

Schutzhund is known internationally as "IPO", or International Prüfungsordnung (International Working Dog Examinations). Schutzhund was first developed in Germany in the early 1920's as a breeding suitability test for the German Shepherd Dog, GSD. Dogs needed to pass this test to be considered worthy of breeding. The three phases were carefully designed to test for highly valued traits in working dogs, such as intelligence, courage, work ethic, strong stable temperament, scenting ability and desire to work with man. A score of 70 in each phase is required to pass at a single trial. Schutzhund has long been considered one of the most difficult and rewarding sport for dog trainers and dog lovers alike. (Excerpts taken from www.germanshepherddog.com/about/schutzhund-training/protection-explained/)