

COURAGE TEST REGULATIONS AT THE GERMAN SHEPHERD SPECIALITY SHOWS OF THE ESTONIAN ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN SHEPHERDS (EAGS)

1. GENERAL TERMS

The courage test shall take place on an open field of approximately 30 x 80 metres, which has two blinds (see Figure)

There are no other dogs or owners allowed on the field

The organiser shall check the identification (tattoo or microchip) of each dog prior to the entry to the field.

Prior to evaluating the dogs competing that day, the judge must evaluate the work of the helper(s) with a 0-dog, who is not participating in the working class at the show.

2. COURAGE TEST

2.1 Attack from the blind

2.1.1 The helper shall be positioned in Blind 1

2.1.2 The handler with the dog on a leash must walk to the starting point, Marker A, and start moving towards the blind until the second Marker B. At Marker B the dog must be unleashed, the leash must be put into the pockets of the handler or across his/her left shoulder so, that the connecting clamp remains on the right side of the handler. Thereafter the dog must be given the command to „Heel” and the movement towards Blind 1 must be continued.

2.1.3 At the sign from the judge the helper must attack the handler from Blind 1. After the dog has reacted and has a grip on the sleeve of the helper, the helper must continue pressing the dog with the padded stick and administer two blows on the area of the withers, sides or thighs of the dog.

2.1.4 At the command of the judge, the helper must discontinue the attack and the handler must give the command to the dog to release the grip. After the command the dog must release the grip and continue guarding the helper. The dog may release the grip without the command from the handler and guard the helper, but only after the helper has stopped and discontinued the attack. If the dog does not release after the first command, the helper may, at the sign from the judge, give two extra commands. At the sign from the judge, the handler must approach and take hold of the dog's collar or leash the dog and walk to Blind 1.

2.1.5 Should the dog not withstand the pressing and the blows, and let go of the sleeve but then try and get a new grip on the sleeve, the helper must continue the pressing (without administering blows) and stop only at the judge's command.

2.1.6 In order to pass the attack from the blind, the dog must walk aside the handler for at least 50% of the distance between Marker B and Blind 1. Should the dog leave the handler's side before the required distance is passed, the test shall be discontinued and the handler shall be given the opportunity to start over. Should the dog leave the handler's side before the required distance is covered at the

second attempt as well, the test shall be stopped and the dog shall receive the mark „Cannot be judged” (CBJ).

2.2 Long distance attack

- 2.2.1 The handler and the dog shall move to Blind 1 and the helper to Blind 2. In case two helpers are working at the test, the helper who worked in the first part shall calmly leave the field out of sight to the dog.
- 2.2.2 At the judge’s mark, the handler and the dog shall leave Blind 1 and walk to Marker C
- 2.2.3 At the judges signal the helper will leave Blind 2, take a few steps parallel with Blind 1, then turn towards the dog and handler, and begins the attack on the dog. The attack shall begin with a shout from the helper and a raised stick.
- 2.2.4 At the judge’s signal the handler shall release the dog. The dog must confidently and strongly take a grip on the sleeve. The helper must continue pressing with the stick but no blows are administered. At the judge’s command the helper shall stop the attack.
- 2.2.5 The judge shall signal the helper to stop the attack and the handler to give the release command. After the command from the handler the dog must release the sleeve and stay guarding the helper. The dog may release and guard the helper without a command, but only after the helper has stopped (and discontinued the resistance). At the judge’s signal the handler shall go and leash the dog.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HELPERS

Helpers working at the show are appointed and confirmed by the Board of the Estonian Association of German Shepherds.

In their work, the helpers must follow the courage test regulations.

To ensure their personal safety and liability, the helpers must wear protective clothing (pants, sleeve, stick and when necessary jacket and gloves). The helpers’ footwear must be suitable for different weather and landscape conditions. The footwear must ensure a stabile stance and contact with the ground.

Prior to the courage test’s beginning, the helper shall receive instructions from the judge. The helpers must work according to the instructions received.

The helpers can not work at the show in case they are the owner or co-owner of a dog registered to working class at the show, or in case a person from their household is presenting their dog in working class at the show

**FIGURE OF THE ESTONIAN ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN SHEPHERD'S
SPECIALITY SHOW COURAGE TEST.**

