

GSD Types and Lines

With the increasing popularity of German Shepherd Dog throughout the world has exposed the breed to different types of breeding programs, breeding experimentation and styles, which consequently led to several bloodlines and types in different countries and for different reasons. Apart from this there are a number of offshoots of the breed, all of which claim their respective breed standard. Crossing between the lines and types have produced different odd colors and style that resemble what we call German Shepherd Dogs. As a matter of fact when it comes to true type GSD, there are not rare coloration and special style with desirable features. Except the really rare one like Brindle gene, which had been a pure gene, there's no desirable color and types that can be concluded as special.

German Shepherd enthusiasts and responsible GSD learners know that breeders who are engaged in promoting any special types or color of GSD are not breeding these animals keeping the GSD standard in the mind. For instance, Large, Big Boned or Over sized German Shepherd Breeders who are throwing out ads to promote their types are learned breeders. Like any other recognized dog breed in the world, German Shepherds has a specific breed standard, and breeding is to be done with the standard in the forefront of the mind.

If you are looking to buy a true type GSD, you should be very careful and should be quite aware of what a true type German Shepherd Dog actually is. All dogs similar in appearance to the German Shepherd Dog breed are not GSD. Breeders of all the offshoots claim to have their unique intelligence and working ability close or parallel to a true type GSD breed, but the fact is that the no offshoot of the breed can better or equal to the true type German Shepherds in terms of working ability and anatomical soundness are concerned.

The different types of German Shepherd Dog based on lines:

Old Style German Shepherd Dogs

This picture exemplifies the old style GSD that was entirely different in look from the German Shepherds of contemporary types and lines. The sleek structure not very angulated joints and sporty look were desired by the breed founder Captain Stephanitz who had framed in his mind a breed that would have extraordinary working ability, being supported with lower stationed structure that would be perfect for long term, consistent trotting. The plan was not to make a heavy weight massive structure that could challenge the breed's working ability and speed. Such sleek and strong GSD specimens had been the main foundation of the breed. Later the breeder, with the help of planned and selective breeding developed the breed to a great extent. Check out the German Shepherd development process.



West German Show Line (High Line) GSD

German Shepherd Dogs hailing from West German Show or High Lines are the most popular of prevailing GSD types and lines. Not only in Germany, but also across the globe the West German Show Line GSDs are in high demand. These types of German Shepherd comes closest to the breed standard. The reason for the high popularity of the West German Show or High Line German Shepherds is that the this type exhibits a head turner beauty + has proved to be very successful as family pet, companion dogs, herding dog, guard dog, guide dog, SAR dog and service dog. The German Shepherds emerging from this type are exhibited as show dogs through out the world under the German SV rule that requires working titles for showing and breeding dogs. Dogs from West German Show Line are predominantly black and rich tan. They usually show majestic bounciness trotting, with maximum ground coverage by delivering high degree of hind leg propulsion so as to get an extensive reach. Common drawbacks of this types of German Shepherds are slightly roached backs.



Working Line German shepherds

Working Line German Shepherds The German Shepherd Dog had been primarily engineered to work with human. It is basically a working breed. The breeding experimentation have given birth to several other types and lines. Working lines GSD has the ability to excel any kind of tasks under stressful situations. The working line German Shepherds do not head turning beauty as their show line counterparts. For working line GSD – “Utility is the true criterion of beauty”. It’s his working ability where actually the beauty of this GSD type lies.



Czech German Shepherd Dogs

The Czech German Shepherd Dogs or Czchoslovakian GSD is again another distinctive type of German Shepherds that was developed from the DDR lines and had been bred in the communist Czechoslovakia as the state working GSD. Prior to the revolution in Czechoslovakia and the fall of the communist government in the year 1989, the Czech German Shepherds used to be bred as working dogs for the protection of their borders. Most interesting fact about this type of German Shepherd Dogs is that the Czech GSD line used to be bred only in one kennel founded in 1955 that was founded and owned by the Czechoslovakian Army’s Border Patrol. The dogs used for breeding were mainly picked from the DDR lines. The breeding program strictly encompassed development of the working GSD that had strong nerves, magnificent working ability, heavy bones and dark pigmentation.



British Line German Shepherd Dog

In Britain GSD is called Alsation or Alsatian after name of the place of their development - the border area of "ALSACE - LORRAINE". Check out the naming history of Alsatian Dog. This is a different type in terms of structure - different from the most popular West German high line GSD. This line of German Shepherds has been developed from the old German bloodlines imported to the British Isles after the war.



DDR Line German Shepherds

DDR Line German Shepherds is a distinctive GSD type that needs to be popularized far and wide. The DDR line GSD is the East German bloodlines that have been developed in the German Democratic Republic (Deutsche Demokratische Republik) - East Germany, from the dogs that stayed back there after the World War II. The DDR Line German Shepherds have been named so after the DDR, which was a socialist state founded in the year 1949 in the Soviet region of occupied Germany and in the portion of East Berlin that had been occupied by the Allied forces. This type has a strong, lean, muscular body, good bone constitution, large massive head, comparatively dark pigmentation and less angulated than the West German show Lines.



North American Line German Shepherd Dog

German Shepherd Dog from North American Show Lines are entirely different in type from other German Shepherd lines. This Line has gained huge popularity throughout North America since 1970's. This GSD type has severe pastern and rear angulation accompanied by longer body structure, which is a result of strategic inbreeding and line breeding. Although very popular in the North America, the North American German Shepherd line has not been able to flourish beyond its area, because of the fact that the extreme angulation - especially the rear part has compromised the breed's working ability, jumping, and speed. Hip tests for this GSD type usually yield good results, although the over-angulation is often not preferred by most specialty judges across the globe. This German Shepherd line usually displays "flying trot". Often, (not always) the North American GSD usually exhibit good temperament, with less behavioral problems.



Old American Show Line German Shepherd Dog

By the phrase "Old American Show line German Shepherds", we mean to say the American show dogs that were bred before 1970's. Old American show was typically slightly different from the contemporary American Show German Shepherds. The angulations were not as extreme as we find in the modern American GSD. This old type American GSD has gone to the verge of extinction with the gradual advent contemporary over angulated type.

