



# United Schutzhund Clubs of America

*"For the German Shepherd Dog"*

## Performance Survey Regulations

2024

### 1. PERFORMANCE SURVEY ORGANIZATION

#### 1.1. Performance Registry Office

The USCA Performance Registry Office checks all performance survey paperwork for correctness, then processes and file the reports. The USCA Performance Registry Office publishes a USCA Performance Registry Survey Book annually containing the data on all dogs that have been performance surveyed in a USCA event.

#### 1.2. Performance Survey Evaluators

USCA appoints experienced USCA judges to serve as performance survey evaluators. Use of other WUSV evaluators may be permitted by approval of the National Breed Warden. The performance survey evaluators have no legal claim to yearly performance survey assignments. The selection of performance survey evaluators lies with the local clubs. Stick contact to the dog will remain in effect for the USCA Performance Survey.

**1.3. Performance Survey Season** The season for performance surveys is from January 1, through December 31 of each year.

**1.4. Performance Survey Entry Maximum** The number of dogs for each survey is limited to 50. If more than 50 dogs are entered, an additional half-day must be added on the same weekend.

#### 1.5. Performance Survey Regional Notification of Performance Survey

Clubs must send notice to their regional clubs a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the performance survey event.

#### 1.6. Legal

**1.6.1.** The decision of the performance survey evaluator is final. Objections are not permitted.

**1.6.2.** Obtaining or losing performance survey status gives no legal claims to interested parties or outsiders. Any claims for damages from interested parties (owners) or outsiders arising from obtaining or losing performance survey status are denied.

**1.6.3.** The owner of the dog is liable for any damage caused by the dog.

1.6.4. USCA Performance Survey is not accepted for entry into any WUSV event.

## 2. PREREQUISITES FOR PERFORMANCE SURVEY PARTICIPATION

### 2.1. USCA Registration

Dogs must be registered with the USCA Performance Registry if the owner resides in the United States.

### 2.2. Dog Eligibility

Only dogs and descendants registered in the USCA Performance Registry that are from non-WUSV compliant breeding, dogs without a pedigree or with a pedigree that is not recognized by the WUSV, are eligible to enter the performance survey. These dogs are not eligible to enter a breed survey. (Examples include: stock x LSH cross breeding, AI, and any other eliminating faults as outlined in the USCA Breeding Regulations.) Once 3 generations of WUSV compliant breeding is established, subsequent offspring are eligible for entry into the main studbook and can obtain breed surveys as well as advanced and premium breeding levels.

### 2.3. WUSV Membership

Owners of the dogs must be current members of a WUSV organization.

### 2.4. Age Requirement

Dogs must be a minimum of two (2) years old in the year of the performance survey.

### 2.5. Performance Title & BH-VT

2.5.1. For a USCA performance survey, dogs must have at least one performance title IGP/IPO/USP 1, HGH, or RH2 -A obtained under a USCA recognized performance judge.

3.4.2 Dog must also have a BH-VT obtained under a USCA recognized judge. Dogs with an HGH title are not required to have a BH title.

### Endurance Test

3.5.2 Dogs must have passed an endurance test (AD) under a USCA recognized judge, or AD pending the next day at the same performance survey event. Final decision to allow dog for performance survey for a dog that is AD pending the next day at the same event lies with the officiating judge. The AD requirement is waived for dogs with an HGH title and dogs that are six (6) years or older.

### 2.6. Hip and Elbow Certification

2.6.1. Dogs must have a WUSV/USCA recognized hip and elbow certification with microchip identification or pending WUSV/USCA recognized hip and/or elbow certification with

microchip identification. Note: Check with the USCA Office for a current list of recognized hip and elbow certifications. Final decision to allow dog for performance survey for a dog that has hd/ed pending lies with the officiating judge. Note: For dogs born on or after 10/1/2021, OFA elbows are not accepted.

## **2.7. Breed Evaluation Rating**

- 3.7.1** Dogs must have a breed evaluation rating of at least 'good' under a USCA recognized performance judge in the Youth, Young, Adult Untitled, or Working Dog class or pending breed evaluation rating of at least "good" under a USCA recognized performance judge in the young dog or working dog class in the breed evaluation event the next day at the same event. Final decision to allow dog for performance survey for a dog that is breed evaluation rating pending the next day at the same event lies with the officiating judge. \*\*\*only pending breed evaluation rating from the young or working dog class because the dog must be minimum IGP 1 for performance survey and minimum age for IGP 1 is 18 months so that excludes a breed evaluation pending rating in the youth class\*\*\*
- 3.7.2** A dog over 3.5 years of age will not ever be eligible for a breed evaluation rating of Excellent or "V". To be eligible for a Excellent or "V" breed evaluation rating, a dog MUST have a USCA or SV Breed Survey. A dog eligible to enter a USCA Performance Survey, is not eligible to enter a USCA or SV Breed Survey.

## **2.8. Character Assessment Test (WB)**

- 2.8.1.** For USCA Performance Survey, the completion of the Character Assessment Test (WB) will be required on all dogs born on or after 1/1/2025.

## **2.9. Jump Test**

- 2.9.1.** For USCA Performance Survey there will be a Jump Test which will be mandatory for the First Time Performance survey for any dogs under 8 years of age. For dogs over 8 years of age going for a First time or a Lifetime Performance Survey, the Handler can decide if they want their dog to perform the Jump Test.
- 2.9.2.** The Jump Test will be recorded on the performance survey report at the end of the overall description of the dog. The Judge will write a short description of the dog's ability to jump up onto a platform or over a jump. Dogs who fail this test can continue with remark on the performance survey "failed Jump Test". Any dogs injured during the jump test can also continue with a remark on the performance survey that says, "Injured during Jump Test".
- 2.9.3.** The Jump Test must follow the Protection Phase of the Performance Survey.

**2.9.4.** The dog can perform the Jump Test up onto a sturdy platform or over a jump. It is the Handler's decision which Jump Test they want their dog to complete. During the Jump Test, the handler may not physically support the dog while performing the exercise. The Handler is allowed to give their dog up to three jump commands at the start of the Jump Test. The Handler can decide if they want their dog to perform the Jump Test on or off leash.

**2.9.5.** The platform should be of sturdy construction and approximately 1 meter x 1 meter in size and at a height of approximately 0.8 meters tall. The jump should be set at approximately 0.8 meters.

## **2.10. USCA Recognized Judges**

**2.10.1.** The judges who are recognized by USCA for the USCA Performance Survey are USCA Judges and Canadian Judges.

**2.10.2.** Breed Evaluation ratings, AD, BH, IGP or other performance titles are accepted by any USCA, SV, Canadian, or other WUSV judges.

## **2.11. Additional Prerequisites**

**2.11.1.** Sick animals may not be presented.

**2.11.2.** Females in season must be reported to the performance survey evaluator who controls participation.

**2.11.3.** Females in whelp must be reported to the performance survey evaluator who controls participation.

**2.11.4.** Females cannot participate after 42<sup>nd</sup> day of pregnancy and before 42<sup>nd</sup> day post-delivery.

**2.11.5.** Dogs must be identifiable by a recognizable ~~tattoo and/or~~ microchip number.

## **3. SPONSORING LOCAL CLUBS**

### **3.1. Prerequisites**

**3.1.1.** Venue with the necessary accommodations and restrooms.

**3.1.2.** Trained assistants.

**3.1.3.** Performance Survey Secretary.

### **3.2. Required Equipment**

**3.2.1.** Shelter for the performance survey evaluator and performance survey secretary.

**3.2.2.** Sufficiently large ring.

**3.2.3.** PA, Loudspeaker.

**3.2.4.** SV performance survey measuring stick.

**3.2.5.** Measuring tape (in metric system).

- 3.2.6. Scale to weigh (metric system).
- 3.2.7. Two (2) blank guns (6mm) with adequate blank ammunition.
- 3.2.8. Numbered bibs or armbands for dog handlers.

### **3.3. Duties of Performance Survey Secretary**

- 3.3.1. Mail performance survey entry forms to participants a minimum of three weeks in advance.
- 3.3.2. Check submitted documents for accuracy and completeness, check the eligibility of the dogs entering the performance survey.
- 3.3.3. Prepare performance survey forms and temporary performance survey certificates and have them ready for the performance survey evaluator either prior to, or at the start of the survey. The forms are available from the USCA website.
- 3.3.4. Inform the performance survey evaluator regarding receipt and number of entries.
- 3.3.5. Provide a catalog-type list of participants that is divided by males and females, and first time, and repeat performance surveys.
- 3.3.6. Submit the checked documents for each dog to the performance survey evaluator before the start of the performance survey.

## **4. REGISTERING FOR THE SURVEY**

*The following documents must be submitted no later than the day of the performance survey*

- 4.1. Original USCA recognized pedigree-demonstrating proof of USCA Performance Registration.
- 4.2. Original Breed Evaluation rating card/book, demonstrating proof of Breed Evaluation rating.
- 4.3. Original scorebook showing proof of; AD, BH, and one (1) performance title.
- 4.4. Original hip, and elbow certificate showing proof of USCA or SV recognized hip/elbow certification with tattoo or microchip number identification, if not entered on the pedigree.
- 4.5. Original WB certification for dogs born on or after 1/1/2025.
- 4.6. Original Performance Survey report (if a resurvey).
- 4.7. Original signature authorization form for dogs that are co-owned, unless previously submitted to the USCA Performance Book Office (this form is available from the USCA Performance Book Office).
- 4.8. Photocopy of WUSV membership card.

## **5. SURVEY PROCEDURE**

### **5.1. Temperament Test**

The Performance Survey Evaluator must subject each dog individually to a temperament test. The Temperament evaluation may extend throughout the entire survey. According to the standard, the dog must display sound temperament; i.e. be carefree, self-confident, and good-natured and have steady nerves.

### **5.2. Gun Test**

From a distance of at least 15 paces, at least two (2) gunshots must be fired from a 6mm blank gun. The dog must not have a negative reaction to the gunfire.

### **5.3. Protection Work – Surprise Attack on Handler with Guarding**

- 5.3.1.** The handler reports to the Performance Survey Evaluator with the dog on leash.
- 5.3.2.** Upon instruction by the Performance Survey Evaluator the handler assumes the basic heel position at a marked spot, 25 meters/30 paces away from the blind, and takes the leash off of the dog .
- 5.3.3.** The leash must be placed around the shoulder or inside of the pocket of the handler.
- 5.3.4.** Upon a signal from the Performance Survey Evaluator, the handler/dog will walk toward the blind with the dog free heeling.
- 5.3.5.** The dog must stay closely at heel position until the handler reaches a marked spot 7 meters/9 paces in front of the blind. Repeated verbal commands are permitted. Touching the dog is not permitted. If handler and free heeling dog reach this marked spot, the helper, upon a signal from the Performance Survey Evaluator, will perform an attack while making threatening noises. If the dog breaks the heel before reaching the marked spot, the helper shall not attack. The handler has two more opportunities to reach the 9 paces mark with his dog in heel position. Should the dog fail to heel to the 9 paces mark in all three attempts, the protection phase will be terminated due to lack of obedience. The dog can be presented again for performance survey with a maximum of three attempts within the same calendar year.
- 5.3.6.** The dog must counter the attack immediately and confidently and must bite hard and full.
- 5.3.7.** Once the dog has a grip on the sleeve, the helper applies two (2) stick hits with a soft stick on either the thighs, the sides, or in the area of the withers.
- 5.3.8.** The handler may verbally encourage the dog to counter the attack.
- 5.3.9.** Upon a signal from the Performance Survey Evaluator, the helper stops the attack and stands still.
- 5.3.10.** The dog must release the grip either on its own or upon receiving the verbal command 'out/aus' and then must guard the helper.

- 5.3.11. The Performance Survey Evaluator gives the handler the instruction to step forward up to the dog.
- 5.3.12. The handler puts the leash on the dog and receives the instruction from the Performance Survey Evaluator to step into the assigned blind.

#### **5.4. Protection Work Execution - Attack on the dog out of motion, Fight and Guarding**

- 5.4.1. The Performance Survey Evaluator tells the handler to leave the assigned blind and take the position on the centerline of the field.
- 5.4.2. The handler will take the leash off of the dog, and may hold the dog by the collar.
- 5.4.3. The dog must stay in this position until he is sent to counter the attack with the verbal command of "Go on/ voran".
- 5.4.4. Upon receiving a signal from the Performance Survey Evaluator, the helper leaves the assigned blind, which is located at a distance of approximately 70-80 paces from the handler, and runs (not walks) across the field to the centerline then turns to attack.
- 5.4.5. The handler may give a verbal command to stop the helper, "Stop, Standstill, or I will send my dog"
- 5.4.6. The helper ignores the command and performs a frontal attack on the handler and the dog. The handler must remain still in position, and may not approach the dog during the fighting phase
- 5.4.7. Immediately after the attack begins, the Performance Survey Evaluator will give the handler the instruction to counter the attack/ and send the dog.
- 5.4.8. The handler immediately sends his dog with the verbal command "Go on/voran", remains standing still and may not approach the dog during the fighting phase until after the Out, and is signaled to approach the dog
- 5.4.9. The dog must energetically counter the attack with drive, and with a strong, full, sure, and calm grip.
- 5.4.10. Once the dog has a grip on the sleeve, and after a brief pressure phase, the helper stops the attack - on a signal from the Performance Survey Evaluator. No stick hits are given.
- 5.4.11. Thereafter, the dog must release either on its own, or upon receiving the verbal command "Out/aus" and must guard the helper.
- 5.4.12. Upon a signal from the performance survey evaluator, the handler walks directly to the dog at a normal pace and puts the leash on the dog.
- 5.4.13. With the dog on leash, the handler reports to the Performance Survey Evaluator and then leaves the field.

## **5.5. Protection Work Scoring - Release**

- 5.5.1. After the helper stops the attack, the dog must release on its own.
- 5.5.2. The handler may give the first “Out/aus” command on his/her own - after a reasonable time.
- 5.5.3. If the dog does not release after the first “Out/aus” command, the Performance Survey Evaluator will instruct the handler to give another “Out/aus” if necessary, the handler is permitted one more, a total of three (3) Out/aus commands.
- 5.5.4. When giving the “Out/aus” command, the handler must stand still and may not influence the dog in any way.
- 5.5.5. If the dog's name is used, it will be counted as an “Out/aus” command.
- 5.5.6. If the dog releases on its own when the handler approaches, it can still be counted as a release; however, the handler must be at least five (5) paces from the dog at that time.
- 5.5.7. If the dog releases on its own or in response to the “Out/aus” command after the attack and after the defense exercise; the rating “Does Release” is awarded.
- 5.5.8. If the dog does not release—even once on its own, or in response to the “Out/aus” command after the attack or after the defense exercise, the dog will receive the rating “Does Not Release.” In this case the performance survey is terminated. The dog can be presented again for performance survey with a maximum of three attempts within the same calendar year. It is not possible to present a dog more than three times per calendar year, regardless if the performance survey was stopped due to lack of obedience or not releasing.
- 5.5.9. The Performance Survey Evaluator stays near the handler during the entire protection routine, and keenly observes the behavior of dog and handler until after the handler has picked up the dog.

## **5.6. Protection Work Scoring— Evaluation of Instinctive Behavior, Self-Confidence, and Ability to Cope with Stress (TSB)**

- 5.6.1. The overall rating of the protection exercises is scored as “Pronounced,” “Present,” or “Insufficient”.
- 5.6.2. Pronounced: Self-confident, intense, goal-oriented and secure gripping and holding, no negative reactions to the stick hits, and close and attentive watching in the guarding phases.
- 5.6.3. Present: Deficiencies, for example, in self-confidence, in goal-oriented behavior, in grip and stick behavior, as well as in the guarding phases.
- 5.6.4. Insufficient: Lacking self-confidence, strong deficiencies with respect to hardness, and disinterest in the helper.

## **5.7. Measurement and Weight**



The performance survey secretary or an assistant may weigh the dogs and take measurements for chest depth and chest circumference. The Performance Survey Evaluator must take measurements of the height at the withers.

#### **5.8. Examination of Standing Dog - Evaluation of Movement**

During this examination the Performance Survey Evaluator will write the performance survey report. The handler must refrain as much as possible from influencing the dog during this examination.

#### **5.9. Reports and Certificates**

After completing the survey for each dog, the Performance Survey Evaluator announces the results over the PA. The owners of the dogs receive a temporary performance survey certificate signed by the Performance Survey Evaluator that shows the survey result. This certificate is proof of performance survey and replaces the original paperwork while the USCA Performance Book Office is processing the performance survey.

### **6. PERFORMANCE SURVEY**

**6.1.** Dogs that comply with the performance standard will be included in this class:

- 6.1.1.** Measurements, weight, and structure conform to the breed standard
- 6.1.2.** Overall temperament is self-confident and good-natured, with TSB rating of "Pronounced."
- 6.1.3.** TSB rating of "present"
- 6.1.4.** Faultless dentition with no missing teeth; however, double premolars #1 are allowed
- 6.1.5.** Dentition faults as follows:
  - Missing one premolar #1 or one incisor or
  - Missing two premolars #1 or
  - Missing one premolar #1 and one incisor or
  - Missing one premolar #2
  - Slight level bite of the middle incisors
- 6.1.6.** Minor anatomical faults
- 6.1.7.** Oversized or undersized up to 1 cm, measured at the withers (maximum size for males 66 cm and bitches 61 cm. The minimum for males is 59 cm and bitches 54 cm).

#### **6.2. Performance Survey Improvements**

The owner of the performance surveyed dog (fist/resurvey) is allowed to present the dog for performance survey improvements. This can be done no sooner than the

following year of the original performance survey and it's allowed only once for each instance of survey (first/resurvey)

### **6.3. One (1) Year Deferment**

A one-year deferment is possible for the following reasons:

- 6.3.1. The physical development of the dog is not advanced enough for surveying, but the dog is expected to reach desirable development
- 6.3.2. The TSB evaluation of the dog is insufficient to pass the performance survey
- 6.3.3. A one-year deferment is only possible one time for the same reason. If the dog fails a second time for the same reason, the dog is not suitable for surveying.

### **6.4. \_Not Suitable for Survey**

The following faults preclude a performance survey:

- 6.4.1. Considerable anatomical faults
- 6.4.2. Oversized or undersized more than 1 cm, measured at the withers (maximum is males 66 cm/females 61 cm and minimum is males 59 cm/bitches 54 cm)
- 6.4.3. Testicle faults
- 6.4.4. Dentition faults as follows:
  - Missing one premolar #3
  - Missing two incisors
  - Missing one premolar #2 plus one incisor
  - Missing one premolar #2 plus one premolar #1
  - Missing two premolars #2
- 6.4.5. Considerable pigment deficiencies
- 6.4.6. Dogs with long coat or long stock coat without undercoat

### **6.5. \_Survey Duration**

- 6.5.1. The duration for initial survey and survey after lapse is two years. The dog must be presented again during the second year of the current performance survey for the resurvey for life
- 6.5.2. Resurvey is effective for life
- 6.5.3. The survey duration for females that are in an advanced stage of pregnancy or are nursing may be extended for an additional year without the female being presented for evaluation (survey extension). Survey extension is not possible for any other reasons and may be granted. Extension must be filed with the USCA National Breed Warden and the USCA Performance Survey Office before the scheduled performance survey. Proof of pregnancy and extension request must be sent to the USCA NBW & USCA office:
  - Proof of pregnancy of at least 42 days by submission of the stud

certificate/report of breeding card.

- Certificate issued by the local performance warden or a licensed veterinarian verifying that the female is visibly pregnant,
- Certificate issued by the local performance warden or a licensed veterinarian verifying that the female is nursing if no more than 42 days have elapsed from the whelping day to the survey day.
- Pedigree mailed to the USCA office for extension stamp.

#### **6.6. Termination of Survey Status**

- 6.6.1.** If a surveyed dog is not presented for resurvey, the performance survey status expires at the end of the calendar year.
- 6.6.2.** Performance survey status is terminated by “performance survey status repeal.” Performance survey status is repealed upon application of the Performance Survey Evaluator or performance judge directed to the USCA Performance Book Office. Performance survey status may be suspended during the time the application is being processed.

### **7. PERFORMANCE SURVEY CERTIFICATE AND PERFORMANCE SURVEY BOOK**

The USCA Performance Book Office returns to the owner in a timely manner the original documents submitted at the performance survey. Upon processing of the performance survey, the performance survey results will be published in the next possible issue of the USCA magazine. The owner receives a translation of the performance survey report from the USCA Performance Book Office. The performance survey result is noted on the original pedigree. Data on dogs surveyed during each year are published, separated by gender, in the USCA Performance Survey Book.