



German Shepherd Dog Club Of America-Working Dog Association

## H U N D E G R A M

November 20, 2015

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Dear WDA Member:

As we approach the Thanksgiving holidays, the WDA Board of Directors and I wish (1) to thank you for your continued support of the WDA and, (2) to express our deep appreciation for your participation in WDA events and the use of WDA services. These events and services include hip and elbow certifications, as well as titling, show rating, and breed surveying your dogs. Your participation in these events and your use of these services that fully comply with SV breed standards and performance requirements, are the primary reasons for WDA's existence.

This past year has been very difficult, as the WDA and the GSDCA are engaged in litigation. The litigation arises from issues that are related to the hosting of the 2013 WUSV World Championship. Although insurance covers all of the litigation defense costs, the WDA must bear the expenses that are incurred in connection with the prosecution of its affirmative claims against the GSDCA. This is a very heavy financial burden which had resulted in the WDA losing its affirmative claims legal counsel about three months ago. WDA's affirmative claims are substantial, and things looked very grim on October 21, 2015, when the Court dismissed WDA's affirmative claims with prejudice because we did not have an attorney to prosecute those claims. On November 12, 2015, however, the Court reversed its position and changed its decision to a dismissal without prejudice. The Court explained its reversal by stating, "I [the Court] am convinced [that] I dismissed the case with prejudice by mistake." The WDA is very thankful to the Court for correcting its mistake and restoring the WDA's ability to pursue its claims against the GSDCA.

After the Court made the above ruling, the GSDCA requested a continuance of the trial that was set for November 17 to 20, 2015. The Court responded to GSDCA's request by taking the trial off the calendar. At this moment, there is no new trial date. We are not certain as to what the GSDCA plans to do in this matter; WDA, however, filed a motion for summary judgment earlier today that asks the Court to decide one of GSDCA's claims without the need for a trial.

WDA memberships are valid on a calendar basis from January 1 to December 31. Historically, the WDA begins its push for membership renewals just before the Thanksgiving holidays. This year, however, we will not do so because we are not certain as to whether we can continue to provide SV events and services in 2016. The WDA Board and I are hopeful that the WDA may continue to provide a legitimate United States forum in which German Shepherd Dogs may compete and be exhibited fairly in events that comply with the SV rules and

regulations. In this regard, your WDA Board has worked tirelessly for the past year to preserve benefits for our members. We will keep you informed on all developments.

Laws limit what information that the WDA can share without jeopardizing the attorney-client privilege. Hopefully, the information provided here will shed some light on what is happening with the WDA and will dispel much of the misinformation that is published.

Please feel free to contact the WDA Office or any of the WDA Board Members if you have further questions.

Best wishes from your Board Members for a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Dan