

GSD FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA – ALGOA BAY CLUB

**AN INTRODUCTION TO
GERMAN SHEPHERD
TRAINING**



f e d e r a t i o n o f s a

© 2014
GSD Federation of SA –
Algoa Bay Club

PLOT 71, BUTTERFIELD ROAD, KRAGGA KAMMA, PORT ELIZABETH

Algoa Bay GSD Club offers specialized training for German shepherds in order to keep the dog's body and mind stimulated and make use of the full potential of your dog. German shepherds fall in the category of working dogs and if they are not exercised and worked they are likely to develop destructive behavior out of boredom like digging up your garden or eating your furniture. The training at Algoa Bay Club is geared towards helping your dog to become a balanced family protection dog. All protection work is done as a sport; we do not offer home protection training or any kind of training to make dogs aggressive.

Our club training hours are every Saturday from 13:30 to about 17:00. Please note that depending on the amount of participants classes can run longer or shorter and therefore we do not provide exact time tables for the classes. Information is sent out via our club emailing list, so please make sure that you are added to the list once you have joined the club.

We welcome you to visit our training, so that you can get a better impression whether the training we offer suits your needs. There is no obligation to join the club immediately. We actually encourage that you visit us at least 3 times before you join in order for you to be able to make a decision whether our kind of training is the right one for you and your GSD. You can bring your puppy with you when the final vaccination has been administered after 12 weeks. Please note that we require all dogs to be vaccinated against kennel cough so please contact your vet and check whether this vaccination has been done before bringing your dog to training.

If you have any questions, please contact one of our committee members, they will be more than willing to assist you. Our training is based on a so-called "blue point plan", which means that every dog has a career plan and via a blue point it can be tracked in which stage your dog currently is. Please address all general queries to algoabaygsd@gmail.com

| Name | Function | Telephone no | mobile | Email |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Brett Cunningham | Chairman | 041-581-7055 | 082 795 3929 | Brett.cunningham@dataflo.co.za |
| Jürgen Manthey | Training Supervisor | 041-368-5984 | 079 695 3435 | j.manthey@web.de |
| Simone Masters | Breed supervisor | 041-507-7407 | 082 734 9630 | Simone.masters@moveapet.co.za |
| Eva Warzecha | Secretary/ Treasurer | | 083 407 0837 | algoabaygsd@gmail.com |

How to join the club

In order for you to become a club member, you also have to be a member of the German shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa, with which we are affiliated with. If you own a German shepherd that is registered on the breed register, you apply for membership with both club and federation. The secretary of the club will be able to provide you with membership forms and all information regarding fees and membership rules. Club membership fees are paid annually and include all training by the club. Additional levies apply for entering trials and competitions.

If your German shepherd is not registered on the breed register, then it has to be registered on the identification register of the Federation. For this purpose it has to be made identifiable via either tattooing or micro chipping. Then you can apply for membership with both club and federation.

Our training program

Please note that our instructors are dedicated members of our club who volunteer their time without payment. You can join our training at any time through the year, as you will receive individual attention by the trainers. It is important to understand that the trainers at the club on Saturdays will teach you how to train your dog, but you need to put work in during the work on your own as well.

1. Puppy teasing and socializing

Puppy teasing is meant to build drive in your dog via encouraging him to chase a cloth or a sausage like cushion. This is the first step towards protection work and we encourage everyone to join this exercise from the age of 4 months. It also helps your dog to build focus during training as all puppies are being worked together on the field. Don't worry if your puppy is not too interested into the cloth but rather the other dogs. This is normal in the beginning as your puppy has to deal with being surrounded by many people and dogs and has to process a variety of new impressions. The puppy teasing is concluded by socializing of the puppies on the field which helps your dog to build confidence around other dogs and people.

2. Puppy obedience (beginners class)

In puppy obedience you will be taught how to teach your dog simple commands like sit, down and stay as well as heel work. A puppy's attention span is very short and the class is centered on making it fun for your puppy so that it will be happy to work for you. It is essential that you bring treats like soft food (eg viennas) and a toy so that your puppy gets rewarded every time it gets the exercise right. Working together with your dog will build a strong bond with your dog.

3. Intermediate obedience

From about six months of age your puppy will develop into a teenager and start testing you. Simple commands that it easily obeyed to in puppy class now seem forgotten. Your puppy instructor will let you know when you are ready to move from the beginner's class into the intermediate obedience. You will learn in this class the pattern that you and your dog will have to walk in the Begleithund trial. This class is also for members that after having passed the Begleithund trials still wish to continue further with obedience without having to spend the amount of time required to train for IPO.

4. BH training – obedience leading to BH = Begleithund = companion dog trial

In order to enter a BH (Begleithund) trial, your dog has to be a minimum of 15 months old. You will be required to perform a specific sequence of exercises including heel, sit, down, walking through a group of people in a figure of eight, stay and a recall. Those exercises have to be performed both on and off leash. Through the exercise a second dog has to be in a down position watching the exercises without reacting to them. The second part of the trial is a temperament test in a busy area where your dog has to show that it can deal with passengers, cars, bicycles and other dogs without aggression or fearful behavior. Upon passing of the trial, your dog will be awarded the title Begleithund = companion dog.

5. AD – endurance

The endurance trial is a 20 km track which your dog has to be able to run next to your bicycle. The minimum age for entering the trial is 16 months and your dog has to have passed the Federation hip dysplasia scheme and be awarded a grading of A. X-rays can be done from a minimum of 12 months of age. The endurance trial is the first step towards breed qualifications for your dog. Training for this is not done during training hours on Saturdays. The instructors will help you by advising you how to train for this trial on your own and members often meet to train for this trial together.

6. Protection training and Breed survey

The protection training offered at the club will prepare you for the protection training required in the IPO trial as well as passing a breed survey. A breed survey is a breed qualification in which the dog has to pass a short protection work routine as a temperament test and then receives a breed description by a breed surveyor which will be entered into its offspring's pedigree. Dogs have to pass the endurance trial successfully, their DNA has to be profiled and male dogs are also required to have passed a BH before entering this trial. Upon passing this trial dogs are awarded the title Breed survey (Angekoert) which is valid for 2 years. After 2 years a breed survey for life has to be passed which leads to the permanent awarding of the title breed surveyed.

7. Breed show training (ring craft)

A ring is set up on the field and dogs have to be shown in different speeds so that they can be compared against the breed standard. A Breed grading can only be awarded in an official show with a breed judge present. A handler will be showing your dog while your job will be to attract your dog's attention so that it will be willing to walk towards you in different speeds required. Only dogs registered on the Federation breed register can be shown and bred with.

8. IPO

IPO formerly known as Schutzhund consists of the three parts of tracking, protection and obedience. Dogs have to be a minimum of 18 months old to be able to enter a trial. Tracking is taught through the year whenever the need arises that enough members want to start with it again. The protection work includes finding the helper in a hide, “hold and bark”, and transporting the helper in front of the dog to the judge. The obedience is an extended version of the BH which also includes a send-away and transporting a wooden dumbbell over a jump and an A-frame like structure. For more information please refer to your training supervisor.

9. Agility

In agility you teach your dog to maneuver through an obstacle course via hand signals. Obstacles include tunnels, weaving poles, see saws and jumps. Agility is open to all members that have passed the BH qualification and do not want to participate in IPO training due to dogs' abilities or time that has to be spent training. Agility is a fun way of keeping your dog stimulated and you will learn a different approach of teaching your dog with hand signals as well.

10. Other events

- **Beach walks**

Once a year the whole club takes your dogs together to the beach and socializes them in exercises on the beach. This is usually followed by a braai in one of the parking spots by the beach so that the humans can socialize afterwards as well.

- **Year end function**

In November of every year the club hosts the year end function to which all members and their families are invited. The food is catered for by the club and music is provided by one of our members who is a DJ. As an entry levy we require all members to bring some dog food or a tin of dog food which the club donates to one of the local animal shelters.

Rules during training hours for everyone's safety:

- **Safety first. Make sure that you are wearing appropriate shoes and clothing and that you have the correct gear for your dog (leash, collar or harness) so that you can manage your dog and avoid incidences between dogs.**
- **All Dogs and puppies should be kept on a leash except under direct supervision of one of the trainers.**
- **Always watch around you when handling your dog for other dogs and owners. Not every dog likes every other dog the same as not all people get along. Don't be disappointed if your dog doesn't get along with everyone else dogs. Socialization time is under supervision of the trainers that know the dogs and can handle the situation if the need arises.**
- **During protection work training all other dogs and puppies have to be put into trailers, vehicles or travel containers which are provided by the club. The dogs are very excited after the protection work, so make sure that they have a free path back to their vehicle.**
- **We encourage you to walk your dogs at the outskirts of the fields so they can relieve themselves before training. Carry packets with you so you can pick up their waste.**
- **Bitches in season have to be announced to the training supervisor before training starts and they have to train last after all other dogs have been worked. No bitches in season may enter the training field before all other dogs have worked.**
- **All dogs and puppies have to be up to date on their vaccinations including kennel cough. Proof of vaccinations has to be presented to the club secretary. Puppies are only permitted to training after their 3rd DHPPi vaccination including leptospirosis, rabies (DHPPi + L+R) and kennel cough (KC). Please notify your veterinarian that you require the kennel cough vaccination because of frequent exposure to other dogs at training as it is not included in the standard vaccinations.**
- **Please bring water, water bowl, treats and a toy, adequate collar and leash with you for training. If you are unsure which collar is suitable for your dog please consult with one of the committee members.**

- **You are welcome to bring guests and your children to the club, as we train in a family environment. We also have a jungle gym on the training grounds. Please teach your guests and children to not approach any of the other dogs without getting the permission of the owner in order to avoid accidents. Teach your children not to approach any of the dogs in the trailers or put their hands into the compartments. The trailers are a dog's protected space and it cannot be predicted how they might react.**
- **No alcohol is permitted to be consumed by people handling dogs during the training hours.**
- **Treats and toys are very important for training as the training is reward based. Don't expect your puppy to just work for you because it loves you. The bond between dog and owner develops during training.**
- **Please communicate any ideas or improvements you would suggest to one of the committee members. Feedback on the good and the bad is the only way that we can give you the best service. Let us know if you would like to get more in**
- **Lastly, enjoy training your dog and the time you spend together. Reward and praise your dog when he gets it right and don't get frustrated if he doesn't get it at first. Simply try again. Dog training is all about repetition and persistence.**

WELCOME TO ALGOA BAY CLUB!

