

# SCHELMISCH GSD

## GERMAN SHEPHERD DOGS

### DIET & ADVICE FOR YOUR PUPPY

Your Puppy has been reared on ROYAL CANIN MINI STARTER and then onto ROYAL CANIN GSD PUPPY.

ROYAL CANIN GSD is an excellent complete balanced diet containing all the necessary vitamins and minerals for a growing German Shepherd. You DO NOT need to give any additives at all, NO eggs, milk or minerals. Adding minerals or vitamins to a complete food can cause more harm than good. You may be able to purchase ROYAL CANIN GSD PUPPY from your local pet store, should you have any difficulty please let me know immediately.

### PLEASE DO NOT GIVE ANY TREATS – FAR TOO MANY CAUSE PROBLEMS

When the DOG is 15- 18 months old you should change your puppy over to ROYAL CANIN GSD ADULT

QUANTITY		AGE IN WEEKS		TIMES PER DAY	TOTAL OZ'S PER DAY
3.5 oz	(100 grams)	8	3	11 oz	(300 grams)
4 oz	(115 grams)	10	3	12 oz	(340 grams)
7 oz	(200 grams)	12	2	15 oz	(420 grams)
8 oz	(225 grams)	14	2	16 oz	(450 grams)
10oz	(260 grams)	18	2	20 oz	(520 grams)
10 oz	(280 grams)	22	2	20 oz	(560 grams)

### ALL WEIGHTS IN THIS TABLE REFER TO 'DRY' COMPLETE FOOD

As shown in the table above gradually increase the amount fed.

The table above is given as a guide. All dogs are different and may require slightly different amounts of food in order to maintain correct condition. ROYAL CANIN is a SUPER PREMIUM FOOD which is so highly digestible that you are likely to use less than other complete foods. If your dog becomes too fat or too thin you should adjust the food to achieve correct condition. However, a male GSD should not need more than a total of 24 oz per day, and a female GSD should not need more than 20 oz per day.

To feed SUPER PREMIUM FOODS add a small quantity of water, and feed straight away. The little water included helps to keep their mouth moist. Many puppies and adults enjoy their food dry, particularly as they get older. Fresh clean water must be available regularly.

From 8 to 12 weeks of age we recommend that you ADD a quarter of a tin of Pedigree Puppy Chum (LOAF) to each meal.

**Mark Richards**  
16A George Road,  
Bilston  
West Midlands  
WV14 8RB  
Tel 07967 129135

REMEMBER - Dogs do not need variety in their diets - changing their food can cause digestion problems. Any alternative diet will need to be introduced gradually over 5 to 10 days.

DO NOT leave any food down for more than 10 minutes, or your puppy will become 'picky' with its food and quickly learn to eat only when he/she feels like.

Occasionally you will find your puppy or when it is adult, will not want a meal, as long as the dog is fit and healthy do not worry; missing an occasional meal will do no harm.

DO NOT add titbits to the food to try and encourage your dog to eat, it will only learn to wait for and eat these titbits and you risk causing the dog to be a 'picky' eater for the rest of its life.

#### **OTHER ADVICE & INSTRUCTIONS:**

Consult your Vet, as to what age to inoculate your puppy. The usual age is 8 weeks and 12 weeks, with occasional boosters. We/our Vet vaccinate with the Nobivac Lepto 2 and Nobivac DHP at 8 weeks old prior to the puppies leaving for their new forever loving homes.

## **What do our vaccinations protect my dog from?**

There are four main diseases that your dog can be vaccinated against. These are:

- [Parvovirus](#)
- [Canine distemper](#)
- [Leptospirosis](#)
- [Infectious canine hepatitis \(ICH\)](#).

## **Canine parvovirus**

### **What is parvovirus?**

Parvovirus – or parvo – is a highly contagious disease that causes severe vomiting and bloody diarrhoea in dogs. It's a very serious illness that can be deadly without treatment.

### **How can I stop my dog getting parvovirus?**

It's really important to have your dog regularly vaccinated to protect them against parvovirus.

If you think your dog has parvo, call your vet immediately.

# Canine distemper

## What is canine distemper?

[Canine distemper](#) is a contagious virus that attacks a dog's lymph nodes before attacking their respiratory, urinary, digestive and nervous systems. It is passed easily between dogs through saliva, blood and urine.

The success of vaccinations in the UK means it's rare to see outbreaks but is more common in Europe and can easily be brought over. It can also infect other animals, such as ferrets and foxes.

## Symptoms of canine distemper

Early symptoms include:

- Watery discharge from nose and eyes
- Reddened eyes
- A high fever.

As the virus progresses, later symptoms include:

- Lethargy
- Persistent coughing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Seizures.

Distemper can also cause hardening of the footpads and nose, so is sometimes known as 'hardpad'.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for distemper and usually vets will try to manage the symptoms. Dogs with distemper need intensive care and are usually kept in isolation so they don't spread the virus. Sadly, even with the right treatment, distemper can be fatal to many of the dogs that catch it.

## How can I stop my dog getting distemper?

The best way to prevent your dog getting distemper is to keep their vaccinations up to date. Remember to keep newly vaccinated puppies indoors until at least two weeks after their full course of vaccinations and don't let unvaccinated pets near them during this time.

# Leptospirosis

## What is leptospirosis?

**Leptospirosis** – also known as lepto – is a bacterial infection. It attacks your dog's nervous system and organs. It can also be passed on from dogs to us – in humans it's known as Weil's disease.

Lepto is mainly carried by dogs and rats and spread through infected pee and contaminated water, which means your dog is at risk if they swim or drink from stagnant water or canals. Outbreaks of lepto **increase after flooding**, when there's a lot of contaminated water around.

## Symptoms of leptospirosis

Symptoms of leptospirosis include:

- Fever
- Muscle tremors
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Increased thirst
- Jaundice
- Breathing difficulties.

In severe cases, dogs can develop kidney damage and liver failure. For dogs, the disease can be fatal even with the best treatment. Weil's disease can also be fatal to humans.

Dogs with mild symptoms may recover. Your vet **may prescribe antibiotics** to help fight the infection and offer other treatments to help manage their symptoms.

## How can I stop my dog getting leptospirosis?

It's best to keep your dog's vaccinations up to date. Keep puppies indoors until two weeks after their primary course of vaccinations and keep them away from unvaccinated pets.

The vaccination covers the most common types of lepto but your dog can still get other strains, so it's good to take other measures to prevent lepto as well. Try to avoid letting your dog drink or swim in stagnant water or flooded areas. Though rats can get almost anywhere, it's best to keep your dog away from places that you know rats have been present to try and reduce their risk.

Dogs recovering from leptospirosis should be kept away from vulnerable animals and humans for several months until your vet is happy, they are no longer carrying the infection. You need to be careful where they go to the toilet during this time as they can spread the virus in their wee.

# Infectious canine hepatitis (ICH)

## What is ICH?

**ICH** is a viral disease that attacks a dog's liver, kidneys, eyes and blood vessel linings. It is spread through the bodily fluids – pee, saliva, blood, poo or snot – of infected dogs. The virus can survive in the environment for up to a year, is very dangerous and can spread quickly.

Although humans get infectious hepatitis, it is a completely different virus, so infectious hepatitis can't be passed from dogs to humans, or vice versa.

## Symptoms of ICH

Symptoms can range from being quite mild to sudden and unexpected death.

Symptoms of ICH include:

- Fever or high temperature
- Lethargy
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Coughing
- Abdominal pain.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for ICH but vets will treat your dog's symptoms. In mild cases the chances of recovery can be good but your dog may need a special diet to help their liver once they have recovered.

In severe cases the disease can go on to cause jaundice and liver failure and result in seizures and coma. Sadly, even with the best treatment, severe ICH can be fatal.

## How can I stop my dog getting ICH?

The best way to protect your dog against ICH is by getting them vaccinated regularly. Your dog will need boosters every three years to stay protected from ICH – ask your vet if you're not sure when their next vaccination is due.

If your dog gets ICH and recovers, they can continue to spread the virus in their wee for up to a year. To prevent the disease spreading, keep them away from unvaccinated dogs (like young puppies) and try to have them toilet away from public areas where other dogs could pick up the disease.

DO take your puppy out into public places within days of collecting it. DO get it out in the car as much as possible, the sooner you do this the easier it is for your puppy to get over car sickness problems and it will learn to enjoy car journeys. It is very important that your puppy meets as many people as possible, and has the many experiences of normal life, particularly during the first weeks and months with you, this early 'socialising' of your puppy is crucial to its future character and temperament.

Your puppy has been wormed regularly over the last few weeks but will need worming again around 12 weeks of age. Then worm again at 5, 8 & 12 months. Thereafter three times per year. We strongly recommend DRONTAL PLUS Worming Tablets.

House training a puppy is relatively easy, put down newspaper at night and remove it to the garden during the day, so that your puppy establishes a new point for its toilet. Put your puppy out **after each meal**, and when it **wakes**. If your puppy learns to go in the garden where it can be cleaned up, your puppy should not embarrass you in the street.

If your puppy is female, she may have her first season sometime between 6 and 14 months of age, then at 4 to 6-month intervals, individual females vary, but they do usually keep to the same time space between seasons. Seasons last for 3 to 4 weeks, during this time you must keep her under strict supervision. It is not necessary for the health of a female GSD to have a litter of puppies. If you do wish to breed from her, firstly, it is necessary to have her hip scored after she reaches 12 months of age, then only mate her when she is around 2 years of age and therefore fully mature. We strongly advise you to take great care in choosing a suitable stud dog, we will advise, if requested.

Remember before deciding to breed from your female GSD, think carefully about the following: -

Can you afford the stud fee for a suitable stud dog? Extra food, care and attention for the female, possible veterinary costs during and after whelping, Registering the puppies with the Kennel Club, Microchipping, insuring, feeding, rearing and advertising your puppies, adds to your costs.

Too many GSD's are put to sleep unnecessary - let's not be responsible for anymore.

## **ON ARRIVAL:**

On arrival at its new home allow your puppy to wander around and explore at its leisure. Everything will be strange, so give it lots of attention so it will not be lonely. During the first night or so, your puppy will miss its litter mates and may cry, unless you want to sleep with your puppy or you want it to sleep with you - do not have it with you! Make sure it is warm and comfortable and leave the room. Leaving a radio on sometimes helps, and providing a well wrapped hot water bottle, for something warm to cuddle up to or an old cuddly toy.

In the first few weeks your puppy will spend a great deal of time either sleeping or playing. When it is asleep, leave it to wake in its own time.

## **Do & Don'ts:**

DO provide your puppy with a quiet private place to sleep - this should be either a bed or blanket which is warm and draught free.

DO give your puppy toys of its own to play with, it will stop it from playing with things it should not.

DO give plenty of big bones or sterilised bones; hide chews etc from your pet shop, to cut his baby teeth on. It will also help your puppy stop chewing things it should not.

DO NOT ever give cooked bones, or poultry, lamb, rabbit and chop bones, because they splinter too easily and can cut the dog's throat or cause internal damage. Always ensure that your puppy allows you to take bones or food from them without too much fuss.

DO take your puppy out for several short walks a day. It is especially important that your puppy should be taken out to meet as many different people and other animals as possible. It is ideal if some exercise can be given in town areas; this allows experience of traffic noise etc and helps to keep its temperament well adjusted, friendly and sociable. Please see table below for guidance on interaction in various situations that we have already introduced to your puppy from the age of four weeks approximately: -

<b>SOCIALISATION CHART</b>	<b>Tick a box for each encounter</b>						
<b>PEOPLE</b>							
Men	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Women	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Babies	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Young children		X	X	X		X	X
Teenagers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Elderly people	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Disabled people		X		X		X	
Loud, confident people	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Shy, timid people		X	X		X	X	
People in uniform	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
People wearing hats, crash helmets etc.		X	X	X	X	X	
People with beards	X		X		X		X
People wearing glasses, sunglasses etc.	X		X	X	X	X	
Delivery people e.g. postman, milkman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Visitors	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Joggers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>AROUND THE HOME</b>							
Washing machine/tumble dryer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vacuum cleaner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lawn mower	X	X		X		X	
Kitchen noise	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TV/Radio	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>ANIMALS</b>							
Friendly large dogs	X		X		X		X
Friendly small dogs	X		X		X		X
Domestic pets e.g. rabbits	X		X		X		X
Livestock							

Cats		X		X		X	
Horses							
<b>OUTSIDE THE HOME</b>							
Traffic	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Motorbikes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bicycles	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Buses	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Trains		X					
Crowds		X		X		X	
Fireworks							
Umbrellas	X		X		X		X
Car travel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Different surfaces (gravel, slippery floors, grass etc.)							
<b>GENTLE HANDLING</b>							
Head	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ears	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mouth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tail	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Paws and legs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grooming (short periods)	X		X		X		X
Gentle restraint	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
By family and friends	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
By strangers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Please note that this chart represents the puppy's experiences given by us and that you should add yours as you experience them with your pup!!

But DO NOT over exercise your puppy, a total of 1 mile per day is plenty until it is 6 months of age. See following chart: -

### Small beginnings

Puppies need much less exercise than fully-grown dogs. If you over-exercise a growing puppy, you can quickly overtire it, and more importantly damage its developing joints, which may cause early arthritis. A good rule of thumb is a ratio of five minutes exercise per month of age (up to twice a day), until the puppy is fully grown, i.e. 15 minutes when three months old, 20 minutes when four months old etc. Below you will find breed-specific exercise information relating to your puppy:

### Exercise Requirements

- 0-12 weeks. Until a puppy has completed its course of vaccinations, there is a risk of infection. Therefore, it is usually better that exercise is restricted to within the confines of your garden. Exercise in the garden also provides an excellent opportunity to start early training, and to get your puppy used to wearing a collar. Make sure your puppy has a number of safe toys, and always accompany them in the garden. This way, you can engage your puppy in



suitable levels of activity, and start to reward good toileting behaviour, which can usually provide all the puppy's exercise needs during this time. If the opportunity arises, take your puppy to other safe environments where there is no risk, and it is able to mix with other animals and people, such as private gardens where only vaccinated dogs have access. Socialising at an early age is a vital part of your dog's development.

Age of Puppy	Duration of Exercise Required (per walk)	Number of Walks (per day)	Total Amount of Exercise (per day)
3-4 months	15 minutes	2	30 minutes
4-6 months	20 minutes	2	40 minutes
6-9 months	30 minutes	2	60 minutes
9-12 months	45 minutes	2	90 minutes
1 year +	60 minutes	2	120 minutes

Please note all durations/times are approximate only!!

It is important that puppies and dogs go out for exercise every day in a safe and secure area, or they may become frustrated. Time spent in the garden (however large) is no substitute for exploring new environments, and socialising with other dogs. When you go out, make sure your puppy is trained to recall, so that you are confident the puppy will return to you when called (see the accompanying sheet on 'Training your Puppy').

You should never exercise your puppy on a full stomach as this may contribute to bloat or stomach dilation which can sometimes prove fatal.

All dogs require regular exercise to remain fit and prevent them from becoming overweight, which may also lead to health problems. You should remember however, that exercise needs to be introduced gradually, and that a young puppy will not have the same exercise requirement as an adult dog.

The duration and frequency of exercise should remain consistent and any increases should be gradual. For the majority of dogs, exercise is an important part of their life and so they will take as much as you can give. A dog will also enjoy play, whether with you or on its own, and so toys play an important part in a dog's life.

DO NOT let your puppy leap in or out of the back of your car, or from steps, stairs or chairs, it could easily injure itself, particularly, it could jar its shoulder. After it reaches 6 months of age it will be more resilient.

DO NOT punish your puppy by hitting him with your hand, newspaper or anything else. A light shake and scolding voice may be necessary occasionally. On a more headstrong puppy a stronger shake holding onto the scruff of its neck and a scolding voice may be necessary. Then walk away from the puppy ignoring it, as its mother would do. Only do this at the TIME of the problem, NOT later, because the Puppy will not understand why it is being scolded

DO ensure that your puppy understands that commands are to be obeyed, it helps by making a big fuss of the puppy when it does things right.

DO NOT shut your puppy away when you have visitors to your home, allow your puppy to meet them and your puppy will learn to accept them as part of the family and learn to welcome visitors, as you do.

Do NOT worry about your puppy becoming too friendly, it will still guard its house and family should the need arise.

#### **TRAINING:**

DO get your puppy used to a collar and lead as soon as possible. The best way is to put them on and let them run around the garden freely whilst they are on, after ten minutes pick the lead up and they usually accept it. It may take two or three attempts to teach your puppy to walk reasonably calmly.

DO take your puppy to your local dog training classes, once inoculated, this will not only teach your puppy to be sociable and well behaved but will also enable you to own a dog which can go out and about with your family in most situations.

DO teach your puppy the commands, NO, LEAVE, COME & SIT, with these four commands you can deal with most situations and enjoy a well-behaved companion.

REMEMBER, the habits you allow your puppy to develop while it is a puppy, you may not be able to live with when it is older.

A puppy on your lap or your sofa for cuddles is great when tiny but imagine a fully-grown GSD jumping on your lap.

REMEMBER have fun, enjoy your puppy and we are sure you will gain a valuable and loyal family friend.

**REMEMBER WE ONLY RECOMMEND COMPLETE SUPER PREMIUM FOODS**

**Mark Richards - SCHELMISCH German Shepherd Dogs**