



## **GERMAN SHEPHERD RESOURCE AND RESCUE CENTER**

### **FENCING AND SWIMMING POOL POLICY**

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#### **FENCING REQUIREMENTS**

GSRRC requires a fenced area to ensure the safety of the dog. While we realize we may be turning away wonderful homes that don't have a fenced area, we feel very strongly about the need for fencing. It should be accessible in some way from your house at either a back or side door. Kennel runs or pens do not qualify unless they are enclosed within a larger fenced area attached to your house.

The fenced area does not have to be elaborate or expensive. It may be constructed of stockade, chain link, or with heavy wooden or metal posts with heavy gage wire. It does not need to encompass the entire yard, but the space must be large enough for a GSD to get exercise, eliminate and get fresh air.

The fenced area should be at least five feet high (six feet is preferable) and should include a lockable gate. Equal attention should be given to the security of the fence along the bottom in order to prevent a GSD from digging out.

A fenced yard however, is never intended for a GSD to live or spend all day unsupervised. GSRRC dogs should never be left outside in a fenced area when you are not home. GSD's are intelligent dogs who are happiest when around their families. GSD's that are left alone in fenced areas for long periods of time typically become bored and frustrated which leads to digging and barking.

#### **TIE-OUTS AND OVERHEAD RUNNERS**

Tie-outs and/or overhead runners are not acceptable by GSRRC as dogs can become tangled or choke. Dogs left on runners are not able to defend themselves from other dogs or animals that enter the yard and they are easy targets for thieves. Dogs left on tie outs or runners usually become anxious and unhappy which typically leads to incessant barking.

#### **ELECTRIC (INVISIBLE) FENCING**

Electric or invisible fences are not acceptable for GSRRC dogs. There are limitations on invisible fence systems such as the inability to keep other dogs or animals out and not all dogs can be trained to obey the system. GSD's are notorious for being able to get past an invisible fencing system.

## **Swimming Pools**

The swimming pool requirements are in place because drownings with dogs have occurred and we must consider the safety of the dog.

If you have an in ground pool, you must have a fence around the pool to keep a dog from falling in. Exceptions to this rule however can be made if your pool has graduated steps and you teach the dog how to get in and out of the pool using the steps and if you use a pool cover during the winter that can bear the weight of a person.

If you have an above ground pool, the steps used to get into the pool must be secured such that the dog cannot climb them and get into the pool. The steps or ladder must be removed, raised or surrounded by a barrier.

## **SENIOR DOGS AND WAIVERS**

For some senior dogs, the fencing requirement may be waived. This will be approved on a case by case basis.

We also realize that that there may be experienced and exceptional applicants who do not meet the fencing requirements. In these cases, an applicant may apply for an exemption to the fencing requirement.

The exemption request must include a detailed letter describing your experience with GSD's, your lifestyle and how you plan on safely exercising a rescue GSD. We also require a letter of recommendation from your veterinarian regarding the care and well being of your previously owned GSD's.

These waivers for an exemption to the Fencing and Swimming Pool Policy will be reviewed and approved on a case by case basis.