



Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.

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Implementing Regulations for Character Assessments

of Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.

2021 Version

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. General	2
II. The procedure	2
III. Technical equipment (administration)	2
IV. Preparation	2
V. Equipment	2
VI. Implementing Regulations/ procedure for the categories	2
VII. Termination of character assessment	4

I. GENERAL

Changes and additions

These Implementing Regulations for Character Assessments set out all the rules and regulations which are not stipulated in the Test Regulations.

The SV Executive Board is responsible for changes and adaptations to these Implementing Regulations for Character Assessments in cooperation with the Character Assessment Officer and with the approval of the Breeding Committee.

II. THE PROCEDURE

- The order of the stations must be strictly adhered to.

III. TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT (ADMINISTRATION)

- The local group must have a computer with Windows 10 and a printer available to process the character assessment.
- The software and the data on the participants and dogs will be made available by the HO after the closing date for entries.

IV. PREPARATION

- It is possible for the federal groups to add additional assessors or appointments at short notice if necessary.

V. EQUIPMENT

The procedure for all categories is described in the Implementing Regulations (see Chapter VI).

Category 1 - Impartiality

Category 2 - Social behaviour

Category 3 - Noise sensitivity

Category 4 - Confidence with movement

- Height sensitivity 6 standard beer garden tables 220 cm long, 75 cm high and approx. 70 cm wide. The tables may be fixed individually to the ground with pegs or U-irons if they are not stable enough.



Category 5 - Play and prey instinct

- Fruit crate made of perforated plastic or similar, at least 2, preferably 4 pegs to fix the crate.



Category 6 - Play under stress

Category 7 - Basic character

VI. IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS/PROCEDURE FOR THE CATEGORIES

The current regulations for the procedure to be followed during a character assessment are described below.

- Character assessments are generally held as outdoor events.
- In general, the adjectives used for all categories must always be questioned as to:
- What genetic relevance is to be assessed with each individual exercise,
- and how can this assessment take place,
- in order to then define it in terms of the context used as well as the significance within this context.
- The adjectives must be selected from a pre-defined list. A maximum of 2 to 3 adjectives per category are to be used by the assessor.

No additional descriptions about the dog, other than, for example, a possible illness, are allowed in the comments field.

Category 1 - Impartiality check Exercises 1 to 3

The dog should allow itself to be touched by its handler on various parts of the body and also by a stranger, e.g. the assessor or the officer.

Exercise 1 - ID check

- Dogs whose ID number cannot be determined by the chip reader may not participate in the character assessment.

Termination for this reason will be considered as non-participation.

Exercise 2 - Dental check

- The leashed dog should stand freely and at ease.

Exercise 3 - Measurement on platform

Category 2 - Social behaviour Exercises 4 to 6

In this category, the dog's interactions with people, both in a group of people and with a single person, as well as an encounter with other dogs, are judged.

Exercise 4 - Dog/handler relationship

Exercise 5 - Behaviour in a group of people

Exercise 6 - Encounter with an unknown dog

Category 3 - Noise sensitivity Exercises 7 to 9

In this category, the dog is exposed to different acoustic stimuli, such as the noise sources motor, rattling – in which a chain falls on to a metal sheet – and, as the highest stress level, the shot test.

Exercise 7 - Noise source: chainsaw, without blade

- The handler goes to a designated position (approx. 15 metres from the noise source) and remains there with their dog on a loose leash (the dog must stand calmly). The dog must look towards the character assessor (not towards the noise source).
- Minimal verbal assistance is allowed when the handler approaches the noise source.

Exercise 8 - Noise source: chain

Exercise 9 - Shot sensitivity

- The dog must remain standing on a loose leash with its handler. (The dog must stand quietly.)
- The dog stands facing the character assessor.
- Two shots are to be fired from a blank pistol (6 mm) at a distance of about 15 paces at intervals of 5 seconds; the dog must remain indifferent.

Category 4 - Confidence with movement Exercises 10 to 12

In this category, the dog is judged on its confidence with movement and willingness to play under increased stress (wobble table) as well as confidence with movement (sensitivity to height).

Exercise 10a - Climbing on to the wobble table

Exercise 10b - Stable position on the wobble table

- First, the motivational object is handed over to the handler by the officer, if possible, without attracting the dog's attention.
- The surface must not be prepared (see Category 4 Equipment).
- The dog is not permitted to assume a sitting position.

Exercise 11 - Target on wobble table

- At the end of exercise 10b, the handler gives the motivational object back to the officer.

Exercise 12 - Climbing/height sensitivity

- The tables must stand firmly on the ground. If they are not sufficiently stable on the ground, they can be fixed individually, e.g. with a U-iron. Non-slip pads or similar, e.g. coatings on the tables, are not permitted with the exception of the stairs.
- A gap of approximately 10 cm must be left between tables 4 and 5.

Category 5 - Play and prey instinct, part 1 Exercises 13 to 15

Here, the focus is on the dog's play with its owner, or how the dog plays with a stranger (the officer) and how intense the dog is with the blocked prey (inclination as a retriever).

Exercise 13 - Play with the handler

Exercise 14 - Play with the officer (assistant)

Exercise 15 - Inclination as a retriever

- The handler motivates their dog to play, then goes with its motivational object to the prepared, fixed vegetable crate, which lies at a distance of approximately 15 m, and places the motivational object under it.
- After the motivational object is placed, the crate must be fixed again by the handler with all pegs.

Category 6 - Behaviour under stress (smooth surface) Exercises 16 and 17

Here, the focus is on the expression of the dog's motor skills on a smooth surface as well as on playing, retrieving and resistance to noise in an enclosed space with a smooth surface (willingness to play, insensitivity to noise, posture, expression).

Exercise 16a - Confidence with movement on a smooth surface

Exercise 16b - Noise

Exercise 17a - Play and prey instinct on a smooth surface

Exercise 17b - Inclination as a retriever

Category 7 - Being left alone and encounter Exercise 18

How does the dog behave when left alone and tethered and how does it react when encountering a stranger.

Exercise 18a - Behaviour when left alone

Exercise 18b - Encounter

VII. TERMINATION OF CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Illness:

If the character assessor terminates the character assessment in the dog's best interest in the case of injury or illness, the character assessor must document this on the assessment sheet (comment field) and submit it to the SV HO. An illness of the dog through no fault of the handler may also not be noticed until between divisions during the test. Veterinary certificates are not accepted in this case. It always at the discretion of the character assessor to terminate the character assessment in the dog's best interest.

Pedigree entry:

Terminated due to illness, page 4. Do not stamp page 1. The assessment will be considered not to have been participated in. Once the dog has recovered, two repeats are possible. The dog may then be presented at the next possible appointment. If the dog is older than 13 months at that time, a repeat is possible within three months without special permission. Repeating at a later date requires special permission from the Breed Registry Office, which is subject to a fee.

Overexertion:

If the character assessor terminates the character assessment in the dog's best interest (e.g. due to overexertion), the character assessor must document this on the assessment sheet and submit it to the SV HO.

Pedigree entry:

Termination due to overexertion, page 4. Do not stamp page 1. The character assessment is counted as one of two possibilities.

Fear, aggression, shot:

If the character assessment has been terminated due to fear, aggression or shot, only one repeat is possible.

Pedigree entry:

Document reason for termination on page 4. Do not stamp page 1.

Disqualification:

In case of an intention to cheat, e.g. carrying motivational objects, food etc. during the assessment, the assessor must exclude the competitor from the remainder of the assessment by disqualification due to unsportsmanlike conduct. This character assessment counts as one of the two possible character assessments.

Pedigree entry:

Document reason for disqualification on page 4. Do not stamp page 1.