that applicable health screens are performed on breeding stock as recommended by the Parent Club (OFA Hips/Elbows, GSDCA Temperament Test).
5. Must demonstrate a commitment to ensure 100% of puppies produced are AKC registered.

About the Club

Records are vague, but it seems that The German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta was founded in 1955 when a small group of breeders and owners interested in the German Shepherd Dog met in Atlanta, Georgia.



The first President was Mrs. Michelle Leathers Billings who passed away in October 2013. The purpose of the club was the improvement of the breed. Today, the club's goal is the same. Through programs and activities, members learn about all aspects of the German Shepherd Dog, including mental and physical development; the breed standard; working ability; breeding; care and rearing of puppies; etc...

Programs are presented at monthly meetings held on the second Thursday of month, except for July, October, and December. Meetings are at 8:00 PM. Both prospective members and non-members are

welcome. The club holds numerous special events including two breed Specialty shows each year and also Obedience and Rally competitions. Puppy matches, Temperament Testing and AKC Good Citizen tests are scheduled through the year.

In July, at the Annual Awards Banquet, trophies are presented to members whose dogs have earned titles over the year. A Holiday party is held in December. If there is an interest, show handling classes are offered to members.

CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Nancy Harper-Mulvaney (770) 640-0149
nancy@heinerburgshepherds.com

Secretary:

Erika Tracy (678) 642-9303
gramma510@hotmail.com

Treasurer:

Joan Turner (404) 285-4152
missmicgsd@windstream.net

Training Director

Barbara Guzzo (770) 480-0505
blueflintcamping@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor Guardian:

Stacey Pollio (404) 353-0588
stacey@miracleshepherds.com

Past President:

Joan Turner (404) 285-4152
missmicgsd@windstream.net

Breeder Referral:

Connie Irvine (770) 507-7408
francon1@bellsouth.net

Members-At-Large:

Barbara Stamper (770) 922-0969

barickshep@bellsouth.net

Connie Irvine (770) 507-7408

francon1@bellsouth.net

Classified Advertising

Our website offers free Classified Listings for litters and dog advertisements for 90 days. Your dogs' picture is free for one year. Paid advertisements for stud dogs, kennels and breeders are \$12/year. Deadline for submissions is on the 15th of the month prior to issue. Members and Breeders of Merit are listed free on our website.

To place an ad, contact the editor:

Stacey Pollio, email:

stacey@miracleshepherds.com

Reminders

If you would like to join the conversation on Facebook, you can find the club's FB Group here:

www.facebook.com/groups/177807582290973/

Information about The German Shepherd Dog Club of America Inc. (aka "The Parent Club") can be found on the parent club website, see the web link here: www.GSDCA.org

German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta

www.gsdcatlanta.org

American Kennel Club

www.akc.org

German Shepherd Dog Breed Standard

www.akc.org/dog-breeds/german-shepherd-dog/

PUPPIES AND LITTERS: Give Connie Irvine information on puppies and litters. Connie handles

the Club phone; she will direct callers to members who have puppies, studs, or older German Shepherd Dogs available.

COMMITTEES

Club Phone:

Connie Irvine (770) 507-7408

Hearts & Flowers:

Jan Eason (678) 549-2113

Herding/Library:

Erika Tracy (678) 642-9303

Internet/website:

Stacey Pollio (404) 353-0588

Audit:

To be announced

Equipment:

Barbara Stamper (770) 922-0969

Obedience:

Barbara Guzzo

Versatility:

Joye Evans (770) 438-2285

Awards & Banquet:

Nancy Harper-Mulvaney (770) 640-0149

Working Dog Association:

Betty Ann Fredrick (770) 639-0747

Trophy Chair:

Connie Irvine (770) 507-7408

Complimentary Guardian

To send a complimentary copy of The Guardian to puppy buyers, friends, or prospective members, Contact the editor, Stacey Pollio, at stacey@miracleshepherds.com

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