



GSSCC

Character Assessment Test (CA)
(January 2025)

Table of Contents

1. GENERAL.....	3
a. Preparation for the assessment.....	3
b. Character assessors.....	3
c. Procedure	3
d. Requirement for participation.....	3
2. EQUIPMENT	4
3. ASSESSMENT	5

General abbreviations used in these regulations:

AA	Assessor Assistant (Trained/experienced member)
C- A	Character Assessment/ Character Assessor (GSSCC Judge)
GSSCC	German Shepherd Schutzhund Club of Canada
TR	Testing Regulations

GSSCC implements these regulations for the examination and classification of each German Shepherd Dog's character for breeding. Starting January 2028, it will be a requirement for a GSSCC/WUSV breed survey. Licensed character assessor judges objectively record the assessments, and the dog presented receives an assessment added into GSSCC 360:

Character Assessors (C-A)

It is possible for a judge with the appropriate expertise and following training to be appointed as a C-A. An IGP test is not a substitute replacement for a character assessment.

1. Must be an existing GSSCC performance judge
2. Must attend an in person or zoom meeting with an already licensed WB or CA judge to review the required exercises and judging sheets
3. After the in person/zoom meeting, must shadow a judge performing WB or CA assessment with a minimum fifteen (15) dogs assessed and have their all their assessments marked for pass or fail.

Assessor Assistant (AA)

It is possible for a certified helper, experienced helper, experienced trainer and/or handler be appointed as an AA

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

1. GENERAL

a. Preparation for the assessment

The request for character assessment, date and assessor must be submitted through GSSCC360 the same as a trial or breed show. Character assessments shall always be carried out in public.

b. Character assessors

Each C-A shall arrive at the appointment with their own assessor assistant, or an AA can be appointed by the hosting club. This assistant must be experienced (certified helper or helper training or experienced handler/competitor) which will actively accompany the character assessor. Character Assessors can conduct Character Assessment events at their own club.

c. Procedure

For an objective, uniform assessment of character, it is necessary to carry out the entire procedure in a standardized manner and in the order of specified stations. The order of the procedure and the nature of the equipment for all character assessments are therefore specified below.

Structure of the character assessment:

- i Impartiality check
- ii Social behavior
- iii Noise sensitivity
- iv Instinct to search
- v Confidence with movement
- vi Play and prey instinct

d. Requirement for participation

All German Shepherds registered in GSSCC360 or in a breed registry recognized by the GSSCC and which can be identified by a chip number or tattoo are eligible to participate.

Participating dogs 10 months to 24 months old is \$30.00 CND per dog.
Dogs 24 months and up - \$50.00 CND.

The owner/handler must be a member of the GSSCC or a member of a WUSV organization in order to participate in the character assessment.

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

e. Minimum number of participants

The minimum number of participants is four dogs with four different handlers; the maximum number per day and assessor is sixteen dogs.

f. Test days and registration

Same as trials as per GSSCC rule book

2. EQUIPMENT

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

- Assessment sheets pre-filled in.
- At the beginning of the assessment, the order of the dogs shall be determined. The fixed procedure shall be announced.
- The handlers must wear a start number during the assessment.
- A public address system is desirable for public discussion of the dogs but not required.

For the character assessment stations the following equipment is required:

- a. Impartiality check:
 - Chip reader
 - Breed survey measurement stick
 - Measuring platform
 - Table to store the C-A 's documents
- b. Social behavior
 - i Ball on a rope, tug, etc. (to be brought by the handler)
- c. Noise sensitivity
 - i Chainsaw(no blade)
 - ii Noise – chain and steel plate
 - iii Starter pistol 6 mm
- d. Confidence with movement
 - i Wobble table (industrial pallet with a smooth surface (4 feet x4 feet) with fixed 4 inch by 4-inch timber in the middle, underneath the pallet).
 - ii 4 Solid tables (picnic style).
 - iii Platform leading up to picnic table
- e. Natural Retrieve
 - i. Hard plastic box with large holes in it (shopping basket)- driveway marker

3. ASSESSMENT

a. ID check (microchip/tattoo)

The handler reports with their dog on a leash to have its chip checked. The W-B checks the dog's identity by means of a chip reader. The C-A records and describes the dog's behavior during the identification check.

b. Dentition/testicle check

The handler shows the dog's teeth to the C-A or their representative as well as check the testicles (males). It is, of course, also possible to delegate the active part of the dental check to the C-A or their representative. In this case, the C-A records and describes the dog's behavior during the dental check. The dental status is not entered in the assessment sheet and the result is not recorded.

c. Measuring

The handler leads their dog onto the platform. The dog must stand freely and not restrained. The handler is permitted to hold the dog. The W-B 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 C-A records and describes the dog's behavior during the measurement and the testicle check (which is a MUST for male dogs).

d. Relationship with handler on line (walking around area inside fence, rope or isolated area)

The handler with the dog on leash approaches the assistant standing alone at a distance of about 15 meters. 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 C-A.

e. Encounter with group of people on leash (handler behind group and calls dog)

After the last exercise, 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 behavior is recorded and described by the C-A.

f. Encounter with strange dog (on 6-foot leash walk by each other twice)

For this exercise, the next team should be ready. The handler walks their dog on a leash to the left past an unknown dog two times at a distance of about 3 meters. The other dog is also on a leash. The C-A records and describes the dog's behavior during the encounters with the unknown dog.

g. Noise – chainsaw- (together on loose leash)

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 meters with the running piece of equipment and then places it on the ground. The handler allows their dog to go to the source of the noise. Verbal assistance during the approach by the handler is permitted. The dog's behavior in relation to the noise source is recorded and described by the C-A.

h. Noise – large chain dropping on steel plate

The handler goes to a designated position and remains there with the dog on a leash. On the CA's command the assistant lets go of the rope holding the chain and the chain hits the steel plate . Verbal assistance during the approach by the handler is permitted after informed by the C.A. The dog's behavior in relation to the noise source is recorded and described by the C-A.

i. Gunshot (on loose leash)

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 starter pistol at an interval of 5 seconds. The dog's behavior in relation to the shot as a noise source is recorded and described by the C-A.

j. Unstable table just off ground (approximately 4x4 platform on a piece of 4 x 4 on ground)

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 C-A.

k. Target play on same table with handler

After the last exercise, 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 previous exercise. The C-A records and describes how intensively and with what motor skills the dog engages with its motivational object under stress.

l. Sensitivity to heights (climb on table 1 meter high then onto four other tables (2 beside each other , then 2 adjacent so there is a corner) beside each other with at least one 4 inch gaps)

The handler goes with their dog on a leash to the ramp. The handler leads their dog on a loose leash up the walkway on to the arranged table. When the dog reaches the table, it climbs up the ramp to the table and walks the tables. During the exercise only verbal assistance is permitted when C.A allows. The dog's behavior with regard to its lack of sensitivity to height is recorded and described by the C-A.

m. Play with handler

After the last exercise, the dog is offered its motivational object by the handler making the dog miss until the C.A gives command to allow the dog to get the item. The C-A records and describes how intensively and with what motor skills the dog engages the motivational object.

n. Play with assistant

After the last exercise, the dog is offered its motivational object by the assistant making the dog miss until the C.A gives command to allow the dog to get the item. The C-A records and describes how intensively and with what motor skills the dog engages the motivational object.

o. Natural retrieval of target to handler

The dog is handed over to the assistant on a leash at the designated place. The handler goes with their motivational object to a fixed area and places the motivational object there under a box with openings. The handler goes to the assistant to get the dog back. The dog is taken off leash and released by the handler. Verbal aid is not permitted. The C-A records and describes the intensity of the dog's efforts to get the motivational object.

p. Behavior on unusual flooring

The handler goes with their dog on a leash into the prepared clubhouse or another acceptable area. A firm, smooth floor (e.g. tiles, laminate) is mandatory. The handler moves through the room with their dog off leash following the C-A's commands. The dog's confidence with movement and boldness are recorded and described by the C-A.

q. Same flooring with noise (dog bowl)

Before the dog leaves the area in above exercise, background noise is produced by dropping a metal food bowl. The dog's confidence with movement, boldness, reaction to sound and motor skills are recorded and described by the C-A.

r. Same flooring target play with handler

While the dog is still in the room on leash while the assistant holds the leash, the handler plays with their dog briefly and may give the dog the target. The intensity of trying to play and playing the motivational object in this environment is recorded and described by the C-A.

s. Same floor willingness to find

While still in the same area with the assistant holding the dogs leash, on the C.A's command the handler goes to at least 2 different places pretending to hide the motivational object and hiding it the second time into a concealed area. The handler goes back to their dog, takes off the leash and release the dog on command. When the dog has found the object, the handler can with the object briefly. The intensity of searching for the motivational object in this environment is recorded and described by the C-A.

t. Being alone (back tied) for several minutes

After the last exercise, 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 1.5 meters 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 handler returns at the C-A signal and puts the leash back on the dog. The C-A records and describes the behavior of the dog being left alone.

u. Seeing friendly person back tied

After the C-A records the above, he/she moves neutrally towards the dog, passes it neutrally and returns to their original position. The handler collects their dog when instructed and puts its leash back on. The C-A records and describes the behavior of the dog left alone and seeing a friendly person.

v. Instinctive behavior – dog on leash seeing unfamiliar person

The handler with the dog on leash walks down a street or road and stops. The assistant walks with a hood on, slowly, towards the dog and handler starting at a distance of approximately 60 meters up to 40 meters and then walks away normally. The dog's natural alertness is recorded and described by the C-A.

CONCLUSION

The C-A then publicly discusses the behavior shown throughout the character assessment. If the C-A terminates the character assessment in the dog's best interest, the C-A must document this on the assessment sheet and submit it to GSSCC 360.

The dog may then be presented at the next possible appointment. If the dog is older than 12 months, the assessment may be repeated within 12 months without any special permission. Repeating at a later date requires special permission from the GSSCC which is subject to a fee.

Each participant receives an assessment sheet and, if desired, a certificate after successfully completing the Character Assessment. The Character Assessor enters the assessment into the scorebook. If participation was successful, an additional stamp is placed on the first page of the pedigree. The results will also be on file on GSSCC360.