

A vertical photograph of Rick Richardson, a man in a blue shirt and white trousers, standing outdoors at a dog show. He is wearing a white cap and sunglasses. The background shows a grassy area and other people in blue shirts.

Rick Richardson Memorial Championship show

J.A.(Rick) Richardson. BEM. CD, Life member, GSDA of WA

After years of service in the British Army, Rick joined the GSDA of WA in 1973, became an Obedience Judge in 1976 and has served the German Shepherd Dog and its Association in the capacity of Head Trainer, Trials Chairman, Obedience, Endurance, Tracking and Agility Judge, judging Australia wide, at Nationals and MBE's. At ANKC affiliate level Judging appointments have taken him to many Royals and State Trials, and overseas to Singapore and Malaysia, two countries that sent Obedience Trainers to our GSDA of WA HQ, to complete their practicals on our course of Positive Reinforcement Training!

Rick became an ANKC Conformation Judge for Groups 5 and 6, enrolled in the GSDCA Specialist Judges extension course, judging many point score shows over the years. He has served the German Shepherd Dog Association as Tattoo Officer since the inception of the GSDCA Breed improvement Schemes, and was our HD and Elbow Scheme and Haemophilia Testing Administrator and Heredity Diseases Committee rep. He has been awarded the Meritorious Service Certificate and the Gold Service Pin for 25 years of dedication to the GSDA of WA. He served as our Club's Member for the Country, we had 12 Country Training Grounds, later became Vice-President and finally, in 1981, the President, a position Rick held until 1995 and was re-elected until 1998. Enjoying the good fellowship of life in WA's largest Single Breed Club, he appreciated the support of, and in return supported all committees equally, striving for unity.

In the days before the lifting of the ban on entire German Shepherd Dogs, Rick administered the "Alsatian Dog Act" for the Agricultural Protection Board, and on joining the GSDA of WA, worked for the Association in many roles! My Training Secretary from 1976 onwards, and a member of the Breed Affairs Committee, he has been equally involved in both facets of the breed from his earliest days in the club. The Demonstration Team saw Rick and Volker (Stronway Galant CD ET) and later with Monty, (Duval Mystic Montana UD ET TD B.S.Cl. I EXC H neg.) travelling to bring the German Shepherd Dog to the forefront in places such as Katanning, Albany, Carnarvon and Kalgoorlie, as part of a very busy and dedicated GSDA of WA Demonstration Team training weekly for their local Demos. Visits to Nursing Homes, Kindergartens, Schools and Hospitals rounded off Rick's and my work with our dogs for the City of Stirling, where he worked as Ranger and Dog Warden until his retirement. I worked at the COS for 24 yrs, the last 2 included cats!

For 20 years Rick has represented the GSDA of WA in Canine Affairs, representing our Association on Combined Dog Conferences (Breed Clubs) and Combined Obedience Dog Club Conferences. Governing Councillor of the Canine Association of W.A. for 6 years, Rick has also served 6 years on Dogs West's Obedience Sub Committee, the Hereditary Diseases Committee, the CAWA Dog Act Review Committee, and he was the inaugural Coordinator of the CAWA's Canine Good Companions, Australia's only State Kennel Council and Shire supported Training Programme.

His work as a cartoonist has brought him some measure of fame, if not notoriety in the dog world, here in Australia and abroad, and many of his works have become collectors' items with a clear message portraying the events and changes in the German Shepherd Scene, especially the extra care we devoted over the years, to improving the dogs' character, temperament and various other GSDCA Breed Improvement Schemes. He was always quick with a caricature!

For years competing with his Breed Surveyed, Good to Excellent graded in Show and Obedience dogs and bitches, Rick was our expert advisor on dog ownership and management, specializing in behavioural counselling converting owners to our training, my training, Honey's Happy Training. Jointly Rick and I, the Association's Training Supervisor for decades, we bred over 30 Breed Surveyed dogs and bitches, with Show Gradings from G, to Exc. gained the GSDCA GOLD medal for 50 "A" stamps for good hips, less for elbows, and bred over 30 animals with Obedience titles from CD to UD, ET, ADX and TD. His motto was: Breed only with the best, just love and train the rest! My Rick was often heard to say: If you have a show dog and he cannot do Obedience, then you only have half a dog! And: If your show quality Obedience Dog is not exhibited in shows, then you have only half a dog! Our small kennel of Ameliaberg dogs do have their place in WA history and live on, in the perpetual trophies, and the GSDCA medals for Breed Survey and the HD scheme.

Rick espoused Positive Reinforcement Training and would counsel and cheer on anyone, who spent time, training and working with his dog! He was a strong supporter of not only "the old brigade" who have fought for, and achieved what we see today, on the local scene and on a National basis, and whose support and friendship over the years he truly appreciated, but he believed strongly that it is the combination of the experience of the men and women of the decades gone by, our present mainstays in our clubs throughout the Nation, and the valued enthusiastic newcomers whose participation in our wonderful hobby we must support, that will keep the GSDCA and our German Shepherd Dog in the forefront of the Dog World, leading the way, in protecting our breed.

James Anthony Richardson BEM CD 1930 – 2010, I miss you, RIP My love.

