

July-August-September, 2013



DVG AMERICA

National Schutzhund Magazine

Changing Vaccine Protocols

Growing Up Schutzhund Style

TRIAL/SEMINAR REPORTS

- HELPER SEMINAR WKG
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Lisa Little and Haylie

DVG BSP: Eschweiler, Germany

On the Cover: Cafe in Stolberg Germany. Contributed by Lisa Little

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What is DVG?

The initials DVG stand for Deutscher Verband der Gebrauchshundsportvereine, or the German Association of Working Dog Sport Clubs.

This is not an exact translation, but one that is most meaningful in English. While attracting breeders of all working dogs, DVG exists for only one purpose - the training and titling of dogs of all kinds. In addition to IPO titles, DVG offers Obedience and Tracking titles, providing competition opportunities for all people who love to train dogs, even the smallest of breeds.

If you are interested in finding out more about LV/DVG America, please visit our website for more complete information.

www.DVGAmerica.com

July - September, 2013

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Why DVG?

The training purist and competitive breeder can look to DVG for many benefits not offered by any other organization in the US or Canada.

- Over 100 years experience in the training of all breeds of working dogs
- All judges are German Kennel Club (VDH) and FCI recognized. Currently there are 11 certified judges residing in LV America. In addition, visiting judges from Germany may assist with local trials and championships.
- Trial decoys are certified and on-going training and testing are required.
- It is the only organization whose members are qualified to compete in a German National Championship.
- All titles and scorebooks are recognized by the VDH, allowing a DVG member to compete in any local trial in Germany.
- An annual American Championship for levels 1, 2 and 3.

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LV/DVG America Magazine

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LV PRESIDENT

Carole Patterson

To all,
As some of you know, I'm kind of out of touch right now, down in St. Augustine, FL, helping out my family.

I hope everyone is having a good summer and getting in some excellent training sessions with your dogs. I also hope that you will all support our 2013 LV/DVG America Nationals, being held in Eugene, OR in September. Oregon is a beautiful state with some of the most spectacular scenery in the US and Canada. Oregon has it all ... ocean on the west and mountains throughout the state. I hope you'll support the Nationals by attending and participating in the event. If you've never been involved in putting on the Nationals, I can tell you it's a whole lot of work and at times seems like a thankless job. Those hosting the event can only be rewarded by your support and participation, so plan a vacation in Oregon in September, with the Nationals the first on your list.

You all need to be aware of the fact that there will be an election in 2014 ... an election that will replace the whole of the existing elected officers of LV/DVG America. Some of us have been around for a long, long time. Perhaps too long. It's time for "younger blood" to take over the running of the

organization. This means we need a new president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and OfS. A new LRO will also come from our judges, to be approved by the membership at large. I and all other present elected officers will be available to help out those elected to our positions. But all of you need to think very hard right now about who you want to see filling those elected positions. The success and continuation of LV/DVG America depends upon all of YOU making good choices and also at least some of you being willing to step up to the plate and offer your time and effort to be an officer in LV/DVG America.

I wish you all the best in the coming Fall trial season. I hope to see you at the Nationals in Eugene, OR in September and also at the membership meeting that will be held there. At that meeting we will vote on the revised by-laws that our by-law committee has been working so hard on for the last 6 months. Thank you to all of you on the committee. It's a tough job, but a necessary one, and your efforts are appreciated.

Yours in the Sport,
Carole Patterson
President, LV/DVG America

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<http://www.facebook.com/DvgAmericaMagazine>

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Interested in joining DVG? Please contact the KG (region) contact person nearest you to learn more.

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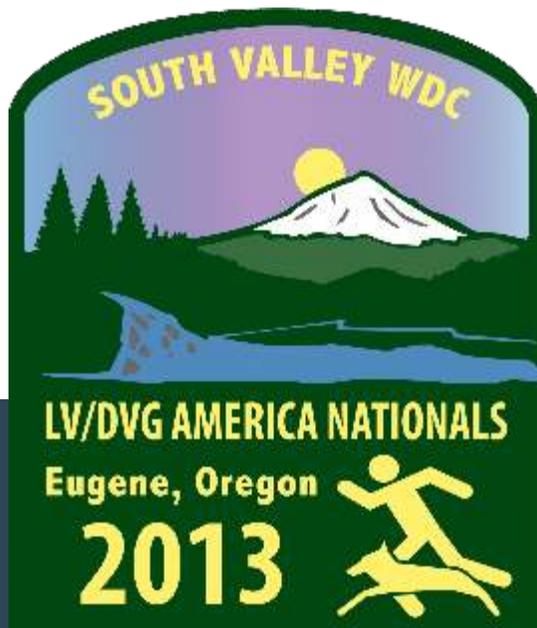
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The 2013 DVG National Championship will be held by South Valley Working Dog Club in Eugene Oregon, September 19 - 22.

The Championship will be held at Elmira High School's football field.

South Valley Working Dog Club welcomes and is looking forward to meeting all competitors.

For information and details, contact Jamie Lloyd at 541-844-8009

Email southvalleywdc@hotmail.com

More information and the latest updates visit: <http://dvgamerica.com/13nationals/>

Feedback!

Have you joined DVG America Magazine on Facebook yet? Over 300 of your friends and fellow DVG America member have and growing! Here are some nice things we've been hearing!

Andrea Miller via Facebook

Nice, awesome, super, cool, love it!

Karin Moor via Facebook

The new DVG Magazine is beautiful!

Michelle Testa via Facebook

Love the format and interesting stuff in there... Like it!!

Randy Then via email

Great magazine!

Rhonda Southern via Facebook

Just got my magazine. Great job!!!! It is awesome!!!

Tammy Murry via Facebook

Just skimmed through, but liking the new format! Really liked the "tip of the judge's hat"! Awesome!

Carolyn Herle via Facebook

GREAT revamping of the magazine-love it

Monica Patty via Facebook

The current magazine was such an improvement; several very interesting and helpful articles. Mica's article was great and to the point. I think many of her points apply to adult handlers as well. The sport is extremely expensive and time consuming...**

Anne Marie Appel via Facebook

I was very impressed with Mica's article - it was well written, thoughtful and fun! ... It's also the responsibility of individual clubs to appeal to the youth in their region. But I think intelligent input from teens like Mica is key. **

Lisa Kiefer via Facebook

Great job on the magazine. What a difference.



<http://www.facebook.com/DvgAmericaMagazine>

** Please join us on Facebook to read the rest of these messages.

New Group Rule!

They say a picture is worth 1000 words, so I am hoping a video is worth 4000 words!

This is the way the group is to be performed in all of our trials on or before 01/01/2014.

Please copy and paste this link into your browser.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzvFZeUEzds&feature=youtu.be>

Yours in the Sport,

Ray Reid LV/LRO



Ray Reid, LRO

Trial Calendar

Trial Date	Host Club	Location	Contact	Phone	Email	Judge
Aug 24-25	Commonwealth WDC	Brandywine, MD	Lisa Freeny	301-758-1389	freenyl@verizon.net	TBA
Sep 7-8	Front Range Hundesport	Denver, CO	Carole Patterson	303-674-4655	caroledvg@mindspring.com	Ray Reid
Sep 20-22	LV DVG Championship -South Valley Working Dog Club	Eugene, OR	Carole Patterson	303-674-4655	caroledvg@mindspring.com	Lisa Little, Jennifer Reid, Wolfgang Pahl
Oct 5-6	Wild West Dog Sport Club	Delano, CA	Jeanita Davis	661-393-6983		TBA
Oct 5-6	Ponderosa Dog Club	Denver, CO	Marlene Gasaway	303-646-3369	rlmg8762@aol.com	Ann Dolan
Oct 5-6	Northern Illinois Schutzhund Club	Illinois	Donna Gavin	847-855-9790	dgavin@yahoo.com	Lisa Little
Oct 12	Salem Schutzhund Club	Salem, OR	Janice Reid		dvgjudge@msn.com	Ann Dolan
Oct 12-13	Working Rottweiler Assoc of Canada	Stayner, Ontario, Canada	Joanne Fleming		joannefleming13@sympatico.ca	Sandi Purdy
Oct 12-13	Meridian Working Dog Club	Blue Mound, IL	Kathleen McClain	217-628-1562	kmcc222@sbcglobal.net	Ray Reid
Oct 26	Cache Valley Working Dog Club	Ogden, UT	Joanna Pawlick	801-718-7498	asia@xmission.com	Sandi Purdy
Oct 26	Centennial Schutzhund Club	Denver, CO	Jay Swearingen	303-841-1247	jws@theanimallawcenter.com	Amanda Hoskinson
Oct-13	The Sirius Working Dog Club	Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada	Tammy Murry	506-488-2504	ourpassion@leidenschaftkennel.s.ca	Melissa Hepler
Nov 9-10	Falconhurst Canine Corp	Saginaw, MI	Michelle or AJ Slaughter	989-752-7492	falconk9@chartermi.net	Ann Dolan
Dec 13-15	Highway Schutzhund Club	Umatilla, FL	Chris Meverden	727-804-8858	chris@brickhausworkingdogs.com	Lisa Little

Judges, Judges Everywhere!

Contributed by the Tulsa Schutzhund Club

The Tulsa Schutzhund Club had the pleasure of hosting an Apprentice Judge Certification at our 2013 Spring Trial on March 16th. Our trial judge was Udo Stachowiak, LRO for DVG Germany. He was accompanied to the U.S. by Wolfgang Pahl, VP of DVG Germany and the protection judge for our upcoming championship this fall in Oregon.



Akin, Jacki, Sandi, Wolfgang, Udo, Ray, Amanda, Ann, Melissa and Lisa



Akin, Jacki, Amanda and Melissa

Amanda Hoskinson and Melissa Hepler came from Florida to complete their apprenticeships. James Akin-Otiko and Jacki Purdham drove from Nebraska to begin their apprenticeships.

Attending in support of these apprentice nominees were LV America LRO Ray Reid, and judges Sandi Purdy, Ann Dolan, and Lisa Little. We would be willing to wager that that many judges have never been at a club trial.

On Friday, Udo and Wolfgang were shown around Tulsa by Club President Nick Reinhard. They spent the morning attending the AKC Obedience, Agility, and Rally Nationals. DVG has recently added rally as an event they sponsor. Neither Udo nor Wolfgang had seen it in action. That noted that now when they are at their board meetings they will now be able to say they have attended a national rally event. Later that evening, after the American judges arrived, they all met for dining and visiting.

Trial day brought beautiful weather and eleven entries. The apprentices would have the opportunity to judge four BHs, a FH, a TR 3, an OB 1 and 3, and an IPO 1, 2, and 3. Udo told us to tell the handlers there would be no need for them to be nervous because the apprentice judges would be nervous enough for everyone; he was correct.

Throughout the day each of the apprentices were given the opportunity to oversee different aspects of the trial. This included but was not limited to checking micro-chips and tattoos, instructing track-layers and helpers, judging the different phases, giving critiques, and dealing with the infamous paperwork. By the end of a nine hour day the results were eleven passing scores; that included eight new titles, and four very tired and stressed apprentices. Wohlgang recognized Jerol Skinner and Don Thayer with their 10 year member pins. He noted that these were the most important recognitions presented the whole weekend.

Saturday evening we had a dinner that included all the judges, club members and other guests. It was a good opportunity for the club members to get acquainted with the judges. Midwest KG President Dyan Harper presented Shanna Burgin and Monty Steel with their IPO 3 pins. To commemorate their visit, Udo and Wolfgang were presented with Native American dream catchers.

Sunday the weather turned nasty, as it can do in Oklahoma but the Judges and Judges-to-be had only inside meetings. After another six hours of training, giving presentations, and testing with all nine Judges in attendance, we had two new judges; Amanda and Melissa, and two who leave Tulsa with a plan to achieve the same, James and Jacki.

Ray, UDO, and Wolfgang, departed on Monday. We wrapped up a successful weekend not only for passing titles and certifications but for making new friendship and renewing old ones.



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WKG HELPER SEMINAR & CERTIFICATION



Hosted by Coast Schutzhund Club, DVG
With WKG-OfS & Judge: Ted Hartman

Article by Amy Elias

With hot, but great, weather for March in Southern California, we had 11 helpers total enter our seminar/certification. There were two club level, five regional level and the remaining helpers had all attended at least one seminar or have classification prior to this event. Ted got right to work going through the IPO routines and mechanics one helper at a time until they were all ready for the dogs. Our club had many young BH dogs available for the inexperienced guys as well as some very strong IPO teams for the certified and or upgrading helpers.

At basic level we had Steven Lemmer from Coast SchH Club doing his second seminar. Philip Frusetta, and Ivan McGeo, who are both youth helpers from Coast, did a great job working 3 - 4 dogs each. Philip, who has been working with Ted the last

couple of summers, is starting to show some real promise.

Next Ted started preparing the club and regional level helpers for some much harder IPO 3 teams to come. This group really had their hands full with 3 - 4 fast dogs each but all did great work showing why they are certified helpers. Ted then individually evaluated and worked the guys numerous times until they were all ready for the tests.

At level 3 we had Cecil Terry from Coast SchH Club previously certified, followed by Chris Campbell, Weston Kester, and Jose Curiel from Wild West Dog Sport, all with prior USA classification and testing for DVG club level certification. Ted noted in his critiques that Chris and Weston are both working near regional level now and should be ready for level 2 some time this year.

At Level 2 Steve Parsons from Utah SchH Club who trains with our club every few months

and Tim Cutter from Wild West Dog Sport, both did an excellent job especially working dogs that most national level helpers have a very hard time with GSD "Enox" Rott "Krypto" and Mal "Drogo"

We finally wrapped up with the awards at about 10 pm. Then with much anticipation Ted announced his selections for the upcoming WKG championship.

This year it will be Steve Parsons doing the IPO 3 front half and Tim Cutter working the IPO 1-2 & IPO 3 back half.

Coast SchH Club would like to thank all of the helpers, dog teams and spectators for coming out and participating in our event. Special thanks to Natural Balance for their continuing support over the years.

CHANGING VACCINE PROTOCOLS

W. Jean Dodds, DVM HEMOPET
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The challenge to produce effective and safe vaccines for the prevalent infectious diseases of humans and animals has become increasingly difficult. In veterinary medicine, evidence implicating vaccines in triggering immune-mediated and other chronic disorders (vaccinosis) is compelling. While some of these problems have been traced to contaminated or poorly attenuated batches of vaccine that revert to virulence, others apparently reflect the host's genetic predisposition to react adversely upon receiving the single (monovalent) or multiple antigen "combo" (polyvalent) products given routinely to animals. Animals of certain susceptible breeds or families appear to be at increased risk for severe and lingering adverse reactions to vaccines. The onset of adverse reactions to conventional vaccinations (or other inciting drugs, chemicals, or infectious agents) can be an immediate hypersensitivity or anaphylactic reaction, or can occur acutely (24-48 hours afterwards), or later on (10-45 days) in a delayed type immune response often caused by immune-complex formation. Typical signs of adverse immune reactions include fever, stiffness, sore joints and abdominal tenderness, susceptibility to infections, central and peripheral nervous system disorders or inflammation, collapse with autoagglutinated red blood cells and jaundice, or generalized pinpoint hemorrhages or bruises. Liver enzymes may be markedly elevated, and liver or kidney failure may accompany bone marrow suppression. Furthermore, recent vaccination of genetically susceptible breeds has been associated with transient seizures in puppies and adult dogs, as well as a variety of autoimmune diseases including those affecting the blood, endocrine organs, joints, skin and mucosa, central nervous system, eyes, muscles, liver, kidneys, and bowel. It is postulated that an underlying genetic predisposition to these conditions places other littermates and close relatives at increased risk. Vaccination of pet and research dogs with polyvalent vaccines containing rabies virus or rabies vaccine alone was recently shown to induce production of antithyroglobulin autoantibodies, a

Age of Pups	Vaccine Type
9 - 10 weeks	Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV (e.g. Merck Nobivac [Intervet Progard] Puppy DPV)
14 - 16 weeks	Same as above
20 weeks or older, if allowable by law	Rabies
1 year	Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV
1 year	Rabies, killed 3-year product (give 3-4 weeks apart from distemper/parvovirus booster)

Note: The above vaccine protocol is offered for those dogs where minimal vaccinations are advisable or desirable. The schedule is one I recommend and should not be interpreted to mean that other protocols recommended by a veterinarian would be less satisfactory. It's a matter of professional judgment and choice. Perform vaccine antibody titers for distemper and parvovirus every three years thereafter, or more often, if desired. Vaccinate for rabies virus according to the law, except where circumstances indicate that a written waiver needs to be obtained from the primary care veterinarian. In that case, a rabies antibody titer can also be performed to accompany the waiver request. See www.rabieschallengefund.org

provocative and important finding with implications for the subsequent development of hypothyroidism (Scott-Moncrieff et al, 2002).

Vaccination also can overwhelm the immunocompromised or even healthy host that is repeatedly challenged with other environmental stimuli and is genetically predisposed to react adversely upon viral exposure. The recently weaned young puppy or kitten entering a new environment is at greater risk here, as its relatively immature immune system can be temporarily or more permanently harmed. Consequences in later life may be the increased susceptibility to chronic debilitating diseases.

As combination vaccines contain antigens other than those of the clinically important infectious disease agents, some may be unnecessary; and their use may increase the risk of adverse reactions. With the exception of a recently introduced multivalent *Leptospira* spp. vaccine, the other leptospirosis vaccines afford little protection against the clinically important fields strains of leptospirosis, and the antibodies they elicit typically last only a few months. Other vaccines, such as for Lyme disease, may not be needed, because the disease is limited to certain geographical areas. Annual revaccination for rabies is required by some states even though there are USDA licensed rabies vaccine with a 3-year duration. Thus, the overall risk-benefit ratio of using certain vaccines or multiple antigen vaccines given simultaneously and repeatedly should be reexamined. It must be recognized, however, that we have the luxury of asking such questions today only because the risk of disease has been effectively reduced by the widespread use of vaccination programs.

Given this troublesome situation, what are the experts saying about these issues? In 1995, a landmark review commentary focused the attention of the veterinary profession on the advisability of current vaccine practices. Are we overvaccinating companion animals, and if so, what is the appropriate periodicity of booster vaccines? Discussion of this provocative topic has generally lead to other questions about the duration of immunity conferred by the currently licensed vaccine components.

In response to questions posed in the first part of this article, veterinary vaccinologists have recommended new protocols for dogs and cats. These include: 1) giving the puppy or kitten vaccine series followed by a booster at one year of age; 2) administering further boosters in a combination vaccine every three years or as split components alternating every other year until; 3) the pet reaches geriatric age, at which time booster vaccination is likely to be unnecessary and may be unadvisable for those with aging or immunologic disorders. In the intervening years between booster vaccinations, and in the case of geriatric pets, circulating humoral immunity can be evaluated by measuring serum vaccine antibody titers as an indication of the presence of immune memory. Titers do not distinguish between immunity generated by vaccination and/or exposure to the disease, although the magnitude of immunity produced just by vaccination is usually lower (see Tables).

Except where vaccination is required by law, all animals, but especially those dogs or close relatives that previously experienced an adverse reaction to vaccination can have serum antibody titers measured annually instead of revaccination. If adequate titers are found, the animal should not need revaccination until some future date. Rechecking antibody titers can be performed annually, thereafter, or can be offered as an alternative to pet owners who prefer not to follow the conventional practice of annual boosters. Reliable serologic vaccine titering is available from several university and commercial laboratories and the cost is reasonable (Twark and Dodds, 2000; Lappin et al, 2002; Paul et al, 2003; Moore and Glickman, 2004).

Relatively little has been published about the duration of immunity following vaccination, although new data are beginning to appear for both dogs and cats.

Our recent study (Twark and Dodds, 2000), evaluated 1441 dogs for CPV antibody titer and 1379 dogs for CDV antibody titer. Of these, 95.1 % were judged to have adequate CPV titers, and nearly all (97.6 %) had adequate CDV titers. Vaccine histories were available for 444 dogs (CPV) and 433 dogs (CDV). Only 43 dogs had been vaccinated within the

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previous year, with the majority of dogs (268 or 60%) having received a booster vaccination 1-2 years beforehand. On the basis of our data, we concluded that annual revaccination is unnecessary. Similar findings and conclusions have been published recently for dogs in New Zealand (Kyle et al, 2002), and cats (Scott and Geissinger, 1999; Lappin et al, 2002). Comprehensive studies of the duration of serologic response to five viral vaccine antigens in dogs and three viral vaccine antigens in cats were recently published by researchers at Pfizer Animal Health (Mouzin et al, 2004).

When an adequate immune memory has already been established, there is little reason to introduce unnecessary antigen, adjuvant, and preservatives by administering booster vaccines. By titering annually, one can assess whether a given animal's humoral immune response has fallen below levels of adequate immune memory. In that event, an appropriate vaccine booster can be administered.

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MEMBER PIX PAGE!

Do you have a great shot of you and/or your dog? The one that you wish you could show everyone? Well, starting with the 2013 final quarterly issue, we will be publishing member submitted pix!

Remember, your picture must meet the standard guidelines to be published. It can be a candid shot, or a trial/training shot, but if it has recognisable people in it, you must have their permission to publish their image.

IS YOUR WATER BOTTLE TOXIC?

BY BETH WHITCOMB SEKG

It is a hot training day any place in the country. You fill up your plastic one gallon water bottle, or purchase a new one on the way to training. You vie for what little shade you can find and park your car. Five hours later, with training on all three phases behind you, you head for home. Upon arriving at home, you unpack the dog and close up the car, leaving that bottle and leftover water inside – the bottle to be rinsed and used the next time.

So what goes on in your hot car and that water bottle when it sits in the intense heat and while you are trying to “go green” by reusing that bottle? You have washed it thoroughly and refilled it. What you may not realize is that by doing so you may be harming your pet. While we are all aware of the risk of bacteria breeding in a warm moist environment, you have that covered with careful washing. Bacteria may not be the biggest concern, however.

According to an article published in Scientific American, Bisphenols, more commonly known as BPAs, are the building blocks for plastics. When exposed to high temperature, such as dishwashers and microwaves these resins leach out of the plastic. Temperatures in a closed car in the heat of the summer can reach 130 degrees; water temperature in a dishwasher is around 120 degrees. According to this article, BPAs leach out 55 times faster when exposed to extreme heat, than under normal conditions. A concern exists also, with the continued reuse of plastic bottles and the damage to the plastic that occurs through use and repeated washing, increasing the risk that tiny cracks and crevices have developed over time.

BPAs are known to mimic estrogens and have been linked to cancer in rats. A second chemical used in water bottle

production is PET (polyethylene terephthalate). Repeated use and washing, as well as heat, breaks down the plastic, thus allowing a chemical compound DEHA (diethylhexadipate, a substance added to plastics to make them soft and pliable), to leach out, as well. Both the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and NIH (National Institutes of Health) have deemed the use of BPA and PET safe, but ongoing studies are showing high levels can cause ill effects in animals. While scientist and bureaucrats debate the issue regarding the safety of these chemicals in our drinking water, health concerns and increased cancer risk looms.

There are safer/healthier alternatives for the transportation of water for training. Glass is the gold standard but not very practical given its fragile nature. Aluminum and stainless steel jars and canteens are available, reasonably priced and should last a lifetime. The downside of these metal containers, though, is their propensity to retain heat -- just what you don't need in a hot car. Also, many aluminum water bottles are lined with a protective coating that also contains BPAs. Stainless steel is another option, but be sure it is made in the USA, so you can be guaranteed it contains only steel and not other metals such as lead. I have opted for a small soft-sided cooler to store the canteen and an ice pack; you can place your tracking food in the cooler, as well. You can place ice cubes in the bottle for a slow thaw during the heat of the day. Maybe years from now, it will be determined that all the fuss over BPAs and PETs, was just that, a fuss, but until then I will err on the side of caution.



TICK SEASON

Beth Whitcomb, SEKG

As tick season approaches, there is a warning every pet owner should be aware of, especially those of us where tick borne illnesses such as Lyme disease pose a significant risk. According to the CDC and FDA there is a shortage of the drug Doxycycline used to treat Lyme disease. Lyme disease is a tick borne illness caused by the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* and the rickettsial bacterium that causes anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis. Doxycycline is the only known effective treatment for these diseases. While other antibiotics such as Minocycline may be prescribed, it has not been shown to be equally as effective against the rickettsial diseases.

Since the gold standard in treating these infections is Doxycycline and the cost was relatively cheap, many may have become complacent in their preventative, protective measures such as monthly treatments, collars, herbal remedies and simply brushing after tracking. Studies have shown that an infected tick normally cannot begin transmitting the spirochete until it has been attached to its host about 36-48 hours; the best line of defense against Lyme Disease is prevention. Now that Doxycycline may not only be cost prohibitive but unavailable, we urge all pet owners to routinely check their pets for ticks, especially after tracking.



A WORD OF CAUTION

Some professionals feel our working dogs are at a higher risk for Leptospirosis given the fact it is transmitted via wildlife such as rodents, raccoons, foxes, skunks, possums, etc and especially in any standing water. So tracking places them at higher risk than the normal dog population. After the initial puppy vaccination, annual vaccines may be recommended.

As with all health related issues, LV DVG America magazine strongly recommends that all members do their own research and consult with your veterinary professionals concerning your canine and your individual situation. Only you and your vet can determine the proper vaccination protocol for you and your part of the country which may have unique risks.

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Lisa Little's DVG BSP Experience

THE AMAZING RACE

“ Cobblestone roads and a castle from the 1700s. Our guesthouse/apartment was attached to the castle which was really awesome ”

After all the plans over the winter, April came upon me pretty quick. We left for Europe on April 22nd and flew on Icelandair. We had to land in Iceland and change planes but I have to say it was great for two reasons. The cost of the flight was less expensive and it did break up a long flight. It was 5 hours from Toronto to Iceland and then only two and half hours from Iceland to Amsterdam.

Of course, travelling to countries where you don't speak the language has its difficulties. We had no problem with the air travels at all. Haylie was handled carefully by all the agents. She was however quite stressed when we arrived in Amsterdam and it took a couple of days for her to get over the jet lag.

We got our rental car only to find that the crate would not fit in it, damn those new slanted lines on the wagons. So the car rental agent and Joanne took the crate and walked around trying it in different vehicles until we got it to fit. Problem number one solved. We took our own GPS with us with our Europe maps that we have used many times. Plugged it in to find out that it was not working. So back to the car rental agency and we rented one of their GPSs. Good grief.

We booked a hotel in Stolberg so off we went for a 2 and half hour drive. When we booked it, it said that there was parking on site. Well it should have said parking in the same town! We arrived and found out that the parking was at the shopping plaza about 2 kms from our hotel. Oh Well!!!!!! So Haylie stayed with us in our little apartment, dragging her crate in and out each time we had to go somewhere. Stolberg was a very old town with cobblestone roads and a castle from the 1700s. Our guesthouse/apartment was attached to the castle which was really awesome.

Wednesday morning, Ulrich Fenners(DVG judge) had made arrangements for me to practice track, so I called and made arrangements to meet someone at 10:30 a.m. at the Stadium in Eschweiler. No one showed up at the stadium to meet us. I called again and was told to meet at the training place, in other words the Schutzhund club, not the stadium. Well, my “no German” and the person I spoke with had

Continued next page



very little English, GREAT!!! So we drove all over Eschweiler and found the Schutzhund field. Guess what? No one there either. So I called again and explained where we were and it was the wrong Schutzhund field. This can really only happen in Germany with so many clubs in one town. We finally just went back to the stadium and someone came and got us. Thank God. You can now start to see why we called the article "The Amazing Race".

It was very dry at the practice tracking. It was not like our tilled fields here in Canada. When you walked on it the dust flew and your footprints were about a half an inch in to the soil. We used our own GPS to get back to the hotel and it was great. Thursday was a down day for us so we drove over to Belgium and went to the Euro Joe store and did some dog equipment shopping. They also had a big training field so I was able to let Haylie have some fun and run and stretch her legs. So after we got some treasures there we headed back to a friend's club in Belgium to have a visit. The traffic in Belgium makes Toronto look like a walk in the park. It should have been a two and half hour drive each way and it took us over 10 hours.

Friday was practice at the Stadium for everyone and it was raining most of the day. No complaints because everyone said yeah for the tracking fields. So the fun began. Everyone was great and Joanne and I were treated with open arms by our friends in Europe. It was nice to see everyone again. Wolfgang Pahl (Vice President DVG) and Udo Stachowiak (LRO DVG)

were the main organizers and were more than helpful. They both made sure that I knew where I needed to be and what time. Volker Sulimma (DVG judge) made sure on our way to tracking that I was put right behind his vehicle so we would not get lost. Volker was in charge of tracking. When I reported in for tracking, the judge did not understand or speak any English. He looked at Volker after I reported in and asked him in German if what I said was okay. It was great to have so much help out on the field. Also for the critique, Volker was right there and explained it all in English for me.

Ulrich Fenners (DVG judge) was also very helpful and sent pictures of tracking, the articles and the contact person before I even left to go over to Germany. He made sure we had all the information we needed. This was sure nice to have before we even left for our travels.



On Friday night we had the meeting for the draw. It was to be at a high school in town. For some reason this got changed to the town City Hall. They put up part of an address on the paper at the stadium but it would not come up on the GPS. So once again we asked for directions. This was now part two of The Amazing Race... We headed for the City Hall.

Joanne saw one of the Sporthund vendor's vehicles, so thinking we must be close, we pulled in behind it and parked and started walking. It was cold and raining to boot. We walked for quite some time and saw nothing that resembled the City Hall, so we went in to a Pizza Place and asked. We got told to go to the next light and turn left and follow to the end of the road; of course this was several blocks away. Well we got to the end of the road and there was no only a big old church with its bells ringing so loud you could hardly hear yourself think. NO CITY HALL. So now we went in to a cafe and asked again if they could help. Oh you must go back up the road for two blocks and turn left and you will see a big red building on your left. I was getting a little excited because it was now 6:50pm and the draw was to start at 7pm. At last we found the City Hall. Hartmut Beckmann came in just after us and asked if we had problems finding the City Hall. We explained to him how hard it was and he said he had the same problem. That made us feel a little better because he was able



to stop and ask anyone questions which we could not do.

The room was packed full and the Mayor of Eschweiler did the welcome which was then followed by the draw.

I was very happy with my draw, tracking on Saturday morning in the first flight and then obedience on Sunday afternoon in the last flight.

From a competitors view it was all very well organized and all the flights went right on time. Tracking was no walk in the park. It was dirt but very hard packed dirt. I could see my first leg and first corner and then a little bit on the second leg, after that it was not visual at all. I was very happy with my dog. She worked very hard right to the finish.

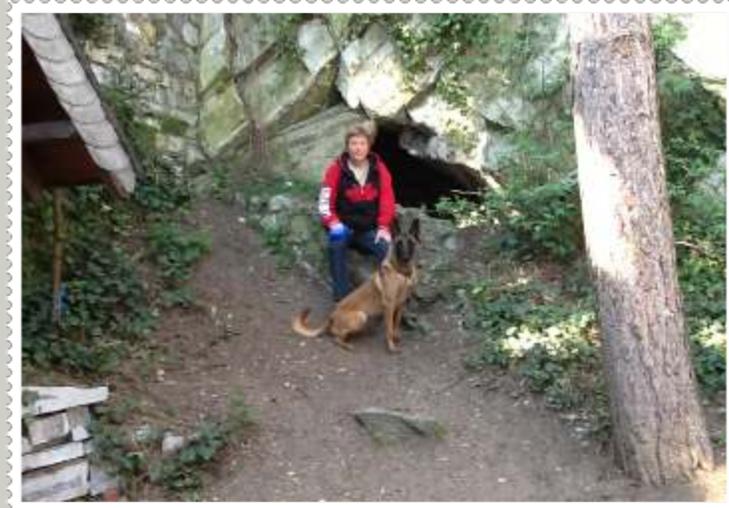


Saturday at dinner I started not feeling well and ended up with a stomach flu, so the evening was spent being sick. I was still not feeling great in the morning so it was a good thing I didn't have to show until the afternoon. I must say Joanne got the same bug two days later and she was sick a whole night as well. What timing of course.

The helper work was great. The two guys that worked the trial did a great job and from what I saw were fast, consistent and fair with all the dogs. Of course mostly Malinois, I think seven GSDs, and one Giant Schnauzer

Christa Bremer (past DVG President) was at the trial on Sunday and it was great to visit with her. She and her husband were there to watch. Christa is going to South Africa to the international agility competition which I believe is in August.

It all goes by so quickly. Before I knew it, it was time for the closing ceremonies. Yes there was a marching band and all the officials and all the dogs. It is a beautiful picture to see and be a part of. Gave me goose bumps!!!!!!!



It was time to say good bye and head back to Amsterdam

I have to say I would definitely do it again if the opportunity comes my way. We were treated very well, they went out of their way to make us feel welcomed and part of the organization.

I would also like to thank everyone who supported me in my travel adventure. It was a blast.

There are a couple of people who helped that I could not have done this without. Thank you to my coach Joanne Fleming; also while down in Texas training in the winter, our friend and helper Chris Aucoin who worked Haylie and kept her on her toes and Steve Clark for my final session of protection work two days before we left. You guys are the best.

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Sehr Gute Hund in the

Faye Manceaux

The very title of the DVG Bundessiegerprüfung (BSP) seems to evoke excitement, anticipation, and definitely a little fear. The room was filled with a nervous energy that permeated the atmosphere and this was only the draw for the competitors. However, everyone knew that the stakes were high for all participants entered into the DVG - BSP. Some dog/handler teams were only a short drive distance away, others had to spend hours in a car to arrive, and still others had to fly across the Atlantic in an airplane to compete. The air was teeming with nervous laughter because the competition was to begin the next day.

The North Americans were well represented at this year's Bundessiegerprüfung. The entourage included one competitor team, one judge, and four North American spectators. The expectations of each group were different. The competitor, Lisa Little, wanted to represent her club and LV to the best of her ability. The judge, Hartmut Beckmann, hoped to see some great competition and sportsmanship worthy of the DVG Championship. The spectators were hoping to learn from the high quality teams represented. Everyone had one thing in common, we all wanted to have plenty of fun, camaraderie, and experience German hospitality.

The first day of competition was very cold, damp, and windy. Was it really the end of April? Where were the tulips blooming? Not here! It did not seem like enough clothes could be worn to keep the temperatures in check. Thirty



four dog/handler teams were scheduled to compete in the stadium that day. It made for a grueling day for all involved. The bright spot in the first day of competition was the high quality of teams, decoys, and overall competition. It was by far the most competitive showing of dogs that I have ever witnessed in a championship. I have attended several Meisterschaft events and DVG Bundessiegerprüfungen, not to mention KG Championships and LV America Championships. This event was spectacular. The teams showed precision, hard work, and plenty of control with high drive dogs. Everyone left the first day feeling like all the best dogs must have accidentally drawn the stadium for the initial day.

To the astonishment of the audience, the second day was just as exciting as the first, and thankfully the temperature was warmer. Twenty six teams were performing in the stadium on the last day.

Again the audience was treated with many superb

teams. Where did all these remarkable dogs and their handlers come from? Sehr Gute Hunde means very good dogs and that is exactly what we witnessed. It seems that the quality of training and the ability of the dogs have greatly improved over the last few years. The event was spell binding because the Championship title was still up for grabs with the **very last dog** in the stadium. Since the scores were so close, the top dogs were within just a few points of each other and every single point was needed.

I was so impressed with the number of extraordinary teams that I asked several people about this "new phenomena" concerning the dogs. Wilfried Schäpermeier (Former LVO DVG and DHV) said, "The training in Germany has changed over the past 10 years. Many people are showing malinois and the old system of working with dogs did not fit with malinois." He said Germany has been winning almost all of the big championships for the past couple of years. Later, I asked the same question to Eberhard Uekötter (former LRO DVG) and Klaus Jürgen Glüh (LVO Hamburg)



DVG Bundessiegerprüfung



regarding the number of top performances at the DVG BSP. Both judges said that in recent years people have focused on how to train malinois in particular. The handlers, according to them, have become better educated and have concentrated on training these extremely high drive dogs. Many people attended seminars and really focused on learning how to train and to interpret their “crazy malinois” correctly. In addition, high quality breeding has benefitted the sport. Several kennels in Europe are producing hard dogs in both the male and female gender. Several of the most impressive obedience and protection performances were female malinois. Apparently the efforts have paid off for the sport because this year’s DVG Bundessiegerprüfung was fun to watch. Another interesting notation was the number of female handlers that qualified. Almost half of

the competitors were females. “Frau Power” is upon the sport of Schutzhund. Way to go girls, both human and canine.

As for the North Americans, we had a wonderful time. Lisa Little and her adorable female malinois represented us well. The team did not win, but they were a nice team to watch. That cute female dog has personality galore. Furthermore, several people came up to me in the stands to compliment Hartmut and said he was doing an excellent job as judge in obedience. In addition, Hartmut received his wish for good sportsmanship and quality dogs. Joanne Fleming, Dan and Kristen Gullickson, and I all enjoyed the German hospitality. This was Dan and Kristen’s first championship and they thoroughly reveled in their European experience.



If this year is any indication of future DVG Championships, then North America needs to storm the stadium at next year’s event. Come one; Come all to an event worth attending. Experience the culture, the camaraderie, and the sport we all love. Make it a vacation and visit other parts of Germany or travel to several countries. I promise that everyone who attends has stories to tell upon their return.



GROWING UP “SCHUTZHUND STYLE”



Dude, Zach, Abigail, Evalynn, Jessica and Java all pose together on training day.

“ But those who are willing to work through the trials of training and juggling family life will find a sport that is filled with people who become your dog family and everlasting friends. ”

Contributed by Jessica Adkins, SEKG

Saturday, 6:00am, BEEP...BEEP...BEEP, the alarm abruptly goes off, only to be outdone by the piercing sound of two dogs barking in excitement. “Zach, get up.” I say to my husband. “Dog training! Abigail! Dog training!” Evalynn yells to her sister in pure delight. “Yes! Dog training! Yahoo!” Abigail responds while jumping up and down. As I head to the girls room, I call out to the dogs to calm down, their barking of excitement turns to whines of anticipation. “Ladies, it’s time to get dressed, and go potty.” I say while handing them their outfits for training. “I want my kitty boots.” Evalynn states; the same statement she makes every training day. “I already went potty!” Abigail declares, thinking if she doesn’t go then we will leave sooner. “Ladies, you need to get dressed and go potty. Let’s go, we need to hurry up.” I say in hopes that I will not have to repeat myself once again, however, this never happens. After what could only be ages, the little ladies are ready and waiting downstairs. Making it to this moment of the day will be the greatest accomplishment I achieve all day.

Within a few short minutes, we are all packed up and ready to head to training. Immediately upon shutting the truck cap, Dude, a 9month-old GSD, starts barking at Java, an 17-month-old GSD. What he is saying to her is beyond our comprehension; even so, we still place words to the barking for our own amusement. “How dare you be beside my kennel? This is my truck! Get out!” Zach says in place of Dudes barking. Java ignores Dude for many minutes until finally it happens, she snaps back. “Your truck?! This is *my* truck! Back off! By the way you smell funny.” I say in place of Java’s barking. Aw yes, she silenced him; or so we thought. Dude continues to bark at Java, and we can only laugh as we continue to think of new dialogs. Entertainment is never lacking in our circus-like family.

As we turn into the parking lot, cries of excitement fill the air. “Mr. Randy! Mr. Randy!” the ladies shout out as they see Randy Theen. The excitement they proclaim when seeing him is only outdone by the excitement they pronounce from the sight of my parents. May Heaven have mercy on my eardrums if I do not let Randy know the little ladies want him to peek in and say “Good Morning”. It should come as no surprise to hear that the little ladies are extremely upset when the weather is not conducive for their attendance; for they truly love going to “dog training” with us. Although, the jury is still out on whether this is because of Randy or because of dog training.

For two and a half years Zach and I have been training with Randy, and for two and a half years the little ladies have been apart of the sport with us. Evalynn at age 4.5 and Abigail at age 3 already want to be junior handlers. Many times they have demanded they bring their stuffed dogs to train,



and they do. It is amazing that children, who are still learning English, know the German commands to give to their stuffed dogs. Even more remarkable is that their dogs are far better trained than ours. It is true; I am envious of my children's training abilities. Eventually, they will have to test their abilities when they take over training Java and Dude while Zach and I bring up our next dogs. Thankfully, that is years away. For the mean time, I will relish the sight of my little ladies training their impeccably well-behaved stuffed dogs.

It is important to note that Java was not my first Schutzhund dog. Originally Zach and I had Brutus, a male show line who we did not intend to do Schutzhund with. Yet, some how Zach found Randy and we started training with him. Very soon after starting this addictive training, it become apparent that Brutus was not responsive to Zach, and that I would need to take over. I cannot say the feelings I had this moment in time; the words I would use are not appropriate for publication. Yet, somewhere along the way I became determined to be a true competitor in the sport; it was then, that I noticed Brutus would never be a true competitor. He would be club level, at best, and only if the day was perfect. I parted ways with Brutus in order to obtain a working line female who would be a competitor.

With the help of Randy, I was introduced to Jill Doherty. Luckily, I was able to get pick female from her raved about litter. That is how Java and I become partners, and how my feet became firm in the sport. Parting ways with one dog to enter a partnership with another was a difficult decision to make. Ultimately, I am extremely grateful I had the option to move forward and that I made the choice I did.

As previously stated, I have only been in the sport for two and a half years; I am truly green. Learning to juggle the demands of the sport with the demands of the family was difficult at times. Life was challenging in the very beginning and did it's very best to get in the way of Schutzhund. My husband was deployed yet again, and adding training to the normal military mix makes it easy to see how quickly I could feel overwhelmed. Many times I would call Randy and state how I didn't think I could handle both. I am sure most of those calls involved me crying out of frustration or from feelings of overwhelming pressure. Sure enough though, Randy would state how I could handle it all; that I was capable of handling it. That all I needed to do was show up and he would help me in any way he could, even if that meant he had to entertain the little ladies while I trained. Whenever he said that, I always felt better. I knew that I must toughen it out and juggle both schedules, simply because I had a great training director who became a great friend. Plus, the amusement of thinking about Randy trying to entertain young kids was always enough to make me laugh.

Being green in the sport is problematic at times. I cannot even count how many times I got Randy to draw me a flow chart of the FCI to DVG breakdown, just to be able to understand what it is that I am training for. As laughable as it is, Randy still has to remind me how many steps there are after the walking sit and walking down. Oh trust me, I will need him to tell me many, many more times before it finally sinks in fully. I have asked multiple random and seemingly stupid questions. I have called various positions by arbitrary names because I had no idea what they were called or I had forgotten yet again what their true names are. It's ok to laugh; I laugh at myself every time I forget.

I remember going to my first Nationals and saying "That! I love the look of that!" and "I want to be able to do that!" or "I want to say my commands like he does." I wasn't sure what "that" was or

Continued next page

how I was going to remember how to say the commands in different ways, but it looked and sounded great. I was in awe and amazed at the level of experience I was watching. Not only from the handlers, but the dogs as well. At the same time I loved that I saw people make mistakes. Seeing that even people who have been on that field multiple times, made an error here and there reminded me that it's all in good fun and this was not the Olympics. I was able to breathe a little easier knowing in the end, mistakes will happen and the dog makes it's own choice of how and when to listen. All I can do is to give it my very best and only trial when I know my dog is ready for the test.

I walked into a sport I knew nothing about; I fell in love with the people I've met, and the confidence the sport produces in my dog. It's true; I am smitten for life. I have so much more to learn, and undoubtedly there will be more random and seemingly stupid questions produced from me. Thankfully, I have a great trainer who listens to my random questions, opinions, and helps me find my own style of training. As I am sure all of you can attest to, having someone who you trust to guide you in the right direction while you are green is undoubtedly very important.

Now don't get me wrong, the road to my current place hasn't been paved with roses and lined with peaches. I started off not wanting this “dog family” but over time I grew to love them, and now consider many of them some of my closest friends and true family. I have struggled to keep my cool when my kids were acting out on the training field, but I fought tooth and nail to keep both the family and the sport together. I struggled to find balance between having a sport dog and having a dog that was capable of being around young kids. So many times I have struggled, but I pushed through them all. Now, I have a partner who is amazing, children who love watching and participating in Schutzhund, and most importantly, I have non-blood family who mean the world to me. My struggles are far from over, but when the next one turns the corner, I will be ready to face it.

I am not blind to the fact I am blessed to be able to both train my dog in the sport, and bring my young children to training as well. Young kids want to run, scream, and play recklessly. While sport dogs want to chase anything that does the previously mentioned. I truly believe the saving grace is that our little ladies listen, for the most part. They have learned that when there is not a dog on the field, they are allowed to run around and play. They hide in the blinds, they play peek-a-boo behind the wall, and they chase each other in the open field. Yet, when a new dog is about to start working, they know they have to sit down and be quiet, not silent, but quiet.

In the beginning, I will not lie; I had to scare them to sit down and behave. “That dog will bite you if you start to run!” I would say in an attempt to keep them seated. It worked; they now sit down during the times of work and play during the transitions. Even though I used this scare tactic, the little ladies are not afraid of our dogs or the other dogs they have met. This in itself presents it's own problems of teaching them how and when to approach unknown dogs. Yet this is a lesson that must be learned regardless of the child's relationship with sport dogs. A healthy balance of respect and fear is great for a child to learn how to behave and be active in an adult world.

My husband and I do our very best to keep the little ladies involved in as much of the training as they can be. They carry their own chairs to the field, and they have their own “dog training boots”. They even help set the field up. While their help involves holding something or carrying something that easily could be handled without their help, to the little ladies, their job is the biggest job in the world. While I cannot know, for sure, what they are feeling, I assume they feel proud of the help they give.

It is commonly said that Schutzhund is neither for everyone nor every dog, and I can attest that it is not for every young family either. We have had our fair share of child meltdowns and even still we haven't turned away from the sport nor have we given up on bringing our kids with us. For anyone who is thinking of bringing their young children to training, or for the spouse who wants to start training but fears what it will be like bringing the children, read closely. There will be times when you think you cannot continue on. Times when you feel like your dog did not get enough home practice in between training days. There will be times when you feel like you did not get enough time to enjoy the simpler times of life. Moments when you just wish you didn't choose to have a sport dog. Moments when you think how much easier the sport would be if you didn't have your kids with you. But those who are willing to work through the trials of training and juggling family life will find a sport that is filled with people who become your dog family and everlasting friends. The truth is, the sport has helped our family grow together and I would relive every struggle and every meltdown just to be apart of this dog family. All of the extra work and preparations I have to do just to make it to the training field are all worth it, every single one.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Each new dog I acquire, I try to fit the name to the personality or physique. That's often hard to do when they're only small pups. My first dog was a collie and I named her Lassie. I was 3 yrs old! How hard was that?!! Then came along my second collie and I had just finished reading *Misty of Chincotique* (2nd grade). Guess what I named that dog? You got it...Misty. Next, I had a GSD named She-ra Princess of Power...He Man's twin sister. We called her She-ra, don't worry. Do any of you remember that cartoon? Actually, my friend's five year-old gave her that name and I thought it was just fine. She followed me on every horseback riding adventure I had. She was a great dog. After She-ra, I began to get interested in dog training. I started with AKC obedience and thought that my dog should be attached to me, honoring every command I gave him/her. So there came my GSD named Shadow. Well, she wasn't so keen on doing obedience, but she did follow me around the yard, so the name fit. My first "expensive" GSD was an American bred show line bitch. I thought she was sleek, and of good quality (her granddaddy won best in breed at Westminster), and wanted to name her something fitting. I named her Porsche. This was the first in a line of "car-themed" dogs. Porsche was outstanding in her AKC obedience classes. Everyone wanted her on their team when we did fun class competitions. She enjoyed working at class, and I thought that I had a dog to take to shows and have fun. Well, not so much fun at shows. She was a slug!! So we did pet therapy and Porsche gave many a sick child happy moments when they were in the hospital. Porsche is now 11

Janis Skeath SEKG

years old. She protects the periphery of my property. Translated that means barks at everything!! Next came HemiCruiser. Well, he has a mind of his own and although as a puppy, he was a big, strong dog, it turned out that he was not athletic enough to do Schutzhund. So after blood, sweat, and tears and a SchH1 title, he came out of competition. HemiCruiser plays ball now and that's just fine with me. He's seven years old. The most recent GSD is CJ Maserati. I'm running out of names by now and just gave him mine and my husband's first name initials. I added the Maserati in because I saw him as being athletic and fast. So far, he's doing pretty good. He's faster than any other dog I've had and he's fun to "drive". CJ is now three. I've had fun naming my dogs. I guess I figure that if I name them something, they will become that. It's like people, they say the name fits the person. Silly, I know, but you've got to put some humor into this dog stuff. For now, I think that I'll stay with the car theme names. What's next? Chevy, Mazda, Farfegnugen? Actually I like Hellon Wheels. Get it? Don't use it, it's mine!! Just kidding. I will say this though; you can count on me coming up with something different. So what's in a name for you?




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Hondensport Ohio Spring 2013 Trial

Christina Cox-Evick

On April 27th, Hondensport Ohio hosted its 7th club trial at Jerry Azzi's property in Ashley, Ohio. The day was cool and sunny with a gentle breeze, perfect trial weather. Entries consisted of five teams going for their BH and one team trying for their IPO 1 title. We were fortunate to have Fred Marashi come all the way from

Texas to judge our trial.

The day started with Fred and our IPO 1 team, Tim Leonard and his Belgian Malinois, Tweak, heading off to the tracking field located not far from the trial field. Conditions were ideal and Tweak ran a fine track but



Judge Fred Marashi instructs the group

missed the last article for a score of 82.

Upon arriving back at the trial field, Fred called a handlers meeting to explain how the trial would progress and to respond to any questions. Once everyone knew the running order and Fred patiently answered all questions, the first BH pairing of Ellen White with her female GSD, Juma, and Chris Knisley with his male Belgian Malinois, Kilo, took the field.

Chris and his Malinois worked first and did a commendable job. Chris was especially proud of this accomplishment since he had taken a ten year hiatus from Schutzhund and only come back to the sport last year. Ellen



Chris Knisley and Kilo celebrating

and her GSD continued the qualifying trend with some pretty attention heeling and an overall nice performance. Both teams were slated to proceed into the traffic portion of the test.

Because two of the BH females were in season, the next dog was paired with a bye dog so the two flirty girls could take the field after everyone else finished. Julie Smiley's male GSD, Marco, entered the field a little less ready to work than she preferred but settled in nicely and performed well, allowing them to advance to the traffic test. However, after not breathing the entire routine, stressed-out Julie could have used some oxygen...



Chris Evick and GSD Spice heeling

Next, Tim and Tweak performed their IPO I obedience routine. All was going beautifully until the pair hit the wall retrieve and Fred realized the wall was not set at the proper angle. Because Fred had an early flight out, we were hurrying to finish in time and missed this important detail. Fortunately, Tim and his Malinois

remained undaunted while the wall was adjusted and the team finished their routine without further incident for a score of 93.



Thomas Burlile and Heidi heeling

While Tim rested his Malinois before her protection routine, Fred asked those handlers who had completed the



Chris Evick and GSD Spice

BH routine to get their dogs out for the traffic test. All three dogs admirably handled the meet the crowd, jogger, passing car and even a stylin' Jerry going by on his pink—yes, I said pink, bicycle complete with a jingling bell and woven basket.

Once this was done and helper Thomas Burlile got suited up and in the blind, Tim and Tweak heeled onto the field for protection. Handler and dog worked well other than a few hiccups, namely a spirited young Malinois getting occasionally dirty before responding to her handler's commands. Still, the rest of their routine scored high enough to offset this one issue and the team finished with a score of 75.

Finally the two in-season girls could take the field, so first-time BH handler Thomas Burlile and his GSD, Heidi, reported in alongside Chris Evick and her GSD, Spice. Chris worked first and Spice acted a little wired for sound



Tim Leonard and Tweak set up for the escape

with "comments" during her routine but passed with plenty of points. Heidi showed nicely despite also being a bit wired from hormones and moved with Spice into the traffic portion, which both girls passed with flying colors.



Ellen White and Juma hear the judge's critique

After ribbons and trophies were handed out, the group relaxed and enjoyed Jerry's wonderful lunch that included some of the best roasted chicken anyone had ever eaten. Jerry, however, is quick to point out that he couldn't keep the food, coolers and sundries stocked without the help of his behind-the-scenes worker and friend, Tom



Tim Leonard's Tweak, driven by Thomas Burlile

Presock. A huge thank you to both you gentleman from all of us.

Of course, no trial can take place without the hard pre-trial and trial-day work done by various members and we owe them all a huge debt. A special thank you goes to Julie, who made sure our paperwork dotted every i and crossed every t to earn high praise from Fred. Our appreciation also goes out to Thomas for his quality helper work.

All in all, Hondensport Ohio's 7th trial proved very successful and we owe much of that to Fred's gentle guidance. His often amusing quips helped relieve stress felt by nervous handlers and everyone appreciated Fred's courteous directions throughout the trial. The thorough critiques made clear to each team what they needed to work on before their next trial and left handlers looking forward to trialing at the still young H.O.'s next club trial.



By DVG America Judge,
Ted Hartman

Tracking: Once handlers have checked into the judge, they should not let any line out until their dog reaches the start flag. On the corners, handlers may slightly swing out wide on their line only after their dog has clearly made the corner independently.

Obedience: BH handlers on their long down, should look for signals from the judge in the basic position before removing the leash, downing the dog, leaving the dog, then again before returning to the dog, sitting the dog up, putting the leash on the dog, and heeling the dog out...

Protection: Handlers should wait for judges signals before returning to their dog in all of the guarding phases...

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Cooperation vs. Collaboration: Is there a difference?

Cooperation is generally defined as working together for a common benefit. Usually that common benefit is specific and short lived. "By cooperating together, the two boys were able to lift the heavy rock."

Collaboration on the other hand, goes beyond working together to accomplish a specific task. It is a process, a deep and collective determination by equal partners, that work together to achieve an identical goal or objective. While cooperation means a little give and take on each side, collaboration requires leadership. If properly lead, if members, clubs, KGs and Board members collaborate effectively, our organization can achieve greater rewards, achieve higher goals. This is not accomplished when we compete and fight against one another. The LV board and KG boards, as leaders, must make a strong commitment to the success of true TEAM effort and communicate that commitment to the rest of the membership. The membership has to believe that the various board members care about them, their needs, their concerns and issues. By self-examining our behavior and communication, by putting aside personal feelings and agendas, we can better solve

the problems that face us now and in the future.

One requirement to building a collaborative team is trust of one another. If we are to work successfully together, we must trust each other.

How can that trust be built or strengthened?

- By being honest.
- By working to eliminate conflicts of interests.
- By not talking behind each other's back. (if you can't say something nicely, don't say anything at all)
- By trusting the other members, they are your teammates (you must trust them before they will trust you).
- By giving people the benefit of the doubt. (Not "reading between the lines")
- By thinking of how we can make things better for others, before we worry about ourselves (The golden rule)

We cooperate for immediate success, but if we don't start to collaborate, there will be no long term success.

Repeat after me: "The fate of this organization depends upon **me and my actions**."

Contributed by Chris Daugaard. SEKG

Do you have a rebuttal? A reply? Want to discuss or add your thoughts?

Here is how your voice can be heard.

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3. Keep accusations and finger pointing out of it
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Want to discuss this in more depth? Our Facebook page fans get each "In My Opinion" article as soon as the issue gets printed, and it is open for discussion for all members. The same guidelines are in place, but it is much easier to join in the discussion. So, like our Facebook page, and join in!

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Have an item for "In My Opinion"?

Submit your "Opinion" piece to the LV/DVG America magazine by contacting your KG media rep or Beth Whitcomb: Email her at: eawhitco@cfl.rr.com

“ In our last “In My Opinion” column, Faye asked how other readers have handled end of life decisions for their companions. ”

While we don't have room for every comment, here are some replies from Email and Facebook. Please join us on Facebook to read more.:

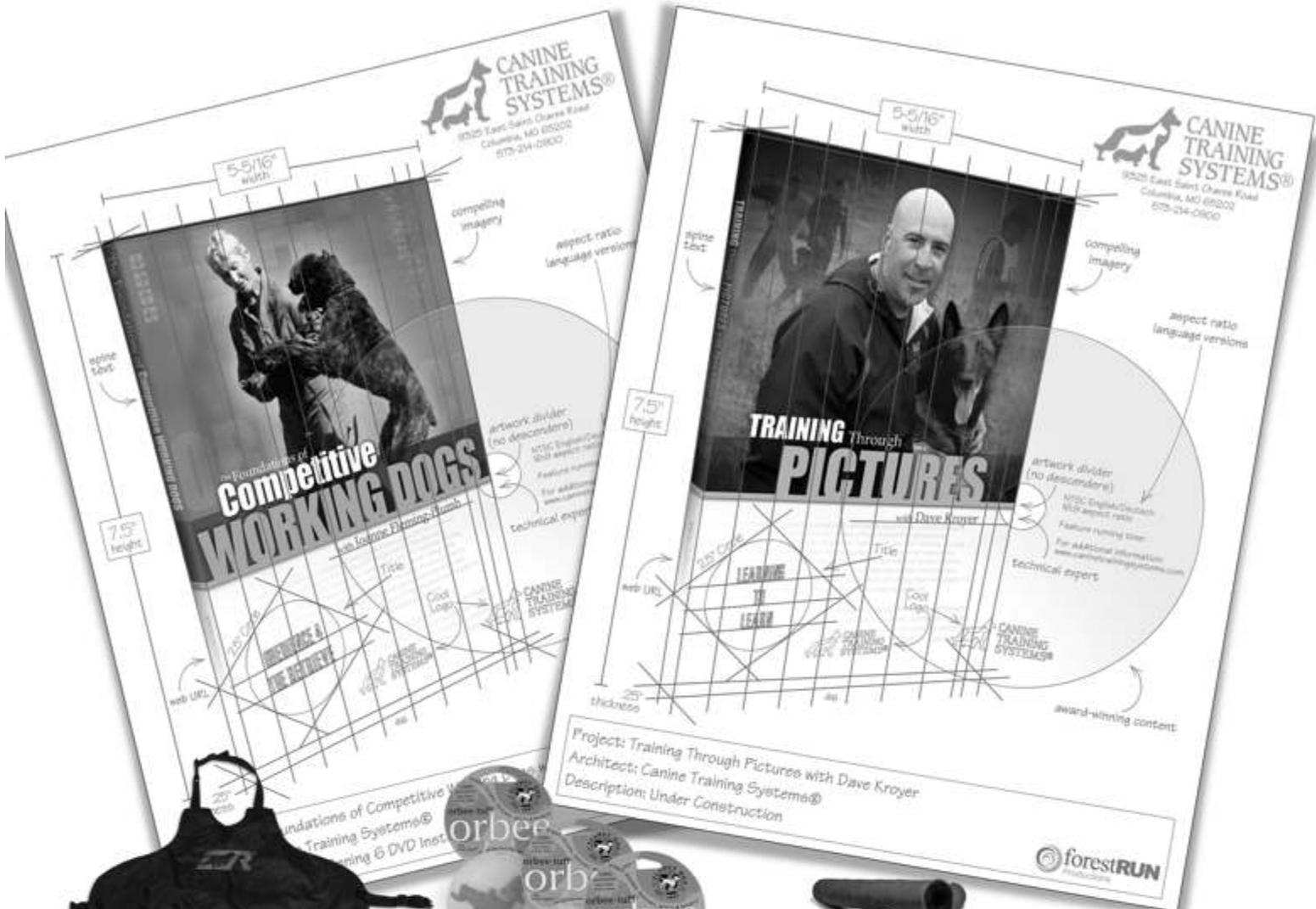
Randy Theen: Well said Faye! I have, unfortunately, been in the position of making that decision for my dog. That memory is vivid on the back of my mind and I don't look forward to being there again. I wholeheartedly agree with your view on this subject. My main takeaway from your write up is this: Those not in the dogsport will find it difficult to understand the depth of the relationship that we build with our dogs. Countless hours spent kneeling in the mud "discussing" proper tracking article etiquette or hundreds of repetitions of retrieves creates a bond between a trainer and dog that will never exist between a lapdog and its owner. Just my opinion....

Beth Whitcomb: I treat my pet, training partner, companion as a family member which I realize is counter to how many in the sport feel a real "working dog" should be treated. That being said, I would wish the same level of compassion given to anyone I love dearly and that would be to end suffering, which our canine companions are lucky enough to be allowed. As we have all been there so many times, they generally tell us when it is time and maybe that is the beauty of our special bond, the ability to know that sooner rather than later!

Kris Wolf: The best advice I ever got from someone what "you will know in your heart when it is time, they will ask" I've found it very true.

Sue Boyle: My dog is the only reason I get out of bed in the morning. I can't imagine my life without him. That being said, I always wait too long with my dogs and kitties. I can't bear to let them go

Michele Testa: Faye, It never is easy nor does it get easier with each one as they go. We make a choice that is right in our heart. Each one of us has a "level or limit" for what we believe is "quality of life" for our trusted 4 footed friend. We are lucky we can and are allowed the compassion to make these final decisions. I never worry about what others or family think about my devotion to my dog. The masses who make the comment "just a dog" have no real understanding of you. I make a reasoning that it is important that the dog be given the grace and respect it is do for all the unconditional giving it has done all it's life. Remember it is not their choice to do train, trial, compete, retrieve, jump heel and all the rest of the protection. They are doing this with us cause we ask and they give ... we take and enjoy. They enjoy cause we enjoy . I have made the choice for 2 of the 3 (Ax was indeed the most difficult choice) and have always felt that LOVE, grace and respect of the dog who is MY FRIEND, companion and protector helped me to make my decision. Hope I helped.



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New Website and Updated Catalog



The Trial Results for LV/DVG America magazine come directly from the judge's trial report forms. In the case of handwritten reports, the LV/DVG America magazine is not responsible for errors that may occur. To reduce the time necessary for corrections and to ensure the most accurate results, we encourage everyone to take full advantage of the electronic forms available on the DVG America website.

Trial Results

Dog's Name	Handler's Name	Breed	Prior Title	Attempted Title	A	B	C	Total	Title Awarded
South Florida Schutzhund Club		Judge: Ted Hartman			February 22-24, 2013				
Nocturne's Darius	Oscar Damara	GSD	–	BH	Nicht Bestanden				–
Colt	Oscar Damara	MIX	–	BH	Bestanden				BH
Swift Ron Showstarter V KKRO	Ludovic Teurbane	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden				BH
Anubis Cave Canis	Susan Miller	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH
Jazzy	Sean Boon	MIX	–	BH	Bestanden				BH
Kye's Midnight Fire Show	Mark W Hammerle	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden				BH
Belinda von Alhambra	Linda Barron	ROT	–	BH	Bestanden				BH
Ottmar Vom Kerschberger	John Yanik	GSD	IPO 3	OB 3 / PR 3	–	70	DQ	–	–
Eikon de Ramdu	Liliana Ribero	GSD	BH	TR 1	20			20U	–
Ottmar Vom Kerschberger	John Yanik	GSD	IPO 3	FH 1	18			18U	–
Swift Ron Showstarter V KKRO	Ludovic Teurbane	DOB	BH	IPO 1	93	92	95a	280SG	IPO 1
Starjet's Star of the East	Susan Miller	DOB	BH	IPO	90	80	DQ	–	–
Czar Modra Strela	Janet Dentino	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 2	81	62	96a	239M	–
Riddick	John Petitti	MIX	IPO 1	IPO 2	94	91	93a	278SG	IPO 2
Louie aus dem Sparta	Mike Fernandez	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	80	78	85a	243G	IPO 3
Smarty Marty	Sidney Arellana	MIX	IPO 2	IPO 3	95	87	90a	272SG	IPO 3
G-Enny Moravia Artex	Chris Daugaard	GSD	IPO 3	IPO 3	98	79	87a	264G	IPO 3
Enso Farsal	Phil Hoelcher	MAL	IPO 2	IPO 3	97	95	98a	290V	IPO 3
Axa Prima Sudo	Susan Miller	MAL	IPO 3	IPO 3	99	96	100a	295V	IPO 3
Darth Del Fuego Inferno	John Petitti	MAL	IPO 3	IPO 3	91	98	97a	286V	IPO 3
Royal City Schutzhund & Dogsporting Association		Judge: Dunja Schmid			March 16-17, 2013				
D'Steve von Gloeckner	Hopper Danford	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH
Devin von Gloeckner	Joanne Cochran	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH
Monster Ickis	Stephanie Rudderow	CCOR	–	BH	Bestanden				BH
Blackthorne's Qi	Sheri Tratnack	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH
Kludde	Melissa Stagnaro	MIX	–	BH	Bestanden				BH

Trial Results

Dog's Name	Handler's Name	Breed	Prior Title	Attempted Title	A	B	C	Total	Title Awarded
Royal City Schutzhund & Dogsporting Association <small>Continued</small>		Judge: Dunja Schmid			March 16-17, 2013				
Graubaer's B'Charlie	Nadar Abouelgubein	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Mezzon de Iremia Curto	Maxim Bychkov	PRESA	–	STp 1	92			92SG	STp 1
New Skeet's Ziva	Chrys Wood	GSD	BH	TR 1	73			73B	TR 1
Lana del Corazon Valiente	Eugenia Baryshnikova	PRESA	IPO 1	TR 2	74			74B	TR 2
Hannah Moellers Saving Grace	Donna Ackerman	DOB	TR 2	TR 3	80			80G	TR 3
Jitsu ot Vitosha	Evette Braenovich	MAL	FH 1	FH 2	92			92SG	FH 2
Ena II	Joanne Cochran	GSD	FH 1	FH 2	81			81G	FH 2
Guyot von Bachhaus	Ronald Harris	GSD	IPO 3	IPO FH	98 / 94			192V	IPO FH
Kris Perle de Tourbiere	Charles Wrenn	MAL	BH	IPO 1	96	95	90a	281SG	IPO 1
Ascommanis Ramona	Christopher Frank	DOB	BH	IPO 1	93	70	88a	251G	IPO 1
Haylee von Bachhaus	Ron Sensenbach	GSD	BH	IPO 1	87	67	98a	252MG	–
Graubaer's B'Charlie	Nader Abouelgubein	MAL	BH	IPO 1	31	85	88a	204MG	–
DaWuchtel v Schwarzen Kobold	Armin Winkler	GSN	IPO 2	IPO 3	92	75	83a	250G	IPO 3
Grim-Keeper's Cuba	Gunn Anita Fossli	DOB	IPO 2	IPO 3	80	70	80a	230B	IPO 3
Hammer Haterproof von Stan	Jacob Pope Jr.	GSD	IPO 3	IPO 3	96	94	88a	278SG	IPO 3
Alexander Consumate K9	Charles Wrenn	MAL	IPO 3	IPO 3	92	90	86a	268G	IPO 3
Ichiban van der Deanenberghutte	Paul Dethyse	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	85	94	72a	251G	IPO 3
Delta Schutzhund Club		Judge: Hartmut Beckmann			April 13, 2013				
Izy Von Der Faultline	Larry Thrasher	ROT	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Irk Von Der Faultline	Chip Ditto	ROT	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Esmonds Eragon	Chrystal Freeman	ROT	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Nyla Knights Allie	Pamela Padgett	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Ranger	Mayko Bender	GSD	IPO 3	IPO 3	76	71	90a	237B	IPO 3
Bel Principe Dolce	Mary Scanlon	ROT	IPO 2	IPO 3	8	74	75a	157M	–
Atlas von Heimat	Robert Fortune	GSD	IPO 3	IPO 3a		76	91a	167G	IPO3a
Endelfalva Ginger	Micah Bender	GSD	IPO 3	FH 1	21			21M	
Memphis Schutzhund Club		Judge: Hartmut Beckmann			April 14 2013				
Ike von Bairdhaus	Bryant Webb	GR	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Kiera von Bairdhaus	Peggy Sauter	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Starridge Ace In The Hole	Sheila Shipley	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	

Trial Results

Dog's Name	Handler's Name	Breed	Prior Title	Attempted Title	A	B	C	Total	Title Awarded	
Memphis Schutzhund Club		Continued			Judge: Hartmut Beckmann			April 14 2013		
Hara vom Landgraff	Larry Kye	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Leika z Morisvillu	Candice Baird	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Elko vom Shattendahl	Kenneth Cleveland	GSD	TR 1	IPO 1	96	84	86a	266G	IPO 1	
Sprite's Hullabaloo	Peggy Robinson	TERV	IPO 1	IPO 2	85	83	91a	259G	IPO 2	
Zito de las Flores	Darrell Ponders	MAL	IPO 2	IPO 3	88	82	92a	262G	IPO 3	
Galiana von der Wilmothhaus	Jeffrey Goldsmith	GSD	FH 1	FH 2	91			91SG	FH 2	
Ola vom Teufelhund	Carma Cleveland	GSD	TR 3	FH 1	89			89G	TR 1	
Daja van den Deuvel	Nancy Aspinwall	GSD	BH	TR 1	23			23M	–	
Starridge Ace In The Hole	Sheila Shipley	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Hara vom Landgraff	Larry Kye	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Leika z Morisvillu	Candice Baird	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Elko vom Shattendahl	Kenneth Cleveland	GSD	TR 1	IPO 1	96	84	86a	266G	IPO 1	
Sprite's Hullabaloo	Peggy Robinson	TERV	IPO 1	IPO 2	85	83	91a	259G	IPO 2	
Zito de las Flores	Darrell Ponders	MAL	IPO 2	IPO 3	88	82	92a	262G	IPO 3	
Galiana von der Wilmothhaus	Jeffrey Goldsmith	GSD	FH 1	FH 2	91			91SG	FH 2	
Hondensport Ohio		Judge: Fred Marashi			April 27, 2013					
Elixar's Hot n Spicy	Chris Evick	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Heide von der Etenfarm	Thomas Burlile	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Kilo (Knisley)	Chris Knisley	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Juma von Salztalblick	V. Ellen While	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Adam Lander-Blick	Julie Smiley	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Tweak du Dantero	Tim Leonard	GSD	BH	IPO 1	82	93	75a	250G	IPO 1	
Wild West Dogsport		Judge: Ann Dolan			April 26-27, 2013					
Kareliyn Golden Pak	Stephen Parsons	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Gary Di Altobello	Jeoffrey Feghali	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Bix-L's Skywalker	JoAnne Rowles	BOX	–	BH	Nicht Bestanden				BH	
Bubba Deuce of Diamonds	Tonya Lindeberg	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Chase (Carpenter)	Michael Carpenter	MIX	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Shelby vom Kondorstrand	Mark Knop	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Paisley vom Kondorstrand	Ann Boyce	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Yeagger vom Hause Reid	John Waugh	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	

Trial Results

Dog's Name	Handler's Name	Breed	Prior Title	Attempted Title	A	B	C	Total	Title Awarded	
Wild West Dogsport		Continued			Judge: Ann Dolan			April 26-27, 2013		
Nev Lemar Skapka	Anna Van Kovn	GSN	BH	IPO 1	90	95	13vh	198M		
Boadiccea Gaudet de Canibus	Veronica Stork	ROT	BH	IPO 1	93	81	89a	263G	IPO 1	
KCharge ot Vitosh	Sandra Rushing	MAL	IPO 1	IPO 2	96	96	93a	285SG	IPO 2	
L Panga v. Kraftwerk	Jamie Lloyd	GSD	VPG 1	IPO 2	0	81	56vh	137M	–	
G. Ehre und Stolz v. Haus Reid	Bill Cassell	GSD	IPO 3	IPO 3	99	79	87a	265G	IPO 3	
Ascomannis Mishka	Ann Boyce	DOB	IPO 2	IPO 3	83	81	94a	258G	IPO 3	
Ascomannis Magnus	Jeanita Davis	DOB	IPO 3	IPO 3	97	81	87a	265G	IPO 3	
Ascomannis Nikko	Ann Boyce	DOB	BH	IPO 1	95	82	95a	272SG	IPO 3	
Usa v Eschenbruch	Feather Cresciman	DOB	VPG 3	IPO 3	98	83	90a	261G	IPO 3	
Kareliyn Golden Pak	Stephen Parsons	DOB	BH	IPO 1	70	83	14	167M		
Rhett von Melanchthon	James Fellows	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	90	77	81a	248G	IPO 3	
New Skete's Dingo Zele	Linda Tanner	GSD	OB 1	OB 2		59		59M	–	
Dakota	Martinez Castaned	MAL	BH	IPO 1	89	95	98a	282SG	IPO 1	
Salem Schutzhund Club		Judge: Fred Marashi			May 11, 2013					
Freyha von Haus Reid	Colleen Bromagem	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Freska von Haus Reid	Kathleen Fiebig	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Gaius von Haus Reid	Ralph Buchanan	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Deuce von Haus Reid	Ann Rall	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Stoli von Haus Reid	Kathleen Fiebig	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 1	99	80	84a	263G	IPO 1	
Clausse von Haus Reid	Derrick Neliton	GSD	BH	IPO 1	94	88	92a	274SG	IPO 1	
Ozach von Haus Reid	Angel Cook	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 2	59	81	79a	219M		
Majestic von Haus Reid	Nancy Corneliussen	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 2	85	75	91a	251G	IPO 2	
Condor von Haus Reid	Mary Ann Brucker	GSD	BH	TR 1 / PR 1	78		82a	78B / 82G	TR 1 / PR 1	
Black Diamond Schutzhund Club		Judge: Ray Reid			May 26 2013					
Carmen	Wayne Kemper	DSH	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Flex	Kenneth Stupak	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Blitz	Denise Kawecki	GSD	BH	TR 1	76			76	TR 1	
Bumper	Suzanne Belfiore	MAL	BH	TR 1 / PR 1	91		82a	91/1	TR 1 / PR 1	
Arya	Thomas Barriano	DOB	BH	IPO 1				DQ / out of control	–	
Echo	Kathy Kemper	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3				DQ / out of control	–	
Flann	Thomas Barriano	DOB	IPO 2	IPO 3	88	66	89vh	243M	–	
Ugh	John Hendershot	MAL	IPO 2	IPO 3	38	85	95a	218M	–	

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