



## THE DOG SPORT OF SCHUTZHUND THE ULTIMATE IN K9 OBEDIENCE, RELIABILITY, ACCURACY & TEAMWORK

### What is Schutzhund?

The literal translation from German to English of the word "Schutzhund" is protection" or "guardian" dog, but that's really quite misleading. **Protection training is grossly misunderstood by the general public!** A misconception regarding protection training is associating it with guard dog or attack training. Nothing could be further from the truth! Schutzhund-trained dogs are by far the most predictable, trustworthy, reliable and safe animals to be around.

Schutzhund is an intense three-element ultimate dog sport for dog and handler teams. It was initially introduced as a means to determine 'working' temperament of German Shepherd dogs in Germany for breeding purposes.

### Element I: Obedience

The obedience element showcases the dog's inherent joy in the work - balanced with precision, speed and control. This element can certainly be termed the *ultimate* in K9 obedience. Without this foundation, no K9 can successfully proceed to element III (sport protection).



### Element II: Tracking

In this element, the dog must draw from its natural 'scenting' abilities by using his nose to find a person's track and discover articles that have been dropped along the way. Unlike search & rescue where the dog relies primarily on "air-scenting", Schutzhund tracking is very focused on the footsteps, slow, and precise (deep nose tracking). A dog trained in schutzhund-style tracking can easily convert to any other style of tracking (search and rescue, police tracking, CKC tracking etc).



### Element III: Sport Protection

This element of Schutzhund training is the strongest test of the dog's basic temperament, character and obedience, with the emphasis on **control**. It should not be confused with guard dog or **personal** protection training. A dog training and competing in the sport of Schutzhund must show courage without viciousness. He is rated on self-confidence, ability to work under pressure, toughness and resilience, steadfast nerves, well-balanced drives and willingness to take directions and be responsive to the handler. Obedience and control are demonstrated throughout the protection phase through off-lead exercises and guarding without biting. The "bad guy" or "helper", as he is known in the sport, always wears protective pants and a special sleeve with a burlap cover. The dog is allowed to bite this sleeve and he must bite this in the correct manner. On command, the dog **MUST** release the bite — the ultimate in control criteria and obedience!



Schutzhund is a wonderful sport. It is fun for the dog and trainer - it's challenging as well as rewarding and creates the most reliable, obedient and predictable dogs. After all, **where else in the dog sport world must dogs prove themselves in three dramatically different sports?**

