

THE SHEPHERD OR POLICE DOG

BY
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..

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Painting by Enno Meyer

HEAD OF A SHEPHERD.

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CONTENTS

PAGE

CHAPTER I.

The Origin, Early History and Geneology of the Shepherd 17

CHAPTER II.

Early History of the Breed and Its Introduction to America 24

CHAPTER III.

The Standard and Description of the Points..... 31

CHAPTER IV.

A Comparison of the American Bred Dogs and the
Standard 44

CHAPTER V.

Breeding and Rearing..... 50

CHAPTER VI.

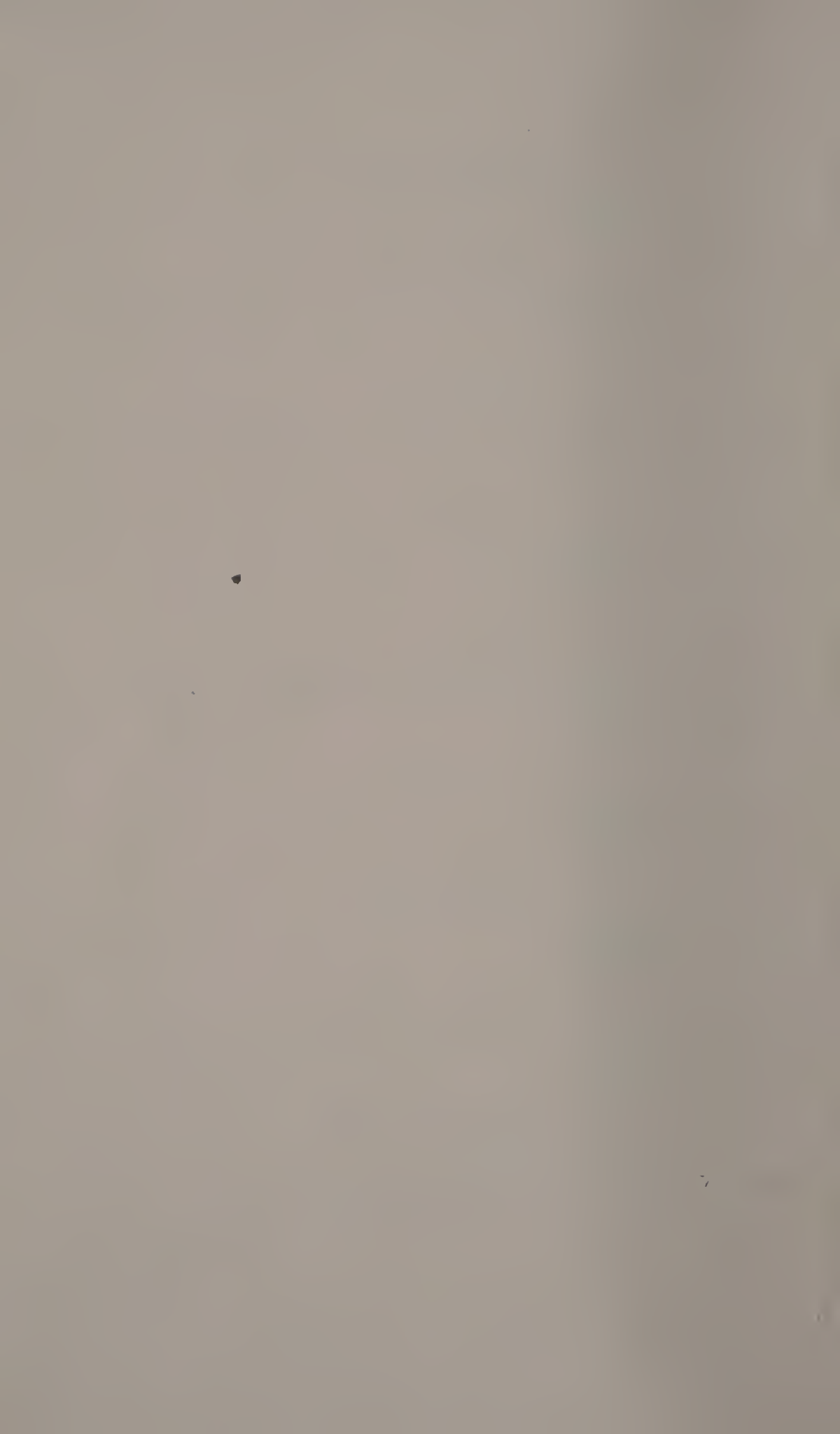
Rearing of Puppies..... 59

CHAPTER VII.

Training and Care..... 66

CHAPTER VIII.

Notes on the Care of the Shepherd..... 79



DEDICATION.

*To the Pioneers of the
breed in America,
whose fine sportsmanship
and earnest endeavor estab-
lished the breed in America,
this book is dedicated.*

Introduction

THE interest that was aroused in the Shepherd upon his advent in America was prompted primarily by his attractive exterior, his alert and engaging manner and the many visible proofs of his intelligence. As the acquaintance and understanding of this intelligence grew among the early fanciers of the breed, there came with it the desire to know more of his antecedents and the mental development that has given the breed its high station as a working dog, and they found that the entire history of this breed, from its early forbears to its most recent development was one in which utility was the keynote. Through the importations and business affiliations with experienced German fanciers, their efforts to encourage the breed in this respect were followed to a certain extent in America, not perhaps with the thorough understanding and patience of the German fanciers, but as well as they knew. At least, the early foundation was laid for this work with the very first entry of the breed, and great credit is due to those who inaugurated it here, many of whom are still its sponsors and are today developing this very important function of the breed. That it will grow and expand to its proper complement, there is no doubt, for the value of this training is still superficially understood by the general public in America. It has, to some extent, been grasped by the energetic moving picture men in this country, who have capitalized this ability with no mean success, so that the working and earn-

ing capacity of some of these Shepherds have placed them on a footing with their human confreres as "Stars." The owner of a single dog who keeps him solely as a companion may feel that this intensive training is unnecessary, and so it is to a certain extent, for a highly trained dog is sometimes too professional and eager to be a companion, but a course of protective training gives the dog his working value and makes him a greater asset to his master. Again, this preliminary training has often been the discoverer of some unusual mentality that called for a further exploitation of these talents, and so many of the highly finished police, war and herding dogs have been developed. One can readily see that all these efforts to bring the individual to such a high mental development must necessarily leave its impress upon the psychology of the breed and this favorable impress is evidenced by his great popularity. There is a general impression that the breed is of a taciturn and morose disposition, unwilling to forget his dignity at any time and have a jovial romp with his master. This erroneous belief finds its foundation generally in the imperfect conception of the dog's character. Shepherds as a rule are one-man dogs, and the elements that make up the reticence that the Shepherd shows to friendly advances are, first, the general training as a guard dog that makes him naturally suspicious of strangers and, in the second place, the quiet dignity that is the result of generations of schooling and that makes him loath to part with at the instigation of the stranger. To his master, however, he reveals his true feelings, and I have found all the Shepherds that I ever owned to be intensely affectionate, de-

voted, and anxious to please. I have found them eager students of my own moods, and if at any time I suggested romp and play, I was met with an instant response. As ready as they may be for play, they are on the instant as ready for their duty, an inherent sense that is ever uppermost in their minds. In this they differ from many other breeds who change from one state of mind to another with a much greater reluctance. There may be occasional instances of vicious individuals, just as they are found in other breeds, and very often in man, too, but they are rare. Then one finds shy individuals that are about as useless as the other extreme; these are usually the results of too intensive breeding and should be avoided, both as companions or as breeding animals.

The many new owners of this great breed are asking for a general and elemental information and to supply this in a condensed form is the purpose of this book. Nor is it the purpose to compare itself in any way with the wonderful work of Rittmeister von Stephanitz, whose years of research and study have made him supreme in this field, but if this book inspires the desire for a more thorough interest and a greater love for the breed, then its conception will be amply repaid.

CHAPTER I

The Origin, Early History and Geneology of the Shepherd

THE existing conditions in the world during the introduction of this interesting breed to America were responsible for considerable confusion in regard to its proper breed name. Known originally in Germany as Der Deutche Shaeferhund, the correct literal translation of The German Shepherd Dog was accepted in America as the proper name among the fanciers of the breed. The American Kennel Club, however, translated the Shepherd into the Sheepdog, due, perhaps, to the fact that herding dogs were generally known as Sheepdogs in the old English classifications. Previous to the World War, the name was also correctly translated in France, where he was known as the Chien de Berger Allemand, and the breeders of France registered their kennel names and their dogs in the German Studbook, where they will be found today. During the war the French changed the name to Chien de Berger Alsace, and when the breed was taken up in England this name was, in part, accepted there, and the dog was known as the Alsatian Wolfdog, and this of all the dog's collective nomenclature is the most erroneous. In America the name was also changed during the war to Shepherd Dog, and this again is most misleading, for the German Shepherd

is only one of the many kinds of Shepherd dogs that are found throughout the world.

The English name of Alsatian Wolf Dog leads us to the second great error usually accepted by the layman, namely, the wolf origin of the breed. Aside from the fact that the wolf is the common ancestor of all dogs, he had nothing whatever to do with the establishment of the latter-day Shepherd. It is possible that, along the Russian border, in parts of Hungary, in the Balkans, and possibly in the earlier days in the Pyrenees, crosses were effected with wolves upon the Shepherd dogs, but these had no bearing upon the establishment of the breed, for dogs of this breeding were not typical and were never used. All the latter-day experiments that I know personally between Shepherd dogs and tame wolves were dismal failures.

While the wolf is undoubtedly the progenitor of the dog, and we find remains of the forms of true wolves in the early stone age, there have been no discoveries of the true dog until the upper Pliocene period, where, with the first discoveries of the *Homo Sapiens*, or speaking human beings, we also find the first indications of the true dog.

The most important find in this direction was made in the beginning of this century on the estate of Count Poutiatin, near Moscow, and is known as *Canis Poutiatini*. The skull formation of this early dog shows a decided resemblance to the skulls of our latter-day Shepherds and deviates consider-

ably from the typical wolf skull. It has not been determined whether this early form was at this time already the companion of man or whether he was merely a highly developed feral form; at any rate, this was the first known transitory form from the wolf. After this form there followed a number of intermediary forms, together with infiltrations of small wolf and jackal-like feral forms until the bronze period, when we find a very distinct and well-established type, in the *Canis familiaris matris optima*e Jeitelles, named after his discoverer, Dr. Jeitelles, of Vienna, and generally known as the Bronze Dog. The skull formation of this dog stamps him as the probable progenitor of all Shepherd dogs and a very careful consideration of the anatomical details of the specimens of the Bronze Dog in existence may permit us to believe that the Shepherd of today is very similar in appearance, at least this is the opinion of Jeitelles; Naumann, Studer and other scientists who have made a life study of the prehistoric history of the Canidae. According to Buffon, we see in the Shepherd the original form of the dog and he maintains that all the breeds today are descended from this form, the variations being due entirely to climatic conditions and selective breeding. This type or form has gone through the ages with a remarkable continuity; one finds authentic data of its existence in ancient Egypt.

It was found among the early Romans, for Columella gives an accurate description of both herding and guard dogs of wolf-like type. The dog in

old Germany, of which authentic data exists, was the Hovawart, and the data concerning this dog can be traced to the Fourteenth Century, from that time to the present there is enough existing material, even to rather good illustrations, to prove that the Shepherd of today is the lineal descendant of these ancient dogs. While there is a great variability in the skulls of all the wild Canidae, the anatomical correlations in all these skulls, from the very earliest prehistoric type to the modern Shepherd, exist in such perfection that there is very little doubt as to the fixed basic type. The Shepherd dogs of the world are a big family, dividing itself into many separate breeds.

To name the principal ones: We have in England the collie and the Old English Sheepdog and a dwarf form known as the Shetland Sheepdog; in Russia a similar form, the Owtchar; Poland has an intermediary form that can not be considered a fixed breed, but Hungary had a distinct type in the Komondor; Rumania has a dog known as the Istrian Shepherd, a dog of heavy conformation and rather pendulous ears; then there is a Transcaucasian form that breeds true to type; in Switzerland we find two distinct types, the Sennenhund and the Bernerhund, both heavy powerful dogs, used principally with the cattle, and the Appenzeller, a smaller and lighter type; Belgium has several types, a smooth and a rough-coated dog similar to the German Shepherd, another of a like conformation but carrying a flat setter-like coat of jet black hair; another wire-haired type known as the Bouvrier des Flanders. The dis-

tinctive type of the French Shepherd is the Chien de Beauce, a handsome large Dane-like form. In Australia we find a pronounced form in the Kelpie, a very highly developed working strain. Here in America we have an original type that is found throughout Mexico and as far south as Peru. The Shepherd dogs of Germany are the heavy Rottweiler, a cattle driver; the old German Sheepdog that is almost synonymous with the Old English type, and the German Shepherd Dog who has in the last few years leaped into a well-deserved popularity. All these dogs are true Shepherds so far as their work is concerned, and even though they may be dissimilar in type they are nevertheless a related family.

The German Shepherd is primarily a shepherd dog. His ancestors were performing these duties hundreds of years ago and, while his superior intelligence makes him a dog that is particularly well suited for police work, for Red Cross duties and also as a wardog, the German Shepherd is still used principally in Germany as a shepherd dog. Many of our late importations have the HGH (Herde Gebrauchs Hund) affix, showing that they have passed a rigid test in herding work. At the same time the strains that are used entirely by the shepherds for their working qualities furnish a very virile influx into the closely bred show type and thereby contributing greatly to the stamina of the breed.

The first systematic effort to improve the dog was made by the shepherds of the preceding century, the

first consideration being, of course, their value as a working dog, and much depended upon the district in which he was used and the work that he was required to perform, either as a quick lithe dog to be used for sheep or a more powerful animal for the herding of cattle. Climatic conditions also played an important role in his development and finally, since he was the constant companion of his master, a certain pride was felt in his good appearance and this was probably the first stimulus toward the development of the handsome dog we know today.

The first concrete effort to establish a specialty club for the development of the breed was made in 1891, when the club known as the Phylax was formed by the admirers of the breed. However, since the entire effort of this club seemed to be the furthering of outward appearances and the production of a certain type, with a consequent loss of his intelligence and working ability, this club made very meager advancement, especially since those that were vitally interested in the dog kept him first for his working qualities and therefore the year 1894 marked the passing of the club.

In 1899 a group of real fanciers and breeders organized the Verein fuer Deutsche Schaeferhunde, known to the fanciers today as the S. V. and established a stud book that stands today as a model of its kind.

At this time a number of shepherds in Thuringia had established large kennels and were breeding

consistently. The Thuringian dogs were large, usually of the wolf coloring with the prick ears and were consequently much sought for by those who bred for show purposes. The dogs of Wurtemberg, on the other hand, often carried a soft ear, but they had the advantage of perfect tail carriage, while the Thuringians were inclined to ring tails. They had further a fine shepherd conformation with a wealth of bone, too much so in some instances and these heavy-boned dogs were sluggish and lacked style, which the Thuringians had in abundance, but the combination of the two strains, with the elimination of the faults of each of them, brought forth the ideal shepherd.

CHAPTER II

Early History of the Breed and Its Introduction to America

THE early kennels that were responsible for the establishment of the present type were the kennels of Sparwasser in Frankfort, Wachsmuth in Hanau and Eiselin in Heidesheim. In the Sparwasser Kennel was produced the sire that is the foundation of the modern Shepherd, not only of the show strain, but also of the working type. This dog was Horand von Grafrath and every high-class producing Shepherd is a lineal descendant of this great dog. We may talk of the Beowulf, the Starckenburg, the Horst von Boll, Kriminalpolizei and Riedekenburg strains, but they are really all subdivisions of the blood of Horand. Horand was, like all great sires that suddenly appear in the beginnings of almost all breeds, a dog that was far ahead of his time. Fortunately, he came early into the possession of Capt. von Stephanitz, the grand old man of the breed in Germany, whose wonderful research work among the Canidae has fitted him to produce a most marvelous work on the dog, and it was most fortunate for the fanciers of the Shepherd that his wonderful knowledge and guiding hand piloted the destinies of this breed. How very fitting it was that the dog Horand should be in the hands of this great fancier. The next sire of importance to the breed was Beowolf, who claimed Horand as his grandsire on both

sides, while his granddams were both of the Wuerttemberg working strain. This shows that the breeders were carefully using a strong and intelligent outcross with their line breeding to type dogs. Beowolf transmitted his own individuality to such an extent that his progeny is called the Beowolf strain; his good qualities were more apparent, however, on the female rather than the male side of his line.

The next dog in the list of important sires was Dewet Barbarossa, whose line traces back on one side to Horand and on the other to Luchs von Sparwasser, a little brother of Horand, and here again we also find in his pedigree a judicious mixture of working blood. A striking proof of the potency of this blood is shown in the mating of Dewet to his daughter, the 1902 and 1903 Champion, Hella von Menningen. The result was Siegfried vom Jena Paradies who was the working Champion of 1906 as a War Dog, Police Dog and Red Cross Dog.

Following in importance in the list of sires was Graf Eberhard von Hohen-Esp, perhaps the most intense of the latter-day Horand dogs, having Horand as his grandsire on both sides of his dam's breeding and four times as great grandsire on his sire's side. He also proved a splendid nick on the Wuerttemberg utility strain.

It will be noticed that none of these sires had acquired championships, as the success of most of them was indifferent in the show ring. By this time, however, the breed was becoming strongly entrenched in type, and from this period the producing dogs were all more or less of the pronounced show type. Graf

Eberhard produced the 1908 Champion, Luchs von Karlsruh Wetzlar, who in turn produced the 1910 Austrian Champion, Wotan vom Emstal, and the 1910 German Champions, Flora von der Kriminalpolizei and Tell von der Kriminalpolizei, and the latter in turn produced the 1911 Champion, Hella von der Kriminalpolizei.

Another Champion who will go down into history as the producer of Champions in Shepherd history is the 1906-'7 Champion, Roland von Starkenburg, the sire of the 1907 Champion bitch, Hulda vom Siegestor; the 1908 Champion bitch, Flora von der Warte, and the 1909 Champion, Hettel Uckermark. Roland traces back on the sire's side to a strong representation of Horand blood and on the dam's side we find a strong line breeding to Pollux, the sire of Horand. Roland is found today in the modern pedigrees as one of the most influential sires. The sires of today substantiate the prepotency of the Horand blood.

To pick at random, there is Nores von der Kriminalpolizei, strong in von Boll blood, which is a continuation of the intensely bred Horand dog, Graf Eberhard von Hohen-Esp.

Another sire of the present day, Alex von Westfalenheim, the grandsire of the 1922 Champion dog and bitch of Germany, is sired by Hettel Uckermark, a very prepotent son of Roland, and goes back on the dam's side to Gunter Uckermark, a litter brother of Hettel.

While the history of the breed in America is encompassed in a comparatively short period, it has

made wonderful strides, in spite of the constant predictions by fanciers of other breeds that the breed had a fictitious impetus for popularity and that this was gradually waning, it has on the contrary risen to a popularity undreamed of, even by its earliest supporters. The reason for this is nothing more or less than the dog's super-intelligence and his working qualities, and at that, this particular sphere of the dog's usefulness has barely been touched in America, and when this phase is taken up seriously, it will even do more to enhance his popularity than his very evident handsome appearance and his great intelligence have done for him. The first Shepherds were brought to America by Otto Gross in 1906 and but little attention was paid to them at that time, Mr. Gross, who is today the premier authority on the breed in America, persisted in his efforts to introduce the breed, and with the assistance of a fine and enthusiastic group of fanciers the foundation was finally laid that established the breed in America. The first breeder of Shepherds in America was Mr. Chas. Schott of Milwaukee, whose Wotan Kennels helped the early establishment of many others. He was quickly followed by groups in various parts of America; in the East were Mrs. Halstead Yates of the Oak Ridge Kennels, who owned the famous Ch. Alarich von Alpenluft, on whom I had the honor to bestow the special for best dog in the show, the first time this special had been awarded to a Shepherd; Mr. F. Emken, who owned Ch. Herta von Ehrengrund; Wm. Neuhoff of the Harrington Park Kennels; Miss Anne Tracy, who has not only

bred many good ones, but has helped the breed with her clever translations and journalistic work; Mr. De Winter of the Winterview Kennels; Mr. Bruno Hoffman and Mr. Henri Baer, who owned one of the first trained bitches in Hilda von Triebel; Mr. Sheridan S. Norton, who owned Ch. Max; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Huhn and their Wally Wally Kennels were active breeders, as was Mrs. Abbie Rubino, who also went into trained dogs. Mr. L. Wielich was one of the early sponsors for the breed and a fine judge. Mrs. T. O'Donnell Hillen was a consistent breeder, and Mrs. Leo F. Wanner was a very thorough exponent of the breed. Mr. F. Spiekerman and Mr. G. Sabo were constant breeders and were also good judges, both on the bench and in the trials. Mr. Ely Buell had the Seneca Farms Kennel and Mr. Reginald M. Cleveland's well-known Rexden Kennels were always in evidence. Mr. John Gans was very early a force in the Shepherd world, for he gathered a fine collection of Champions and made excellent importations. Mr. Gans not only imported the best, but also made a number of American-Bred Champions. His kennels were under the management of Robert McCallum, who afterward acquired the South Bay Kennels of Mr. B. R. Ruggles, who helped materially in the early establishment of the breed. Mr. McCallum later went in for importations and brought many new dogs to this country. Mr. Anton Rost was and still is one of the early sponsors of the breed.

Coming westward to Pennsylvania, there was at Scranton the fine establishment of Mr. Benj. Throop,

known as the Elmview Kennels, and the home of Int. Ch. Apollo von Hunenstein. These kennels were under the management of the expert, Otto Gross, and with his thorough knowledge of dogs and especially the Shepherd, these kennels soon occupied the foremost position. At Johnstown the Black Lick Kennels of Mr. Luke Swank were sending out excellent stock and at Butler Mr. J. S. Campbell held forth with his Auldane Kennels. In Ohio Mr. Alfred Flesh established the Swift Run Kennels, producing excellent stock and helping to establish the American-Bred, and at Cincinnati Mr. Harry G. Meyer founded his Beech-Knoll Kennels, with dogs strong in Starckenburg blood. Illinois had a number of early fanciers. In Chicago Mr. Joseph Morris' Analostan Kennels were the home of the Holland Ch. Roland von Wupperstrand, and in Peoria Mr. Arnold Rieder helped to popularize the breed. Other prominent supporters of the breed in Chicago were Capt. Bernard Baer of the Chicago Police Department, Mrs. Clara B. Jelke and Dr. Frank R. Weston. In Detroit Mr. Frank P. Book maintained a fine kennel and took an active interest in the breed. At St. Joseph, Missouri, Mr. Huston Wyeth kept an excellent kennel and produced good American-breds.

At Omaha, Nebraska, Mr. John Buck maintained a large kennel headed by Sport von Greifberg, and Mr. Phil Geil of the same city was also an enthusiastic beginner.

Going to the extreme West, we found in California two important exponents of the breed, Mr.

Wm. Matern, with his Maternhof Kennels, and Mrs. Alvin Untermeyer, whose Greystone Kennels have been the home of scores of splendid dogs. While we are speaking of these fanciers as the early founders of the breed it must not be in the sense of very remote history, for all of them, with few exceptions, are breeding today on as large, if not on a greater scale. Today this list of splendid fanciers has been augmented by scores of new kennels and breeders who are enthusiastic supporters of the breed, and their number is such legion that one could not attempt to enumerate them.

CHAPTER III

The Standard and Description of the Points

THE Shepherd is a dog of alert appearance, he immediately conveys the impression of a useful working dog, his anatomical construction and his temperament suggest a working force, there is no exaggeration at any point of his make-up; his character portrays no softness, no frivolity and no foolish tendency at any time, neither does it harbor any meanness nor treachery, and while he holds himself aloof from the stranger, there is no dog more faithful or more anxious to please his master. His master is his idol and for him he has the deepest love and devotion. It is, in fact, so centered upon the master that he cares little about any other human being, and while he may apparently be friendly toward others, one can see that it is merely a politeness instead of an attempt at friendship. And yet, in spite of the loyalty and affection that is so deeply entrenched, he does not at any time display it with any exuberance; there is always present a reserve that gives the breed a certain dignity that makes for it an admiration and respect.

The standard of the Shepherd Dog describes the dog as follows: 1. General Appearance and divides this into (a) Structure and (b) Characteristics. Taking the structure first, "The Shepherd dog is a dog above the middle size. He is long, strong and well muscled, full of life and at attention nothing escapes his sharp senses.

The average height for dogs is 60 centimeters

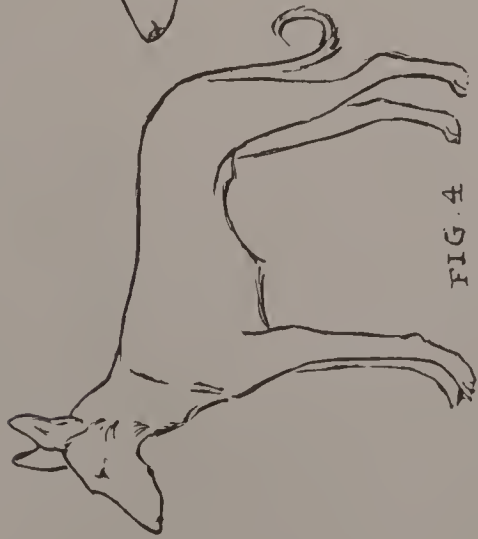


FIG. 4



FIG. 1



FIG. 3



FIG. 2

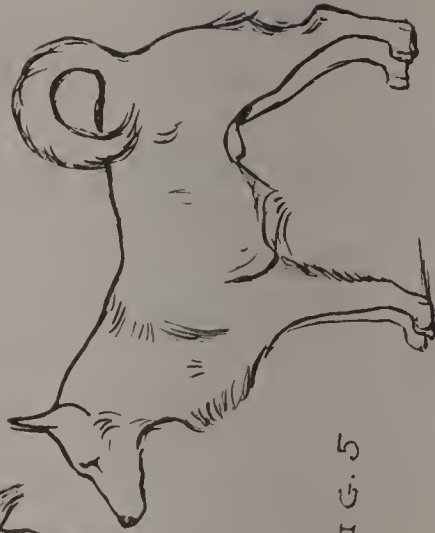


FIG. 5

Explanations of Drawings on Opposite Page

FIG. 1. The ideal contour of the Shepherd showing the alert poise of the head, the good angle of the shoulder, straight front limbs with sloping pasterns, with good feet, the body with its proper length, deep chest and strong loin, hindquarters with the correct angulation and a correctly carried tail.

FIG. 2. Not a very faulty form, but one that just misses the standard type, a little too tall for his length, a bit too light in bone, that is hidden by his coat, which is too profuse, head somewhat weak in substance, shoulders too straight, pasterns too straight, rear angulation in hindquarters not decided enough, hocks too straight.

FIG. 3. A poor type, one whose breeding would show an indiscriminate mixture of out-crosses, the whole dog showing a lack of Shepherd character, plain expressionless head, heavy shoulders, too low on the leg and too long in body, lack of depth in brisket, long slack loin with a stilty croup that weakens the entire quarters, tail too short and carried too gaily.

FIG. 4. Another poor type, one that is the result of overzealous in-breeding, head too long and too large with ears too large and consequently of a faulty carriage, this type of head is usually very much overshot, neck too short, shoulders too straight, legs too long with weak short pasterns and splay feet, no depth of brisket, body too short and usually too flat in rib, loin too short, hindquarters stilty with no angulation and a badly formed tail.

FIG. 5. A type that is a reversion to its early ancestry, resembling in its entire contour the allied northern forms like the Spitz, the Samoyede, the Eskimo, Norwegian bear dog, and the Chow.

(24 inches) and for bitches between 55 and 58 centimeters (22 to 23 inches). This height is established by taking a perpendicular line from the top of the shoulder blade to the ground, with the coat parted and so pushed down that the measurement will show only the actual height of the frame or structure of the dog.

The most desirable height for the Shepherd dog as a working dog is between 55 to 64 or 65 centimeters (22 to 26 inches). The working value of dogs above or below these heights is lessened.

Note—Height above the average should not be considered a fault, however, provided the proportion of length to height is correct, and the weight of the bone is also in proportion and not so great as to make the dog clumsy or readily fatigued. In all cases the proportion of length to height should not be less than ten is to nine, preferably as ten is to eight.

(b) Characteristics :

The traits and special characteristics of the Shepherd are watchfulness, loyalty, honesty and an aristocratic bearing, forming a combination that makes the Shepherd dog an ideal guard and companion. It is desirable to try and improve his appearance, but nothing must be done which in any way detracts from his usefulness.

2. Head :

The size of the head should be in proportion to the body, without being clumsy. It should be clean cut and of medium width between the ears. The forehead, seen from the front, only moderately arched, lacking or with very slight center furrow.



FIG. 6



FIG. 7



FIG. 8



FIG. 9



FIG. 10



FIG. 11

FIG. 6. The correct type of head (front view) correct width of skull, ears carried properly, well set eyes of correct size muzzle with sufficient length and good strength.

FIG. 7. Incorrect type, skull too wide, eyes set too far apart and too round in shape, ears set on too wide, too short and pointed, muzzle too short and too weak in substance.

FIG. 8. The opposite incorrect type to Fig. 7, favoring too much of the Collie type, skull too narrow, ears too large, eyes too small and set too obliquely, fore face too long and usually very much overshot in mouth.

FIG. 9. Correct type (profile) showing good depth of head with the corresponding proportion of muzzle, the outline showing the correct amount of stop.

FIG. 10. Incorrect type showing the heaviness of the head, forehead inclined to dish and the undershot mouth that is prevalent in this type.

FIG. 11 The opposite incorrect type showing the weak skull, the abnormally long forehead and the overshot mouth that is a natural consequence of this formation.

The skull slopes in a slanting line without an abrupt stop, continuing into the wedge-shaped long muzzle; the muzzle is strong, the lips tight and dry, firmly fitting together; the cheeks slightly rounded toward the front, but without undue prominence as seen from the front. The bridge of the nose is straight and in parallel line with an imaginary elongation of the line of the forehead. Jaws and teeth are very strong, teeth meeting in a scissors grip, but not overshot. (Note—The correct mouth is one in which the inner surfaces of the upper teeth meet and engage part of the outer surfaces of the lower teeth. This mouth gives a more powerful grip and sharp bite than one in which the edges of the teeth meet directly. If there is any space between the upper and lower teeth, however, when the mouth is closed, the dog is under or overshot, and faulty in this particular.)

3. Ears:

Medium in size, set high on the head, relatively broad at the base and pointed at the tops, opening toward the front and carried erect when at attention, though not necessarily at all times. Cropped and hanging ears are to be discarded. (Note—A firm erect carriage is desirable, especially for breeding animals. The ideal carriage is one in which the center lines of the ears, viewed from the front, are parallel to each other and perpendicular to the ground. Slight outward divergencies are permissible. In young dogs slight pliancy or lack of complete firmness is permissible. Puppies usually do not straighten their ears before the fourth or sixth month and frequently not until later.)

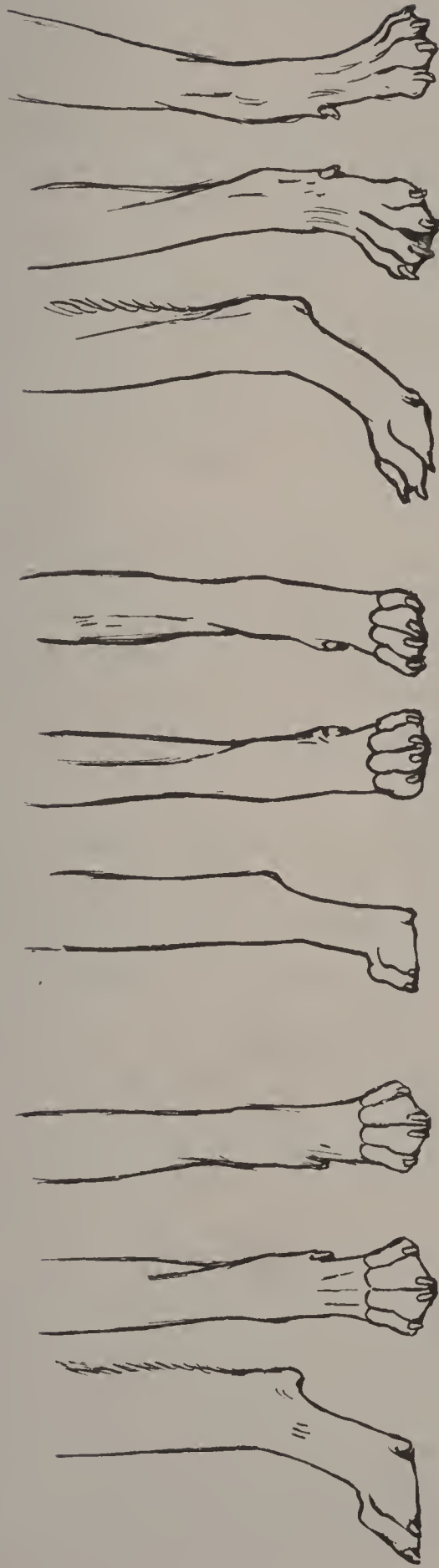


FIG. 12

FIG. 12. Correct front legs with good straight bone, strong slanting pastern and feet that are of the right length and still compact.

FIG. 13. Incorrect front legs, toeing in and knuckling over at the pastern, the latter are too straight and the feet too cat-like.

FIG. 14. Another type of incorrect front legs, turning out at the pasterns, the latter bent too much, the feet weak, flat and splayed.

FIG 13

FIG.14

4. Eyes:

Medium size, almond shaped, set a little oblique and not protruding, color dark brown. The expression should be lively, intelligent and show distrust of strangers. (Note—In light-colored dogs eyes of light color are frequently found. If they harmonize with the coloration of the dog they should not be considered a serious fault, but the dark eye is always to be preferred.)

5. Neck:

Strong and muscular, clean cut, proportionate to head and back, without loose folds of skin. (Note—When a dog is excited the neck is raised and the head carried high, otherwise the head is carried but little higher than the top of the shoulder.)

6. Body:

Chest deep, but not too wide; ribs rather flat than barrel shaped, with the breast bone reaching to the elbow; abdomen moderately tucked up; back straight and very strongly developed; short coupled and long-legged dogs are to be discarded. The agility and elasticity required of the herding dog are attained by the proper angulation at the fore and hind quarters, broad, powerful loin and long, gradual sloping croup.

7. Tail:

Bushy, reaching to the hock and often forming a slight hook turned to one side. At rest, the tail hangs in a slight curve like a sabre. When the dog is excited or in motion the curve is accentuated, and the tail is raised, but it should never be lifted beyond a line at right angles with the line of the back. The

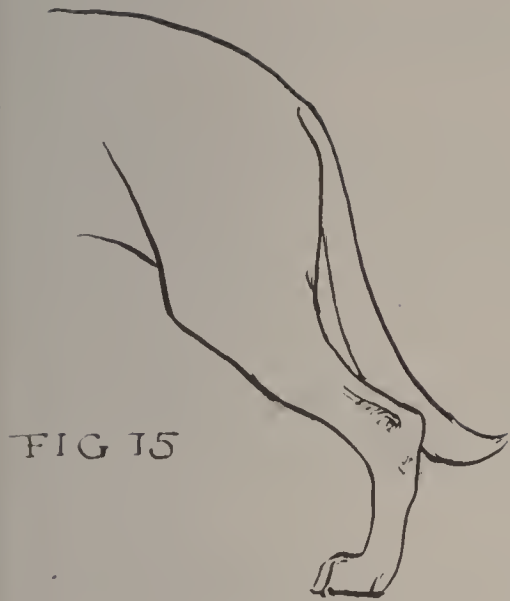


FIG. 15



FIG. 15. Correct hindquarters with the correct angulation at the stifle and the hock, the latter let down sufficiently to give the proper resiliency to the pushing power.



FIG. 16



FIG. 16. Incorrect hindquarters, too straight in angulation with abnormally weak hocks. The latter fault is very rare in this breed but does occur, and is usually the result of a rachetic condition in the individual.

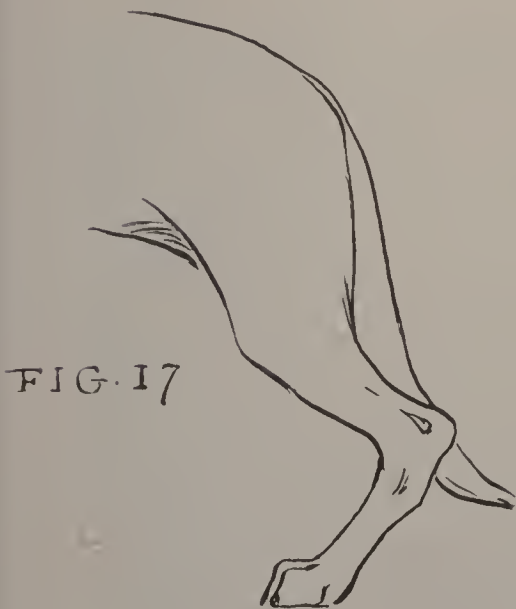


FIG. 17



FIG. 17. Hindquarters in which the angle at the stifle is not bad, but in which the hock is let down too much, making them cowhocked. Dogs with this fault always have a poor and powerless stride.

tail, therefore, should never be laid over the back, either straight or curved. Docked tails are to be discarded. (Note—Bobbed tails and too short tails appear, but dogs having this fault should be discarded for breeding. The end of the last vertebrae of the tail should reach fully to the hock when the tail is held against the dog's hind leg.)

8. Forequarters:

The shoulders should be long and sloping, well muscled and set on flat against the body. The forearm straight viewed from all angles. The pastern long and combining springiness with strength. (Note—The angulation of the shoulder is extremely important to the proper gait of the dog. The angle at the point of the shoulder where the shoulder blade joins the upper arm should be very nearly a right angle. The construction of the chest, as outlined under the heading "Body," above, should permit the free play of the foreleg backward and forward. This is impossible with a round ribbed dog.)

9. Hindquarters:

The thigh broad and powerfully muscled. The upper thigh long and sharply angled with the long stifle. The hock strong and comparatively short. (Note—The hindquarters of the correctly constructed Shepherd dog presents a study in sharp angulations. This enables the dog to step far under his body with the hindleg, to take firm hold upon the ground and propel himself forward with a powerful stride. It is not sufficient that the stifle itself should be long; to secure the correct movement it must present a sharp angle with the upper thigh, as

well as with the hock. Great strength of hock is necessary to provide the power required in the lifting and forward driving step. Cow hocks are a serious fault.)

10. Feet:

Round, short, compact and the toes well arched. Pads very hard, nails short, strong and usually dark in color. Dew claws frequently appear on the hind

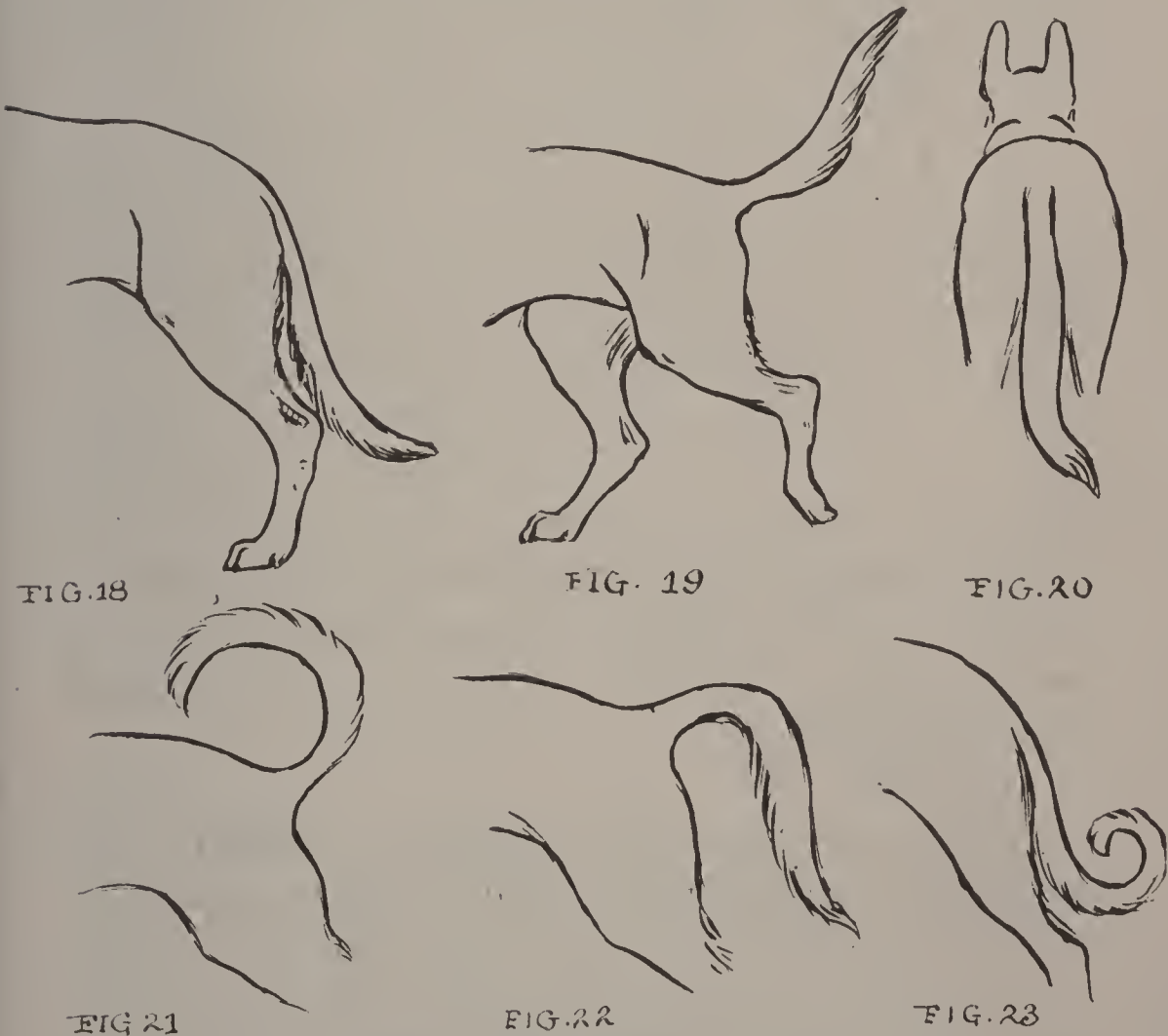


FIG. 18. Correctly carried tail when in repose.
FIG. 19. The same when the dog is in action.
FIG. 20. A slight curl to one side, that is, permissible.
FIG. 21. Incorrect tail, carried too gaily and curling over the back.
FIG. 22. Incorrect tail carried with a downward droop in action.
FIG. 23. Incorrect tail carried with too much curl in repose and this curl is usually intensified in action.

leg. They are not faults in themselves, but as they usually cause a spread action and sometimes injury, they should be removed immediately after the puppies are whelped. (Note—The feet of the Shepherd dog are an important part of his working equipment. The so-called cat foot or terrier foot are not desired. On the other hand, the thin, spread or hair foot are still more undesirable. The ideal foot is compact and extremely strong, with good gripping power and plenty of depth of pad.)

11. Color:

All colors are permissible, from solid black to solid white, including many variations of brown, grays and mixed wolf colorings, also brindles. White markings on chest and legs are allowed. The undercoat, except black dogs, is always light in color. The color of the puppy can be ascertained only when his outer coat comes in. (Note—While the permissible range of color is extremely wide, the white and very pale and washed out colors are not deemed so desirable, while albinos, white with red eyes, are to be discarded. The skin of the nose in all cases should be black.)

13. Coat:

While there are three varieties of Shepherd dogs recognized, namely, the smooth-coated, rough-coated or wire-haired and the long-coated, the first of these, i. e., the smooth-coated Shepherd dog is the only one found in any appreciable number and the only variety here discussed. In this variety the outer coat should be as dense as possible, each single hair straight, harsh and lying close to the body. Slightly wavy outer coat is permissible. The head, includ-

ing the inner ear, front quarters and paws covered with short hair and the neck with longer and thicker hair. The fore and hind legs have a short feather extending to the pasterns and hock respectively. (Note—Length of coat varies. Too short a coat is a fault; the smooth coat which is too long collects dirt and indicates either a poor or absent undercoat. The undercoat should always be present and should be dense and form a real protection to the body. The amount of undercoat present will, of course, vary somewhat with the season and the proportion of his time which the dog spends out of doors.)

14. Faults:

- (a) All physical defects which tend to lessen utility and endurance, especially a combination of short back and legginess.
- (b) Too clumsy or too fine a build.
- (c) Soft or sway-back.
- (d) Steep positions of the forequarter or hind-quarter assemblages or anything which would adversely affect the length or elasticity of the stride or running gear.
- (e) The coat too short or too soft or the undercoat lacking.
- (f) Skull too clumsy or shallow.
- (g) Muzzle too short and stumpy or too weak and pointed.
- (h) Mouth overshot or undershot.
- (i) Splay feet and long-coated paws.
- (j) Hanging ears.
- (k) Rolling, ring or badly carried tails.
- (l) Cropped ears or docked tails.

CHAPTER IV

A Comparison of the American Bred Dogs and the Standard

AN analysis of the Standard reveals a very thorough covering of the points of the perfect Shepherd and it is difficult to amplify it without causing confusion and losing sight of its salient features. A comparison of the major part of the dogs today with this standard is perhaps useful to the degree that we might strive to a nearer approach by an elimination of the graver general faults. The Standard suggests a height of 22 to 26 inches. The greater part of the best winning males today measure from 25 to 27 inches; in fact, there are more that measure over 25 inches than under. Here in America I would consider these large males an asset, for there are still a great many weedy and small American-breds. As the breed becomes more established and when the blood lines are followed more intelligently we can lay more stress upon the finish and then hold more closely to the ideal size, but the many weedy bitches in America demand large rugged sires. In the matter of character, one of the very apparent faults in our dogs is shyness. This was undoubtedly intensified in America by the breeding of shy individuals to those of a similar characteristic and sometimes both individuals had

the added disadvantage of a shy strain in their heritage, consequently this bad fault will be deeply stamped upon the progeny. We must not lose sight of the fact that the Shepherd's greatest commendation is his usefulness, and therefore a shy dog must necessarily be out of the question so far as usefulness is concerned and should be severely penalized. If a bitch that is shy has such great qualities that she is considered at all for breeding, then a sire should be chosen that is her perfect antithesis in this respect and that is descended from a long line of bold dogs. It is well known among the breeders that certain strains have an inherent shyness that may develop violently in certain breedings and of latter years they are studiously avoiding these sires. We should follow their precepts in America. The German system of the Koerbuch is very valuable in this respect and the great faults will be eventually entirely eliminated, but alas, through our loose system of breeding here, they have an opportunity to return in all their viciousness.

The great difficulty in the head properties of our Shepherds is the very apparent weakness of foreface. Perhaps we had better call it a lack of balance, for when we do develop good forefaces they are on very strong-headed dogs, with plenty of skull. What we must strive for are skulls that merge into forefaces of power. There could be an improvement also in the ears of the American-breds. We seem to get them too broad at the base and running into

too much of a point and with this we usually get the incorrect carriage in too much outward slant. There is not much to criticize in the eyes and we also get fairly good necks. When we take the next point in the standard, the body, there is much to be desired. The bodies of the majority of our Shepherds could be longer and the chests could be deeper. There is considerable misunderstanding about the length of the Shepherd body, the erroneous impression exists with many that length of body is length of loin. While the Shepherd has a large, strong loin, it must be proportionate to the general body length; the loin is very important in the Shepherd, since it is the fulcrum of the power as it is distributed between the forehand and the hindquarters, and a long, thin loin would mean not only a wabby frame, but an absolute lack of the co-ordination that makes a perfect Shepherd gait.

There could be, too, an improvement in the tails of our dogs; these seem to lack length and length is important, since the tail has a certain influence as a rudder in the gait; long-tailed dogs have the smooth, gliding gait, while those with short tails usually have a choppy, bobbing movement. In forequarters our dogs are not bad, occasionally one sees the stilty shoulder that is undesirable, but they are rare. Our greatest failing is, without a doubt, in our inability to produce perfect hindquarters; these as a rule are too straight. The fault here, I think, can be attributed to our early sires, many of

whom had very little angulation themselves and never produced it in the puppies. Since we have this fault, we are at least spared another serious fault in consequence, the cow-hock, which is rather rare in the American-bred, and naturally so, for straight hindquarters do not produce cow-hocks. We can congratulate ourselves, too, on feet, since these on the whole are good. Coats also could be improved; many of them are too long and profuse, and the good, thick undercoat with the smooth, closely lying and hard top coat are rather rare.

The gait of the majority of our dogs leaves much to be desired, and this will not be remedied until we get better angulation.

Correct conformation in the Shepherd is essential to a perfect gait; the Shepherd is a trotting dog, and on account of his work, especially as a herding dog, must possess a tireless trot. For this reason the body must be long, so that the rear action does not over-reach. If an imaginary line were drawn through the center of the tracks made by a perfect-gaited Shepherd we would find both front and rear tracks close to this line. If the dog is too short he will naturally throw out his hind legs so as not to interfere with his front action, and this would of course, be a strong detriment to the speed. The angulation of both the forehand and the hindquarters must be correct, so that there is no loss of power, especially is this so with the hindquarters, for this is the principal propelling power of the Shepherd, the angles

offering the spring and leverage to the muscles, aided by a strong flexible loin and a croup that has the right angle also. The forequarters, while not furnishing the power as essentially as the hindquarters, must necessarily be strong, for they are the governors that make the speed possible; all this combined makes the ideal gait, the swift, tireless trot, with an utter lack of lost motion; the German trainers call it a fleeting gait. This perfect conformation also stands the dog in good stead for leaping. On account of his powerful construction in the hindquarters and his agile forehand the dog is able to clear an obstacle that seems impossible for his size.

While on the subject of the perfect Shepherd, the show ring suggests itself and it may not be amiss to touch upon the showing of the dog. Many good dogs are taken into the ring in a listless, uninterested way, making his chances to win very remote. The judge sees the dog only for the short time that he is before him in the ring and must make a rapid analysis. A dog that has been trained to pose always has his good qualities showing to the best advantage, constantly impressing them upon the judge's mind. A dog that stands listlessly may have all his good angulation entirely misplaced and is often overlooked. So it is with the one who wants to do battle with every other dog; it is morally impossible for the judge to pass upon a dog that is raging and twisting around in a senseless way, and the judge is often justified in giving him the gate for his be-

havior. It is advisable, too, to accustom your dog to being gaited on the leash, both in the walk and the trot, for most Shepherd judges insist on an exhibition of both gaits, and nothing so mars a dog's opportunities as a foolish jerking and dragging on the leash. The prize ring is a most important adjunct to the production of high-class animals, since the competition which it stimulates makes for more perfect dogs. Not alone are the ribbon winners benefited, but every exhibitor has the opportunity to compare his own with superior animals and so see the faults that he must in future try to avoid.

CHAPTER V

Breeding and Rearing

THE great demand for the Shepherd in America has induced the breeding of them in large quantities without due regard to proper selection and mating, and while this argues for a large distribution and consequent growth in popularity, it mitigates against the production of quality, and to produce this in its highest form, it should be the first consideration and the first endeavor of every breeder. In time, of course, this will be brought about by natural conditions, for instance, a better general knowledge of the breed, thereby demanding better specimens; again through the large importations of good specimens and by the gradual improvement of American-bred dogs among the older breeders and exhibitors, who have been working with strains and individuals, and are acquiring a breeding knowledge that time alone can furnish.

All pure-bred animals of high type and quality, especially in their outward form, are produced by in-breeding, and the Shepherd dog is a fine example of this scientific form of breeding. It must be borne in mind, however, that the faults must be given the same consideration as the extreme quality that is sought for. These faults will make themselves manifest in many and various forms; owing to the strong basic types of the different strains, there are inherent faults that are difficult to eradicate. Then there are the faults that are common to the

individual, and again, the faults that are caused by the combination of certain blood lines. For instance, a famous sire had the reputation in Germany of siring puppies with abnormally short tails, and we all know that in a short tail is usually a badly carried tail. He was sold to America, and for a long time produced tails of the proper length, when suddenly a litter sired by him was born in which there were puppies that were almost tailless! This is a very good demonstration of the juncture of two families in which there was a strong inherent fault. Among the early ancestors of these families there were, no doubt, some strong influxes of the Old German Sheep Dog, who has a very short tail, and, like the Old English, is sometimes born without a tail, and it is known that the breeders of working dogs used this cross in the early days.

The Shepherd sires as a rule are very virile in the production of their family character and are, perhaps more than any other breed, very prepotent in the reproduction of their own form and type, so it behooves the breeder to select a sire that does not possess the faults of his bitch, but rather has the qualities to correct them. Light boned bitches should be bred to dogs of substance, and heavy low bitches to dogs of a racier, lither type, but the chief family characteristics must always be kept in mind. Above all things, the sire must be perfectly free from all outstanding faults, such as an overshot or undershot mouth, loose or pinched shoulders, cow-hocked or bowed hindquarters, etc., for an undershot mouth has never corrected an overshot mouth, or vice versa ;

the faults are rather intensified and prove an ineradicable inheritance.

It is of utmost importance to take into careful consideration the character and temperament of the sire. We must always keep uppermost in our mind the fact that the Shepherd is a utility dog, and as such has won his spurs, so it is incumbent upon every breeder to so carefully select his matings that there may be no inherent faults of character and disposition stamped upon the breed, for they are very, very difficult to eradicate. A shy or vicious sire will usually produce puppies that are like him in disposition, and dogs with these defects are usually stupid and useless for training. The same may be said about the brood bitch, and should both sire and dam be possessed of these evils, then the result is truly alarming and the breeder has done an incalculable harm by fixing a curse that the intelligent and conscientious breeder has been trying to dispel. In the bitch we call for a quiet, even temperament, and while the dash and aggressiveness of the male need not prevail, still there must be no sign of fear or nervousness.

Without a doubt, the best results are obtained by a sire and dam that are alike in their general conformation, and while this is possible in Germany, where there are a great many good sires to select from in a rather limited territory, it is difficult in America on account of the great distances that separate the dogs.

After the proper selection of the individual, the next step would be a careful consideration of the

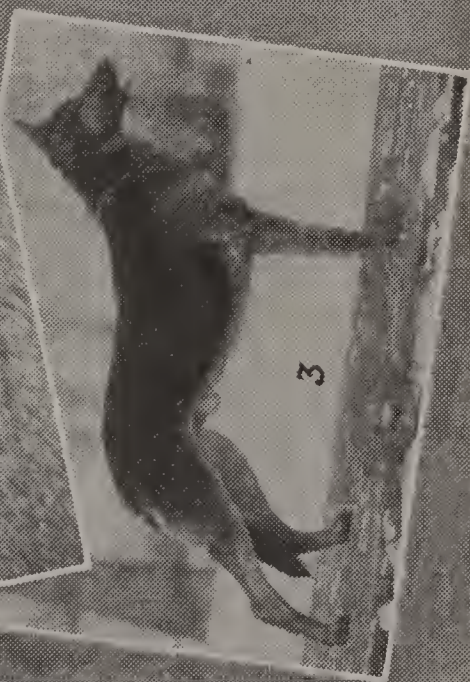
blood lines, and to fix the type or to improve the type there must be a certain amount of in-breeding. The objections that some harbor to this form of scientific selection have been proven today as groundless, such as loss of virility and constitutional vigor. The best bred animals today are in-bred. The general formula is to breed with a common ancestor on both sides, for instance, a common grand-sire, though there can be different arrangements, such as a common ancestor of the sire and the grand dam's sire.

Line breeding is a distinct form of in-breeding in that the breeding is entirely confined on one side to a certain family. If the results from such a family have proven themselves, it is conducive of very fine results and a benefit to the breed, since it tends to establish the potency of the individuals of this line, a much sought for quality among the breeders. Should any other result, though, make itself manifest, it should be immediately abandoned, for it will fix a fault with a greater tenacity than a virtue.

The most concentrated form of breeding is Intense-Breeding, that is, the direct breeding of sire to daughter or son to his dam, and while this has been necessary in the establishment of the breed, it must not be attempted with impunity by any one, unless he is a breeder of many, many years of experience, with not only an absolute understanding of its requirements, but also with a perfect knowledge of breeding history of both families involved, otherwise such a breeding can work immeasurable harm to the breed.

The sire should be two years of age before he is used at stud. He is then at his full maturity and produces stronger puppies than when used at a younger age, and it means for him a longer life as a sire. He can serve 40 to 50 bitches per year, according to his vigor. One service is as good as a dozen, in fact, my own careful records show that there are less misses with one service than with more. The stud fee is the payment for this service, and after this is completed there is no further responsibility upon the owner of the stud dog. Some owners give a return service in the event of a miss, but this is entirely optional with the owner. After the service, the proven sire has done his part; the misses are the fault of the bitch, and the best of them will miss at any time. The stud dog, however, has been used, whether the service is successful or not.

The time of service selected is usually after the cessation of the bleeding, or about nine to twelve days after its beginning. This should take place at least four or five hours after the last meal, since the consequent excitement is apt to call forth vomiting and all disturbances of any nature should be avoided at this time. Unless the bitch is known to be of a very friendly disposition, it is advisable to muzzle her, for many Shepherd bitches will bite at the dog and a show specimen is easily ruined with a torn ear or other disfigurement. It is not absolutely necessary that the dog should hang after the service. As a rule it generally takes place, but there have been scores of instances under my own observation where bitches conceived without it.



1. Gr. Ch. Dolf von Dusterbrook, owned by P. A. B. Widener, Elkins Park, Pa.
2. Ch. Arkus von Blaisenbergl, owned by Harry G. Meyer, Cincinnati, O.
3. Int. Ch. Gerri von Oberklamm, owned by John Gans, Staten Island, N. Y.
4. Ch. Swift Run's Elly von Rabenfels, owned by Alfred L. Flesch, Piqua, O.

A question that is argued pro and con among the breeders is the advisability of breeding a bitch at every season, the majority being against it, and for a long time I counted myself a member of this majority, though recently I have come to the conclusion that I may have been wrong.

Those who argue against successive breeding contend that it is too great a strain on the bitch, that it tends toward a weakening of the bitch and of successive litters, and that the brood life of a bitch is shortened and her normal existence also. The breeders in favor of successive breeding assert that Nature intends the bitch to bear when young, or she would not come in season. If for some reason the bitch does come in and is not in condition she usually misses and then conceives on her next heat. They also contend that a bitch having successive litters is usually in excellent health, and another very important argument on their part is the fact that a bitch that is held over may become irregular in her seasons and may run a year or eighteen months before again coming due.

Personally, I have found the latter to be very true, and one of the healthiest and most long-lived bitches I have ever owned had eight consecutive litters, so I am beginning to put a lot of confidence in the testimony of the other side. I really do believe that the essential factor with the brood bitch is not so much in the matter of breeding, but the care of her after she has done her part. She should at all times have the best of care, the best of food, and it is not

necessary to let the puppies drag on her for an interminable period.

Before concluding this chapter it might be well to touch upon several questions that are persistently brought forth concerning the brood bitch. The first is the one called Telegony, Saturation and a host of other names. The fact that some scientists at one time really gave this question serious consideration has kept it alive to some extent among the fanciers, but the thorough investigation and tests of eminent workers has relegated the matter to a proper oblivion. The contention of those who upheld this theory was to the effect that the sire of a litter had an effect on the following litter if the bitch would be bred to another dog.

Every case that has come under my own observation, especially those that were mishaps and easy of detection, utterly disproved the theory. To quote one of several that were in my own possession, a bull terrier bitch was brought to me that had been served by a St. Bernard. I purchased her and she whelped a litter of eleven of these mongrels. Six months later she was bred to a bull terrier Champion and again whelped a litter of eleven, this time all white bull terriers, all of them pure-breds, of which at least five became blue ribbon winners and two of them came within a few points of their championship. One can cite innumerable incidents like this one. Another matter that seems to have gained unusual credence among the fanciers is the matter of

sex determination by breeding early or late, the formula as it is usually understood is that early breeding would result in a predominance of females, while a late breeding would produce a greater number of males. I have observed this closely among my own dogs for years and the results have not proved the contention. I found, however, that the early breeding tended toward more misses, so now I breed my bitches at the time that they seem most receptive, regardless of the time of the season, and I still find the same ratio in the sexes.

CHAPTER VI

Rearing of Puppies

THE normal period of gestation in the bitch is 63 days, the average time of whelping is the 61st day. This can happen at any time, though, from the 59th to the 66th day. During the first two weeks the bitch can be fed in her normal way, after this it is advisable to add a greater percentage of meat and milk, and as she becomes heavier she should be fed oftener and in smaller quantities. Gentle walking exercise is also essential to keep her in good condition; the duration of this must be diminished as she grows heavier in whelp. The condition of the bowels should also be carefully observed; these should be kept open and occasional doses of American Oil administered if necessary. This is a mineral oil, and its action is entirely mechanical and so does not disturb the bitch in any way.

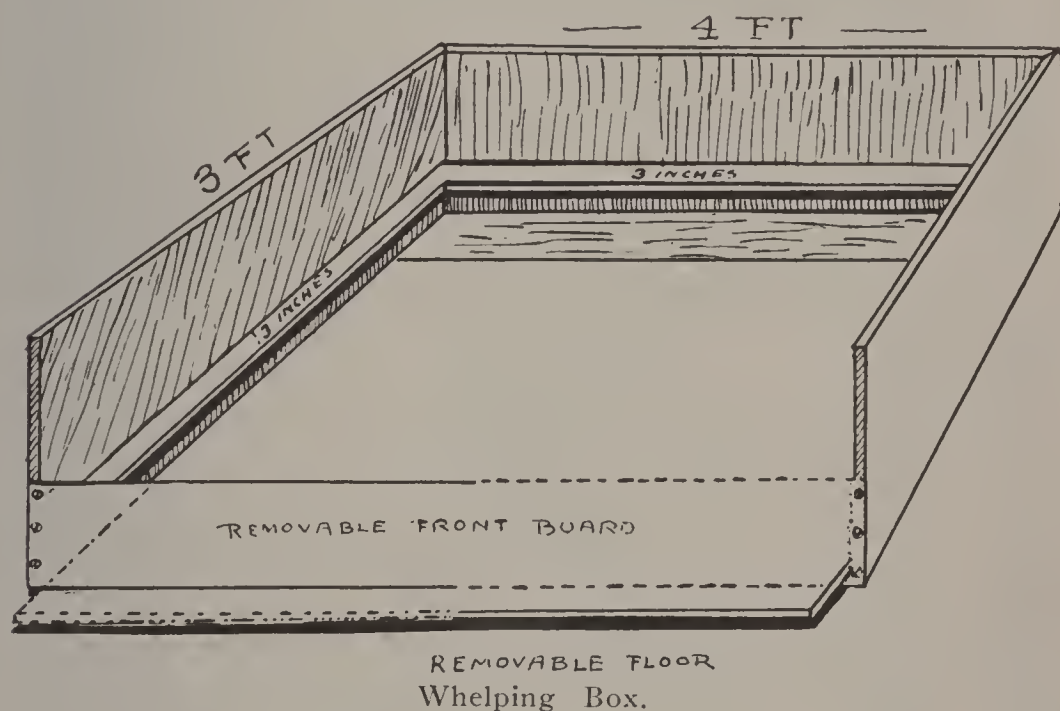
Two weeks before the bitch is due to whelp she should be placed in the quarters where she is to whelp, in order to accustom herself to the surroundings, and it is advisable to construct a whelping box as per illustration, for this means the saving of many a puppy that would otherwise be smothered. With this box the puppies are always able to crawl out if the bitch should lie down on them. The double floor also enables a quick change to a clean, dry floor, and this can be done without keeping the bitch away from her puppies for too long a period and save her this anxiety.

The bitch should be left entirely alone during her labors and should above all things have her whelping quarters in a quiet, secluded place and should be disturbed by no strangers. An occasional inspection by her master or by some one whom she knows well is advisable to see that everything is going smoothly, but as a rule most bitches whelp during the night and have no trouble whatever, though the whelping period may extend over an entire day. Should there be any apparent difficulty always call your veterinarian, but much of the serious trouble is caused by too early an interference, instead of letting nature take its course.

As soon as it is apparent that the bitch has finished her whelping, she should be coaxed away from her litter and taken some distance away while the litter is changed to a clean bed. The double floor is advantageous here, for it permits a rapid change and so does not distress the bitch by a long absence from her puppies. A few hours after the bitch has whelped her last puppy she may be fed some warm milk, and the day following her regular feeding may be resumed, the food being mainly of a sloppy consistency, to induce the secretion of milk. During the suckling period all food should be abundant and of a rich nutritive quality, and the bitch should, during the whelping period and at all times, have access to plenty of clean, fresh water.

Shepherds are very prolific and usually have litters ranging from 7 to 12 puppies. These large litters are not a blessing to the breed and are probably the result of intensive breeding, for wolves and wild dogs sel-

dom have more than four to six puppies. Seven puppies should be the limit for a bitch and the others should be immediately destroyed. There is a temptation to leave the puppies with the dam and apparently the dam seems to be amply able to take care of them during the first few days, but as the puppies begin to grow, the inability of the dam to feed such



a large number makes itself manifest; weaklings begin to appear and the larger puppies, too, never attain the size that they should. The excess in a litter may be raised on a foster-mother, whose date of whelping should correspond as nearly as possible with that of the Shepherd bitch, so that the milk of both mothers may correspond in composition.

There is no way of determining the choice of the litter at this age, in fact, such a selection can not be arrived at until puppies are from six to eight months of age, so the best advice one can offer is

to select the strongest ones, those that feel firm to the touch, and this irregardless of sex, for it is infinitely better to raise a strong female than a weak male. In substituting the puppies to the foster it is always best to remove her temporarily, then place the Shepherd puppies with the foster's offspring so that they acquire the scent of these. After the third day remove the dew claws on the hind legs if any are present. This is easily done with a pair of curved shears or with a nail clipper; care must be taken that the instruments have been sterilized and the care of the wound can be left entirely to the mother, and a few days should show a complete healing.

During the first three weeks the care and feeding of the puppies can be left entirely to the mother, who should have an abundance of rich food three times a day, with plenty of good fresh water at all times, or, still better, plenty of good milk. At the third week the feeding of the puppies should begin with a teaspoonful of scraped beef for each puppy, divided into three feedings; at four weeks increase to four feedings daily and add milk, bread soaked in broth, or the patent puppy foods; at five weeks increase to five feedings, and continue until the fourth month, when the feedings can be gradually diminished until there are three of them. After the fifth week there can be added to the diet oatmeal, rice, vegetables of all kinds, except potatoes, which should at all times be eliminated from the dog's bill of fare. Eggs are also very fine food and cod liver oil is very beneficial for the weaklings.



1. Ch. Buddy of Swift Run (American bred), owned by Swift Run Kennels, Piqua, O.
2. Ch. Etzel von-der Ettersburg, owned by Jubilee Farms Kennels, Peoria, Ill.
3. Int. Ch. Cito Bergerlust, owned by Mrs. John Gans, Staten Island, N. Y.

It should always be borne in mind, though, that puppies cannot be successfully reared without meat, and that meat should constitute at least a third of their daily ration.

There is very little danger of overfeeding a puppy during the first months of his growth, but all food that is not consumed at once should be removed until the time of the next feeding.

Clean surroundings, fresh air and, above all things, an abundance of exercise are the essentials for the development of the puppy. The greater the range of the puppy, the greater are his opportunities for a fine development. Shepherds can not be raised successfully in cramped kennels, no matter how well bred the puppy may be; he will never mature into a perfect specimen unless he has the proper care, food and environment.

All puppies come into the world with an inborn desire for human companionship; this is evidenced by the friendly advances that the little chaps make as soon as they can toddle, and it behooves the breeder to foster this virtue and fix it firmly in his puppies. There is in some of the Shepherds a tendency toward shyness that is further developed in this direction if the puppies are isolated where they get very little communication with man; so much can be done to efface this tendency if the puppies are given constant opportunities to come in contact with human beings.

The ear carriage is a feature of puppyhood that has caused many a novice endless anxiety. All puppies are born with pendulous ears. This is true

not only of Shepherds, but of all breeds that carry erect ears, of all wild dogs and all the wolves. The erection of the ear may take place within six weeks and may take until the eighteenth month. The ear that does not come up is a great exception. Then there are occasional influences that may tend to a prevention, such as an injury from a bite, or sometimes distemper will cause an ear infection that may prevent the ultimate erection, but all these occur very rarely.

Analogous with the ear carriage, we find the tail carriage. In very small puppies we find it assuming all sorts of positions; it may be very erect or carried very low. As the puppy grows it finally begins to stabilize itself, and at about the eighth month it usually has assumed its ultimate carriage. Bad ring or curl tails are usually evident at a very early age.

At birth a healthy puppy weighs about one pound, and before the end of the first week will weigh from one and one-half to two pounds; the second week his weight will range between two and four pounds; the third week between three and five and one-half pounds. Between the third and fourth week there is a slackening of the increase, due to the fact that the puppy teethes at this time, so the weight at this time will be from three and a half to seven pounds; after this there is usually a steady increase of one and a half to two and a half pounds until the eighth week.

CHAPTER VII

Training and Care

WHILE the word Training is usually accepted as the proper term, one is apt to infer therefrom that the schooling of the Shepherd is carried out along the lines of the trick animal. In reality exactly the opposite is sought for. The Shepherd should at all times be a working dog and not a performing dog. It is true that some trainers work along the trick-dog lines and produce a dog with a few limited tricks that are quickly exhausted and the dog soon stands forth in his true light. It must always be kept in mind that this training is an education and that the dog must be induced to think and work on his own initiative. Much, if not all, depends upon the personality of the trainer and his real interest in the work and his confidence in the result that can be obtained is quickly reflected in his pupil. He must have, first of all, a sympathetic feeling for his subject, for the closer the bond between the two the more eager are the efforts of both. Again, he must know how to differentiate between various individuals, for their temperament may call for a different treatment.

It is obvious, of course, that the Shepherd, with his sensitive and highly organized nature, will not condone corporeal punishment or severe treatment of any kind and such force training would, of course, be productive of the opposite result, for a frightened or cringing dog could never master the intricacies

of Shepherd training. While an absolute firmness is necessary at all times, this can be accomplished by a patient insistence on the part of the trainer. This will soon be recognized by the dog and he will take this quiet demand for obedience in good part and respond without resentment, in fact, there will develop in the apt pupils as they progress in their training an intense eagerness to work and to please, and these are the individuals that finish into the star workers of the field trials.

The Shepherd's ability as a working dog has been utilized in many directions: First of all as a herding dog, then for police work and as a trained guard and protector, as a trailer of lost children, as a war dog in sentinel duty and as a dispatch and ammunition bearer, as a sanitary or Red Cross dog in the finding of hidden wounded, and he has been successfully used to the gun as a trail dog.

The direction and method of training can only be treated here in a general way; to give this in detail would require a volume in itself, especially in the very thorough and concise German methods. It is doubtful whether we in America will ever spend the time to do this as completely as the Germans. The speed and bustle of our American life does not make for the calm, dogged persistence that marks the success of the German trainer, and the remuneration would not be great enough to encourage any great number of professionals, and again those who have taken it up in a professional way with success, and also the German trainers who have come to us, are all men with qualifications that give them better opportunities in other walks of life in America.

But it is necessary that we do what training we can in order to keep up the breed as a working dog, and to further the mental development; if we can not produce the highly trained and efficient workers in the trials, we can at least train them in the simpler exercises and derive much personal pleasure from it. Dogs trained as guards and protectors have a value that is certainly a full compensation for the time spent in their schooling, and another use for which the dog should be generally adopted in this country is in the capacity of a sheep and cattle dog. There is no doubt that in the Shepherd, as well as the collies, there exists a strong hereditary instinct for the work connected with the care of stock and sheep. The countless generations of working dogs have left their impress upon the breed, and for this reason it is most amenable in this direction; therefore an early association of the dog with sheep and cattle in itself works miracles in bringing out this latent instinct, and the greater part of the training of a herding dog is really self-training. The essential requirement of a herding dog is implicit obedience, and this can be done in the yard without the stock. He must come and go upon command and with an instantaneous response, for in driving the dog may become overzealous and stampede the herd or flock. Almost all dogs bark of their own accord when driving; if not, then it is well to teach him to speak by prompting him with offers of food, and with this preliminary lesson it will be an easy transition to the command when working with the flock. The dog at first must be worked on one side

of the flock and must gradually be encouraged to go forward until he works around the head of the flock. The shepherd can then quickly change his position and call the dog in from the opposite side. Or the preliminary work may be given with two shepherds, always working the dog around the head and never the rear of the flock, and always giving him the command to *go around or go over*. After a while the dog begins to follow this command and it is then easy to utilize this in many ways in the handling of sheep or stock. For instance, in the case of stragglers, these can be pointed out to him and the order given for him to go around, and this will work them back to the flock. A separate command should be given for the driving. This in itself is something that the dog will do instinctively, and it is only necessary to hold him in restraint with "Steady" or "Easy." Another important part of the sheepdog is holding the flock at a given place. This is best done by having the dog in close proximity and setting the dog an example, urging him to Hold or Wear the sheep. After repeated lessons the dog becomes familiar with the command and will work at a greater and greater distance from the shepherd. It is always important never to confuse the commands or alter them for the familiarity of the sound with the work required, means a quick understanding and response, the dog naturally adapts himself to the work and the constant work with the shepherd, and a demand on his part of a strict obedience soon develops a very valuable assistant.

The training of the guard dog is merely the first stage of the training for police work and the perfection that is sometimes attained in this is a reflection of the perseverance, the care and the intimate interest of the trainer. The word trainer I have always thought a misnomer, I would rather call him an instructor, for the knowledge of a perfect police-dog is not a mere bag o' tricks.

The preliminary exercises of all trained dogs are known as the obedience exercises and they are the foundation of his future perfection. First of all the dog must be trained to the leash, walking with the trainer, his head parallel with the trainer's left knee, at no time must he go forward or lag back of this position. This exercise may be started to a great advantage in a closed room or hall, the trainer walking with his left side toward the wall in this way controlling the dogs position by crowding him against the wall if he seeks to go forward or pulling him forward with short sharp jerks with the command "Heel." After several rounds of the wall are made the trainer makes a quick right face and crosses diagonally to the other wall. The exercise can then be repeated in the open along a fence or along a row of trees or palings, thus compelling the dog to keep his place.

After this is thoroughly acquired the dog may be worked without the lead but no second exercise must be attempted until there is a perfect mastering of the preceding one.

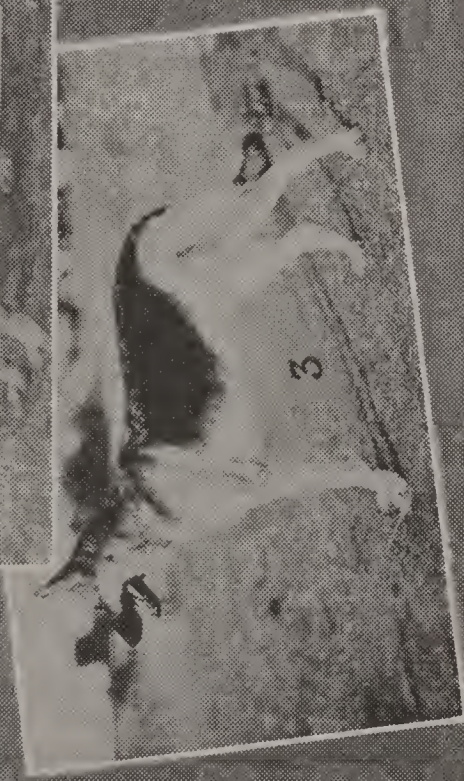
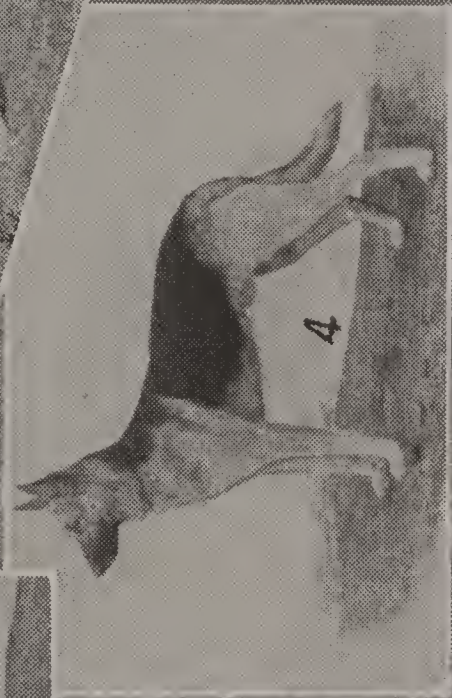
Without the lead the dog must still maintain his position at the trainer's knee, though many trainers

prefer the dog at heel, in any event the dog must always follow exactly the movement of the trainer and sudden right or left angles or reverses must be instantly followed by the dog. The length of training for each exercise depends upon the individual as soon as he acquires it, one can proceed to the next step, but each exercise should be rehearsed at least once or twice daily.

The next step is to teach the dog to sit upon command. The dog is held by the leash close to the collar, and with the other hand is forced to a sitting posture with a firm pressure over the loin, repeating in the meantime the word "Sit." Any attempt to change this position is immediately frustrated and the dog is constantly admonished to "Sit." After the dog holds this position it is well to move around him always warning him to "Sit" while the trainer moves farther away. At first it is best not to encircle the dog for it will tempt him to get up in order to follow your movements, but after the dog holds his position the trainer must walk around him and finally entirely out of his sight. After the dog has successfully done his part it is obvious, of course, that he should be petted and praised for it, and after difficult exercises should receive a slight reward in the shape of a tidbit. These attentions judiciously bestowed keep up the interest of the dog. After the "Sit" is mastered, the next step is the command to lie down. Make the dog assume the "Sit" position then grasp his forelegs with one hand pulling them forward and at the same time exert a downward pressure with the other hand on the

withers of the dog until he has assumed the position, and during this procedure always repeat the word "Down." The German trainers insist that the head must also be down between the paws, principally because this enables less difficulty in teaching them the exercise To Crawl. The latter is used more or less as a punitive measure, though it is problematical whether it has such a great value in this respect as some of the trainers assert. In teaching the down exercise it should be accompanied with a downward swing of the arm, this will be useful in signaling a dog to "Down" at a distance. At no time should the dog be permitted to rise voluntarily from a "Sit" or "Down" position, but should always await the command of "Up" from the trainer. A well trained dog will hold this position for hours if necessary, so during the training the time must be gradually increased until the dog will hold it perfectly.

The exercise to give tongue upon command is an important one, most dogs will do this readily if tempted with meat, some, however, are reticent, but the exercise is so important that some means must be found to induce him to "Speak" upon command. A method of inducing this is to take the dog out of the kennel as if to take him for a walk and then suddenly return him to the kennel and walk slowly away, his chagrin at being refused his walk will excite him and he will usually voice his displeasure, and as soon as he does this the trainer must utter the command "Speak" and then reward him by taking him out. A dummy should be used for prelimi-



1. Int. Ch. Hamilton Erich von Grafenwerth, owned by Hamilton Farms, Gladstone, N. J.
2. Ch. Graustein Gilda von Dörnerhof, owned by Mrs. Elliott Dexter, Altadena, Cal.
3. Ch. Afra von Sandhof, owned by Mrs. Elliott Dexter.
4. Ch. Ajax von Luzenberg, owned by Laurence Armour, Lake Forest, Ill.

nary training, this dummy is placed in some hidden corner, the dog is suddenly brought face to face with it and will usually speak of his own accord, if not a cord can be arranged with which the arm can be moved upward, and this will usually bring about the desired result. It is a rather curious fact that the dogs will bark more readily at a dummy than at a live person though the opposite is, of course, the case with a dog that has been trained.

Another important preliminary exercise is the one to fetch. The usual procedure in the hands of the layman is to take advantage of the dog's natural impulse to play and retrieve but this is entirely wrong for a trained dog inasmuch as the dog must realize that the retrieving is done upon command and exactly at the moment that it is required and that in subsequent work the dog will take hold and pick up things more readily upon command. The usual procedure is to command the dog into the "Sit" position, with the left hand hold the lower jaw and with the gloved right hand the head is pulled up, a pressure of the left hand will open the jaws and the right hand is then inserted and the command "Fetch" is given. The dog will, of course, make an effort to pull away, and this must be prevented. The first attempt should be of very short duration and the time is gradually increased until the dog permits the hand to stay there. Upon releasing the hand the dog must always do so upon command as "Give" or "Let Go." Some object is then substituted, a bag, an old glove, etc., and the dog must hold it and release it upon command. When he is

proficient in this the object is dropped upon the ground and the dog is encouraged to pick it up. This is gradually thrown farther and farther away until the dog retrieves it perfectly. After this the wooden dumb-bell is substituted. The dumb-bell is a small light affair that can be easily thrown and that on account of its shape can be easily picked up by the dog. Other articles are then substituted and these are hidden and the dog given the command to "Fetch, Lost." Here, too, the distances are gradually increased, the articles are hidden in various places and even lightly buried. This exercise is of the utmost importance as can be seen in the work of finding lost or hidden articles and is of vital assistance in the preliminary work in trailing.

- The exercise of refusing food from strangers is comparatively simple. The dog is tied and a stranger advances toward him with food, as he approaches the trainer urges him to "Speak." This already establishes a distrust of the stranger who slowly approaches and when close enough throws down some food, if the dog makes an attempt to pick it up the stranger strikes at him with a small riding whip frustrating every attempt on the part of the dog to obtain the food. The trainer in the meantime encourages the dog to "Speak" and helps to establish an animosity toward the stranger. The trainer then takes the dog aside, praises him, and gives him a tidbit.

To train the dog to attack, the aforementioned dummy is again used. In an obscure corner an assistant takes his place holding the dummy before

him and armed with a stick or riding whip. The dog is slowly walked about on the leash and is so directed that he suddenly confronts the dummy and as a rule the dog will bark at this unusual creature and should be encouraged with the "Speak" command. The assistant then raises the dummy's arm holding the whip at the same time and strikes at the dog. The trainer gives the command to "Take him" or "On Guard" or any like command and encourages the dog to attack. As soon as he attempts this the assistant retreats a few steps with the dummy and then stands very still. The dog is then taken back and praised. This is repeated in another place and so continued until the dog shows an inclination to attack. After this the assistant dons the padded training suit and the work is continued without the dummy as soon as the dog attacks the assistant remains quiet and the dog is ordered to "Stop," otherwise the dog may keep on worrying the man and so get out of control. The dog must always be under the strictest control and must know that as soon as there is no resistance his part is accomplished. As soon as the dog has grasped this it will be an easy step to teach him to guard the prisoner. He is ordered to "Sit" in front of the assistant, who remains perfectly still for a while and then suddenly turns away and the moment he does this the command "On Guard" is given. The moment he attacks the prisoner at once becomes quiet and the dog is again told to "Sit." The same general procedure is taken to train the dog to attack if the assistant threatens or strikes at the trainer.

Trailing is taught in various ways, the one most generally used is carried out as follows: The dog is taken to a rather moist or soft ground. An assistant approaches with an article that is carried about his person continuously and that has the body scent of the assistant. This is thrown to the ground and the dog is commanded to fetch it. The assistant then goes back several steps and the same thing is done and this is repeated for some time gradually increasing the distance. Finally the assistant goes out of sight of the dog and hides, but always before he does so, he drops his object. The dog now has become familiar with the scent and instead of merely seeking begins to trail. When he is familiar with this the assistant makes a trail out of sight of the dog, the dog is taken to it and his nose held to it and he is told to "Fetch." When he has fully grasped the idea to trail, the dummy is again resorted to, the assistant hiding with it before him and the dropping of the object is dispensed with. As the dog approaches the man or rather the dummy and upon catching sight of it gives tongue, he must be encouraged to "Speak" and is praised by the trainer.

When the dog works well in this direction the exercise can be utilized in various ways. The training suit is donned by the assistant and he again makes his trail, after the dog finds him and "Speaks," he then tries to run away, when the dog is given the "On Guard" command and urged to take hold whereupon the assistant immediately becomes quiet, and in this manner the dog is beginning to trail and

hold the prisoner. The finding of lost and injured persons is worked out in the same manner in that the dog is urged to "Speak" at a recumbent figure at the end of his trail.

Persistence and patience must be the foundation of all successful training, the initiative of the trainer in noting the manner in which the individual dog takes up his work and using it to an advantage, goes a long way toward achieving results. The greatest care must be taken in preventing any deviation from the systematic course that has been adopted, and there must also be none in the use of the commands, for the change of a word would mean immediate confusion to the pupil. For those that would care to carry out the work of training as it is done by the German professional trainers we recommend the works of Von Stephanitz, Robert Gersbach, and Von Creytz, in which the description of the training is carried out in the systematic and intricate detail that is used by the German professionals.

CHAPTER VIII

Notes on the Care of the Shepherd

WHILE the shepherd is a hardy breed that has not been coddled and really requires very little attention, there are a few fundamental principles that should be adhered to for the dog's sake. First of all the matter of feeding claims our attention. The diet of a healthy shepherd can include anything that a human being consumes with two exceptions, namely, potatoes and chicken bones, the first because the digestive fluids of the dog do not seem to disintegrate them properly and the second because its sharp points have often caused great intestinal disturbances. A general mixed food, such as table scraps, is ideal for the dog; meat should, of course, predominate, for the dog is primarily a carnivorous animal and meat is his natural food. An occasional bone is also necessary to keep his teeth in good condition. The various dog cakes are also very good especially when moistened with broth. Most dogs thrive best on one meal a day and this should be given at night, those dogs, however, whose digestive tracts are easily disturbed are sometimes better fed with a morning and a night meal, but these should then, of course, be of smaller proportions. Breeding animals, both stud dogs and brood bitches should have a very large proportion of meat, milk, and eggs, and all dogs should at all times have access to plenty of cold, fresh water.

One of the great errors that is often committed by the layman is the frequent washing of the shep-

herd. This not only ruins many a good coat but often places the dog's health in jeopardy. The shepherd has a very dense undercoat and is most difficult to get dry and to suddenly expose a dog to a sudden change of temperature in this condition may result in very grave consequences. The nature of this coat and the habit of shedding it every year, demands some attention, but a good comb and a stiff brush vigorously applied will keep the dog as clean as a multitude of baths and best of all, the dog enjoys it, too!

While taking the dog out near a water course, one need have no compunction about the voluntary entering of the dog into the water even on rather cold days. This is quite different than the enforced bath of the dog indoors, the temperature is the same and the dog uses violent exercise to dry and warm himself. Shepherds that are kept out of doors during the winter must be started in this way in the summer time so that they are acclimated to the cold, if they are then taken into the house they must remain there, for one cannot alternately keep them housed and again exposed to the cold. Those that are kept outside must be provided with a warm wind tight box for their sleeping quarters. The other great requisite for the health of a dog is exercise, no dog can thrive without it, and this is especially so in the shepherd, whose qualifications as a working dog call for an abundance of exercise and we might add incidentally that while taking the dog out for this purpose, the master reaps a like benefit. If your dog becomes sick, the best advice to offer

is to call in your veterinarian. It is strange that many people, after paying a very good price for a dog and after becoming so attached to him that he is accounted a member of the family, will be heartless enough to dose him in his hour of need with a lot of patent nostrums, knowing perhaps nothing of diagnosis and intensifying the poor fellow's suffering with a vague and senseless dosing for something that they know nothing about! It may be that your veterinarian can not come to you on the moment and you may be able to give first aid by an intelligent description of the symptoms over the telephone. I have bred dogs for thirty years, have studied their anatomy to help me in my work and have been the constant associate of my veterinarian friends, but never, when trouble comes to my dogs, do I depend upon my imperfect knowledge when their life is at stake, but always call in the best professional talent. When a member of your family is ill, your first thought is the physician, why not do the same thing for your dog who would often give his life for you if necessary and who loves you as much if not more than anyone? Every owner should have on hand a rectal thermometer and in the event of illness first of all take the temperature, study every movement of your dog, and observe anything that seems unusual about him, his respiration, his appetite, has he a great desire for water, his positions and action when walking, the condition of his skin, the condition of the foeces, then call up your veterinarian and a visit or two will usually bring your dog back to his normal condition.

