

This is a service of www.banffyhaus.com to Owners of German Shepherd Puppies and or German Shepherd Breeders. *No warranties are express or implied below. This is for informational purposes only.

Male or Female, How Do I Decide?

This is an age old question. For the sake of pedagogical simplicity we can categorize many of the important criteria under two basic rubrics:

1. Gender Based Differences
2. Application Differences

Gender Based Differences

Males

1. Size: The male is between 60 and 65 centimeters tall. The female is about 5 centimeters shorter at the withers (about 2 inches). The male will grow to be between 66 and 88 pounds, where a female will be about 17 pounds on average less. So, you will need respectively greater physical power to control a male.
2. Intact males tend to mark (urinate) their territory where females are less likely to.
3. Males on average are more pugnacious (feisty) than females and tend to be more likely to fight with other males. But, this is not to say that females don't also fight with each other.
4. Males tend to be more aloof. We say that males protect their territory where females protect their team (pack). This is not completely representative, but certainly males are more individualistic as they are in humans. They are group oriented more, being more maternal. So one could say that females have on average a bit more intimate relationship with owners.
5. Males roam when intact and will show interest in females. Also it can be embarrassing for lady owners when males display themselves (present their private parts) in public.
6. Males will have a tendency toward sexual behavior toward an owner more than a female.
7. If a male is to be fixed, I recommend no earlier than 18 months when puberty is largely complete and male characteristics (body and attitude) have formed.

Females:

1. Prior to being spayed can shed four times a year, twice for heat, and twice for seasons
2. Female urine is more damaging to grass
3. Females are relatively more sensitive
4. Until a female is fixed she will "heat" every six months. This will mean some bleeding (some more than others). In addition, males may show a good deal of interest in them, requiring separation, and leading to some difficult situations.
5. Females tend to bond more intimately with their human companions.
6. If a female is to be spayed, I recommend no earlier than the finish of the second

heat (maybe 14 months) when puberty is complete and she has developed all of her gender specific qualities.

Application Differences

Clearly there are some important differences in genders for certain applications. Here I will only talk of two. Later I may modify this article to address others.

The first is breeding. Obviously a female is the only gender which can produce litters. The normal breeding period differs by specific female. Some can breed well into the 8 year range. But normally litters start to get smaller and more difficult after 6 years old. If one were going to breed, the only choice is a female. Getting a good female you can select from top studs and not be tied to one. And the chance of getting a good stud from a litter is very slim. It is better to pay a stud fee to someone with a proven stud and a reputation than try to breed your own and be saddled with one stud choice.

The second is heavy police work needing solid nerves and tenacity. The male is best suited for this. Although there are many super females used in this capacity, the male predominates. And, for serious schutzhund enthusiasts, the male is clearly the best choice.