

TOP Lines

APRIL 2004

TRACKING ~ OBEDIENCE ~ PROTECTION

DVG SINCE 1985

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE TULSA SCHUTZHUND CLUB

WORDS FROM THE PREZ

By BOB BROWN

THE APRIL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE BROOKSIDE LIBRARY AT 7:30 PM MONDAY APRIL 12TH. Sorry about bouncing the meeting date around but there is a distinct lack of meeting room availability.

Judging by the turnout at the training sessions recently I'd say that the spring trial season is rapidly nearing. Lot of handler/dog teams have been out working. I hope that their goal is to show in the Spring Trial. The trial is scheduled for April 17th & 18th. Judge Ray Reid will officiate. Good luck to all!

Got a bunch of stuff from DVG the other day. As usual it's all in German but I used my super natural powers to translate some stuff. For instance; On Jan. 1. 2004, LV America had 812 DVG members. One LV was smaller than LV America - Hassen Rheinland-Platz with 558. The largest of the eleven LV's was Westfalen with 5,993 members. Total DVG membership was 32,649.

Some of the breed numbers passing tests were as follows:

	VPG			BH	All Title	
	I	II	III		Pass	Fail
GSD	215	169	767	602	2446	451
Boxer	6	12	23	31	113	31
Airedale	16	7	59	61	238	36
Schnauzer	19	13	70	64	281	46
Rottweiler	27	18	50	78	256	64
Doberman	9	9	50	44	164	65
Hovawarte	4	5	14	57	173	33
Bouviere	0	3	9	16	45	4
Malinois	64	68	448	157	1045	138

Note: All titles includes FH I & II, IPO I, II, & III, BH, WH, AD, VPG 1, II, & III



The County Park department has notified us that the softball season will start May 1st. We will hold the spring trial at the softball field. After the trial, training will resume at the old field near the gate. The park department will be laying sod in the infield at diamond within the next few days. The Park Department and I would appreciate club members/dogs staying off of the sod.

The Tulsa Schutzhund Club Board of Directors has nominated Mike Rickman as KG Sportsman of the Year. We are sure all club members will agree with us that Mike is an outstanding candidate for the honor.

See ya at training.

Bob Brown

**QUARTERLY
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

NOTICE:
**CHANGE OF MEETING
LOCATION AND DAY**

MON, APR 12, 7:30 PM
BROOKSIDE LIBRARY

ON AND OFF THE CUFF

By MIKE RICKMAN

Welcome new TSC members Steve and Shawn Edwards, David and Janice McHughes, Judi Detjen, Nathan Frazier and Michelle Galloway.

- Welcome new probationary members Dale Pitts and Walter Gourley.
- The Rickman family is tentatively planning our annual (sort of) Independence Day celebration around the Fourth of July. Last year this event was held in September. More information will be provided in the June newsletter but we are looking at Sunday 7/4 or Monday 7/5.



- The Rickman family lost one of their 10 1/2 year old Rotties to cancer on January 7. Beauty had the sweet disposition of her mother and we will miss her very much. Carol Best lost her 11 year old Doberman bitch Calypso on February 23. Calypso had been in poor health for a while and will be greatly missed. Our friends in the sport David and Kim Dockens from Texas lost their SCH3 dog Blitz to torsion, much to soon. The



Jerol Skinner family lost their 9 year old Shepherd bitch Jett to natural causes the end of February. TSC shares in the loss of all these K9 companions.

- Congratulations go out to Jerol Skinner and Farah who got their IPO3 in Arkansas the weekend of March 6 & 7 with a score of 76-83-92 251. Good job.
- 2nd quarter tracking days, 4/3, 5/1, and 6/5. Softball season is upon us and following the Spring trial we will move training back to the old training field just through the gate. Our first session there will be Saturday April 24 and will continue through the summer and early fall. Should be able to return to the ball field in time to prepare for the Fall Trial.
- Spring Trial April 17 & 18, Ray Reid to judge. Come to the April 12 meeting looking for work assignments. This would also be an ideal time for competing club members to turn in entries to the Trial Chairman.
- National Championships June 24, 25, 26, and 27 in Fort Washington Maryland. Judges Leo Muller, Fred Marashi, and Ray Reid.
- MWKG Championship October 1, 2, and 3 in Ashley, Ohio.
- Our condolences go out to Judi Detjen on the loss of her father the end of January.



Birthday's This Quarter:

Gail Brown	Apr 28
Shawn Edwards	May 6
Don Thayer	May 10
Fred Marashi	May 18
Carol Best	May 20
Martha Rickman	June 17
Chelsea Rickman	June 24

HELMUT RAISER IN THE LA TIMES

FEBRUARY 16 2004 AT 1:37 PM

Breeders Hope Court Will Defang New Shepherd's Critic

Germany's traditional working dog has been made weak by show standards, one expert says. Others call his argument all bark.

By Jeffrey Fleishman

BERLIN ~ Helmut Raiser wants the German shepherd to be plebeian and muscular, not a lithe, curvy creature preening and prancing for blue ribbons at dog shows. This aesthetic desire sparked a dog war when Raiser ~ the beleaguered breed warden for the national German Shepherd Assn. ~ criticized some kennels for turning out generations of shepherds that looked less like working dogs and more like weak-backed wimps with no calluses on their paws and no grit to their personalities. This new shepherd, he said, "is a dog in the front and a frog in the back, walking around with a retracted backside as if a brick-stone is hanging from its testicles. The worst is the emptiness in the heads of these dogs, and the boring and stupid expressions on their faces." The ensuing growls have yet to quiet. "Raiser's acting like a dictator," said Clemens Lux, manager of the German Shepherd Assn. based in Augsburg. "We are very sad about it." In a sense, this dust-up of ego, politics and science reflects the stoicism and spirit with which many Germans define national identity. Like Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Richard Wagner and Martin Luther, the shepherd has a cherished meaning in the wider German culture. The dog ~ used by police, rescue teams and the blind ~ epitomizes a strict work ethic and shows how perseverance leads to excellence. The debate has turned into a symbolic struggle of sorts between the working and the well-heeled classes. Wealthier shepherd owners, Raiser says, have flocked to the show dog market, even enticing east German breeders, who before the fall of the Berlin Wall bred utilitarian working dogs for border guards and armies. The result, he says, is a delicate, more urbane shepherd with a slanting back and bad hips that mocks the ideals of Max von Stephanitz, who first organized breeders in the late 1890s.

The most recent storm around the shepherd ~ the dog's appearance has been argued over for years ~ has veered in and out of court since December 2002, when Raiser was elected breed warden, a post that influences canine guidelines across Germany. Raiser's detractors ~ whom he calls "that old show dog mafia" ~ have twice attempted to unseat him. A court ruling on Raiser's fate is expected in May.

One of Raiser's critics is show dog breeder Juergen Wicht. "My shepherds are obedient," said Wicht, manager of Team Fiemereck kennels in Bamberg. "They

are good workers. They train hard for their titles. Raiser has no idea about breeding. He likes controversy, and he's hurting the image of the German shepherd around the world. If you have a product, you don't talk badly about it."

Raiser scoffs. "There's a lot of money in show dogs," he said. "The show people want part of this big cake. They've destroyed a lot in the last 30 years. They're producing a lot of German shepherds not worthy of being called working dogs. These dogs have lost their drive and intellectual capacity." He added: "The anatomy of this new dog has no function. It's handicapped. It's like if your name was Mitsubishi or DaimlerChrysler. You can't ruin your product. We had the name of the best working dog in the world, then suddenly we had fashion." Wicht bristles at the suggestion. "Raiser and his followers are envious. My dogs have no problems with their hips." Lux said Raiser was exaggerating the problems and draping himself in canine righteousness. The German Shepherd Assn., Lux said, has 80,000 members and recognized in the late 1990s that breeding practices by some kennels had to be curbed because their methods were producing "unnatural" dogs. He said only 5% of breeders fit this category. A top shepherd show dog can sell for about \$250,000, compared with about \$5,500 for a pedigree working dog. "We are working against it," said Lux, adding that show dogs with exaggerated features no longer consistently win honors, which will in turn reduce their stud fees and eventually diminish the breed. "We saw that these dogs can't go a long time with the severe angulations. In the hind section, they are very weak," he said. The slanting dogs were a sensation years ago when pictures of them arrived from the U.S. and Britain. "Germans like things from the outside," Lux said. "Germans said, 'That's wonderful. They're so good-looking.' Many didn't think that the shepherd is a working dog. It's a question now of [how] to reverse the trend. Mr. Raiser's way is ridiculous and very radical. He wants to put dogs he doesn't like immediately out of breeding. But you have to go slowly with breeding cycles."

Raiser, who says the dog community considers him either the "messiah, or the devil," wants to purify the bloodlines and restore the pedigree in the 20,000 shepherd pups born each year in Germany. "The danger is the health of the dog," he said. "Today's dogs are old by the time they're 4 or 5 years old. They have problems with their spines, skin and fitness. Ask a policeman. They'll tell you these new shepherds can't walk more than four hours. Blind people won't use them because they're unstable."

Seldom at a loss for words, Raiser summed up: "The old show dog camp hope they make me frustrated so I quit. This is war."

Petra Falkenberg in The Times' Berlin Bureau contributed to this report.

