



October-November-December, 2013

DVG AMERICA

National Schutzhund Magazine

Meet The Apprentice Judges

Salem Schutzhund Club Helper Seminar

Trial Reports:

New World Schutzhund Club

Cornhusker Schutzhund Club

Member
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Photos!

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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

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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 you all,

By the time you all read this, our LV/DVG America Nationals will have come and gone and we will know who will represent us at the DVG Bundessiegerprüfung in April, 2014. Putting on our LV America national competition is a major undertaking and I wish to thank the South Valley Working Dog Club for shouldering this responsibility and hopefully everything went well. As I write this, the event is only 2 weeks away and my fingers are crossed.

The end of this year marks the retirement of another of our LV/DVG America judges -- everyone's favorite judge, Sandi Purdy. Sandi has devoted her life to the dog sport and to LV/DVG America, training and titling her own dogs, judging throughout the LV for over 20 years and at the same time, handling the job of LV Secretary since 1988. No one could ask for a more fair judge nor for anyone to work harder than Sandi has for our LV. But the VDH rules for judges mandate retirement at the end of the year in which a judge turns 70. We will miss Sandi's dry humor and sharp eye on the trial field and we will miss her devotion to doing the job right as secretary of LV America, for Sandi, like me, will not run for office again in the forthcoming election.

Sandi, thank you from all of us for what you have given to us over the years -- your sense of fairness, your devotion to our dog sport, your willingness to teach us and as much as anything, your great sense of humor. Personally, I thank you for accompanying me on my many trips to Germany to attend the DVG meetings. I couldn't have done them without you and I certainly would have gotten lost a whole lot more frequently without you with me, checking the road signs as we zipped by them on the Autobahn. We still made a lot of "u-ies", but not as many as I would have made without you.

We love you, Sandi.

To all of our members of LV/DVG America, may your upcoming months be filled with good training and fun with your dog.

Yours in the Sport,

Carole Patterson, President

LV/DVG America & Magazine Contacts



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

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We would like to thank all of our friends and supporters. A special thanks goes to Phil Hoelcher, Karen Grier, and Joe Brockington.



Top Ten finish at FMBB World Cup, Koper, Slovenia 2013
Member of the FCI World Team, Czech Republic, 2013
High Female AWDF 2012 & 2013
High Tracking AWDF 2013

News Flash!
2013 FCI Championship
USA TEAM SILVER
Top 20 finish & High Tracking (99)

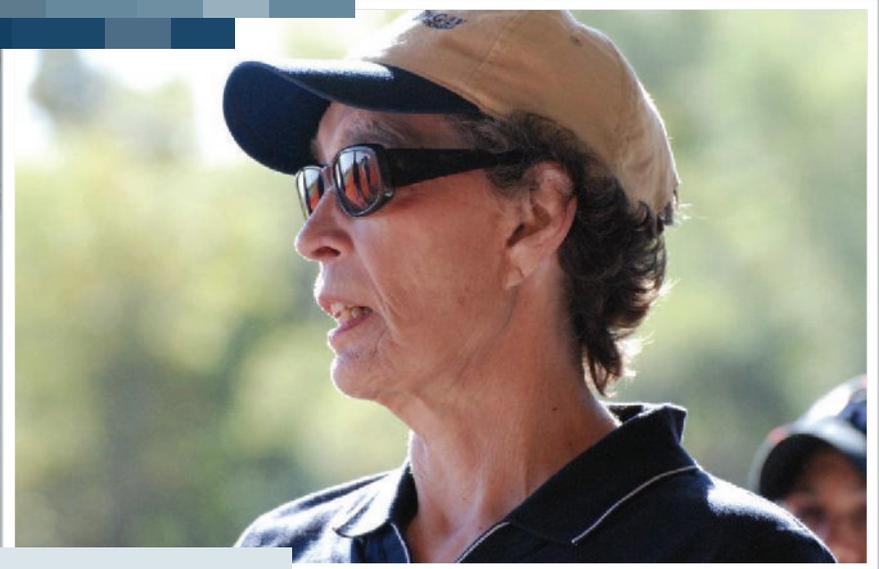
AXA



CH. AXA PRIMA SUDO IPO3, FH

Sire: Master de Alphaville Bohemia IPO 3 x Dam: Orage de Alphaville Bohemia

Owner/Handler Susan Miller - Mays Landing, NJ



SANDI PURDY

From the LV America Judges and the LV Board of DVG America.

We wish to thank Sandi Purdy for her 25 years of being a DVG Judge, and for her devotion to the people, the dogs, and the sport.

It is likely that she has judged more DVG trials in LV America than any other judge. She has always been there to volunteer to do a trial when none of the other judges were available.

Sandi taught many of us Good Sportsmanship. She also gave support and encouragement to all of us that earned titles under her.

Her Texas drawl and humor will be missed on the trial field!



Trial Calendar

Trial Date	Host Club	Location	Contact	Phone	Email	Judge
Oct 5	Black Diamond Schutzhund Club	Denver, CO	Diann Yandrich	303-828-5196	diann@twobears.com	Ann Dolan
Oct 6	Ponderosa Dog Club	Denver, CO	Marlene Gasaway	303-646-3369	rlmg8762@aol.com	Ann Dolan
Oct 5-6	Essex County Schutzhund Club	Pembroke, NH	Guy Ventura II	781-254-2160	gavdeuce23@yahoo.com	Melissa Hepler
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	705-428-2258	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@theanimalawcenter.com	Amanda Hoskinson
Oct-13	The Sirius Working Dog Club	Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada	Tammy Murry	506-488-2504	ourpassion@leidenschaftkennels.ca	Melissa Hepler
Nov 9-10	Falconhurst Canine Corp	Saginaw, MI	Michelle or AJ Slaughter	989-752-7492	falconk9@chartermi.net	Ann Dolan
Nov 23	Tulsa Schutzhund Club	Tulsa, OK	Mike Rickman	918-620-6332	clr62491@aol.com	Lisa Little
Nov 24	Interstate Working Dog Assoc.	Tulsa, OK	Scott Bakkala	918-791-5911	scottbakk@hotmail.com	Lisa Little
Dec 13-15	Highway Schutzhund Club	Umatilla, FL	Chris Meverden	727-804-8858	chris@brickhausworkingdogs.com	Lisa Little

Feedback!

Have you joined DVG America Magazine on Facebook yet? Over 400 of your friends and fellow DVG America members have and the numbers are still growing! We asked what kinds of articles you'd like to see in future issues and these are some of the responses.

Laura Grant via Facebook

I think it would be cool to have a column called 'My first dog'. Someone could interview the big names in the sport and get some personal interesting info on their very first dog...and their very first sport dog. Would probably make for some entertaining stories

Scott Weaver via Facebook

I would like to hear about first sport dog and the challenges that were faced in learning the sport and how they did in training, since I am considered still new to the sport and on my first GSD and having many ups and downs in training a very stubborn and hardheaded dog (or maybe a combination of both - handler)...

Marisha Allaboutown via FB

I would like to see articles on breed specific training tips or even the difference in training a male vs a female or training a herder versus a another breed.

Karin Moor via Facebook

It would be great to see training tips, especially around getting ready for a trial. Maybe a few more Rottweilers?

Jessica Adkins via Facebook

Perhaps something about the common pitfalls seen at trials and how to correct/avoid them. Whether it be how to correct the mistake to maintain the most points or how to train to avoid that particular pitfall.



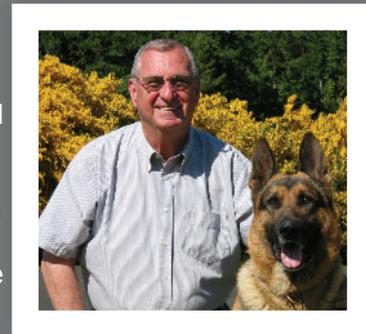
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** Please join us on Facebook to read more!

LRO Report

While everyone else was training their dogs and having fun, I have been doing paperwork! I do plan to be back actively training a new puppy next year in the sport.

For those of you that are new to the sport, I was LRO previously for 7 years until 1999 when I resigned because there was too much work involved in the LRO position, and there were other interests I needed to pursue. During that time two of the major accomplishments were setting up the LRO data and DVG America trial info on a computer program. In 1994 I set it up in a DOS program, perhaps some of you are still familiar with DOS, and then in 1998, I converted it to a Windows program called Microsoft Access.



Ray Reid, LRO

I also set up the Tracking 1-3, and Obedience 1-3, for dogs to compete in DVG trials, that were not able, or too old to compete for a regular title. I was able to get Germany to approve this on a trial basis in DVG America. Now they are permanent titles that are recognized worldwide, and are written in the new FCI IPO rules.

Then in March of 2012 the judges nominated and elected me into the office of LRO to fulfill the term of Hartmut Beckmann who had resigned. The majority of the judges wanted several things from Germany so we could bring the judges back together.

First and foremost they wanted a judge reinstated. That has been accomplished.

They wanted two apprentices certified as judges after the other judge was reinstated. That has been accomplished.

DVG America has one judge retiring this year, with two, possibly three, more in 2014. Because of that they wanted two new apprentices approved. That has been accomplished.

They wanted the new IPO rules and updates to the trial rules and judging information to be printed in English. Germany agreed and has taken the time and effort to translate the German rules into English. I have a copy of those that I am proof reading now. Prior to this time we had to do the translation in America to the best of our ability. We are also in the process of getting bids for a pocket edition of the new rules. That has been accomplished. Thank you Wolfgang Pahl for your help!

The judges wanted to feel like they were part of Germany and were able to judge in Germany. The previous DVG LRO had stated that none of our American judges would be able to judge the Deutsche Meisterschaft because we were not German. Only judges from Germany were allowed to judge those trials. I have since been told by the new DVG LRO that this rule has changed and our judges could qualify to judge at the BSP, and other German Championships. That has been accomplished.

Other items that I wanted changed for the betterment of DVG were:

I wanted to be able to send all trial applications to Germany electronically. That has been accomplished.

I wanted Germany to send back each time a running total of the trials and the numbers that were assigned. That was accomplished.

I wanted to be able to let the LV Membership help pick the judges for their local trials depending upon the cost of airfare. The prerequisite was that the clubs would have to wait 3 years before having the same judge back to their club. I was given tentative approval for that; unfortunately we had 2 complaints 1 from the SE KG and 1 from the WKG so that option was discontinued. That was not accomplished.

I wanted different rules for forming clubs, because of our geographical limitations and we needed a better fit for our LV. I wanted new clubs to be able to form with 5 members with 4 existing DVG members or 7 members with 3 existing DVG members. The reason for this is to make it easier to start new clubs. That has not accomplished yet, but I will be talking more with Wolfgang Pahl about this.

Items done for DVG America:

I translated and wrote several pages of some explanations and clarifications in the new IPO rules then put them in the

New BH Written Test

As of January 1, 2014, all handlers will be required to take a written test to obtain the BH title. The BH test will now be 3 parts: Obedience, Practical and Written. It will be necessary to pass all 3 parts to obtain the BH title. (Even though it is 3 parts, it will only be counted as 2 parts in an actual trial). A handler who has successfully passed the written test after January 1, 2014, will not be required to take it again, though will be required to show proof to a judge in order to be excused from re-taking the test with the same or another dog.

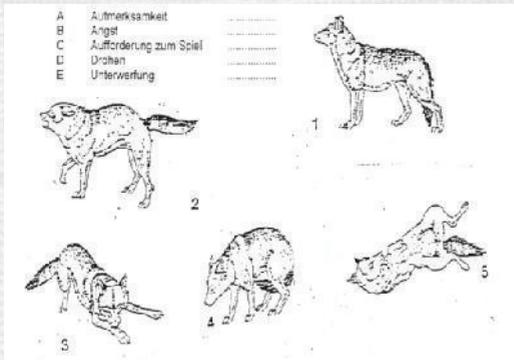
Since this is the first test that DVG America has ever required, there is a distinct possibility of changes to it, either within the next year or starting in 2015.

I have included the answers to this test for you to review and study.

Yours in the Sport, Ray Reid LV/LRO

1. Describe the following behaviours of the dog pictured, by listing the number associated with the graphics below.

- Attentive _____
- Fearful _____
- Inviting play _____
- Threatening _____
- Submissive _____



2. Which statement is false?

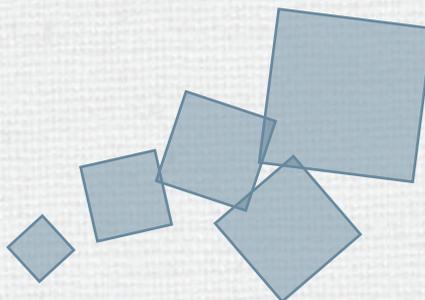
- a. In crowded areas, you should always put a leash on the dog.
- b. An unsociable dog is under more control on a leash.
- c. A dog should always be off-leash; otherwise you could damage its self-confidence.
- d. Putting a leash on the dog shouldn't be meant as punishment.
- e. A young dog gets to know the leash as a nice event.

3. How do you calm an anxious dog?

- a. By a hard command.
- b. By pulling at the leash constantly.
- c. By ignoring and praising when the dog has calmed.
- d. By talking quietly and petting the dog.
- e. By giving goodies (treats) every time the dog becomes afraid.

4. What can the veterinarian, with certainty, predict about a dog's character after it is neutered?

- a. The aggressive behaviour of the dog will be minimized.
- b. You can't predict any changes at all.
- c. The dog will definitely become fat.
- d. The dog will become lazy and inactive.
- e. Marking behaviour will stop.



THE BH HANDLER WRITTEN TEST

5. Dog owners have to avoid biting accidents, especially when children are involved. What is the correct statement?

- a. Dogs pity children, so nothing ever happens
- b. Dogs and children belong together, but never without adult supervision.
- c. If children and dogs know each other well, there are never any problems
- d. Children running off fast and screaming loud never provoke prey behaviour but only the desire to play.
- e. Children don't have to learn how to deal with dogs. They react naturally and do it right.

6. You're on the road with your off-leash dog. A jogger comes in your direction. What should you do?

- a. I let my dog continue to run.
- b. I put a leash on the dog and let the jogger pass us.
- c. I ask the jogger not to come too near.
- d. I shout loudly, "My dog doesn't do anything."
- e. I hold my dog by the collar, but I encourage him to bark so that the jogger gets scared.

7. Your dog is with you in your car. You stop at a parking place and want to take the dog with you. What is the proper procedure to follow?

- a. I open the door and encourage the dog to jump out and let it go.
- b. I let the dog out of the car and then put him on a leash
- c. I put leash on the dog first and then let it out.
- d. I tell the dog to be careful and let it out
- e. I let the dog out, put the leash on and then I give a leash correction so it knows now things are serious.

8. Your dog growls at guests who enter your home. What should your correct response be?

- a. I tell the guests to welcome the dog in a friendly way.
- b. I put the dog in a crate or separate room or send the dog to its place with a strong verbal command and keep it away.
- c. I talk to the dog quietly and pet it.
- d. I provide the guests with treats for the dog at the door.
- e. I give the dog plenty of treats.

9. How long does the season/heat of a healthy bitch last?

- a. About 5 days
- b. About 10 days
- c. About 3 weeks
- e. About 4 weeks
- e. 1 to 2 weeks depending on the season.

10. Which statement is false regarding rabies?

- a. Rabies is transmitted by viruses.
- b. The pathogens are excreted in the saliva.
- c. The most typical transmission of rabies is a bite.
- d. The pathogens are excreted in the feces.
- e. Humans can contract rabies

11. In which situations am I allowed to leave the dog in my car?

- a. When it is very hot
- b. If the car is in the shade on cool days
- c. In the blazing sun
- d. If the dog is in the trunk
- e. Every time I don't need the dog

12. What is the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (F.C.I.)?

- a. The World Association of individual purebred dog breed clubs
- b. The World Canine Organization with 86 members, with one member per country worldwide.
- c. An international canine organization with single members who are committed to the benefit of dogs.

13. Members of the VDH

- a. Single persons and organization/associations
- b. Members of the VDH are Breed and Dog Sport organizations.
- c. Single persons

14. Which exercise does not belong to the BH

- a. Confidence for gunshots
- b. Down with recall
- c. Sureness/security of the dog towards people and vehicles

15. At what age can a dog be shown in a BH?

- a. At least 12 months
- b. At least 14 months
- c. At least 15 months

16. Who can carry out preparations and trials for BH?

- a. Owners of commercial dog schools
- b. Single persons by order of the VDH-Organization
- c. Members of FCI Organizations

17. Who can take part in a BH trial?

- a. Dog owners without a membership in a FCI organization.
- b. Only people who have a valid membership in a club that is a member of an FCI organization.
- c. Only people who have already taken a course for VDH-dog-handling.

18. Can a DVG member take part in a BH-trial if he has not been approved by his training director?

- a. Yes
- b. No

19. Are two people allowed handle one dog in one trial?

- a. Yes
- b. No

20. How many dogs can one person handle in a BH trial?

- a. At most 3 dogs
- b. At most 2 dogs
- c. Only 1 dog

21. How many exercises are there in Phase A of the BH test?

- a. 4
- b. 5
- c. 7

22. During what exercise does the gunshot exercise test occur in the BH test?

- a. Heeling on leash
- b. Heeling off leash
- c. None of the above

23. Before beginning the BH trial, all dogs must pass a temperament test and have the tattoo and/or microchip read.

- a. True
- b. False

24. After the heeling on leash exercise, the leash is ?

- a. Given to the trial secretary.
- b. Hung over the handler's left shoulder toward the right hip or stored out of sight
- c. Laid down on the training field.

25. The dog must wear a collar during the trial. What kind of collar can a dog NOT WEAR for the BH?

- a. Flat collar
- b. Choke chain/fur saver
- c. Pinch collar

26. How many paces is the running portion during the on-leash heeling exercise?

- a. 10 - 15 paces
- b. 15 - 20 paces
- c. There is no running

27. When is the handler allowed to physically or/verbally praise their dog?

- a. Before starting each exercise, if the dog is in the correct basic position.
- b. When you want to make the dog more attentive.
- c. Anytime.

28. The buildup heeling for the sit and down exercises is?

- a. 5 - 10 paces
- b. 10-15 paces
- c. 15-20 paces

29. During the long down exercise, the handler _____ ?

- a. can stand near the dog if the dog is insecure.
- b. stands approximately 30 paces away from the dog.
- c. can play with the dog while in the down position.

30. During the down with the recall exercise, the handler walks _____ after giving the down command.

- a. 30 paces
- b. 20 paces
- c. 40 paces

31. During the trial, the handler is allowed to motivate the dog with a toy or food.

- a. True
- b. False

32. During the trial, is the handler allowed to physically and/or verbally correct the dog?

- a. Yes
- b. No



33. Number the following exercises in the correct order for the handler that works first in the obedience (phase A) for BH (Indicate by placing a number beside each exercise in proper sequence.)

- Sit _____
- On leash heeling _____
- Long down under distraction _____
- Down with recall _____
- Off leash heeling _____

34. The handler and dog must obtain how many points to be able to participate in phase B of the BH?

- a. 42
- b. 40
- c. 45

35. During part B of the BH, interaction with the group is to prove the dog can handle and accept people approaching and shaking hands with the handler.

- a. True
- b. False

36. The decision to pass or fail a dog in phase B is decided by the:

- a. Trial secretary
- b. Judge
- c. Club training director

Answer: Question 1

- Attentive 1
- Fearful 4
- Inviting play 3
- Threatening 2
- Submissive 5

Answer: Question 2

C

Answer: Question 3

C

Answer: Question 4

B

Answer: Question 5

B

Answer: Question 6

B

Answer: Question 7

C

Answer: Question 8

B

Answer: Question 9

C

Answer: Question 10

D

Answer: Question 11

B

Answer: Question 12

B

Answer: Question 13

B

Answer: Question 14

A

Answer: Question 15

C

Answer: Question 16

C

Answer: Question 17

B

Answer: Question 18

B

Answer: Question 19

B

Answer: Question 20

B

Answer: Question 21

B

Answer: Question 22

C

Answer: Question 23

A

Answer: Question 24

B

Answer: Question 25

C

Answer: Question 26

A

Answer: Question 27

A

Answer: Question 28

B

Answer: Question 29

B

Answer: Question 30

A

Answer: Question 31

B

Answer: Question 32

B

Answer: Question 33

- 3
- 1
- 5
- 4
- 2

Answer: Question 34

A

Answer: Question 35

A

Answer: Question 36

B

LRO Report Continued

magazine and on the website. DVG America needed these changes and updates in the new IPO rules, although I still expect some more changes in the near future.

I translated and wrote some explanations and clarifications in the new BH rules, then put them in the magazine and on the website.

I then translated 10 pages of new IPO guidelines, and Rules for trial helpers. After I translated these items, I sent them to Carole and she would verify my translation and make any additional changes she felt were necessary. These changes were put in the new DVG America magazine and on the website. Thank you for the help Carole!

The group has been done incorrectly in DVG America for several years. I wanted to make sure that I updated the group procedure so that DVG America was doing it correctly. I knew if I tried to explain it there would still be lots of confusion, so I then contacted Joanne Flemming and she agreed to make a video of the way the group should be shown. I then took the video and posted it on YouTube so all of them members could view it. Thank you for the help Joanne!

I have designed new forms for trial applications. They are numbered 1 through 8 with directions on how to fill them out.

For the convenience of our members I wanted all of our trial applications to be submitted electronically either in a PDF or MS Word format. That saves time and money instead of the using snail mail. I prefer the MS Word document because it is easier for the handler and also easier for me if there are changes such as dates and etc. I even had Bill Harper put a script font on the MS Word form so you could type in your name and it would come out as a signature on the application. Thank you for your help Bill!

Every organization in the world has been doing Tattoo & Micro Chip checks on the dogs prior to entry in a trial. DVG America was not doing this, so I contacted Germany and asked them why DVG America did not require this and they were not aware that we were not checking identification on all dogs. I then implemented a Tattoo & Micro Chip check on all dogs prior to going into a trial. DVG America is now doing things correctly according to the FCI rules and procedures.

I then found and posted on the Internet, the most economical place to purchase a Chip reader that would read all of the chips in the world, not just American chips.

I believe that DVG America is as good as or better than any other dog organization, so I contacted Germany and asked them why we did not have a BH written test just like DVG Germany and all other organizations. They stated that we had been given a waiver because our laws were different, but they agreed with me that we should have a test here in America but change it to be in line with our country. They translated there BH written test for me and sent it over to me for review, and to use whatever I needed from it. I asked Lisa Little to help me with this project and between the two us we eliminated two thirds of their questions because they either did not pertain to us or we felt there were better questions for us in America. We felt like it was more important for some of the rules to be included because some of the questions were already in the training directors' handbook. Thank you for the help Lisa!

I wanted Helper passes to be printed in English, with a place for the judge's comments and ratings of the helpers. Germany gave their OK for us to make our own helper passes. Thank you DVG Germany.

There were packets of information sent to the clubs from DVG Germany that 90 percent of the LV Members were not able to read. So, I requested that each KG through their President should be notified in English of information pertinent to DVG America within a reasonable time period. That information then could be emailed to the club Presidents. Germany has agreed to do that in the future.

This is a brief summary of what I have accomplished for DVG America in the last 18 months. My term expires in 2014 and I will not be running for LRO at that time. I simply do not have the time to continue on as LRO, and a LV Board member, since I have other interests that I want to pursue. Plus, the LRO position needs to be given to another judge so we can get their own input and new ideas into the program so DVG America can continue to grow and prosper.

Yours in the Sport,
Ray Reid



DVG America member's Pictures



Anita Gard's Parek and Zeli



Sue Boyle and King Dar Von Evman



Beth Whitcomb's Jaeger with helper Guy Ventura II

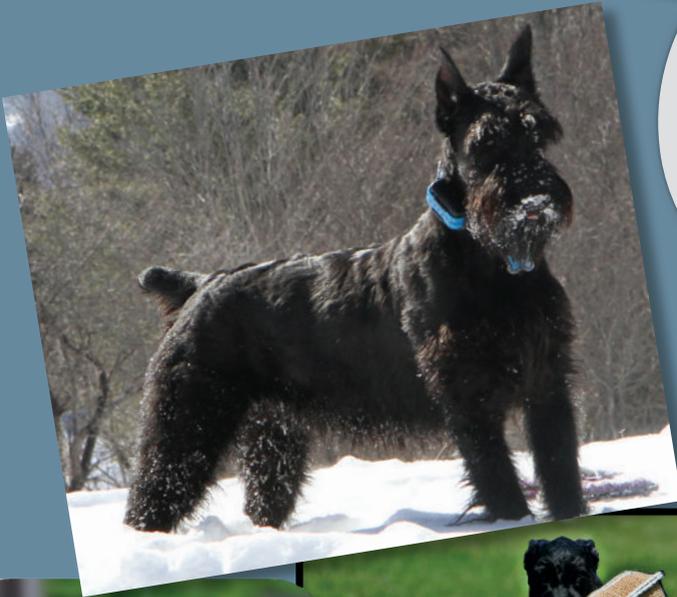
Richard Scott's Brixi (10.5 years) with helper Carl Smith



Michele Testa's Riesenspass Ori



What amazing member photos were contributed! DVG America members and their dogs ROCK!



Lorretta Thijssen's Jägermeister Leidenschaft.



Shelly Timmerman's Izod von der Tetiaroa (Gator)



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“MOM, YOU’RE BORING.”

THE 4 TRAINING TIPS THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

Anita Gard

Whether you’re a behavioral science theory junkie like me, or brand new to training dogs, or an experienced and talented trainer with a natural feel, or any combination of those, certain concepts will have a profound impact on your training. Herewith are the 4 tips that caused me to smack my forehead and say “Duh!”

“Mom, you’re boring. You just give her a treat and keep walking. You don’t interact with her to show you appreciate her effort.” ~ My daughter Alicia

Ouch! This really hurt. Especially as at that point Alicia had never trained a dog in her life, and I had several titles in various disciplines to my name. She said this while watching me try to shape my dog to stay with me rather than wander off. My dog would come to me, I’d click and treat, then “dump” her – say nothing and walk on. Not surprisingly, she would then wander off again. A couple weeks later, I mentioned this to Gottfried Dildei, who (figuratively) smacked me upside the head and said “What did you think? How would you feel if you came home from a long day at work, and your spouse silently plunks your dinner down on the table then goes off to do his own thing? Now what if he greets you at the door with a warm hug, gives you dinner, sits down and chats with you while you eat?”

“You need to like your dog more.” ~ Gottfried Dildei

I love my dog, but I didn’t like her as a working/competition dog. I had long ago written her off as having little drive. Consequently, I didn’t enjoy training her. It was a chore. But I’m not in a position, financially or emotionally – I do love her – to simply trade her in for

a better model, so I was stuck. Once Gottfried shamed me into relaxing and enjoying my dog just as she is, my attitude – and hers – changed dramatically. She now goes on to the training field with a big smile on her face, as do I. Training is fun for both of us, and her drive has blossomed.

“Be fair to your dog. He has no ego – you do. He didn’t ask to do Schutzhund, and he has no choice. You decided to do make him do Schutzhund to satisfy your own need for glory. You have an obligation to make it enjoyable for the dog and to protect him from harm.” ~ Bernhard Flinks

What is there to say? Fortunately, I heard this at a seminar in my early Schutzhund days. I haven’t always been able to follow this – I’m human, and have limited patience – but it’s always in my mind. I hope one day I can train a dog from start to finish and never violate this principle.

*“Don’t get your t*ts so far ahead of you when you run. If part of your body forges, the dog will forge too.” ~ Author’s name withheld to protect the guilty*

Lots of people have told me to pay attention to my body language, but it was very hard to think of my posture while doing other things. At my very next trial after hearing this particular variation of the advice, it flashed through my mind and my back straightened up. Sometimes you just have to hear something a certain way for it to stick!



CHIROPRACTIC TIP

Subscapularis is a muscle under the shoulder blade and ties into the shoulder. This muscle is powered by nerves in the upper back and neck. If your dog has difficulty on the front legs then this muscle may be involved. Massage alone will not fix the problem. You have to look at the nerve supply to that muscle as well.

If your dog does agility, then bars will get knocked down or weave poll difficulty will possibly occur due to the inability to extend the front leg enough and the upper back. Many owners will use stretching tech. to improve their dog but often this is short term.

Animal chiropractic will evaluate the entire region and will often adjust the bones that can interfere with these power nerves and then apply cold laser to the region to speed healing. The chiropractor will often give you exercises to aid in the healing and strengthening process.

Dr. Bruce Index

Aflatoxin is a highly toxic, fungal metabolite known to cause liver dysfunction, immune suppression and liver cancer in humans and animals. The fungus (*Aspergillus*) colonizes on any grain but most commonly corn, before harvest or during storage. The fungus is much more prevalent during dry and drought conditions. Acute intoxication may lead to death within days, while low level exposure over weeks and into months can lead to chronic liver disease. It is important to note that heating does not destroy the mycotoxin, so the cooking process when formulating kibble won't have any impact.

In March of 2013, *The Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation* published an article citing an outbreak in Brazil that affected 65 dogs, of those, 60 died from liver failure. In other third world countries, such as Taiwan, India and Africa, Aflatoxin continues to pose a significant public health risk.

In the United States of America in 2005, Diamond Foods recalled its dry pet food from over 29 countries around the world due to Aflatoxin contamination. Associated with this same recall were the deaths of 9 dogs in Tennessee. In 2011, The Cargill Plant in Louisiana, which sold dog food under the names River Run and Marksman, issued a voluntary recall after testing revealed higher than acceptable Aflatoxin levels in corn received at their plant. The recall involved thirteen states, which highlights how distributors can affect a large geographical area. In December 2011, Advanced Animal Nutrition also did a voluntary recall of Dog Power dry food formulas produced between January 4, 2011 and November 18, 2011.

Most recently, in 2013, Proctor and Gamble, the makers of Iams, issued a voluntary recall after testing revealed high Aflatoxin levels in one brand of its food. This recall involved six states. Moreover, as recently as February 2013, an Iowa-based company called Pro-Pet recalled products manufactured by a Kansas City Pro-Pet plant across

eight Midwestern states due to elevated levels of the aflatoxin contaminant contained in the corn used to make the pet food, the company said. Despite the fact that the company itself tests for Aflatoxin, it wasn't detected in this particular batch until a single bag was pulled from a shelf and randomly inspected by the Iowa Department of Agriculture.

Reuters reported that The United States Department of Agriculture paid out 75 million dollars in insurance claims for Aflatoxin-tainted crops in 2011, triple the amount paid the year before, primarily due to extreme drought conditions in corn growing regions. Drought, as noted above, facilitates the growth for the *Aspergillus* fungus, thus leading to the presence of Aflatoxin.

While no hard numbers exist regarding canine deaths directly related to the tainted products, this may be due in part to failure to identify or correlate the illnesses with the affected products. Signs and symptoms of Aflatoxicosis are the same as presentation seen in liver disease:

1. Lethargy or depression
2. Loss of appetite
3. Vomiting
4. Bloody diarrhea
5. Jaundice
6. Weakness
7. Seizures

Mortality rates are extremely high, with most dogs succumbing to the illness. If contracted, there is no antidote for the disease and treatment is aimed at detoxifying the liver. A study published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Association* in 2008 followed 78 dogs that consumed pet food tainted with Aflatoxin. Only 36% of the dogs survived. The recognized mortality rate for affected dogs is around 68% -- a pretty sobering statistic.

Prevention is once again the best defense.

- Avoiding any dry dog food that contains corn should be

paramount. Most canine nutrition experts agree that corn is of no nutritional value in dog food and is utilized primarily as cheap filler. Become a label reader and avoid any dry product that includes the terms corn, corn meal or mill waste.

- Avoid cheap dog foods and opt for foods that contain high quality ingredients. A website that can be extremely useful is Dogfoodadvisor.com. It is a free website, dedicated to the health of our canine companions. The authors of this site have done the hard work of analyzing hundreds of pet foods, ranging from dry, canned and even raw. They have a nutrient breakdown and rate foods on a one through five scale, as well as cost analyses. They will even notify you via e-mail if there are any pet food recalls.
- Know where your pet food and products are made. Though this information is not always fully disclosed, look for any ingredients from other countries like China where the regulatory mechanisms are weak, if not nonexistent.
- Check the label for "Sell by" dates and purchase the freshest bags possible. Similar to the practice of pulling the milk from the back of the refrigerator at the grocery store (to get the freshest product), check the dates on the dog food bag.
- Store your food at home in a clean, dry container and if you keep it in the original packaging, expel all the air and seal tightly between uses.

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Common Errors Made by Handlers in Trials

- 1) Failure to have a well thought-out heeling pattern firmly implanted in the handler's head.
- 2) Failure to count paces
- 3) Failure to know the full routine.
- 4) Incorrectly performing the procedures for placing the dog on the long down or picking the dog up from the down and send out.
- 5) Looking at the dog / looking back at the dog in the motion exercises.
- 6) Body English / Handler Help.
- 7) Changing position during the recall, retrieves, etc.
- 8) Guiding or commanding the dog during tracking
- 9) Talking to the dog during heeling exercises.
- 10) Entering the dog in a trial when it is not ready
- 11) Reporting to the judge with the dog on the live ring, wrong collar, tags on collar, etc.
- 12) Grabbing / holding the dog by the collar during or between obedience exercises.
- 13) Giving a sit command each time you halt.
- 14) Taking the dumbbell too quickly, too quick to finish.
- 15) Putting the lead around you with the catch on the left instead of the right.
- 16) Not waiting for the judge to tell you to start or to return to your dog.
- 17) Not sitting the dog after walking stand, or not sitting the dog if it blew the sit out of motion.
- 18) Using the dog's name any time during formal exercises. Only during the blind search is it acceptable to use the dog's name.
- 19) Not asking questions during the handler's meeting.
- 20) Using the wrong dumbbell during retrieve exercises.

MEET THE APPRENTICE JUDGES

Contributed by
Dyan Harper

Our LV has two new apprentice judges both of whom many of us know, but some in the LV have not as yet had the privilege. As the KG president who supported both of their applications, I felt that the membership should know who is going to potentially be their judges in the future. I sent each of the apprentices a list of questions and they responded to them. Below are their responses which demonstrate their backgrounds and commitments to our dogsport. Each brings strong histories and ethical characteristics to their new positions. I hope that all members will join me in welcoming them and eventually joining our exceptional judging panel that we are fortunate to have in DVG LV America.

Meet James O. Akin-Otiko (Apprentice Judge)

Where were you born and where did you grow up? I was born in Lagos, Nigeria. I spent the first twenty years of my life in Nigeria and I have lived in the United States since 1983, and I am a US citizen.

Were you always involved with dogs or when did it begin? I always had house pets growing up, but never anything like working dogs. I bought a couple of German Shepherds when I got married in 1988, but I did not get into IPO (Schutzhund) until I was overseas in the Netherlands in Eindhoven in 1990 when I attended my first IPO trial and was truly fascinated and very interested in what the dogs that I saw were able to accomplish.

Tell us about your favorite dog in your life. There was a time when I thought that I had a favorite dog in my life, but I have since come to the conclusion that all the dogs that I have had the pleasure of owning have all been special in one way or the other. They all had very different and unique personalities. Each one of them taught me very different things not to mention the fact that they all had very distinctly different personalities. In addition to all of that, they were different breeds.

When did you join DVG and how did you first get started in the sport of Schutzhund (IPO)? I joined DVG in 1998 with Tulsa Schutzhund Club. I had the exciting experience of playing professional basketball in Europe for a couple of years and I purchased my first German imported German shepherd from a local breeder, the late Pete Lasaroms who insisted that I had to visit his local Schutzhund club before he would sell me any dog in his kennel. It was at his club that I first observed Schutzhund (IPO) in action. I later caught my first dog and I was hooked in the fall of 1990. I trained the following dogs from zero to the respective titles that they obtained. BH - Bradi vom Jager (GSD); IPO 1 - Alexis von Schoerling (Belgian Malinois); IPO 1 - Oman v.d. Maneiche (GSD); IPO 2 - Odolf v.d. Hulster Molen (GSD); IPO 2 - Artur Irfis (GSD); IPO 3 - Armani vom Schweitzergarten (Rottweiler); IPO 3 - Ravan v.d. Hulster Molen (GSD). I handled and trained numerous other dogs for other individuals in the sport. I also coached many individuals to handle and train their dogs from novice to advanced levels in all three phases.

Talk about your helper work and championships that you've worked. I started doing helper work in the USCA club that I started in 1991 until I joined the Tulsa Schutzhund club in 1998. In both clubs I worked any and all dogs that came along and learned a great deal along the way. My real desire was to train and title my dogs, but once the helper work bug bit me; I jumped in with both feet. I never really got a chance to work many trials in the beginning. It was not until Fred Marashi told me what to do in order to accomplish my goals of working dogs at the very highest level in our LV that I started pushing towards it in 1999. I attended numerous seminars and certifications and was certified by Les Flores (LV OfS) in 1999. A.J. Slaughter gave me my first opportunity to work a KG championship in Saginaw MI in 2000, and the rest as they say is history. I went on to work five KG championships in - 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000. I worked four LV championships in - 2006, 2005, 2004, 2002, I worked the AWFDF championship in 2007 and also worked the Doberman Nationals in 2008. I was invited to work several other championships, but could not and did not due to my family demands. I have served as the Midwest KG OfS since 2005 to the present time and I served as the LV OfS for 3 years to March 2013. In both capacities, I served on both the KG and the LV boards. I have conducted numerous helper seminars, certified and upgraded dozens of helpers.

I am grateful to all the owners of all the dogs that I have worked along the way. They are too many to mention. I am grateful to belong to the Midwest KG and the KG board for all the support of the KG members and clubs. I thank the Midwest KG President, Dyan Harper and Bill Harper, her husband, for all their support from day one. They have literally seen me grow from a level 3 helper to now an apprentice judge, and hopefully to be a judge soon.

I thank Fred Marashi (Doc) for showing me the way and helping me along the way when I had questions regarding anything dog-sport and even life. I am grateful to A.J. Slaughter for "kicking the door down" in order for me to work my first Championship and for the support he continues to give me. I thank all the members of the LV board for their support, especially Sandi Purdy, Ray Reid and Carole Patterson for their graciousness and generosity towards me along the way and especially for believing in me. I thank all my friends and advocates who sent in their letters of recommendation on my behalf. I am grateful to my sponsor Ann Dolan who vouched for me. I thank Lisa Little for all the help she provided in helping me get ready for my apprenticeship and still continues to check on me.

Growing up as a young man from a large family, my father always told me that the one community that I would always need would be my family. He never really put a number or gave me a template of what the make-up of "my family" would, could or should look like. I truly feel like I belong to a very big family that includes people from all walks of life with different points of view who genuinely care about my well-being. I feel fortunate and blessed to have stumbled onto this sport we all love along the way called Schutzhund.

What made you decide to attempt to become a judge? I wanted to find another way to give back to the sport and people who have supported me along the way all these years. I have done a lot of things in my life that I am very proud of. Yet, I still live vicariously through the experiences and achievements of my children and even my siblings and other people. I am happy when they are and I feel their disappointments when those come too. There are people who have and will live vicariously through my accomplishments in life and in the sport, and I am thankful for the opportunity to provide that, but still very humbled that I can. I came into the sport simply to train my dog because I thought it would be fun, along the way, I discovered that I could do helper work and help my local clubs at the same time. Because of my nature, I wanted to do it at the highest level possible, hence the opportunity to work championships and also serve on both the KG and the LV boards. It was my way of giving back to the sport and "family" that has given so much to me. I love information and I love to learn. Being a judge would give me the opportunity to learn in more detail, a different aspect of the sport that I am familiar with but cannot really say that I am a subject-matter-expert at. Being in the apprentice program and ultimately becoming a judge would give me the education in this area.

What do you do for a living? I am currently the In-House Accountant for The Garrett Group, a Federal Defense Contractor in Bellevue, Nebraska. I have a Bachelors of Science in Management and I have a Minor in Accounting.

Talk about your family. I am a full-time single father of four amazing children, who continue to bless and teach me about life daily. I am grateful for how awesome they are. They are more talented than I could ever have dreamed of being. I feel fortunate that they remain quite humble even with all they have accomplished and continue to accomplish. I am my children's biggest advocate and cheerleader. You can usually hear me cheering at concerts, basketball games and track meets. I am very involved in the Catholic Church of which we are members.

I am grateful to my children for all their support along the way. They have taken numerous road trips with me to trials and championships without complaining. Two of my children came with me to Tulsa when Udo and Wolfgang came to certify the two new DVG LV America judges and I got a compliment from Wolfgang about how well-behaved they were. What more could a father ask for?

Meet Jacki Purdham (Apprentice Judge)

Where were you born and where did you grow up? Omaha and Nebraska, respectively.

Were you always involved with dogs or when did it begin? I have always been involved with all types of animals and always had a dog by my side. Growing up I was always bringing home anything I could catch, dogs, cats, rats, frogs, bats, goats, horses, lizards, snakes, just about anything that moved. Mom got to the point that it didn't faze her, well, except for the bats, that didn't go over very well. While in Desert Storm, three stray dogs wandered into our camp and I took them in as well. They were great for morale with most of the soldiers, and we even managed to get one of them back to the states.

Tell us about your favorite dog in your life. Not sure that I can name my all-time favorite dog because there have been too many that touched me. Growing up I was very close to a lab mix named "Yawn". He was pretty special to me and had a kind gentle soul. There was "Jazz", a male aussie/spaniel mix, adopted from the humane society and lived to 14 years. Jazz was a natural at everything, knew every trick in the book, and never had to be told what to do; I truly believe he was part human. While in the Bahamas, I was the President of the Grand Bahamas Humane Society and also ran the Animal Control Unit. I had thousands touch my heart and many that I can remember like it was yesterday. Charlie and I adopted four dogs from there, all with sad gruesome stories. Jack the Shepherd who lived to be 14, Ginger the Chow mix who lived to be 13, Joey the Border Collie mix who is currently 13 and can usually be seen next to me wherever I go, and Fancy the spaniel mix who is currently 12. Of course there was Vipere; my Malinois who went through my cancer battles and shared chemo times with me. Not sure what I would have done w/out him during that time of my life. I could go on and on about them, past and present.

When did you join DVG and how did you first get started in the sport of Schutzhund (IPO)? I joined DVG in 2005. I was always involved in dogs and knew that I wanted to go to the next level. When Charlie and I moved to Florida we were

introduced to Schutzhund. Both of us fell head over heels for the sport and have been hooked ever since with both of us attending seminars with trainers around the states, South Africa, Czech Republic, and Germany. Learning both good and bad for our tool boxes.

Tell me about competing at DVG National Championships and about your trip to the BSP. I was fortunate to meet Frans Slaman who pushed me to the next level with a dog by the name of “Jonny”. Frans raised and trained Johnny in the Czech Republic and later shipped him to the US where I had the honor of taking him in. In 2009, I attended the DVG National Championship with 2 dogs, Vipere and Jonny. Vipere did very well but did have a hard time in tracking, and Jonny qualified me for the BSP. During the next few months, getting ready for that was quite an experience. Charlie and I both then headed to Germany for the experience of our life in the dog sport. I was very fortunate to have Charlie by my side, not only as my husband, but as my personal trainer/decoy. I can remember my first training session in Germany; oh I did shed some tears. Jonny was so wound up and totally outta control. I was ready to pull him, I wasn’t even sure I could get him on the field let alone get anything done in control. Well, after a few tears, a little sleep, Charlie constantly reminding me that “YOU CAN DO IT”, getting my head back in the game, and reminding Jonny what Schutzhund was again, we managed to put on a great performance in all 3 phases. Jonny even had high score “99”, in tracking. We ended up placing 14th and qualified for the Deutsche Meisterschaft.

What did you find most interesting about the BSP? There were lots of interesting things about the BSP. It was an experience that I will never forget. The travel was exciting, the language barriers were a challenge, the food was mouthwatering, the camaraderie of the sport was overwhelming in a good way, but the stress was more that I can even talk about, as an overall experience. I would encourage everyone that is offered the chance to do it, find a way to make it work and DO IT!!

What made you decide to attempt to become a judge? When I watched my very first trial, it was then that I decided my goal was to become a judge someday. I’m a very goal oriented person and that was the goal that I set for myself. The first year that I met all of the requirements I turned in my resume, I was turned down, but for good reason, there were others that were in front of me. The next time I was ready to turn in my resume I became sick shortly after, so I had to delay again. Then Charlie and I moved back to our home state of Nebraska and I started my new job as an Animal Control Officer. Being the low person on the totem pole, my time off was very limited, so yet another delay. I have been an Officer now for three years and have hoarded my leave time to where I can get away without it affecting my job. When I was accepted into the program it was extremely exciting for me. I am very much looking forward to this new journey of mine.

What do you do for a living? I’m currently an Animal Control Office for the City of Lincoln (population 260,000). There are currently 9 Officers to cover the city which keeps us all on our toes. I did Animal Control in Grand Bahamas for several years, and then took a break from it while Charlie and I lived in Florida. When Charlie and I decided to buy a house and move back to Nebraska, it took us two years of flying back till we found the perfect spot. Charlie is a general contractor for a major construction company here in Lincoln. Over our last 17 years together, we have had many adventures and lived in many states and countries and we are both very happy to be back to our home state with our family again.

Talk about your family. Charlie and I are surrounded by our family and friends again. We have two grand kids and three more on the way. All of our sisters are here; in fact one of my sisters lives with us and helps with our boarding dogs during the day. Charlie’s mom currently lives in Florida, but we are working on getting her moved back here, despite her resistance.

Any else? I want to thank my family and friends for supporting me and standing beside me in everything I do, no matter what. I want to thank Lisa Little, James Akin-Otiko, and Sandi Purdy for all the conference calls and putting up with all my questions. A big thank you to Ray Reid for believing in me, I won’t let you down, and also a big thank you for all the ones that shared my experience in Tulsa. I also want to thank all the members of the Cornhusker Schutzhund Club, you all have become wonderful friends and great support. A very special thank you to Charlie, my husband, my best friend, and my go to person, for always being there for support, and pushing me when I have those second thoughts. I love you with all my heart!!



JAMES AKIN-OTIKO

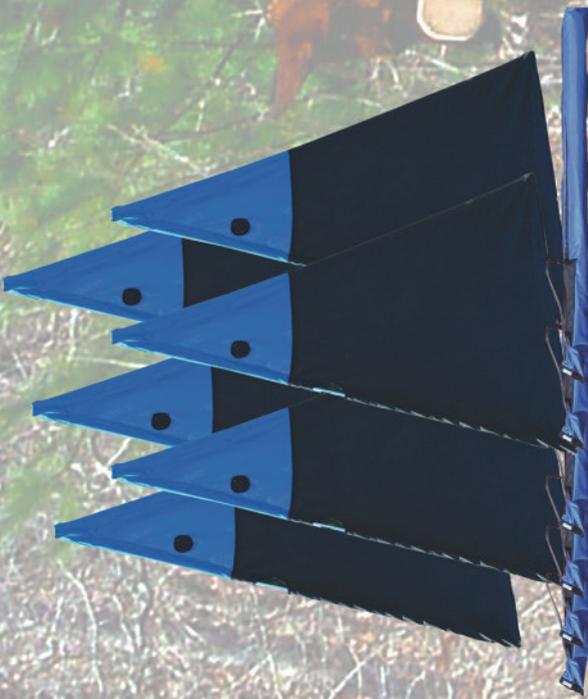


JACKI PURDHAM

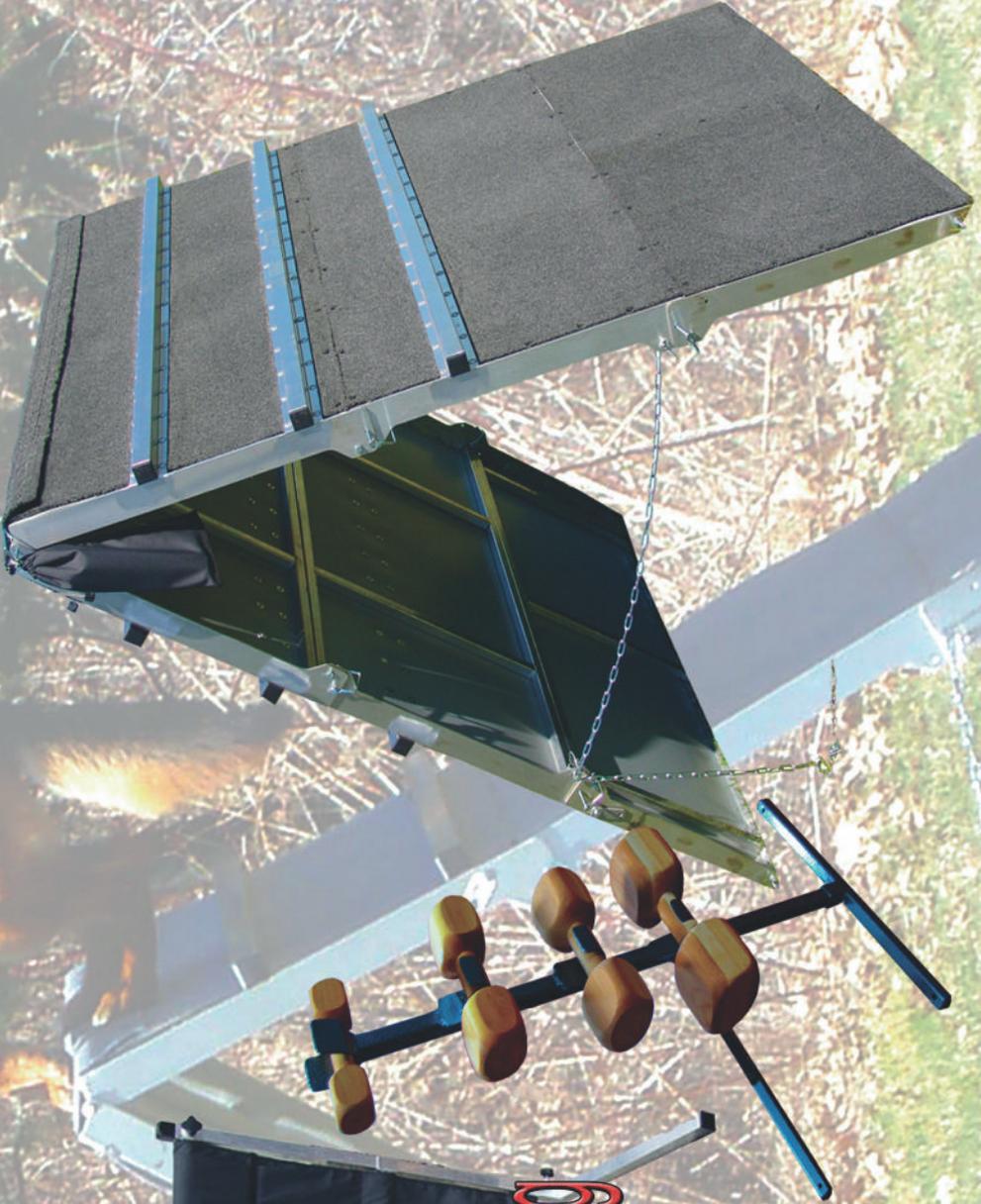
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BREEDING: Planning a litter

Contributed by Deborah Pensiero

When planning a litter, breeders watch their bitch closely for the first signs of heat. The days are counted and recounted. Sometimes, it might be difficult to decide when the best time for the breeding to take place is. The breeder may look for certain behaviors in the bitch or stud dog to help them determine when the right time has come. Some breeders believe in breeding on set days of the heat cycle, such as 10-14 days after bleeding starts. Or they may breed their bitch every day or every other day so long as the bitch is willing to accept the male. Some simply put dog and bitch together and let nature take its course. And for many breeders, these methods result in success.

An outside breeding usually requires more planning. When the stud dog is not owned by the breeder, timing becomes more critical. There may be additional expenses such as health screenings, stud fees, travel and lodging. Breeders must more accurately predict what days will be best to schedule the breeding.

Unfortunately, counting heat days and watching for physical signs and behavioral changes in the bitch cannot reliably predict the fertile days in the heat cycle. Some bitches are receptive to the stud dog before or after the fertile period. And breeding that occurs outside of the fertile period will not result in a pregnancy. Fifteen-twenty percent of successful ties do not result in a pregnancy. A missed conception can be an expensive loss of time, money and a breeding cycle. And poor timing is the most common cause of a missed breeding.

Canines reach puberty between 5-18 months old. Reproductive hormones control heat cycles in the bitch. Heat cycles occur approximately 4-12 months apart in response to changing hormone levels in the bloodstream. Early heat cycles may be irregular and are sometimes silent with little or no outward signs. There can be significant variations in heat cycles between bitches. Many times, bitches housed

together will come into heat at the same time. An individual bitch may be very regular or show changes in her heat patterns across her reproductive life span. Aging bitches do not experience menopause and can bear litters at an advanced age. Five years of age is considered an advanced age for breeding a maiden bitch.

The heat cycle consists of four phases: proestrus, estrus, diestrus and anestrus. The reproductive hormones estrogen, luteinizing hormone (LH) and progesterone are responsible for regulating the phases of the heat cycle.

Proestrus is the first phase of the heat cycle and lasts approximately 9 days. During this phase, estrogen levels begin to rise in the bloodstream causing the uterus to thicken in preparation for pregnancy. The ovaries are stimulated to begin developing eggs. The vulva swells and bloody discharge begins. The bitch may become restless during this time and show frequent marking with urination. The male dog begins to show interest. The bitch may be playful with the male, but is not yet receptive to him. She may snap at the male, sit or lie down if he attempts to mount her. Bitches that ovulate earlier than average pass through this phase very quickly.

Estrus is the second phase of the heat cycle. This phase also lasts approximately 9 days. During this stage the bitch's vulva softens and the bloody discharge lightens. The bitch begins to signal to the male dog that she is receptive to breeding. She will stand still for the male, flagging her tail to the side exposing her vulva. Some bitches will stand for breeding throughout most of the heat cycle, others for only a few days. Hormone levels are changing during this phase. During the first few days of estrus, estrogen levels rise in the bloodstream, then fall. Luteinizing hormone rises quickly, reaches its peak and falls over a 12-24 hour period. The surging of the LH hormone triggers release of eggs from the ovary within 48 hours. The day of the LH surge is designated as Day 0. Ovulation occurs over a 24 hour period. Once released, eggs take 24-48 hours to mature. When mature, the eggs can be fertilized by the male's sperm for 2-3 days before beginning to die off. Peak fertility occurs Days 4, 5 and 6 after the LH surge.

Because the LH surge occurs over such a short period of time,

pinpointing its occurrence can be difficult to detect. A progesterone rise above 2 ng/ml coincides with the LH surge. The slow steady rise of progesterone can be tracked by serial blood draws sent to the lab. Tracking serial progesterone levels allow vets to predict the day ovulation occurred.

Following estrus is the diestrus phase. This phase lasts from the time the bitch is no longer receptive to the male to the end of pregnancy. If the bitch was not bred or did not conceive, this phase lasts approximately 90 days. Progesterone levels are still rising during this phase. Sometimes a bitch will have a false pregnancy during diestrus showing nesting behavior, weight gain, breast enlargement and milk production.

The last phase of the canine cycle is anestrus. This is the phase between heat cycles and lasts approximately 5 months. This is a resting phase with little hormonal activity.

Ovulation timing has many advantages to the breeder. Pinpointing the day of ovulation identifies the best days to breed the bitch. The goal is to breed on the days when conception is most likely to occur; to know the day sperm must meet egg. By breeding on the bitches most fertile days, litter size and conception rate will be increased. Ovulation timing eliminates the need for multiple breedings. In addition to these benefits, knowing the ovulation date allows the breeder to know the delivery date in advance. The due date of the litter can be accurately timed within a 24 hour window if the day of ovulation is identified. Delivery occurs 63 days from ovulation regardless of dates of breeding or number of ties.

Most vets recommend drawing the first progesterone level approximately the 7th day after the onset of bleeding. Progesterone is at baseline < 1.0 monograms/ml at the start of estrus, prior to the LH surge. Serial progesterone levels track progesterone as it rises. Blood is drawn every other day. At the time of the LH surge progesterone levels reach 1.5-2 ng/ml. Ovulation occurs when serum progesterone reaches 5 ng/ml. It is important to continue testing until the progesterone level reaches 5 ng/ml as sometimes a bitch will stall between 3-4 ng/ml for several days or not ovulate at all in the cycle. Often only 3 blood draws are needed to confirm that ovulation has occurred. A baseline level, one level below 5 ng/ml and 1 level over 5 ng/ml. Blood should be sent to an outside commercial lab for quantitative testing, for most accurate results.

In conclusion, breeders relying on physical and behavioral changes in the bitch during heat may

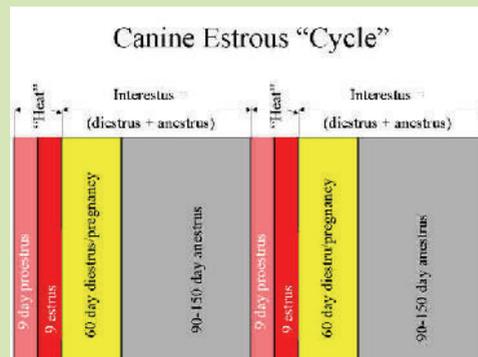
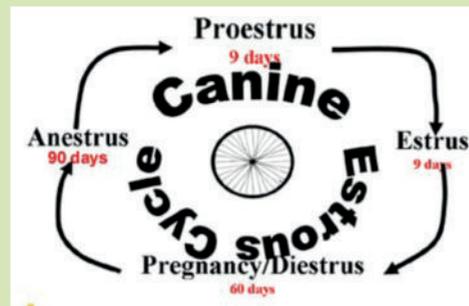
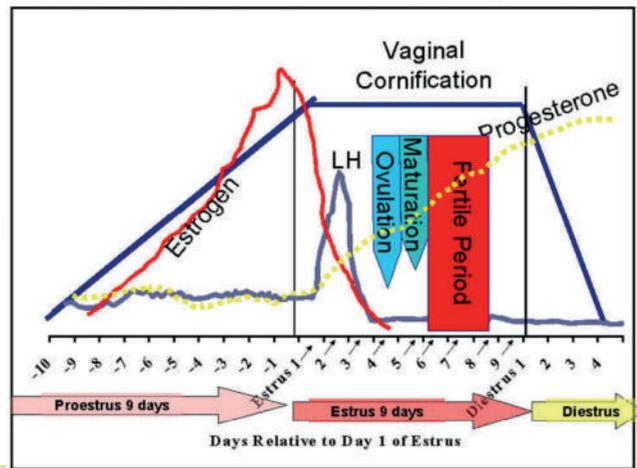
attempt to breed her at the wrong time in the cycle. This may result in a missed opportunity for a litter. Today, breeders can track the heat cycle with progesterone levels and breed during the days of peak fertility. Proper timing of the breeding gives the best chance for success.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I would like to thank Dr. Bruce Eilts, James DVM, Cook University, Townsville Australia for permission to use graphics.

Suggested Reading:

<http://www.VeterinaryPartner.com/Content.plx?P=A&A=1224>





Article by Andy Anderson, submitted by Sheri Trudrung, photos by Denise Krasinski and Jennifer Reid.

MWKG CHAMPIONSHIP

“ Finally, we were able to get on the hay fields and lay tracks. ”

Finally, we were able to get on the hay fields and lay tracks! We had originally scheduled the KG Midwest Championship for early May, but had to reschedule due to our unseasonably long winter. It was late June before we could use the tracking fields and of course the weather had turned hot, so we planned all events for early mornings.

Saturday morning we started early at 7AM with obedience and protection. Karen Kominos and Jynx along with Richard Scott and Brixie led off the IPO 3s. Karen ended up with a nice 85 and Richard with an 87. Scott Bakkala and Hero and Sarah Hemberger and Flash were next. Scott had a very nice 92 and Sarah received a 74.

The IPO 1s came out with Jarol skinner and Viper receiving 92 and Richard Scott and Dora a 75. Our lone BH entry was Dee McCullough and Rocky. They had a beautiful obedience routine and the street work was a snap with such a sound dog. I see a great future in the sport for this team. Protection was outstanding with dogs exhibiting great performances. Karen and Jynx scored 93, Richard and Brixie 94, Scott and Hero 96, Sarah and Hash 94, Jerol and Viper 96, Richard and Dora 92. Special thanks to our helpers Jason Murphy and Jani Turkia for their safe and consistent work. Excellent job!

Jennifer Reid was our Judge and of course she did a great job. She is very good at explaining her scores. We also had James Akin Otiko apprenticing. He also did a nice job of scoring and critiques. We were finished Saturday morning before lunch and beat the heat.

Sunday tracking started at 7:00AM with a comfortable 68 degrees, lush fields with lots of dew. Karen and Jynx had some trouble on the second corner which left them with an 88 and finished with a total score of 266. Richard and Brixie scored 90 for a total of 271. Scott and Hero knocked out a beautiful 96 for a total of 274. Sarah and Nash scored 83 for a total of 251. Jarod and Viper scored 95 for a total of 283. Richard and Dora scored 87 for a total of 254. Special thanks to Pete Kovach for laying the tracks.



Karen Kominos' Jynx v Hugoblick



Sarah Hemberger & Sprite's Jason Jay Garrick (Flash)



Jerol Skinner's Viper with Jason Murphy



Karen Kominos & Jynx



Richard Scott's Dora Hurcak & Jason Murphy



Dee McCullough's Rocky v Tajgetosz

We would like to thank all of our exhibitors and spectators for your participation and support. We would also like to thank Dee McCullough for grilling our fabulous lunch, and all of the members of the MTSC for your help in making this event a success. Again we want to thank Jennifer for her excellent judging, and James Akin for his support. We wish him the best of luck in his judging apprenticeship.

LEONARD “BUD” YESNER



Some months ago Shelly asked me to write an article about my fellow South Florida Schutzhund Club member, Leonard Yesner, better and more affectionately known, as Bud. At the age of 89, DVG’s oldest active handler anywhere, is retiring from dog sport, and moving to be with his beloved wife Thelma, in an assisted living home in Atlanta.

By Cathy Daugaard

I agreed right away to write the article. After all, Bud is one of my all-time favorite “dog” friends.

Sure wish the article had come as easily as the acceptance. For a long time I wasn’t sure why the words just wouldn’t come, why it was such a struggle.

After all, Bud is a notable guy for many reasons. First off, he was born in New York on March 15, 1924.

Let’s ponder on that for a minute. Radio Broadcasting had only just begun four years earlier in 1920. In 1924 you could buy a loaded Model T Ford for \$685. He’d have to wait, though, until he was 15 to see his first television show (a pro football game: NY Giants vs. WA Redskins in 1939). Bud lived thru the Great Depression. Thrived when there was no polio vaccine and tuberculosis was rampant. Served in WW II. Saw men land on the moon; the Civil Rights Movement; the assassinations of two Kennedys and Martin Luther King Jr. Computers. 9/11.

To keep this dog related, let me add that in those days people fed their dogs kerosene to rid them of worms and the most important thing to ask when buying a dog was, “is he over distemper yet?”

Why is all this relevant?

Because Bud has that quiet grace and confidence that many older citizens have--from seeing it all, doing it all, and coming through it all as better, more compassionate, less judgmental human beings.

Bud’s parents both immigrated to the United States, his dad from Lithuania and his mom from Austria. He has some good genes. His brother is still alive at 97. Sadly, his sister passed at age 89.

During World War II, Bud served in the Infantry as a rifleman and mortar gunner. He received the following medals: the European Theater Medal, the American Theater Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, the Victory Medal, the French Legion of Honor Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge. Bud won’t comment on the awards, as he says, “I was only doing my job. Like so many others.” Although, privately, he tells me he was first into Dachau.

Bud and Thelma have three children together, two boys and one girl, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He’s your every day working man - he owned a beer & wine bar in New York and sold health and life insurance in Florida.

“ There are a lot of BIG NAMES in the Schutzhund world. Bud’s isn’t one of them. That’s a shame, because Bud was a competitive and capable sportsman at the National level, “V” rating with numerous dogs for four decades. ”

Frank Reeves: He is the "Grandfather" of the South Florida Schutzhund Club and has been an inspiration to me since my first night at the club.

Pat Bishop: Bud was the nicest member of the club to newbies like me, he really cared about the dog and handler succeeding, despite the environment and club pressures.

Bud seems to have passed down his love of dogs to his kids and grand kids - they all have a minimum of two dogs per house.



Bud got started in Schutzhund around 1970. He had Atlas, a pet German Shepherd he got when his neighbor's dog had puppies and he took one. He saw Bob Bratz doing this crazy obedience stuff in the street and he had to know more.

That crazy obedience stuff was various Schutzhund exercises-walking sits, running downs, go outs--and the rest, as they say, is history.

And Bud's sport history is the history of DVG and Schutzhund in America. When he started training, there was no DVG. He, along with Phil Hoelcher, Karen Grier, Robbie Robinson, Bob Bratz, his son and daughter-in-law Jack & Sharon Yesner, were the founding members of FAST: Florida Association of Schutzhund Trainers.



They trained at the Youth Fairgrounds on 117th Ave and Coral Way.

They were innovative in those days: if the lights went out while they were training, they trained by the beams of the cars headlights. And if it was too windy to hold up a blind, well, those same cars made fine blinds.

In 1976, FAST became the South Florida Schutzhund Club, a DVG member club. Bud was president of SFSC when it hosted DVG America's first National Championship in 1984. South Florida invited, and paid for, Christa Bremer to attend.

There are a lot of BIG NAMES in the Schutzhund world. Bud's isn't one of them. That's a shame, because Bud was a competitive and capable sportsman at the National level, "V" rating with numerous dogs for four decades. Maybe you have someone like that in your club.

Let me name some of Bud's dogs: Condor. Ex. Yoshi. Maestro. Max.

Wow. That's not a lot of dogs, is it? That's because Bud truly cared for and was committed to his dogs. They were not just a way to get a trophy. He said that Schutzhund allows you to build a bond closer with the dog than any other activity.

Bud never sought the limelight for himself. He enjoyed the social aspect of the sport, the camaraderie of training and trials. Whenever he met someone with a working dog breed, he'd tell them all about Schutzhund and invite them out to train. And when newcomers did come to visit, he was the first to introduce himself, make them feel welcome, and explain what they were seeing.

That's not to say Bud doesn't have a sense of humor. He'd be walking his Schutzhund dog and some lady would come up and ask if her "foo foo dog" could greet his dog. He'd pull himself up to full height and say decorously: "Madam" "My dog has not yet had his lunch."

There you have it. My article about Bud Yesner. He says "Hello" to all his friends and "Stay in touch."

So why was this so hard? Because biographies are about the past. They're about endings. I don't like to think of Bud and his endings because it makes me think of my endings yet to come.

I have another friend. I'll call her "Betty." Betty is my age, or just a tad older. I see the decisions she's made in her life recently. The activities she's quit. How her world has gotten smaller. Too old for this, too old for that. She loves her dog but is "definitely too old for another puppy."

Would this be my ending?

Then I think of Bud. He always attributed his joie de vivre to a passionate love for his dogs and dog sport. (Don't ya love the way the Germans say it? *What is your enthusiasm?*)

Anyway, I forget how old he was at the time. I'm gonna guess and say 80. Maestro had died and Bud was looking for a new competition dog and just couldn't find one he liked.

"Drive!" he cries. "I need more drive!"

God bless you, Bud. I wanna be just like you. Eighty years old and screaming for more drive. I hope you *ROCK* that place!



Contributed by Salem Club members Colleen Bromagen and Kathy Fiebig. Photos by Ray Reid.

Salem Schutzhund Club Helper Seminar

On the weekend of June 8th & 9th, 2013, the Salem Schutzhund Club hosted a Helper's Seminar with certification by the National OFS, Wayne Kemper. The Oregon weather cooperated, meaning we had sun in place of clouds and rain. There were nine helpers coming from AZ, CO, OR, UT and WA to participate. The skill level ranged from the new kid on the block who has just barely begun to think seriously about the sport to the more experienced, looking to upgrade certification.

First on the agenda was a welcoming introduction from Wayne outlining his expectations and what he hoped everyone – helpers, handlers, and spectators - could take away from the seminar.

From a Helper's Perspective:

Salem Schutzhund club has always felt like home to me. When I came to the DVG organization from USA, my first Helper seminar was with Randy Then up at this field. Over the years, the one thing that stands out above all, and is especially pronounced at seminars such as this, is that without the great Dog/Handler teams, not only would the sport cease to exist,

but the craft of helper work as well. I am always grateful, having trained some dogs, when handlers will trust me with their dogs. When I see a dog on a field, I don't see an animal for my ego to challenge, nor does any good helper. I see the financial investment someone has made to get to that point, I see the hundreds of hours of training and time they have put into the dog to get to this point, all to allow us helpers at a seminar to practice our craft. I know the time it takes to fix the mistakes of a weekend seminar, I know the risk involved to the dog from the weekend and I am always deeply filled with gratitude for that trust, that risk from the handler, and the opportunity to work good dogs. This seminar was no different. There were many good dogs at the event and it is a leap of faith regardless of a helpers experience level to put that dog on the field. Thankfully no dogs were hurt this weekend and they were able to show all the helpers a variety of temperament, hardness, training level, etc. that are so important to the learning process for any helper. There was a great sense of support as a helper, from the participants and spectators, encouragement at every turn,

From a Handler's Perspective

The seminar increased my understanding of the part a helper plays in the protection phase and how their influence (positive or negative) impacts the dog's performance. Further, the training helper and the trial helper are two different roles that need to be understood by the helpers in order for them to be successful at both. This helped me understand why the different certification levels are needed. Wayne spent a good part of the first day explaining safety, mechanics and logic of protection work. He worked through each exercise breaking it down into small steps for the beginning level and providing good feedback for the more advanced. When it was time to start bringing dogs out to work it was interesting to observe the dogs having to work on unfamiliar helpers – some for their first time. Some of the dogs were a little unsure until they gained confidence usually by the second or third helper – while the more experienced dogs were very much at ease. It became clear that helpers have to learn to adjust to each dog they are working to be effective in their performance – which in regional and national trials can be dogs they have very little time working.

From a Dog's Perspective

It didn't seem like a regular training day at the Schutzhund field. There were different people, dogs and smells. Going onto the field it was a bit confusing with one helper in the blind and eight more standing nearby, or several helpers all out on the field together (a dream true come true) We were shuffled around and there was plenty of action for us all. We pretty much pooled all of our resources and gave the Helpers some adjusting to do in making trial work the same for each dog. Every one of those guys did a remarkable job and can come back to Salem, anytime. Huge WOOFs from all of us when I say Thank you to Wayne and Everyone- we went home tired and happy to have contributed.

From a Spectator's Perspective:

The weekend's seminar started off with the special camaraderie that this sport seems to breed. Wayne was knowledgeable and patient. Understanding of how the Trial Helper role differs from the training helper role as well as the safety for helpers as well as dogs were points that continued to be driven home. The Helpers were amazing- to see them start (the rookies) with so little experience and even see the improvements with the already certified helpers was amazing. Donna and her crew from SSC did fabulous work with food and refreshments- no one went away hungry! Congratulations to the Helpers for a successful weekend and to Wayne for a job well done.

Helper Participants Included:

Stephen Parsons, Utah Level I Certification (New)

AJ Peper, WA Level 3 Helper New Certification
Derek Neliton, OR Level 3 Helper New Certification
Scott Weaver, WA Level 3 Helper New Certification
Taylor Smallwood, CO Level 3 Helper New Certification
Cliff Coffey, CO Level 3 Helper
Daniel Bosco, AZ Level 3 Helper
Cody Fredrickson, OR Participation
Gabe McCoy, WA Participation

We want to thank everyone that traveled from five different states to participate in our seminar and to help make it successful. May thanks to the participants that furnished dogs; we could not have had a successful seminar with their dogs. And last but not least I want to thank the Salem Schutzhund Club members who donated their time in organizing and running this event, in the food preparation, and expertise to make this the best Helper Seminar that the Salem Schutzhund Club has ever hosted!



The Cornhusker Schutzhund Club Trial

Contributed by Jacki Purdham, photos by Pam Feser

MWKG

You have to love the Midwest. Even though I wouldn't move for all the tea in China, the Midwest weather is the most unpredictable.

After a perfect 80 degree day with no wind on Friday, Saturday morning tracking started with 30mph winds, 53 degrees, and no blue sky to be seen. Although the tracking conditions were tough, and all the competitors were stressed, all the dogs passed their tracking with flying colors!! We even had the pleasure of having Rosey Dentino fly all the way from Miami Florida with her dog "Rudy", who

scored High In Tracking with a 97!! Hats off to Rosey and Rudy!! Paul and "Capone" also showed us what it was all about by doing his first tracking title with huge success! With the toughest of conditions, we even had an outstanding performance by Akin and "Bradi" with their first FH together!! This tracking morning ended with many smiles and good memories to go home with.

To start us off, the BH dogs did an outstanding job with all passing. Setting the pace for us were Ann & "Raj", this is a team to watch out for

in the very near future. Ann is doing an outstanding job and the bond between the two of them is a great thing to watch! In the IPO 2s, there were 3 teams. All 3 teams showed off that famous "Schutzhund Sit", they all did the "stand"! At least they were all consistent with each other, and we all had a good laugh about it afterwards. LOL!!

In addition to our Florida guest, we had 2 teams from Iowa join us. Cathy Windus has supported all of our trials so it was a pleasure that she was able to join us again.



Rosey and Rudy, tracking.



Ann, Jacki and Paul, tracking.



Akin with Bradi, FH



Ann Kleimola & Raj

Rosey and Rudy, Akin, protection



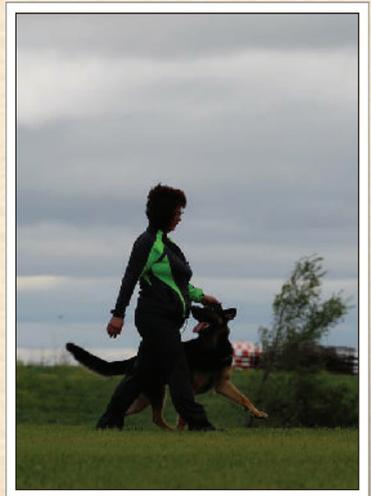
Charlie and Egar, obedience



Jacki with Walker, obedience



Cathy Windus & Artimes



In Protection we had the honor of having James Akin-Otiko do the helper work. What an outstanding job he did. A wonderful and safe helper, what more could a competitor ask for?! Again, Rosey and Rudy are a team to watch and really put on a show! Then we had Charlie and Egar with an awesome performance! Following them were Jacki & lil Walker, well, not so lil

anymore! Walker hits like a Mack truck taking no survivors, but with Akin's experience, they were the team to beat!

A huge Thank You goes out to our judge Ann Dolan. It is always a pleasure to have her judge and her experience is a total bonus!! Hats off to you Ann!! We also want to thank all our club members that did not trial, but were

still there before during and after the trial supporting everyone. This is what makes our club work, everyone works together and we all want the best for everyone!!

In the end, I have to say this was a huge success and we can't wait for the next one!!



Paul & Capone tracking

BH Obedience



