



Long Coats at Regional Shows

Long coat GSDs have been accepted for breeding and showing by the SV and WUSV since 2011 albeit on a separate register to short coats.

The British Regional Groups (BRG) in accordance with its aims run Regional Shows on rules based on those of the WUSV. The committee* of the BRG believe that it is necessary to provide an opportunity for exhibitors of long coats to enter these shows because:

- It is in accordance with the lead taken by the WUSV.
 - In turn this assists the GSDL with its duties as a member organisation of the WUSV.
- It improves the quality of long coats being shown and bred from by requiring health tests and surveys.
- It assists with the financial support of these shows.
- It allows long coat exhibitors to obtain SV gradings in the UK in support of showing abroad or obtaining a Koerung.

The BRG have no intention to schedule mixed classes of short and long coats.

Each year, the BRG committee review the events since the last review and discuss practical issues which have arisen together with the feedback from members of each Group and exhibitors generally.

At the BRG committee meeting on 13th October, 2013 no proposals were made specifically regarding long coats. A separate item was included, however, as part of the events review section. Additionally, the following correspondence was presented on the subject of long coats:

- E-Mail from David Payne subject "Serious Proposals to Improve "Regionals" by David Payne." This included a proposal that long coats should be judged before normal coats at all Regionals. It also contained a post script encouraging anyone who agreed with the proposals to copy them and e-mail them to the BRG or the Group which they are a member of. No such e-mails were received.
- Document from Sue Dooley containing feedback from 8 exhibitors some of whom show only long coats and some of whom show both coat types. The feedback covered the following aspects of long coats at Regionals
 - Exhibitors are happy that they are not segregated from other exhibitors – some felt that being judged first would be a backwards step (3) – others were in agreement (2) and others were ambivalent, seeing positive and negative aspects. (3)
 - The financial support that long coat exhibitors bring to Regionals and the fact that they pay the same entry fees.
 - A desire not to create a rift between exhibitors of both coat types who have the objective of breeding healthy dogs to the breed standard.

- A desire to be judged by the same judges as the short coats and have an opportunity to exhibit and obtain gradings under SV judges.
- Regionals being of great importance to them.
- Some discontent at those who want to separate long coats and yet are happy to sell long coat puppies.

The BRG committee took this correspondence into account along with feedback that representatives had received personally from Exhibitors and Group Members. Additionally, the practical aspects of scheduling classes to start at different times with the impact on id checking in and being able to reasonably predict what time normal coats would start judging was discussed.

The committee unanimously agreed that the real problem was the length of time judging of all classes takes. The BRG believe that, whilst some short coat exhibitors really do not want to watch long coats, most are happy to watch them or take the chance to prepare for their next class. The matter of reducing judging time was discussed – during 2013 this had been tackled in three ways – two rings running concurrently (West Yorks and Southern), one main ring with individuals for adults starting in a smaller ring (GSDL) and one ring with adults following puppies (Scottish Progressive and Midland). It was felt that the most successful timings were achieved by running two rings concurrently although it was acknowledged that this was difficult in particular for Scottish Progressive as their venue was a constraint but a single ring had not seemed to be a problem for them. It was agreed that a board at the entrance of the ring showing the order of judging would be helpful.

The matter of long coat individuals being carried out at the same time as short coat individuals was discussed as this seemed to cause some confusion for exhibitors. This method is how shows are organised in most European countries and is familiar to the SV judges. It was felt that over time this would become more expected and less confusing. The issue of handlers who were handling long coat and short coat exhibits had arisen at several of the 2013 shows and the handlers had been advised to present their short coat first and then their long coat.

The BRG are mindful that short coat exhibitors are in the majority but also that, at 18% of overall entries, the long coat exhibitors do make a significant contribution to the financial stability of Regional Events. On average long coat entry fees alone generate approximately £200 per show before any sponsorship or other purchases.

The BRG believes that the ongoing increase in entries at Regional Shows at a time when all other forms of shows are showing decline is encouragement that we are moving in the right direction and we will continue to endeavour to offer the best possible experience to all exhibitors in support of “a sound, healthy German Shepherd Dog, conforming to the breed standard and which is capable of achieving the minimum required to obtain a British Breed Survey pass”**

** The BRG committee consists of up to two representatives and one observer from each Member Group – each Member Group has one vote. The chairman of the committee is appointed by the GSDL. At the meeting on the 13th October, there were 10 representatives from all 8 groups plus the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Of those 13 people, 4 are currently showing LC and SC GSDs – all others currently show only SC GSDs.*

*** From the Objectives of the BRG as contained in its Rules and Regulations approved 26th November 2011.*