

GSDCC Inc. Health and Genetics Committee

As the national breed club for Canada, the GSDCC has a responsibility to act as a guardian to the breed for future generations. Currently, the primary mission of the GSDCC refers to "breed improvement" including promoting and improving the breeding of purebred German Shepherd Dogs. Health and genetics are necessary components of working meaningfully towards this mission and these goals. In order to truly embrace its goals of breed improvement the GSDCC recognizes that it must include components of health and genetics in its education programs and in the information it provides to breeders, owners and the general public.

The formation of a viable health committee is a responsibility in which parent club leadership is not only required, but it is critical. In order to truly advance the interests of the German shepherd breed it is important for the GSDCC to acknowledge our breeds strengths and weaknesses and be totally committed to dealing responsibly with health issues.

This approach is consistent with the direction of breed parent clubs in both the USA and Canada.

A GSDCC Inc. health committee is intended to function not only as a public resource, but also as a clearing house for information related to health concerns as they pertain to the purebred German Shepherd.

HEALTH COMMITTEE MISSION/GOAL: The mission of a GSDCC Inc. Health committee would be dedicated to helping all GSD owners in understanding health issues that may affect the breed, with the goals of the committee aimed at helping GSD's live longer healthier lives by identifying health issues, recommending participation in health research studies and promoting education to improve the health of our dogs.

PROPOSED HEALTH COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES:

- Assist breeders to reduce genetic disease while breeding for good temperament and maintaining type
- Facilitate health and genetic research which benefits GSD's (by encouraging participation in breed health surveys and other activities)
- Educate breeders and owners about specific GSD health issues and current Canine health related research.
- Establish a breed health fund aimed at collecting funds in support of those institutions pursuing targeted research related to breed health problems.
- Draw up an overall health strategy
- Identify , recommend and write articles about health issues for the GSDCC website or newsletter.
- Organize health seminars for the National Specialty Show
- Monitor ongoing research efforts, GSD concerns and all other health and research matters that present technology is capable of addressing
- Identify health resources for breeders and owners, and provide a library of health information

- Liaise, maintain linkages and monitor important health related organizations including but not limited to: Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), University of PEI (UPEI), UPEI -CIDDD (canine inherited disease database), Canine Health Information Center (CHIC), OFA, CKC genetic and medical Committee, CKC foundation, CVMA, American German Shepherd Charitable Foundation (AGSDCF), OFA.

While these objectives are ambitious, they do provide a solid framework within which a GSDCC Health and Genetics committee can plan work for the future.

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Members: Lori Iverson, Angela Calvert, Joanna Kretowicz