

The Original Shiloh Shepherd

A Rare Breed Dog



What is a Shiloh Shepherd?

Do you remember a specific 'German Shepherd' you used to know as a child, or one that your family or friends told you about?

He was the dog with that super, almost human intelligence; that big family protector that was so very gentle with little children, yet would give his life for his master without question. The dog that would walk you to the school bus, and then show up again exactly on time to wait for your return; the hero that everyone talked about; the one that seemed half human. His personality consisted of Lassie, Strongheart, and Rin Tin Tin all rolled into one. Well, that dog is still here today, and he is called a SHILOH SHEPHERD!"

These versatile dogs are gentle giants strictly bred for great intelligence, sound hips and stable temperaments. The Shiloh Shepherd is at home being a loyal family companion or working in many different fields.



How is a Shiloh Different from a GSD?

Well, it's like this: Let's say you always loved Cadillacs. Let's say you bought a new 1962 Cadillac because you thought it was the highest refinement of the automotive art, and you drove it for years and years and loved it, but finally it needed to be replaced. So, you bop down to the Cadillac dealer with your checkbook in hand and say "I'd like another new '62 Cadillac, please"! And you're told, "We're sorry, but Cadillacs just don't look like that anymore; they're smaller, they're lighter, and they're put together differently. They don't even DRIVE the same as they did in 1962!" You say, "You mean there's NO WAY I can buy a new car that's built like and looks like and drives like the '62 Caddy that I love so much?" And the Cadillac dealer says, "Well, not one that comes out of a Cadillac factory! But you might find a small-scale automotive craftsman somewhere who'll BUILD you a car that's faithful to the '62 Cadillac, built just the way they were back then. You might even find that there are OTHER '62 Cadillac enthusiasts like you, and that the same shop builds cars for everybody, and even offers different models and colors, and people rave about what great, gorgeous cars they are, and they save and plan for years to buy one. BUT THEY HAVE TO CALL IT SOMETHING OTHER THAN A CADILLAC, and you won't get one from a Cadillac dealer!"

So far, so good? Well, the Original Shiloh Shepherd is the dog for people who fell in love with the 1962 model German Shepherd Dog. And since the GSD of today just isn't built the way they were in 1962, the dogs that ARE built that way can't be called GSDs.

The ISSR: An Involved Registry for a New Breed

To protect the future progress and stability of the breed, extensive documentation is kept, and all breedings are carefully monitored by the International Shiloh Shepherd Registry, Inc. (ISSR). The ISSR was officially incorporated in 1991. Early on, the Breed Founder recognized the need to protect this fledgling breed for the generations to come. The same factors that moved her to embark on the program that brought us the Shiloh Shepherd were and are, still at work. In order to do this, she turned to the example of the SV, the club and registry started by Captain Von Max von Stephanitz who founded the German Shepherd Dog breed. Over the years, the SV was more successful in guarding the overall ideal of the Captain's vision than the club in the United States. Consequently, after careful consideration, many of the SV's concepts such as the "Breed Warden," "Litter Evaluations" and "a more graduated registration system" were made less harsh and adapted for use in the United States. The ISSR is determined not to allow such a decline in quality in the magnificent Shilohs!

Origins and Development

From decades of experience breeding German Shepherds in her own kennels, the breed founder Tina Barber selected four lines as the foundation stock for the Shiloh Shepherds. She used a very strict LMI program (Litter Mate Information) to track all the dogs in each litter, not just the ones that were eventually used as breeding stock. This helped to weed out genetic faults and lock in virtues to set the desired foundation. The specially selected stock produced a breed of giant size, high intelligence, and easy trainability, with a sound body, good hips without the extreme angulation seen in most German Shepherds today, broad heads, softer temperaments, while retaining the fluid movement necessary for the flying trot. Through careful line breeding, the Shiloh Shepherd emerged. To avoid the genetic bottleneck that arises from intense line breeding, a MAW (Malamute, American Shepherd, White Shepherd) outcross was introduced in 1989. This outcross added the hybrid vigor needed to maintain the desired temperament, size and sound health qualities of the Shilohs. In 1998, after much research, an Alt Deutscher Schaeferhund (ADS) was imported from Germany for use as an outcross. In the fall of 2000 a specially selected AWSA dog was also added. This splash of new blood, when added to the established Shiloh lines will continue to strengthen hips and add a bit more confidence to the temperaments as well as to strengthen the gene pool without losing any of the original qualities for which Tina had been breeding.

Physical Appearance

The ISSR breed standard adopted by the Shiloh Shepherd Dog Club of America (SSDCA), the parent club, describes the general appearance of the Shiloh as, "The Shiloh Shepherd portrays a distinct impression of nobility with a unique aura of intelligence, that radiates a sense of regal wisdom and strength. Powerfully built with unsurpassed beauty and elegance, a picture of true balance; each part in harmonious proportion to every other part, and to the whole."

SIZE: is measured at the highest point of the shoulder blade.

- **Dogs** are no less than 28", with 30" or more being the ideal. Minimum weight at maturity (3 years) no less than 120 lbs with the ideal range between 140 - 160 lbs.
- **Bitches** are no less than 26" with 28" or more being the ideal. Minimum weight is no less than 80 lbs with the ideal range between 100 - 120 lbs.

COLOR: The Shiloh Shepherd may be solid black, solid white, dual or sable in coloring. Shades of black mixed with tan, brown, silver, cream, red and gray, in 33 possible varieties are recognized. The nose, eye rims and lips are solid black. A white blaze on the chest and white marking on the toes are acceptable. The expressive eyes of the Shiloh Shepherd range from a dark to a light brown in color and are almond shaped and of medium size.



Coat Varieties

There are two coat varieties in the Shiloh Shepherds...

The **Smooth Coat** has a double coat of medium length. The outer coat should be as dense as possible with hair straight, harsh, lying close to the body. The hair around the neck area should be slightly longer and thicker. The head including the inner ear and fore face, legs and paws should be covered with shorter hair.



The **Plush Coat** has a close fitting, double coat of medium coarse guard hairs with a softer undercoat. The neck area has a distinct mane that extends down to and covers the chest. Hair on the rest of the torso should not be longer than 5 inches. The plush coat, although longer than the smooth coat, sheds less, but needs more grooming.



Want more information?

Further information about the Shiloh Shepherds is available at: <http://www.shilohshepherds.org>. The site contains tons of pictures and dozens of articles written by the Breed Founder.

You are also invited to join us at Yahoo! Groups, where we discuss all aspects of the Shiloh Shepherd from breeding, raising and training, to just plain having fun:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shilohshepherdfriends>

Temperament

The Shiloh Shepherd is "Courageous and self confident, this gentle giant possesses superior intelligence wrapped in a heart of gold, faithfully protecting his home and those he loves." (Copied directly from the Shiloh Shepherd Breed standard.)

The ideal Shiloh Shepherd temperament is loyal and stable in all situations. This breed was developed to be gentle and loving with all children and is compatible with all animals when properly socialized and raised. A Shiloh Shepherd is adaptable to a variety of environments and lifestyles. They are easily trained to excel in conformation, obedience, agility, therapy work, Search And Rescue, Schutzhund, STM OR just to be your best friend.

To properly match a Shiloh Shepherd with its owner, puppies are tested at 8 weeks of age to evaluate their temperaments and drives. This temperament test was developed by Tina Barber specifically for this breed. Experienced, certified ISSR testers, who are taught by the Breed Founder, analyze a puppy's reaction to specific stimuli and grade the results. This "paper picture" of the puppy's sociability, human interaction, submission/dominance and conformation gives a clear indication of future potential. All ISSR Licensed breeders take these tests very seriously.

This trifold has been presented to you by:

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