

The International Relationships of the German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa

The German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa (GSDF) is a specialist organisation for the registration and control of 97.5% of registered German Shepherd Dogs in South Africa. It has full international recognition throughout the world through a network of agreements and memberships of the organisations listed below.

Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV)

The Association for German Shepherd Dogs (SV) in Germany is the organisation through which the German Shepherd Dog originated. Today it is recognised as the mother organisation for German Shepherd Dogs and it is the largest specialist organisation for the breeding and control of any single breed. The organisation controls the Breed Standard for the German Shepherd Dog through the WUSV and the FCI. Although affiliated to the VDH, it is totally independent. It is recognised by the FCI through the VDH. In South Africa it recognises only the GSDF as the official representative of the German Shepherd Dog Breed.

World Union of German Shepherd Associations (WUSV)

The WUSV is the international organisation controlling German Shepherd Dog affairs worldwide and consists of 80 member-countries, which makes it the largest international canine organisation in the world. The President of the SV is also the President of the WUSV. All WUSV members have to recognise each other. With a few historical exceptions, only one member per country is allowed. The GSDF is the South African member and its President serves on the WUSV's Central Commission, which is the extension of the Managing Board of the WUSV.

Kennel Union of South Africa (KUSA)

The KUSA is the only internationally recognised registering authority for All-Breeds in South Africa. It registers roughly about 2.5% of all German Shepherd Dogs registered in South Africa. The KUSA and the GSDF recognises each other through an agreement. It is through this agreement that the KUSA is recognised by the WUSV and the GSDF is recognised by the FCI and other countries that are not members of the FCI such as the British, American and Australian Kennel Clubs. Even though the Federation recognises KUSA registrations, dogs bred and registered by the KUSA still has to comply with additional GSDF requirements before they may breed under the GSDF umbrella.

Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI)

The FCI is an All-Breed controlling authority which is largely European and South American based. Specialist organisations such as the GSDF and the SV cannot be members of the FCI and depends on FCI recognition through their country's respective Kennel Clubs. The KUSA is a member although not all Kennel Clubs are members. Notable exceptions are the British, American and Australian Kennel Clubs.

The Anglo-American Axis

This is a loose term for the Kennel Clubs that originated through the Kennel Club in Great Britain (KC) and which are not members of the FCI. They recognise each other through reciprocal agreements. The KC and the American Kennel Club (AKC) fulfils the leadership role and maintains a broad reciprocal agreement of recognition with the FCI on behalf of all Kennel Clubs in their orbit which are not members of the FCI.

Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH)

The VDH is the All-Breed registering authority in Germany and is a member of the FCI. The SV, although totally independent, is affiliated to the VDH through which it is in turn recognised by the FCI.

Frikkie van Kraayenburg

National President