



Working German Shepherd & Dogsport Clubs of Australasia Incorporated

APPENDIX I

Dog aggression incidents at WGSDCA trials & sanctioned events

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1. POLICY PURPOSE & SCOPE

To describe the procedure following an observation of a dog initiating unprovoked aggression toward another dog or person/people during WGSDCA and/or Club Affiliate activities, such as, but not limited to trials, training, seminars, workshops, or other WGSDCA events.

2. UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION AT A WGSDCA TRIAL

2.1. If the Judge witnesses a dog demonstrating any unprovoked aggressive behaviour where an injury has occurred, or is likely to occur, toward any person or any other dog, the Judge must order that the dog concerned to be removed from the trial field and withdrawn from further trialling as per FCI IGP Rules:

- a) The Judge is to record the incident on their judging sheet for the dog concerned, remove all scores awarded up to the point of the incident the trial and make the following notation in the dog's scorebook: "Disqualified due to aggression".
- b) It is the duty of the Trial Secretary to confiscate the scorebook of the dog concerned and send it to the WGSDCA Admin of Records together with a written report detailing the incident within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the trial.

2.2. If an unprovoked aggressive behaviour is witnessed by any other person than the judge, then it is the duty of such person to report the incident to the Trial Secretary and Judge immediately.

- a) It is the Trial Secretary's duty to obtain witness statements and present these to the Judge.
- b) The Judge may at their discretion, order that the dog concerned, to be further assessed to enable a decision as to whether the dog should be removed from the trial field and withdrawn from further trialling. If the Judge concludes the dog has/is displayed unprovoked aggression, then such decision will be noted in their judge scoring sheet and the scorebook confiscated as detailed in 2.1.



3. UNPROVOKED AGGRESION AT OTHER WGSDCA EVENTS

- 3.1. If a dog demonstrates any unprovoked aggressive behaviour where an injury has occurred, or is likely to occur, toward any person or any dog, it shall be the duty of the person observing the event to report the incident to the person(s) in charge of the event immediately.
- 3.2. Upon notification of an incident, the person in charge must obtain written statements by the responsible person of the dog as well as witnesses to the incident and submit these to the WGSDCA Office within five (5) days of incident.

4. RESPONDING TO REPORTS OF UNPROVOKED DOG AGGRESSION & DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

- 4.1. Upon receipt of an incident report, the WGSDCA Board of Management shall:
 - a) Assemble a Hearing Committee within thirty (30) days of the incident. The Hearing Committee shall be represented by the WGSDCA Board of Management, a WGSDCA member from each of the WGSDCA Executive Clubs and appointed by the respective Executive Clubs. No member who has a direct interest in the reported dog shall be represented on the Hearing Committee.
 - b) Notify the responsible person of the reported dog within three (3) days of the receipt of the incident report; advise that they may submit a written statement within seven (7) days of being notified and that they may attend the Hearing to be held on this matter. Any failure of the responsible person of the dog to take advantage of the hearing and/or to provide statements is not to delay or invalidate the Hearing to be held.
 - c) Notify the person(s) involved in the incident that they may attend the Hearing. Any failure to attend the hearing is not to delay or invalidate the Hearing to be held.
- 4.2. The Hearing Committee will review the statements and report/s carefully to understand the nature of the incident. The Hearing Committee must give all parties involved a fair and just hearing. Based on the evidence and information presented, the Hearing Committee must decide:
 - a) If the reported dog is proven to have demonstrated unprovoked aggression; and in such case
 - b) Determine whether the reported dog should be suspended from WGSDCA trials, workshops, seminars and other sanctioned WGSDCA events for a period of six (6) months from the date of the Hearing.
 - c) The WGSDCA Secretary will in writing inform the involved parties about the decision as soon as practicable. In the case of suspension, the WGSDCA Secretary will notify the person responsible for the dog that they must surrender the dog's scorebook (if not already with the Administrator of Records) within seven (7) days of the Hearing.
- 4.3. In cases where a serious attack has occurred and caused injury, the Hearing Committee may ban the dog concerned from WGSDCA activities for life.
- 4.4. If a dog is reported and proven to have demonstrated unprovoked aggression a second time, the suspension period **will be twelve (12) months**. In case of a third incident of proven unprovoked aggressive behaviour, the dog will be ban from **all** WGSDCA activities for life.



5. APPEALS

- 5.1.** The owner and/or person responsible for the dog, or any other person witnessing the incident, may be entitled to lodge an appeal against the decision made by Judge or Hearing Committee within fourteen (14) days of their decision on the grounds that such decision was not supported by the information/evidence presented, or present further evidence in writing, to the WGSDCA. Failure to lodge an appeal within that period will cause the complaint to lapse.
- 5.2.** To appeal a decision, the Complaint Form available in the WGSDCA Appendix K “Member Protection Policy” must be completed and lodged with the associated fee to the WGSDCA Office.
- 5.3.** The Appeal shall be heard and determined by a panel of appointed competent members/persons independent of the Hearing Committee within thirty (30) days of the WGSDCA Office receiving the Complaint form.
- 5.4.** If the decision was to suspend the dog, then it will remain disqualified/suspended during the appeal.

6. DOGS SUSPENDED FOR PROVEN UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION

- 6.1.** During the period of suspension, the WGSDCA recommends that the dog be given remedial training by a professional trainer/qualified animal behaviourist.
- 6.2.** Training may be conducted at an affiliated Member Club subject to the Club being advised of the circumstances surrounding the suspension from WGSDCA Trials and sanctioned events. The Club has the right to reject the dog or to adjust the training regimen of the dog as appropriate.
- 6.3.** Where possible, a signed record of attendance at and after completion of corrective training, is to be provided to the WGSDCA Office.
- 6.4.** At the expiry of the suspension period, the dog may not be entered into any WGSDCA trials or sanctioned events until it has been assessed for aggressiveness by a panel of competent WGSDCA members and/or a professional trainer/qualified animal behaviourist. The owner of the dog may then apply for a BH-VT assessment as pursuant to FCI IGP Rules. Such application shall include a signed written statement of the remedial measures undertaken. A fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00), or as otherwise decided, must be paid to the WGSDCA prior to this assessment which is to be officiated by a WGSDCA Judge. The Judge is to recommend to the WGSDCA Office in writing whether:
 - a) The suspension/disqualification should be removed; or
 - b) The period of suspension/disqualification should be extended for a further period.



7. PROCEDURE CHECKLIST

The list below summarises the steps detailed above and which must be followed to ensure you have not missed anything:

- WGSDCA's foremost concern is the health, safety and wellbeing of the people and animals involved in a dog attack/act of unprovoked aggression. When informed of an attack or unprovoked act of aggression, the person in charge of the WGSDCA event is to first confirm the dog in question has been secured;
- Obtain the details of the dog/s involved (name, registration, scorebook);
- Identify witnesses (names, addresses, membership number if applicable);
- Obtain signed statements from all parties, including witnesses, in the form of Statutory Declarations;
- Submit the collected information to the WGSDCA Office.

8. DANGEROUS DOGS CONTROL LEGISLATION

- 1.1. The WGSDCA and its Club Affiliates support legislation which seeks to establish objective, behaviour based criteria for determining whether a dog represent a danger to its community. The WGSDCA support measures for management of dogs which are proven to be dangerous according to those criteria.
- 1.2. The WGSDCA support legislation which places responsibility on dog owners for the socialisation, training, containment and control of their dogs to ensure that they are not a danger to their communities.

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Description of Change	Author
1.0	25 Aug 2017	Initial Draft	WGSDCA BOM
2.0	20 November 2022	Inclusion of process, hearing and appeal.	WGSDCA BOM