

German Shepherd Dog

The role played by Hektor Linksrhein, *later renamed Horand von Grafrath*, in the establishment of the German Shepherd Dog, or GSD to give it its universally recognised none-deplume, as a recognisable breed is well documented. The part played by his owner Max von Stephanitz in not only promoting, but also getting universal acceptance for the breed is equally well known. What is not known is from where this exceptional animal derived or how it developed from working strains, however since its arrival on the scene in the dying years of the 19th century the GSD as become one of the world's success stories, and is now generally the breed of choice whenever a strong, intelligent, willing working dog is called for.

Published data indicates that the GSD carries a degree of MDR-1 mutation, although the extent of penetration has not been published, suggesting that either the British

Herding Dog played a role in establishing the original type, or that the initial mutation happened many years prior to current theory and was brought to the United Kingdom by early invaders or settlers from central Europe.

Photo: Sally Ann Thompson

