



Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.

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Test Regulations Character Assessment and SV Breeding Disposition Test (SV BDT) 2021 Version

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Preamble

SV has been breeding purebred dogs for over 125 years. Until now, however, there have been no records on impartiality, social behaviour, noise sensitivity, confidence with movement, play and prey instinct or the basic character of our breeding animals.

Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V. would like to start with a Breeding Disposition Test and first examine and classify every German Shepherd to be used for breeding in a character assessment. Trained character assessors objectively record the assessments, and the dog presented receives its assessment as an annex to the pedigree, analogous to the breed survey certificate.

The Test Regulations distinguish between two kinds of assessor within the meaning of the SV Judging Regulations:

1. Character assessors (CA)
2. Breeding Disposition Test assessors (BDTA)

It is possible for a person with the appropriate expertise to be appointed as a CA and as a BDTA for both activities.

An IGP test is not a substitute replacement for a character assessment.

General abbreviations used in these TR:

AI	=	Assessor instruction
BDTA	=	Breeding Disposition Test assessor
CA	=	Character assessor
LG	=	Federal group (Landesgruppe)
OG	=	Local group (Ortsgruppe)
SV	=	Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.
SV HO	=	SV Head Office
TR	=	Test regulations

A.) Character assessment

I. General

1) Preparation for the assessment

The federal groups shall assign the task of carrying out the character assessment to the local groups in November of the year prior to each assessment.

The OG shall inform the LG in advance of the appointment of a head assessor and an email address for the entries.

The dates shall be coordinated in the LG and assigned in agreement with the SV Head Office.

The assessors to be used shall be coordinated by the LG and appointed after consultation with the SV HO.

The nationwide dates of the character assessments shall be published in the SV Magazine (February) and on the SV Homepage along with the details of the assessor and head assessor.

Character assessments shall always be carried out in public.

2) Character assessors

Each CA shall arrive at the appointment with their own assistant, who actively accompanies the character assessment.

The SV HO has the possibility to send an additional character assessor to attend the appointment.

3) Procedure

For an objective, uniform assessment of character, it is necessary to carry out the entire procedure in a standardised manner and in the order of stations specified.

The order of the procedure and the nature of the equipment for all character assessments are therefore specified below.

Structure of the character assessment

1. Impartiality check
2. Social behaviour
3. Noise sensitivity
4. Confidence with movement
5. Play and prey instinct
6. Basic character

This is followed directly by a public discussion of the behaviour shown during the entire character assessment.

4) Requirements for participation

All German Shepherds registered in the SV breed registry or annex register or in a breed registry or annex register recognised by SV and which can be identified by a chip number are eligible to participate.

The participating dog must not be younger than nine months and not yet thirteen months old at the time of the character assessment.

The owner/handler is not required to be an SV member in order to participate in the character assessment.

Each handler is allowed to present a maximum of two dogs at each character assessment.

5) Minimum number of participants

The minimum number of participants is four dogs with four different handlers; the maximum number per day and assessor is twelve dogs. The same regulations apply as in the IGP area as far as the number of dogs per test day is concerned, i.e. twelve dogs each on Saturday or Sunday, and six dogs on Friday as a half-day.

6) Test days and registration

As a rule, test days should take place at the weekend and on public holidays. Friday tests may be applied for in conjunction with a Saturday.

Fridays may only be approved if more dogs are entered on Saturday than can be shown. The test may not start before 12:00 noon. The number of participants is limited to one half.

Half-days before weekday public holidays may not be approved.

The public holiday regulations of the respective federal states must be observed.

The closing date for entries 12:00 midnight at the end of the day on the Tuesday before the event. If the event does not take place on a weekend, the closing date shall be brought forward accordingly. The local group organising the event shall send the entry forms to the SV Breed Registry Office immediately after the closing date (on the following day).

The organiser must inform the assessor of the number of dogs entered.

The participants shall be published on SV-DOxS by the Breed Registry Office.

II. Equipment

The following equipment is to be kept available by the OG in charge of the character assessment.

- Assessment sheets, completely filled in.
- At the beginning of the assessment, the order of the dogs shall be determined. The fixed procedure shall be announced on a notice board.
- The handlers must wear a start number during the assessment.
- A public address system is to be provided by the OG in charge for public discussion of the dogs.

For the character assessment stations:

1. Impartiality check

- Chip reader
- Breed survey measurements
- Measuring plate
- Table to store the CA's documents

2. Social behaviour

- Ball on a ribbon, Bringsel with loop, chewing sausage etc. (to be brought by the handler)

3. Noise sensitivity

- Chainsaw (without blade)
- Chain (stable iron chain, approx. 150 cm)
- Sheet metal (approx. 100 x 100 cm)
- Alarm pistol 6 mm

4. Confidence with movement

- Wobble table (industrial pallet with a smooth surface (120 x 100 cm) with fixed 10 cm round timber in the middle, underneath the pallet)
- 6 standard beer garden tables
- Climbing aid (fixed beer garden table with non-slip base as a climbing aid)

5. Play and prey instinct

- A toy known to the dog (ball on a ribbon, chewing sausage etc.)
- Fruit crate made of perforated plastic or similar.
- Room with a smooth floor (tiled floor approx. 30 m²)
- Metal food bowl

6. Basic character

- Place where the dog can be secured (post, fence or tree, which must not be on the training grounds).
- 1.5 m leash (better: a thin steel chain with a carabiner)

III. Character assessment

1. Impartiality check

Exercise 1 - ID check

The handler reports with their dog on a leash to have its chip checked. The CA checks the dog's identity by means of a chip reader.

The CA records and describes the dog's behaviour during the identification check.

Exercise 2 - Dental check

The handler shows the dog's teeth to the CA or their representative. It is, of course, also possible to delegate the active part of the dental check to the CA or their representative.

In this case, the CA records and describes the dog's behaviour during the dental check. The dental status is not entered in the assessment sheet and the result is not recorded.

Exercise 3 - Measurement on platform

The handler leads their dog on to the platform. The dog must stand freely and unrestrained. The handler is permitted to hold the dog.

The CA or their representative measures the height at withers and the depth of chest. These values are not recorded.

If the dog is male, the testicles are also checked.

The CA records and describes the dog's behaviour during the measurement and the testicle check, the latter of which is obligatory for male dogs.

2. Social behaviour

Exercise 4 - Dog/handler relationship

The handler approaches the assistant standing alone at a distance of about 15 metres. The handler unleashes their dog on command and moves casually with the dog. Voice commands

to call the dog are permitted.

The dog's bond with its handler is recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 5 - Behaviour in a group of people

After exercise 4, the dog is called by its handler and leashed. The handler hands over their dog to the assistant on a leash and moves away behind the group of at least eight people. On command, the dog is called by its handler. The assistant unleashes the dog and releases it.

The dog should move happily and directly through the group to its handler. The handler then moves casually through the moving group with their dog still following freely.

The dog's behaviour is recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 6 - Encounter with an unknown dog

For this exercise, the next team should be at the ready.

The handler walks their dog on a leash to the left past an unknown dog two times at a distance of about 3 metres. The other dog is also on a leash.

The CA records and describes the dog's behaviour during the encounters with the unknown dog.

3. Noise sensitivity

Exercise 7 - Noise source: chainsaw, without blade

The handler goes to a designated position and remains there with the dog on a leash. The assistant walks neutrally around the dog at a distance of about 4 metres with a motor (chainsaw without blade) running at different speeds and then switches off the motor and place it on the ground if necessary. The handler then goes with their dog to the source of the noise.

The dog's behaviour in relation to the noise source is recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 8 - Noise source: chain

The handler goes to a designated position (about 5 metres away from a metal base) and remains there with their dog on a loose leash. The dog faces the CA. The assistant should

have previously positioned a chain in such a way that it falls on to a sheet metal plate on command. As soon as the chain has fallen, the handler and their dog go directly towards the source of the noise. Verbal assistance during the approach by the handler is permitted.

The dog's behaviour in relation to the chain as a noise source is recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 9 - Shot sensitivity

The handler takes the dog on a leash to a designated position and stays there. The dog must remain standing on a loose leash with its handler.

The assistant fires two shots with a 6 mm alarm pistol at an interval of 5 seconds.

The dog's behaviour in relation to the shot as a noise source is recorded and described by the CA.

4. Confidence with movement

Exercise 10 - Wobble table

The handler goes with their dog on a leash to the prepared wobble table, which consists of an industrial pallet with a smooth surface. The dog should stand freely on the pallet on a loose leash.

The assistant moves the pallet with their feet accordingly.

The dog's confidence with movement and motor skills are recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 11 - Target on wobble table

After exercise 10, the dog is offered its motivational object by the handler. The object was given to them by the assistant at the beginning of the exercise.

The assistant moves the pallet in the same way as in exercise 10.

The CA records and describes how intensively and with what motor skills the dog engages with its motivational object under stress.

Exercise 12 - Climbing/height sensitivity

The handler goes with their dog on a leash to the stairway. The handler leads their dog on a loose leash up the stairway on to the arranged tables (total length of the set-up, without stairway, L-shaped: 5 tables, approx. 11 metres, width of tables approx. 70 cm, 10 cm gap in front of last table). When the dog reaches the end, it turns and goes back.

The dog may jump off or be carried. During the exercise only verbal assistance is permitted.

The dog's behaviour with regard to its motor skills and lack of sensitivity to height is recorded and described by the CA.

5. Play and prey instinct

Exercise 13 - Play with the handler

The handler goes with their dog on a leash to the designated position near the assistant. The assistant gives the motivational object to the handler.

The dog is taken off leash and the handler plays with their dog.

The CA records and describes the intensity of the dog's play with its handler.

Exercise 14 - Play with the assistant

After exercise 14, the handler throws the motivational object to the assistant.

The assistant motivates the dog to play with them. The assistant may also moderately block the motivational object. The assistant gives the dog the opportunity to bite and, after briefly preying with the motivational object, leaves it to the dog.

The CA records and describes the intensity of the dog's play with the assistant.

Exercise 15 - Inclination as a retriever

The dog is handed over to the assistant on a leash at the designated place.

The handler goes with their motivational object to the prepared, fixed vegetable crate and places the motivational object under it. The motivational object must be completely covered by the crate.

The handler goes to the assistant to get the dog back.

The dog is taken off leash and released by the handler. Verbal aids are not permitted.

The CA records and describes the intensity of the dog's efforts to get the motivational object.

Exercise 16 - Confidence with movement on a smooth surface

The handler goes with their dog on a leash into the prepared clubhouse. A firm, smooth floor (e.g. tiles, laminate) is mandatory.

The handler moves through the room with their dog off leash following the CA's commands. In this phase, background noise is produced by dropping a metal food bowl.

The dog's confidence with movement, boldness and motor skills are recorded and described by the CA.

Exercise 17 - Play and prey instinct on a smooth surface

The handler plays with their dog briefly on command and throws the motivational object into a concealed corner of the clubhouse. They then release the dog on command.

When the dog has found the object, the handler takes it from the dog and hands it to the assistant. The assistant briefly motivates the dog, held by the handler, to play and hides the object in a concealed, not freely accessible place in the clubhouse.

As soon as the assistant is back with the handler, the handler releases the dog.

The intensity of playing and searching for the motivational object is recorded and described by the CA.

6. Basic character

Exercise 18 - Behaviour when left alone

After exercise 17, the handler goes with their dog on a leash to the designated position (not on the exercise grounds), ties their dog to a leash about 1.50 metres long and leaves the area.

The handler must be out of sight. No other people may be in the dog's field of vision.

After the dog has been left alone for at least five minutes, the CA moves neutrally towards the dog, passes it neutrally and returns to their basic position.

The handler collects their dog when instructed and puts its leash back on.

The CA records and describes the behaviour of the dog left alone.

The CA then publicly discusses the behaviour shown throughout the character assessment.

If the CA terminates the character assessment in the dog's best interest, the CA must document this on the assessment sheet and submit it to the SV HO.

Termination in the dog's best interest may also take place in the event of injury or illness of the dog. It is at the discretion of the CA to terminate the character assessment.

The dog may then be presented at the next possible appointment.

If the dog is older than 13 months, the assessment may be repeated within three months without any special permission. Repeating at a later date requires special permission from the Breed Registry Office, which is subject to a fee.

IV. Assessment documents

Each participant receives an assessment sheet and, if desired, a certificate after successful completion of the character assessment.

The character assessor enters the character assessment into the pedigree. If participation was successful, an additional stamp is placed on the first page of the pedigree. The results must be reported by the assessor to the Breed Registry within seven days. The results are published in SV-DOxS by the Breed Registry.