

The Guardian



Welcome
2026

The German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta, Inc. is a nonprofit organization chartered in Georgia in 1974. The club's objectives are to uphold the intents and purposes as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, and to conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows and all AKC events for which the Club is eligible under the rules of the American Kennel Club. Further, to conduct approved GSDCA-WDA events under the authority, rules and regulations of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America Working Dog Association, Inc.

President

Danial Picknell

Vice President

John Conely

Treasurer

Justin Moore

Secretary

Ren Lewis

Member At Large

Mindi Kelley-Chase

Member At Large

Hilary Boretz

Past President

Justin Moore

CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

🐾 Happy New Year



Next meeting - Saturday, 1.31.26

Newsletter Publications Opportunities

Commercial Advertising Rates *			
Size	Monthly Rate	Quarterly Rate	Yearly Rate
Full Page	\$17.00	\$27.50	\$50.00
Half Page	\$10.00	\$22.50	\$32.50
Quarter Page	\$7.50	\$15.00	\$22.50
Business Card	\$5.00	\$7.50	\$12.50
3" Business Card	\$5.75	\$9.50	\$17.50
4" Business Card	\$6.75	\$11.00	\$22.50

Non-Commercial Advertising Rates *		
	Members	Non-Members
Front Page	\$12.50	N/A
Back Cover	\$12.50	N/A
Stud Dog	\$6.00/yr	N/A
Breeder/Service	\$6.00/yr	N/A
Whelpng Box	1 Free Litter per/yr	N/A
Full Page	\$12.50	\$17.50
Half Page	\$7.50	\$12.50
Quarter Page	\$6.50	\$10.00

Our newsletters and website offer advertising opportunities at affordable costs.

These outlets are a great way to connect with a larger audience from an established source.

If you and/or your business is interested in advertising possibilities, feel free to reach out.

Club 2025-2026 Schedule

January 31st	Saturday	location TBD General Meeting
February 14th	Saturday	Outdoor/park TBD General Meeting
March 14th	Saturday	Outdoor/park TBD President appointes Nominating Committee for the purpose of selecting a slate of nominees for the elective offices and directorships for upcoming Club Year
April 11th	Saturday	Outdoor/park TBD General Meeting & finalizing spring shows
May TBD	Saturday	TBD Additional nominations can be made at the May meeting by any Active Member in attendance for the elective offices and directorships for upcoming Club Year.
June TBD	Saturday	TBD Designated Annual meeting, held in the month of June, at which Officers and Directors shall be elected for the ensuing year. Elected Officer(s) shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the June meeting and retiring officer overturns all items related to office by July 1st.
July TBD	TBD	Club Award Banquet - TBD

Pearls of Veterinary Practice



Laparoscopic-Assisted Gastropexy

Clarence A. Rawlings, DVM, PhD,
Diplomate ACVS

Introduction

Gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) is a life-threatening emergency in large dogs. The only universally accepted method to prevent GDV is a gastropexy. Other management practices are frequently recommended to reduce the likelihood of gastric dilatation, but a gastropexy is considered the only method to prevent volvulus. This paper describes the author's recently published technique for an incisional gastropexy with laparoscopic assistance.¹ The gastropexy is strong, and the technique is relatively quick and easy for the beginning laparoscopic surgeon to perform.

Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus

Full-term GDV usually occurs in deep-chested dogs having the typical history of eating a large meal, drinking a lot of water, and having post-prandial excitement or stress. Signs include nonproductive attempts to vomit, drooling, pacing, rapid breathing, distended abdomen, and signs of shock. The combination of a large meal, excessive water intake, and aerophagia produces gastric distention. This gastric accumulation is exacerbated by delayed gastric emptying and decreased fluid absorption in the stomach. Gastric distention results in volvulus or rotation (clockwise rotation, as viewed from both a caudal and ventral view). Volvulus obstructs portal venous blood flow, which produces a combined cardiovascular and toxic shock. Decreased blood flow to the affected viscera produces vascular stasis, gastric ulcers, septic shock, and probably the release of myocardial depressant factors.^{2,3}

Emergency treatment should be simultaneously directed toward relieving the gastric distention and treating the shock. After the initial emergency treatment, many patients are operated to examine the abdomen (i.e., stomach, spleen, and the remainder of the splanchnic organs), reposition the twisted stomach, and secure the gastric antrum to the right side of the abdomen.^{2,3} Depending on organ viability, some dogs may require a partial gastrectomy or splenectomy.

Postoperative care is as crucial as the emergency anesthesia and surgery. Many cases require a few days of intensive care treatment and all require critical monitoring and treatment for the first 48 hours. Even with excellent surgical and medical care, the mortality of dogs with GDV is high. In a prospective series of 295 dogs operated for GDV, 15% died.⁴ In contrast, only 1% of dogs with dilatation only, or with a non-confirmed GDV, died.⁴



For the complete article, please click the link below.

<https://www.gsdcatlanta.org/pdf/articles/Gastropexy%20study%20article.pdf>

From the Department of Small Animal Medicine,
College of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Georgia,
Athens, Georgia 30602-7390.

JOURNAL of the American Animal Hospital Association

GSDC of Atlanta

dogs and members have been busy!



Our first Specialty Shows in conjunction with the Winter Wonderland Cluster were a great success with 23 and 22 entries, respectively. Huge Congratulations to those who participated, and bunches of thanks to those who volunteered their time to execute well run shows.

Some of us experienced the pleasure of the first time seeing our Best in Specialty Winner for both shows, Sassi, in action with one of the best leaders, handlers and directors around, Mr. Kent Boyles!

Congrats to Team Spencer-Jessica for their Best Puppy and BW, Best Puppy Wins.

Style-Karena went WB/BOW and finished her Championship at the tender age of 8 months old!

Tango-Dan Select OH BB & OHBB

Sassi Best in Specialty x2

Krissy Select, Best Veteran

Cher went BW for her first points with a 3-pt major towards her Championship!



GSDC of Atlanta

dogs and members have been busy!



October started with the **Krissy-Dan** duo at the Augusta

Kennel Club shows going OH Group 1 & OH Group 4.

Cher and **Joye** earned their Canine Good Citizen (CGC) which was a huge accomplishment and a job well done!

Ren got busy with **Viper** who qualified and earned his Herding Instinct Title. Justin shepherded **Tango** through a qualifying leg towards her HIT.

The month ended with **Tango** giving her team a super sweet treat of a 4-point major to finish her Championship at the Gulf Coast Mardi Paw Cluster show on Halloween! SWEET!

Scandal pawtied in MS as well and left with a load of delicacies for her team with four Best of Breed wins and two additional Best in Specialty wins.



In October, **Sassi** attended the Prairie River Cluster shows in Springfield, IL and went Best of Breed all five shows. She also went G4, RBIS, G2, G1, and G2, respectively.

Then she traveled to Salem, VA for the James River group of shows and again went BOB all five shows along with G1, G2, G1, G3, and G1.



GSDC of Atlanta

dogs and members have been busy!



Lots of club members showed up and showed out at the September North GA & Chattanooga Kennel Club Shows in McDonald, TN! Huge CONGRATS to Team Biggin for the 4 point major win on 9.13.25 that finished his Championship!

- 9.11.25 Viper - WD, OS
Style - W, BW, BB, G4
- 9.12.25 Viper - WD, OS
Krissy - Select, OHBB, OHG4
- 9.13.25 Viper - R
Biggin - WD, BW, OS
Krissy - OHBB, OHG3
- 9.14.25 Viper - WD
Style - WB, BW
Biggin - Select



Dan had such a time in TN that he and Krissy returned for the Great Smoky Mountain Cluster and snagged an OHG4.



In the mid-west at the Lake Minnetonka Kennel Club show in Superior, WI, one member showed up in true sassy girl fashion! She battled the cold and winds all the way to **Best in Show!**
CONGRATS to TEAM SASSI!



GSDC of Atlanta

dogs and members have been busy!



When it comes to Nik, busy is an understatement! This good boy has been from sea to shining sea racking up accolades for his pawfolio to include Canadian National Grand Victor & Best of Breed -US National Maturity Victor & Select #2 -Sunshine Herding Show Best of Breed and -AKC Championship Dog Show Best of Breed to name a few.

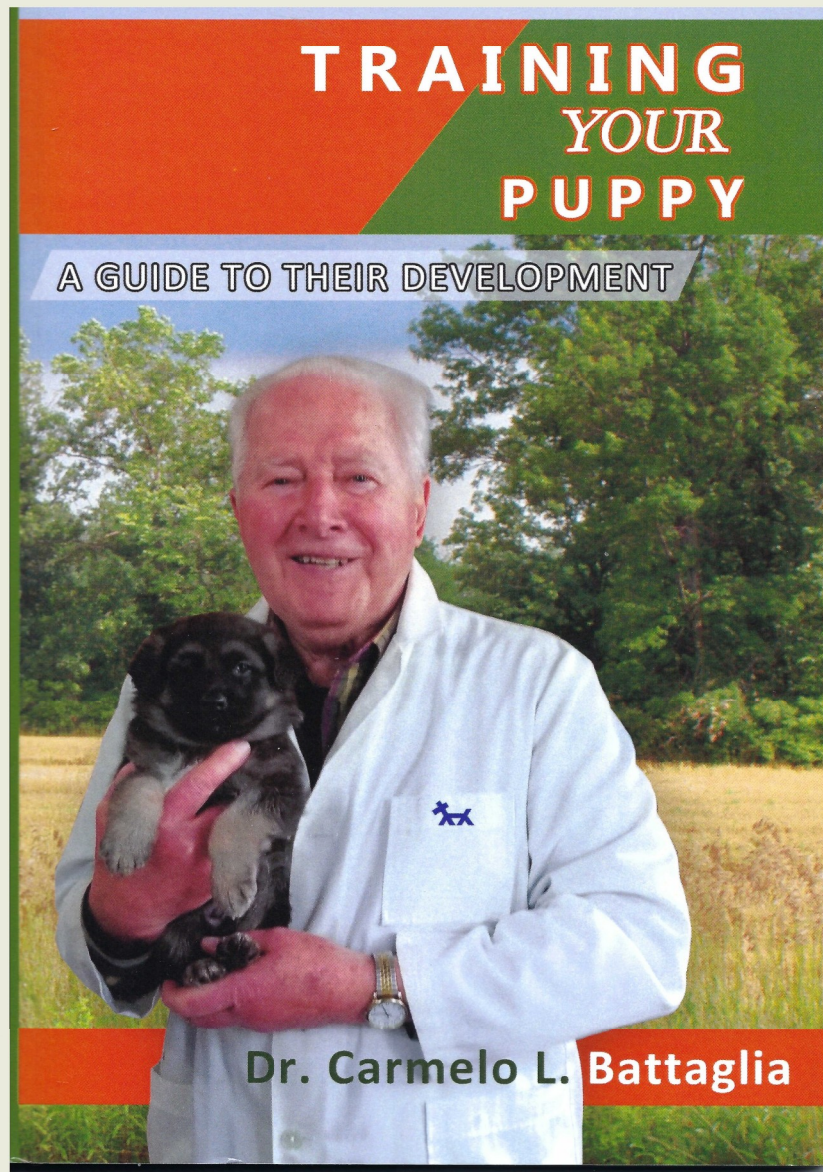
Nik has also sired a couple of litters recently and some of the pups are entering the show ring and some are just opening their eyes.

Huge Congrats to John Conely and the rest of Team Nik for the huge accomplishments of CAN GV AM Sel Ex GCH Wonderland's MVP Jokic V Knight's Gambit



Still Available!!

EXTRA! EXTRA!



In case you haven't heard, our own **Dr. Carmen Battaglia** recently published a new book, "Training Your Puppy". With his knowledge, education, and experience, it is a **MUST have!**

This book is a must-read for anyone bringing a new puppy into their home. Dr. Battaglia explains how to train and develop your puppy from the moment it walks into your home until it reaches adulthood using ideas and concepts that are easy to understand. His techniques have been well tested and easy to understand. Use them and your puppy will better understand you.

~ Tom Grabe, Publisher of The Canine Chronicle

This is a one stop manual for understanding your puppy's development and how you should train them. Battaglia provides ample evidence about how to speak to your puppy or dog using one syllable words and why one syllable words like "sit" and "stay" will help your pup to learn faster. He also includes information and tips on everything from introducing a new puppy into the family, to trimming toe nails. The book is written in a style that is simple to read, follow, and comprehend. The chapters can be read out of order as each chapter stands alone allowing readers to identify the answers they are seeking which are listed in the table of contents.

~ Chelsea Burdick

What a terrific book! It's all about common sense ideas...makes me think that even us "experienced (old)" breeders can learn something new.

~ Sylvia

If there were a Nobel Prize in the dog world for this, you should receive it.

~ Bryant Freeman, Ph.D. (Yale)

This book avoids the heavy jargon of the scientist and has something to offer anyone interested in owning and training a better puppy.

~ Ralph J. Graff, M.D. Director of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Laboratory Saint Louis University Medical Center

Carmelo Louis Battaglia is the author of TRAINING YOUR PUPPY. He lives in Roswell Georgia where he continues to breed and conduct his research.



**CONGRATS
CARMEN!**

Available on Amazon -

<https://www.amazon.com/Training-Your-Puppy-GUIDE-DEVELOPMENT/dp/B0DTTR1Z92>

A note from our Referral Coordinator Joye Evans



I joined the GSDC of Atlanta in 1972, moved out of the area and continued in obedience with my dogs until we moved back to Atlanta in 1984. I rejoined the club in 1988 after my old dogs had died and I purchased a puppy from Caralon Kennels. I've had dogs that were shown in conformation, obedience, rally, herding, FastCat, and dabbled in tracking and nose work.

Questions that I ask callers

Have you ever owned a GSD before
What area of town do you live in or does it matter how far away the puppy is located
Do you have a fenced yard or what is your exercise plan
Do you want a puppy or an older dog
What do you want to do with your dog – pet, show, performance, etc.
How did you find out about the club

Questions I advise callers to ask the person with puppies. Callers frequently know of "puppies" from a friend knows someone who has a litter.

What health screenings do the parents have, i.e. OFA, DM, etc.
Make sure you meet the dam of the puppies, if you don't like her leave
How old is the dam
Do they have both parents on site

I tell everyone that calls – your dog needs a job – if you don't give him one, they will make their own job.

Everyone has their own hot buttons and these are mine. I've been fortunate to have great mentors over the years. Scootie Sherlock of Caralon Kennels, was my first mentor and was always there for me even after I no longer had a dog from her bloodlines. Find yourself a mentor and then listen.

Club's Breeder Referral

I offer referrals towards our club members first. If I don't know of any club puppies, I offer names of others local to our area that I know offer a good dog and will stand behind their puppies. And I give no preferences to anyone – I try to be as unbiased as possible.

The below questions are based on my experience as a breeder and owner. My first dog purchase in 1968 was an inbred father/daughter litter, and he had the most titles of any dog in his 5-generation pedigree – a CDX. I will credit him with establishing my love of the breed and we had a lot of fun.

Members, keep me in the loop!
Let me know if you're having puppies, planning a litter, or have a dog you want to place.

MEET the BREED

Learn more about the breed through our parent club and AKC!!



NEW PUPPY tips!

- **MEET THE BREEDER**—Don't be put off if a breeder isn't immediately responsive. Some breeders have full-time jobs, and they don't always have available puppies. Be selective. Find a breeder who is knowledgeable and make sure you're comfortable with them. Establish a good rapport with them as they will be an excellent resource and breed mentor for you throughout the life of your puppy. *
- **ASK ABOUT THE PUPPY'S PARENTS**— Get an idea of what the future holds for your dog in terms of temperament and appearance. Breeders should be honest about the breed's strengths and weaknesses and knowledgeable about the genetic diseases that can affect their breed — including what's being done to avoid them. *
- **Don't expect to bring home the puppy until it's 8 to 12 weeks of age.** A puppy needs ample time to mature and socialize with its mother and littermates. *

American Kennel
Club (AKC)

<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/german-shepherd-dog/>

<https://www.akc.org/breed-selector-tool/#/>

German Shepherd
Dog Club of
America (GSDCA)

<https://www.gsdca.org/>



German Shepherd Dog Club of America



We highly recommend Membership with our Parent club.

It puts you right in the mix of what's happening in the world of GSD's.

Multiple membership options are available: Single, Family, Juniors. Requirements for membership types can be viewed directly on parent club's website or can be reviewed on the next page of this newsletter.

<https://www.gsdca.org/application-and-info/>



The German Shepherd Dog Club of America, Inc., also known as the Parent Club for the GSD, was formed in 1913 & incorporated February 7, 1916.

The purposes for which the Corporation was formed are listed below:

- 1) To promote the breeding of the German Shepherd Dog;
- 2) To define precisely and publish definition of the true type, and to urge the adoption of such types on breeders, judges, dog show committees, etc., as the only recognized and unvarying standard by which the German Shepherd Dog is to be judged, and which may in the future be uniformly accepted as the sole standard of excellence in breeding and awarding prizes of merit;
- 3) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by offering prizes, supporting certain shows, encouraging the development of working qualities and taking any other steps that may seem advisable;
- 4) To promote its most conspicuous characteristics as Police Dog, War Dog, Red Cross Dog, and Herding Dog, and;
- 5) To encourage therefore all trial and demonstrations in which those qualities may be shown, so as to interest the public generally, but especially the police and other municipal organizations in our ideals.

- GSDCA Membership Application -

Application is available on the parent club's website:
<https://www.gsdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GSDCA-App-2.pdf>



GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

There are two types of membership. **Regular Members:** Minimum age of 18 years. Must be in good standing with AKC. Applicant (and renewing members) agrees to abide by the GSDCA by-laws and the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club. Two endorsements by current members must be provided by new applicants. Applicant's name will be published in the German Shepherd Dog Review. Provided no objections have been filed within 30 days of publication in the Review, applicant will be notified that he/she is eligible for all privileges including the right to vote.

Junior Members: Must be 9 years of age and not more than 17 years of age and shall subscribe to the same criteria as Regular Membership with the exception of the requirement to pay dues. Junior members cannot vote, hold office, or serve on committees other than junior committees.

To apply and pay **ONLINE** with a credit card, please go to <https://www.gsdca.org/application-and-info/>

Check Your Desired Membership Type:

☐ Membership Review

☐ One Year

☐ Three Year

☐ Five Year

Category	Delivery			
Single	Online Only	\$55	\$160	\$265
Single	Print & Online	\$75	\$215	\$355
Family	Online Only	\$80	\$230	\$385
Family	Print & Online	\$115	\$325	\$545

Additional Delivery Charges

The GSDCA conducts elections electronically (online). To Opt Out and receive a paper ballot via USPS Check Here

Delivery in Poly Wrap: +\$5.00

1st Class Delivery: +\$36.00

Outside United States: +\$24.00

Membership Information (Please Print)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Date of Birth (Juniors Only): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

For FAMILY Memberships, provide 2nd member information.

(Family membership is defined as 2 people living in the same household—principle & one other person).

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

What activities do you enjoy with your GSD? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Agility
 ☐ Conformation
 ☐ Herding
 ☐ House Pet
 ☐ Obedience
 ☐ Rally
 ☐ Schutzhund/Working Dog Sport
 ☐ Tracking
 ☐ Other

Endorser 1 Printed Name & Signature: _____

Endorser 2 Printed Name & Signature: _____

Applicant/Member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

To mail your application, send to Toni Pals, 4440 Burkholm Rd, Mims, FL 32754 with check payable to GSDCA

Membership Dues 1st Year: \$55 Individual \$65 Household
(Membership Dues Each Year Thereafter -\$40 Individual; \$50 Household) Check/payment must accompany application.

For Office Use Only:	
Reviewed by Board	
Joined GSDCAtl	

I/We authorize the GSDC of Atlanta to communicate with me/us via email unless otherwise indicated by checking the box listed above.

Equipment	Telephone	Microchip/Tattoo Clinics	Publicity	Trophies
Newsletter	Hospitality	Training Classes	Matches & Shows	Library

Date Attended,

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta, Inc.

November Meeting

Saturday, November 22nd



Meeting Minutes (Call- In Only Meeting)
November 22, 2025

Attendees: Justin, Dan, Ren, Morgan, Emily, Bryan, Hilary, Marilyn, Linda, Tricia, Tony, Joye, Cynthia, Glen, Tanya

The meeting was called to order at 11:03am by Dan.

- ⌚ Treasury Report for end of October 2025
 - o Limited incoming/outgoing activity for month: one set of dues received & our CD matured at the beginning of October. The Board agreed to continue to hold the initial starting balance in CD [REDACTED]. The interest earned was moved to cash balance. The best possible rate for a new CD was for a 4-month term with a rate of 4.02% (4.10 APY). This is scheduled to mature on February 3, 2026. Screen shot of current year to date activity (July 2025 – June 2026)
- ⌚ New folks – Dan thanked the new folks for joining our call: Emily, Bryan, Tricia & Tony. Dan met them at the UKC shows recently. We are excited to have them and look forward to seeing them in Perry in November and hope to be welcoming them as new club members soon!
- ⌚ Club's 70th Anniversary, starting 2026
 - o Founded in 1959 (incorporated in 1974)
 - o Ideas? Ad in April show premium, special event, newsletter/flashback edition/section, outreach/gift for existing members?
- ⌚ November Shows
 - o Counts (Saturday – 23 entries) (Sunday -22 entries)
 - o Timing – Saturday 10:30am and Sunday 11:00am
 - o Hotel reserved for Vicki Bemont (Saturday judge)
 - o Color/coordination? Let's wear blue on Saturday and purple on Sunday
 - o Additional Items for show (i.e., tents?) reminder to bring tents, chairs and fans.

Continued on next page

German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta, Inc.
September Meeting cont'd
Saturday November 22nd



🕒🕒 April Shows

- o Calendar reminder (April 17 & 18 with F/M on April 19, 2026)
 - ATL - Friday AM, Jack Kilgour (plus 4-6 puppy)
 - NGA - Friday PM, Ken Tank
 - NGA - Saturday AM, Lorry Bellah (plus 4-6 puppy)
 - ATL - Saturday PM, Rita Sandell (plus Juniors)
 - NGA - Futurity/Maturity - Dick Jones
- o Hotel/judges/location/timing reminder

🕒 Georgia Coalition

- o Renew membership - done
- o Justin is the delegate, and Linda is the alternate delegate

🕒 Christmas Party

- o Gift exchange valued at about \$10
- o Provino's in Kennesaw, Saturday, Dec 6th at 1pm. 440 Ernest W Barrett Parkway NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144

🕒 Reminder to pay membership dues as we prepare to renew our parent club membership

BRAGS:

Ren - bragged that Viper earned his Herding Instinct Test in Watkinsville.

Joye - Cher went to beginner obedience and earned her CGC!!

Linda - Justin handled Tango and earned on leg toward the Herding Instinct Test. In Mississippi, Tango finished her CH. Dan and Tango went BOBOH in the herding specialty.

Emily - Zion (aka Munchkin) finished UKC grand championship on his girl.

Tricia - excited to show in her first AKC show in Perry.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

JOHN CONELY •423-443-8578 • CONELYJ@AOL.COM

•STUD DOG•

AVAILABLE TO APPROVED BITCHES

STUD FEE:\$500



CARETTI'S
ONE WAY OUT

CAN SEL CH US GCH BREAL-JOGRA'S OAKLEY V SELIG-HAUS ROM OFA X CH CARETTI-JERRWEN'S BEWITCHED ROM OFA

•CHAMPION•
 •STUD DOG• AVAILABLE TO APPROVED BITCHES
WONDERLAND'S GONE COUNTRY



•OFA GOOD HIPS • OFA NORMAL ELBOWS • DM AT RISK • LONG COAT •
 •John Conely • 423-443-8578 • conelyj@aol.com•

DAE CH Colbyhaus Pantagonia Diplomat BCAT TC

CAN SEL AM/CAN CH Pastor Burgos ROMC TEC X GCH ColbyHaus' Dancin' In The Willows HIT

"TUCKER"

OFA Excellent Hips*

GS-108648E81M-VPI

OFA Normal Elbow*

GS-EL46713M81-VPI

**Completed @ 81months/Age 6.5 yrs*



STUD DOG

- ◊ DM Carrier
- ◊ Coat Carrier
- ◊ Frozen Available

Available to
Approved Bitches

2022 National Specialty

Class Dogs- 1st
Veterans 7-9 years



Judge Mr. Michel Chaloux

"I was impressed by the class winner. He was shown in top condition. He was a black and tan male of beautiful breed type. His back was rock solid, and he is a strong and efficient mover covering a lot of ground. This was really a beautiful veteran male. I loved him."

Danial P & Justin M • tuckkay2019@outlook.com • 727-510-5850 • <https://www.colbyhausgsd.com/breedingprogram>

REN & MORGAN LEWIS • 678-646-7555 • RENLEWIS1@GMAIL.COM



MAVERICK

GCHB Cedar Knoll's Malcolm V. Van Cleave ROM OFA x GCH CH Ranita's Song of the South 1st TC OFA

•STUD DOG• AVAILABLE TO APPROVED BITCHES•

GCH MATCHMAKER'S TOP GUN V HEINERBURG TC DCAT^{CHIC}

•OFA GOOD HIPS•OFA NORMAL ELBOWS•DM CLEAR•COAT CARRIER•BLACK CARRIER•

Grand Champion • Champion • Futurity Best Of Opposite

CARETTI'S BLUES MAN

OFA Good Hips • OFA Normal Elbows • DM Clear • Coat Carrier

•STUD DOG•



AVAILABLE TO APPROVED BITCHES
STUD FEE:\$600

2016 GV GCH Wolf Creek Galaxy Of Merivern OFA

“ZEKE”

x

CH Caretti-Terrwen's Bewitched RQM OFA

JOHN CONELY

423-443-8578 • CONELYJ@AOL.COM

“WILLY”
•STUD DOG•
AVAILABLE TO APPROVED BITCHES



2016 GV GCH WOLF CREEK GALAXY OF MERIVERN OFA

X

BIS CH WONDERLAND'S FORCE OF NATURE OFA

• 2x *Select Excellent* • *Grand Champion* •

WONDERLAND'S GEORGIA ON MY MIND

• OFA GOOD HIPS • OFA NORMAL ELBOWS • DM CARRIER • COAT CARRIER •

STUD FEE: PLEASE CALL

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