

# The History of the White Shepherd



German cavalry officer Max Von Stephanitz in the first half of the twentieth century bred the German Shepherd Dog from a variety of German Sheepdogs. He was striving to breed a dog that was versatile with a dedicated nature and good working abilities, color took no presidents with him, hence the White German Shepherd Dog was created along with the German Shepherd Dogs of color we know today.

The first registered German Shepherd Dog was Horand Von Grafrath (Grief) his maternal grandsire was white. When he was bred back to his granddaughter it established the white coat into the breed.

In the late 1930's the breeders of the colored German Shepherd Dogs took a dislike to the white coated and predominantly white coated German Shepherd dogs. In 1959 the dogs that were predominantly white coated were disqualified by the German Shepherd Dog Club of America. Breeders of the German Shepherd Dog believed the white color caused fading in the colors of their dark dogs, by 1968 the white coated dogs were disqualified as well. Breeders tried to alleviate the white coated dogs altogether by culling the white coated puppies from their litters. Even today some breeders of the colored German Shepherd Dog still believe that the white puppies should be destroyed. Thank goodness some breeders were attracted to the white color and preserved it. Breeding deliberately for the white coat.

Because of the the loyalty of some breeders who wanted to see this wonderful dog back in the show ring on their own merits they have strove to make them their own breed. On April 14, 1999 the United Kennel Club accepted these white dogs as a breed apart from the German Shepherd Dog. At this time these dogs became known as the White Shepherd Dog.

Though their focus has been the coat color, it has not been totally on the white coat, but on the health, temperament and working ability as well. They also strive to breed the White Shepherd with less angulation than their colored counter part, believing the less angulation to be better for the working ability of these magnificent dogs. They have been breeding these dogs with different goals in mind than the breeders of the colored German Shepherd Dog. Doing so has made these dogs different in "type" than the colored dogs. The White Shepherd should be a medium sized, well balanced, muscular dog, slightly longer than tall, with a medium length coat. Though some bis quite color is acceptable, a snow white coat is preferred. Erect ears, a low set natural tail that should reach the hock and is carried at a slight curve. You can readily see the difference between the males and the females. The personally and temperament are of the utmost importance and should be self confident and poised. They are eager and alert, ready to serve in any capacity and usually show a good herding ability. They are not an aggressive dog and are friendly with people, but should be observant and ready to protect if the need arises. The White Shepherd is extremely intelligent, easily trainable, versatile working dog that strives to please and thrives on human companionship making them a highly desirable dog to own.