

Starting a New German Shorthaired Pointer Club

Newly formed German Shorthaired Pointer clubs should always contact the parent club before contacting the AKC. Parent clubs can be extremely helpful to a new club. Local specialty clubs **serve the interests of a single breed on a local level**. Clubs may be eligible to hold shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, and performance events approved for German Shorthaired Pointers.

What Makes a Good Club?

Whatever type of club you are considering, we've found that every effective dog club:

1. Is composed of members who love purebred dogs and their sport and can work together to serve the best interests of the dogs and the sport.
2. Operates under an approved constitution and bylaws spelling out the orderly and democratic conduct of club business. The AKC Club Relations Department will provide you with their approved sample.
3. Has members who reside in a relatively compact geographic area, and hold events in their area which promote the sport and purebred dogs.

Basic Club Policies

A word of caution:

If you and your fellow enthusiasts seek to establish a new club where none currently exists, we will be happy to help you make it a reality. However, we cannot encourage the establishment of a new club if there is an existing club of the same type in the same area. Dissatisfaction with an existing club should not be the reason to form a similar club.

Membership:

The minimum membership requirement ranges from 15 to 30 local households, depending on the type of club. Local membership must constitute the majority of club members.

Geographic Range or Territory:

There is no specified mileage radius; each club is evaluated on its own merits and circumstances. We recognize that in densely populated areas there may be a need for more clubs, while in sparsely populated areas more territory may be suitable.

Continuity:

We expect prospective new clubs to demonstrate ongoing viability by establishing a record of meetings, elections and activities before going to the AKC for accreditation. Clubs should provide a detailed account of fun events and activities, documented with flyers, catalog covers, newsletters, programs, etc.

Club Name:

Your club's name should identify your geographic center of activity. The best rule of thumb: Would it be easily recognizable to fanciers in other parts of the country? We strongly suggest you receive written approval of the name from AKC Club Relations before the club incorporates or prints letterhead.

Event Sites:

Every club must have a suitable site for its events in its local area.

Organization

The first step is to hold an organizational meeting. Try to contact all GSP owners in your proposed area who may want to become involved. You may want to place an ad in your local paper. The catalogs for all-breed shows list the exhibitors' names and addresses. Ask your local all-breed clubs about announcements at their shows or meetings. At the first meeting we suggest you do the following:

- Select temporary officers. For starters, all you really need is someone to chair meetings, and someone to take minutes.

- Decide on a meeting schedule and location.
- Choose someone to keep records of the club's development. This is very important because the AKC's evaluation of your club will focus on the records your club submits. You may want to designate this person as AKC Liaison. (Note: Always keep copies of club records. Clubs have unfortunately lost valuable records due to floods, fires, individuals moving, etc.).
- Set up a program of activities. These should reflect your efforts to assist fanciers and promote the sport and responsible dog ownership.
- Code of Ethics. The AKC and the GSPCA do not require a specific code of ethics, but do expect all clubs and members to behave ethically at all times. If your club adopts a code of ethics, it should be used as an educational tool, and should not be tied to the disciplinary section of the bylaws. It is our experience that when bylaws and codes of ethics are linked, clubs become needlessly involved in disputes that have nothing whatsoever to do with the welfare of the club or the sport.

AKC Accreditation

After holding meetings and activities for one year, your club will be eligible to apply for accreditation at the AKC, and to be approved for the holding of sanctioned match shows, and/or trials and tests. A presentation should be sent to the Club Relations Department, and should include the following information:

1. An outline of the club's development and history, including a list of meetings, elections, and activities.
2. A list of "fun" matches, field trials or hunt tests, including dates, sites, and number of entries.
3. A list of voting (regular and household) members' names and addresses, with the letter designations "B" (Breeder -- someone who has registered a litter within the past three years); "E" (Exhibitor -- someone who has entered an AKC-licensed event within the past two years), If you are applying for more than one type of competition the different types of exhibitors must be designated; "DO" (interested Dog Owner -- someone who, although not actively breeding or exhibiting, is a dog owner and active in the club); or "J" (AKC-licensed judge). The breed of dog owned should also be indicated, as well as the year in which each person joined the club. Individual breeding and exhibiting records are not required.
4. A list of club officers with addresses and daytime telephone numbers.
5. The New Club Profile Form (if not previously submitted).
6. A copy of the club's constitution and bylaws. If the sample bylaws provided by AKC are closely followed, little additional work will be necessary. If state laws require additional or different language please submit a copy of the applicable statute.

Basic Requirements for a Club holding only Field Events

Club Name: Your club name must include the name of the breed it will. The name must also provide a description of the club's area. Avoid unusual names that would be familiar only to your members.

Minimum Membership: Again, requirements will vary, but generally 15 local households is the accepted minimum. Each club is reviewed on its own merits. Members should be concentrated within a reasonable distance of the club's stated area of activity.

One Year Existence: A club must have been in existence for at least one year before we will consider a request for accreditation. During this time the club should have elected officers and held several "fun" events, in addition to its monthly meetings.

Splinter Groups: We cannot recognize a second club that is formed as a splinter or dissident group from an existing club.

Initial Documentation

In order to place your club on our records, the club should supply us with the following information:

- A complete club history, indicating when the club was organized, a list of events and activities, including those held under the auspices of other organizations.
- An officers list with daytime telephone numbers and email addresses
- A current membership list of all voting members (regular and household), with the complete home address of each member, and designation of their interest in the sport. The breed of dog each member owns as well as the year each member joined the club.

Any member who has handled a dog they own in the previous two years should be identified by the type of event entered. These need not be AKC-sanctioned or licensed events. However, please indicate the sanctioning body, e.g., NGSPA. The appropriate designations are:

FT - Field Trials

HT - Hunting Tests

Other designations should include:

B - Any member who has registered a litter with the AKC in the past three years.

O - A member who owns one or more AKC-registered dogs, but is not actively participating in the sport.

J - An AKC-licensed judge (in the corresponding event).

You should also indicate those members who have placed AKC titles on their dogs.

- A copy of the constitution and bylaws under which the club is governed. A sample is available from AKC Club Relations.
- Running grounds and facilities should be described in detail, including terms of the lease or agreement for the use of the land. Photographs are very helpful.

When AKC accreditation has been received, copies of the documentation sent to AKC and a copy of the letter from AKC should be sent to the GSPCA Secretary with a request to become a GSPCA Member Club and the club's dues (\$125) for the first year. Provide Membership and Officer lists to the GSPCA Secretary and Membership Chairperson. You must be a member of the GSPCA and be licensed by the AKC before you can have an event that offers points or qualification toward an AKC title.