

Congratulations on your new



German Shorthaired Pointer!



The German Shorthaired Pointer

(Excerpted from *The AKC Complete Dog Book*)

The German Shorthaired Pointer combines in field-dog requirements those qualities which have long popularized the various breeds of hunting dogs. So successfully have keen scenting powers, linked with high intelligence, been fused into the breed through judicious crossing of the old Spanish Pointer, English Foxhound, German tracking hound, and English Pointer, so varied this dog's field accomplishments, that its adaptability has earned it the reputation of being an all purpose dog.

It is indeed rare to find wrapped up in one package a staunchly pointing bird dog, a keen-nosed night trailer, a proven duck dog, a natural retriever on land and water, pleasing conformation and markings, great powers of endurance and an intelligent family watchdog and companion. Indicative of this dog's versatility is its successful work on pheasant, quail, grouse, partridge, woodcock, duck, rabbit, coon and possum. It is also used to trail and handle deer. With a water repellent coat and webbed feet, it retrieves well from rough terrain and icy waters.

This magnificent utility dog combines these virtues with good looks, sound temperament and longevity, making the German Shorthaired Pointer a favorite with sportsmen everywhere.

Breed Characteristics

The German Shorthaired Pointer is especially admired for its temperament and trainability. This breed makes an outstanding family companion, relating well to children, your friends who come to visit, and other dogs. The typical Shorthair is outgoing but not aggressive, although he certainly will let the world know when a stranger knocks on your door. He is anxious to please and responds well to consistent training both in the home and in the field where he shines as an upland game finder, stylish pointer, and retriever.

Keep in mind that the German Shorthaired Pointer is an athlete. Although he adapts readily to almost any living situation, he needs consistent exercise to keep in condition and to burn off excess energy. The natural exuberance of a young Shorthair can make him difficult to live with if he is kept confined and not exercised. Shorthairs bond readily to the family and can show separation anxiety if left alone for long periods. It is strongly recommended that owners crate-train house dogs so that they may be left alone. Otherwise, an owner runs the risk of finding significant destruction upon returning home.

German Shorthaired Pointers, in addition to their use as hunting companions, have acquitted themselves admirably in the show ring, in field and obedience trials, in search and rescue work, in drug and bomb detection, in agility competition, and as therapy dogs.

Care and Feeding

Regular veterinary care and proper feeding are vital to your dog's health. Yearly DHLPP vaccinations, rabies shots, a monthly heart worm preventative regimen, and in many parts of the country a Lyme Disease

vaccination, should not be neglected. Proper nutrition is easily maintained by feeding a high quality dry dog food available in most feed stores and grocery stores. Puppies should stay on a growth formulation for the first year. After that, your dog's food may be changed to an adult maintenance diet. If he is in a stress situation (hunting, field trialing, or rigorous training) he should be on a performance diet with higher protein and fat content.

Fresh water should be available at all times. The availability of today's well balanced dog food precludes the addition of table scraps, cottage cheese, oil, vitamins and mineral supplements.

Above all, DO NOT OVERFEED. Remember that your athletic breed should be hard muscled and lean. Fat dogs die younger than well conditioned dogs. With proper care, the average Shorthair will have a life expectancy of 12 to 16 years.

Training

Basic obedience training is an essential part of responsible dog ownership. It quickly establishes a bond between you and your Shorthair and makes him a joy to live with. In urban areas, there are obedience clubs which offer training classes, starting with very young dogs and working up to advanced courses for the serious obedience competitor. If courses are unavailable in your locality, there are many books and video tapes on the subject available at your local library. Consistency and repetition are the keys to success in this training.

If you plan to hunt your Shorthair, basic obedience training forms the base from which you will work to bring your dog to higher performance levels.

Responsible Dog Ownership

A key part of your responsibility as the owner of a German Shorthaired Pointer is to make sure that your dog is not only trained, but supervised. If left outside, your Shorthair should be in a fenced yard or kennel run, not roaming the neighborhood. Loose dogs run the risk of being hit by vehicles, causing accidents, annoying your neighbors, or even being stolen.

Your dog should always be on lead when walking with you unless you are hunting or training. In urban and suburban areas, the responsible owner never fails to curb and pick up after his dog.

Breeding

Before you contemplate using your dog at stud, or breeding your bitch, remember that not all dogs should be bred, especially those with genetic problems or disqualifying faults. You should at least certify your dog free of hip dysplasia by x-raying the hips at two years of age and receiving OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) certification.

Unless you plan to show or breed your dog, the best thing you can do from a health standpoint is to spay her or castrate him. Neutering dramatically reduces the chance of prostate cancer and eliminates testicular cancer in

males. Uterine cancer in spayed females will be eliminated, and the incidence of deadly breast cancer in females is markedly reduced if spayed before her first season.

You may still participate in AKC field trials, hunting tests and obedience and tracking trials with an altered dog. Breeding is a serious responsibility and should be undertaken by those with long-standing experience in the breed, not by novices. A decision to breed should come only after considerable thought about whether the breeding is going to contribute to maintaining or improving the German Shorthaired Pointer breed.

German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America

The German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America, with over 2,000 members, is the official representative of the German Shorthaired Pointer to the American Kennel Club. The organization is dedicated to the welfare of the breed and sponsors numerous national events designed to help bring the Shorthair's natural qualities to perfection. Events include National Field Championships, a National Specialty Show, a National Obedience Trial and a National Hunting Test, as well as both National Field and Show Futurities.

In addition, the GSPCA publishes breed information, *The Shorthair Journal*, which is included in the annual membership fee. The GSPCA also sponsors educational seminars, judging seminars, genetic surveys

and supports an active breed rescue group. The diverse GSPCA membership includes those involved in field trials, conformation shows, obedience and tracking trials, breeding, hunting, therapy dogs, and those people who simply love their dogs and keep them solely as lifetime family companions.



Join the GSPCA

Complete the membership application for the GSPCA below and mail it as directed on the form.

German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America Membership Application

Includes a subscription to the Shorthair Journal

Print Name _____

Print Complete Home Address _____
Street Address City State Zip plus 4

Phone Number: () _____ Email _____ May we contact you by email? ___Yes ___No

Occupation _____ Are you interested in sharing your talents on a Committee or for and Event? ___Yes ___No

Interests: *(Please check all that apply)* ___Show ___Field Trial ___Hunt Test ___Agility ___Obedience ___Tracking ___Rescue _____Other

How long have you owned a GSP? _____ Have you ever bred a GSP litter? _____

Please list any other dog clubs to which you belong: _____

Have your privileges with the American Kennel Club or your membership in any other dog club ever been refused, suspended or revoked? _____

How did you hear about the GSPCA? ___I'm a former member ___GSPCA Web site ___AKC Web site _____Other

Referred by _____

Membership year is from January 1 through December 31. All payments must be in US funds.

Individual: \$37 (Canada and foreign \$50)
One person over 18 (1 vote)

Family: \$42 (Canada and foreign \$55)
Two people over 18 at same address (2 votes)

Junior (Non-voting): \$10
One person under 18

I hereby apply for membership in the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America and enclose my dues. If accepted as a member, I agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the GSPCA, the GSPCA Code of Ethics, and the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club of which the GSPCA is a Member Parent Club.

Check enclosed or bill my VISA or MasterCard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Date _____ Applicant's Signature _____

Mail completed form with dues to:

Cynthia McCracken
GSPCA Membership
3026 Tidwell Road
Burke TX 75941-6173

For additional information, contact:

Cynthia McCracken at
Phone: 814-467-3521
email: membership@gspca.org