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German Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland

<http://www.gsdcqld.org.au>

The breeding of the German Shepherd Dog in Australia has progressed rapidly, assisted by the introduction of imported bloodlines, since the lifting of the import ban.

The earliest report of an imported "German Sheep Dog" was in 1904 in Western Australia and it was not until 1920-25 that interest was aroused and further dogs were imported and the breed then known in England and consequently Australia as the "Alsation Wolf Dog or Wolfhound" started to become popular. The name was changed to "Alsation Dog" in England around 1920 as the reference to wolf was as distasteful as was the word "German" at the end of the World War I. During the mid 1920s the Graziers Federal Council of Australia and other parties claimed that the "Alsation Dog" represented a threat, that the dog was vicious, it had wolf blood in its veins, it was a sheep killer and if crossed with the dingo it would be dangerous. Despite professional advice which repudiated these claims, the Federal Government passed an import ban on the 24th July 1928 which was imposed on 2nd May 1929. This ban although initially for 5 years was not eased until 1972 and not repealed until 5th March 1974! The year 1925 saw the breed's official Australian history begin with the importation of the Crufts winner Ito of Fallowdale into Australia. Also on the same boat was Pinkerton Rhoda. As a number of further importations followed, graziers and pastoralists in Australia began to express concerns that the breed was dangerous. This was partly based on the British re-naming of the breed, Alsation Wolf-Dog. Australian graziers and pastoralists started to express fears that German Shepherds would mate with dingos and produce a powerful and intelligent sheep killer. Powerful lobby groups such as the Western Australian Pastoralists and Graziers Society started to call for the breed to be declared a dangerous noxious pest. On 29th February 1929 the dog KCC Ch. Claus von Eulengarten arrived in Melbourne. He was the 26th German Shepherd dog imported into Australia and was not only a show champion, but also a trained Police Dog. The year 1929 also saw the Australian Government respond to the continued fears of the graziers and pastoralists by placing a directive against the import of the breed into Australia. The Government then passed legislation in the next few years to officially legislate against the importation of the German Shepherds into Australia. At this stage only about 55 to 60 official imports had entered Australia. The early 1930's saw the popularity and the numbers of German Shepherds waned. This meant that purist breeders were able to slowly rebuild the reputation and standing of the German Shepherd. The outbreak of the Second World War saw the German Shepherd pressed into military service in large numbers. The breeding stock in Germany was greatly reduced, as large numbers of dogs were lost during the war. The tragedy of war once again highlighted the breed's useful qualities and helped to restore the reputation of the German Shepherd. This conflict also saw large numbers of dogs being trained to detect the presence of various types of unexploded devices. This activity has evolved into today's explosive and drug detector dog programs, which have been extremely effective for law enforcement agencies worldwide. The years following the second World War saw worldwide resurgence in the popularity of the German Shepherd. The situation in Australia, sadly, has not improved with the import ban still in place. The lack of new bloodlines made it difficult for Australian breeders to make improvements to the breed and Australian German Shepherds were unable to progress to the level of those found in Europe. Breeders in Australia had to make the most of a bad situation and struggled on. However, breed clubs such as the German Shepherd Dog Club of Qld (Inc), and other groups started to promote the positive aspects of the breed. They hoped that common sense would win through and that the import ban would be lifted in the future. In 1963 the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia (GSDCA) was formed with the intentions of improving the standing of the German Shepherd and removing impediments, such as the Federal Government import ban. Owners of German Shepherds in Western Australia and the Northern Territory were not even allowed to breed from their existing stock. Through various lobbying of the Australian Government a one year trial lifting of the ban on importing the breed into Australia commenced during 1973. All content of this listing belongs to the Owner in this Listing! Copyright © All Rights Reserved.

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