

July, August, September 2017



# DVG AMERICA

National Schutzhund Magazine

• **WKG Championship Trial**

• **Coast Schutzhund Club Trial**

• **It's All About Body Language**

• **Simple Pet Photography Tips**

**DVG America at the 2017 AWDF Championships**



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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.DVG-America.com](http://www.DVG-America.com)

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On the Cover: Danny Craig with Temple of the Tree's Elf at the 2017 AWDF  
 Photograph by Tim Osborne

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 10 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.
- Members and clubs throughout the United States and Canada



**President:** Annetta Cheek - Email: [dvgamericaprez@fastmail.com](mailto:dvgamericaprez@fastmail.com) Phone 703 772 6785  
**Vice President:** Scott Bakkala - Email: [dvgamericavp@fastmail.com](mailto:dvgamericavp@fastmail.com) Phone 918-791-5911  
**Secretary:** Chris Daugaard - Email: [Lvsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:Lvsecretary@comcast.net) : Phone 772-284-9013  
**Treasurer:** Shanna Burgin - Email: [dvgamerica\\_treas@fastmail.com](mailto:dvgamerica_treas@fastmail.com) : Phone 918-978-9056  
**OFV:** Ted Hartman- Email: [dvgamericaofg@fastmail.com](mailto:dvgamericaofg@fastmail.com) : Phone 909-350-3501  
**LRO:** Hartmut Beckmann - Email: [dvgamericaLro@fastmail.com](mailto:dvgamericaLro@fastmail.com) : Phone 303-697-7729  
**Membership:** Christine Leitzau - Email: [Lvmembership@fastmail.com](mailto:Lvmembership@fastmail.com) : Phone 517-881-3549

LV DVG America Magazine

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# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LV PRESIDENT

Annetta Cheek

For those of you who don't pay attention to the LV's administration, this fall there will be a national election for officers, so you should be thinking about likely candidates for office.

I have two major news items to share with you this issue. First, along with DVG Germany and many other organizations, we are moving to the on-line software Caniva (Caniva.com) as the way to schedule a trial and request a judge. Effective October 1 of this year, clubs will be required to use Caniva to schedule trials. As yet, competitors are not required to use Caniva to enter trials, but I expect that is coming in the next year or so. I encourage you to start using it now. In the long run it will save you time, because once you enter your dog's data the system will store it and the next time you need it you won't have to enter it again.

We have prepared a tutorial on how to use Caniva to schedule a trial. You can find it at <http://dvg-america.com/trial-center/trial-management-tutorial>. We are working on another tutorial describing how to use the system to enter a trial. Watch the website for the notice that it's available. It will be a month or so. One note about Caniva. There is no way to collect a training director or club president's signature on a trial application. DVG Germany informed us that they will no longer require signatures on trial applications. This does not apply to scorebook applications! Those still require a signature.

Secondly, we have launched the new version of the website. It's at the same URL - <http://www.dvg-america.com/>. After many years doing the site as a

volunteer, Shelly Timmerman asked to be relieved of that responsibility so she could focus on the magazine. We decided that was a good opportunity to do a new version of the site. It has several features we haven't had before. Most of the lists, such as the helper and training director lists, are sortable. The map of club locations is searchable, and you can filter results on the calendar to focus your search on a specific region or trial type. Functionality on mobile devices has been improved.

Three major sections of the site focus on

- member resources--joining, forming a club, finding a club, ordering a scorebook, and so on
- trial resources—hosting a trial, finding a trial, entering a trial, going to the Nationals, and so on
- other programs—judges, training directors, helpers, and so on

I hope you find that the site is more useful to you. Of course a website never reaches an ideal state, so we are always open to suggestions for improvement. I'd like to thank the volunteers who helped by commenting on the site during several states of development – Tammy Murray, Pam Feser, Liliana Ribero, Amy Blasdel, and Sarah Hemberger. And once again I'd like to thank Shelly for the many ways she has served this organization over many years.

Annetta Cheek  
President, LV DVG America  
[dvgamericaprez@fastmail.com](mailto:dvgamericaprez@fastmail.com)

## LV DVG America & Magazine Contacts

EDITOR: To submit articles, feature stories or for advertising information:  
Shelly Timmerman - 11110 W Hwy. 318, Reddick, FL 32686  
Phone 352-591-0129  
Email: [dvgamericaeditor@fastmail.com](mailto:dvgamericaeditor@fastmail.com)



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

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

### Midwest KG

Richard Scott  
Treasurer/Membership  
5521 Wilderness Trail  
Whites Creek, TN 37189  
615-528-4429  
Email:  
[topdawg@gr8dogs.com](mailto:topdawg@gr8dogs.com)

### Southeast KG

Wendy Vaughan  
Secretary/Membership  
3308 Conway Gardens Rd  
Orlando, FL 32806  
386-214-3077  
Email:  
[dvgseksec@gmail.com](mailto:dvgseksec@gmail.com)

### Western KG

Jamie Lloyd  
Treasurer/Membership  
PO BOX 218  
Veneta, OR 97487  
541-344-3084  
Email:  
[jamielloyd.hairtoday@me.com](mailto:jamielloyd.hairtoday@me.com)

### KG North

Annie Velletri  
Secretary/Membership  
6208 Winnabago Road  
Bethesda, MD 20186  
301-646-6961  
Email:  
[velatvel@aol.com](mailto:velatvel@aol.com)

# Trial & Event Calendar

DATE	CLUB/EVENT	CITY/STATE	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL	JUDGE
Aug 26	Cache Valley WDC Trial	Ogden, UT	Joanna Pawlak	801-718-7498	asia@xmission.com	TBA
Sept 2-3	SEKG Helper Seminar / Certification.	Umatilla, FL	Kathy Foster	352-636-2921	dvgsoutheastprez@gmail.com	Ted Hartman Phil Hoelcher
Sept 3	Cornhusker SchH Club Trial	Lincoln, NE	Jacki Purdham	402-617-9398	cjpurdham@gmail.com	Lisa Little
Sept 9	Wild West Schutzhund Club Trial	Delano, CA	Britt Coffman	661-412-3647	danika2@gmail.com	Melissa Hepler
Sept 16-17	Cascade Schutzhund Club Trial	Rochester, WA	Les Flores	360-259-9192	les@delasfloreskennel.com	James Akin-Otiko
Sept 23-24	MWKG Helper Seminar / High Point SchH Club	Ward, AR	Larry Kye	501-590 4018		Jani Turkia
Sept 23	Allgemeiner Hundesport Klub Trial	Battle Ground, WA	Michael Ducan			James Akin-Otiko
Sept 30	Mid Tennessee Schutzhund Club Trial	McMinnville, TN	Toni Vernon	931-668-8530		Lisa Little
Oct 6-8	SEKG Championship/Space Coast WDC Trial	Cocoa, FL	Emie Franck		mfwdk9@yahoo.com	TBA
Oct 7	KG North Championship-Commonwealth WDC	Washington, DC	Megan Fairchild	703-999-4363	mfairchild88@gmail.com	TBA
Oct 7-8	The Sirius WDA Trial	Fredericton, NB, Canada	Tammy Murray	506-260-2962	tmurray2010@gmail.com	Lisa Little
Oct 8	NKG IPO Workshop	Commonwealth SchH Club	Annetta Cheek	540-364-2129		John Soares Ted Hartman
Oct 17	Centennial Schutzhund Club Trial	Denver, CO	Faye Manceaux	303-697-7729	hartmut.beckmann@centurylink.com	Amanda Hoskinson
Oct 28	Nebraska Hundesport Club Trial	Omaha, NE	James Akin-Otiko	918-855-4836	otiks.jao@gmail.com	Ann Dolan
Oct 28	Northern Illinois SchH Club Trial	Grayslake, IL	Robert Lee	312-213-9256	boblee3333@comcast.net	TBA
Nov 10-12	MWKG IPO Training Workshop	Interstate WDA	Waine Singleton	708-257-9246		Joel Monroe Ted Hartman
Nov 18-19	Washington DC Area Gebrauchshund Club Trial	Washington DC area	Jennifer Zembower	240-355-7915	jenniferzembower@gmail.com	TBA
Dec 8-10	2017 LV DVG America Championship, hosted by WKG	Merced, CA	Jeanita Davis	661-829-9451	jdavis6@bak.rr.com	TBA

Please note: This calendar is created from the information on the DVG America website. For the very latest in trials, events and information, please visit the site. [www.DVG-America.com/calendar.html](http://www.DVG-America.com/calendar.html)



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

Have you "Liked" DVG America Magazine on Facebook yet? Over 1500 of your friends and fellow DVG America members have and the numbers are still growing!

Weather conditions proved, once again, that training in all conditions is necessary in this sport.

## WKG REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



WKG Winners with Judge Beckmann and apprentice judge Joel Monroe | 2nd-Danny Craig, 1st-Sandra Rushing, 3rd-Marlene Ferguson

The WKG Regional event began officially with the draw. Excitement and anticipation could be felt in the air as competitors, WKG Officers, track layers, decoys, guest, and the judge gathered at the restaurant. Each competitor drew a bottle of adult beverage out of a bucket which indicated their show number. It was an evening that included meeting new people, getting reacquainted with old friends, and sharing stories of past events. The next day dawned early with tracking. The winds howled and the rains drenched competitors and spectators alike. The heroes of the day were the track layers, Don Brooks and Tim Cutter, who spent hours in a torrential down pour along with the track coordinator, Ted Hartman. They laid tracks in conditions few people ever experience, all in the name of "fun". It was impressive to watch dogs and handlers fight the horrific weather conditions together as a team. Any dog tracking with 30 mile an hour winds and hurling rain that stung like bees is a champion in my book. The competitors and spectators huddled together while silently encouraging the teams forward.

A sigh of relief was audible as the dogs downed in the mud for the articles. Weather conditions proved once again, that training in all conditions is necessary in this sport. As the day progressed, the wind raged with a new intensity. Thank goodness, the obedience and protection were organized for the next day. The only events on Friday afternoon and evening were the General Membership Meetings and the WKG Board Meeting. Upon arrival at the meeting venue for the WKG Board, I discovered a closed sliding door with no way to enter the host hotel. The hotel manager smiled, and we physically forced the door open. Yes, the electricity was out due to the storm. It had been going on and off for several hours. Uprooted trees line the highway causing power outages. We proceed to set up the room with the help of Mother Nature's light only. Never underestimate the challenges of nature. Just before the General Membership Meeting, the electricity returned for good. As luck would have it, the day of obedience and protection smiled on the event with a beautiful day. The wind

was calm and the sun greeted the field nicely. Everyone's spirits rose considerably as the dogs and handlers executed beautiful obedience routines. Oh course, in any trial the dogs with do something they have never done before, and handlers will make a few mistakes due to nerves, but overall it was an impressive showing. One of the most delightful things for spectators to watch was the different breeds represented. The repertoire consisted of Malinios, German Shepherds, Rottweilers, and a Doberman. All four breeds were well trained and interesting to watch. Which goes to show, a good working dog is a good working dog. The event progressed and the scores were tight between competitors. The third-place team was only one point behind the second and first place teams. The winner of the event tied with the second-place team and the protection score was the deciding factor. In first place was Sandra Rushing with her dog Njag. In second place was Danny Craig and his dog Dewey. With only one point separating the third-place team, was Marlene Ferguson and her Rottweiler Blackgold's Brix. All the

Adrienne Steimonts



Anne Boyce



Danny Craig



Marlene Ferguson



Megan Barnes



Danny Craig



teams were delightful to watch. Without a doubt, the host club, Hell's Kitchen, worked hard to provide meeting rooms, three different evenings of organized dinners, and plenty of hospitality. I grew to love the local wine. Yep, I brought some back to Colorado. The Regional booklet was nicely done and the raffle was entertaining. Tim Cutter and Weston Kester were the decoys and did an excellent job of catching some hard-hitting dogs. The LRO of DVG America, Hartmut Beckmann was the judge and seemed to enjoy the event and the skill of the competitors. All in all, it was an event

Continued next page

Camilla Hart



Lauren Waters



Continued from previous page

Sandra Rushing



Lori Lippincott



that the WKG members will remember. A special thanks to everyone who participated in the event and attended to support the WKG.

*Faye Manceaux*  
WKG Secretary

Pictures have been provided by Judy Duncan and Jeff Wagner. A special thanks to both of them.

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# Coast Schutzhund Club Trial

Judge: Amanda Hoskinson , Apprentice Judge: Jani Turka , Helper & Tracks: Ted Hartman

Article by: Amy Elias  
Photos by: Ana Lemmer

On January 28-29, 2017, Coast Schutzhund Club hosted one of their annual trials with Judge Amanda Hoskinson & Apprentice Judge Jani Turka. Very unseasonal weather for Southern California with rain for two weeks prior and then 25 mph winds all the way through the event making for some really challenging conditions.

We had 24 entries this time around and only one of our three FH 1s pulled a couple of days before the trial. Two teams tied for "High Scoring Tracking" with 98 (V) points. Danny Craig and his Malinois "Temple of the Tree's Dewey" going for their FH 1 received the award in the end.

Our 11 BHs all did a great job dealing with the winds, everyone passed with flying colors except one dog who decided to run all over the field and off into the crowd of spectators. Our club "Best BH Performance Award" went to Ted Hartman and his German Shepherd "Paxo v. Kraftwerk"

The "High Scoring IPO 1A" went to Amy Elias and her Malinois "Wile E Coyote" with 91-93=184 (SG) points. Our "High Scoring IPO 3" was Linda Calamia and her Doberman "Freddie Mercury" with 92-83-80=255 G. "High Scoring Obedience" went to Elaine Moyers and her German Shepherd "Fire" with 92 (SG) points. "High Scoring Protection" was earned by Feather Cresciman and her Doberman "Tatia" with 96 (V).

As always we would like to thank the club members, spectators, judges, our training director Ted Hartman, for another great event.



# DVG LV-AMERICA



## 2017 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Logo design: mirandamcgeo@gmail.com



**The dates have been set!**  
**The WKG is hard at work to make**  
**this an event to remember!**

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Danny Craig's Temple of the Tree's Elf & helper Markus Hampton



Jennifer Flynn and Moose Von Hugelblick

# 2017 AWDF



Kelly Wells' Spoilenhaus's Ekim & Markus Hampton



Lauren Waters' Rott, Anung un Rama van het Bos with helper Adriel Linyear

Seven handler-dog teams entered this year's American Working Dog Federation (AWDF) National Championship through DVG LV America:  
Jennifer Flynn with Moose Von Hugelblick (GSD) for IPO 3...96-90-90  
Sandra Rushing with Njag van de Verpihoeve (MAL) for IPO 3...81-88-89  
Danny Craig with Temple of the Tree's Elf (MAL) for IPO 3 ...90-88-89  
Kelly Wells with Spoilenhaus's Ekim (MAL) for IPO 3...53-82-90  
Lauren Waters with Anung un Rama van het Bos (ROT) for IPO 3...84-81-90  
Maria Darland with Chromium vom Darland Haus (GSD) for IPO 2 (pulled)  
Joel Monroe with Lakesides Xalbador (ROT) for IPO 3 (pulled)  
Butch Henderson with Arson Von Schlottke (DOB) for IPO 3 (pulled)

Held in Bowling Green, Kentucky from April 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, the weather fluctuated between sunshine, thunder storms, and tornado warnings. Further complications were introduced by a last minute change in the trial field and scheduling changes. The competitors took it all in stride and bonded together, sharing sun shades, water, and supporting each other. DVG members can use the AWDF championship as their qualifier for the DVG National. To use the AWDF championship to enter the DVG National, the dog and handler team must have entered AWDF through DVG, the AWDF championship must be within a year of the DVG National, and the dog and handler team must pass all three phases and receive an "a" TSB rating in protection.

Jennifer Flynn and her dog Moose decided to enter the AWDF championship to use it as a qualifier for the DVG National in California in December. Jennifer and Moose earned the High DVG trophy and enjoyed making new friends and meeting up with old friends. was the camaraderie as they prepared for AWDF together.



Sandra Rushing and Njag van de Verpihoeve & helper Markus Hampton

## DVG LV AMERICA AT THE AMERICAN WORKING DOG FEDERATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF  
TIM OSBORNE





Jennifer Flynn's Moose Von Hugelblick, helper Markus Hampton and judge Pentti Rapila



Kelly Wells and Spoilenhaus's Ekim with helper Adriel Linyear



Sandra Rushing and Njag van de Verpihoeve

Jennifer Flynn & Moose Von Hugelblick



In addition to using the AWDF championship as a qualifier for the DVG National, the AWDF championship also can provide DVG members a route to the FCI World Championship. The top 5 finishers at the AWDF championship make up team U.S.A. and compete at the FCI World Championship. In 2017, the FCI championship will be held in September in Germany. One goal of the DVG Foundation is to provide financial assistance to any DVG member who entered AWDF through DVG and earned a spot on the FCI team. Competing on the FCI team is a tremendous opportunity to showcase the achievements of DVG LV America.

Sandra Rushing traveled to Kentucky alongside a California contingent, including Lauren Waters and Danny Craig. She entered AWDF because she enjoys large trials and had a dog of the proper caliber for a national championship.

After finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at both the USCA Southwest Regional Championship (by 1 point) and the DVG Western KG Championship (tie), Danny decided to make the trek to Kentucky to compete with his dog Elf. In addition to the long distance, finding grass to track on that was comparable to the Kentucky grass was quite a challenge for the California crew. The compensation for overcoming these challenges was the camaraderie as they prepared for AWDF together.

This was Kelly Wells' first AWDF Championship. She had competed at the American Working Malinois Association (AWMA) National Championship in 2014 and at the DVG National Championship in 2016 (3<sup>rd</sup> place!). After years of hard work training, Kelly felt her and Ekim were ready for the AWDF championship. When asked what made her decide to enter, Kelly's response was "My first thought to this question is WHY NOT participate." Kelly was fortunate to compete alongside her coach, Steve Gregalunas, who was also trialing. They were both very proud of Ekim and happy to see that all the training paid off.

All the competitors strongly encourage other DVG members to consider entering next year's AWDF Championship. Danny Craig said, "It's the FCI all-breed National Championship," and the all-breed focus of DVG was reflected in the breed diversity of DVG's entrants.

Congratulations to all the handler-dog teams who entered through DVG!



# SIMPLE PET PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS



## Lighting!!!

### TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE, THE RESULTS ARE DISAPPOINTING.

If you are outside, try to have the sun behind you. Hazy sunlight is nice when you are lucky to have it naturally. Black dogs become a blob with bright sunshine and high contrast. Even pros have trouble under these conditions. Try shooting in early morning or late evening light, or on a cloudy day, maybe try some filtered shade. Indoors, available window light can be used to get the shot. I love to use natural lighting for inside shots...dump the flash completely if possible! The results can be worth it. Make sure the window is behind or beside you and the dog is looking toward it.

Photo: Ikon von der Tetiaroa, IPO 3. Outside, natural lighting.

## Focus!!!

### YOURS AND THEIRS

Your focus should be for the eyes on your pet, especially when you are going for close ups. The camera will tend to focus on what is closest, which is often the nose. Use treats for their attention. I know, duh...but really, that's a huge part of getting their focus! For portrait type shots, be relaxed and don't rush it. When they are calm and relaxed, you can use squeaky toys, whistles and kissy sounds to get them to look at you. An assistant to wrangle them is a great help!

Photo: Jumpin' Jack Flash, IPO 3. Outside, natural lighting.



## Angle!!!

### GET DOWN TO THEIR LEVEL.

The angle of the photo can add interest and make your shot stand out in a crowd. Lie down and shoot at ground level for puppies and smaller dogs, cats and kittens. Let them climb up on large rocks, fallen trees or logs and shoot upward toward them for an interesting perspective.

Photo: Bobo. Outside, early evening lighting.

## Background!!!

### PAY ATTENTION TO MORE THAN YOUR SUBJECT

When possible, be at least 10 feet from your background, more is usually better in this case. And look to make sure that there aren't unwanted objects there. Keep in mind the color of your subject. A dark background and a dark dog won't give great results without fill lights. When you are lining up your subjects outside, try to make sure there are no trees or light poles behind them that will appear to be sticking out of their heads. Try to keep your horizon level and it won't look like your subjects are about to fall out of the frame.

Photo: Quando von der Tetiaroa, BH. Outside, natural lighting.



## Composition!!!

### A RULE OF THIRDS.



An easy way to compose your photos is using the rule of thirds. If you imagine there is a tic tac toe grid on your view finder, put your main subjects where the lines intersect rather than dead center of the frame. Additionally, crop or compose the shot so your subject is moving "into" the picture rather than out of it. Face the subject toward the middle of the frame. ("Rules" are just guidelines, so feel free to be creative and throw them all out the nearest window!)

Think of what is special to your pet. A favorite toy or place to nap. Sometimes a sleepy subject can offer great opportunities...a yawn or a stretch...capture great moments in time. Consider appropriate props and seasonal colors.

In conclusion, whether you are using a digital camera or the latest and greatest smart phone, hopefully some of these tips will help you get better photos of your pet! When trying to grab that perfect shot, there are thousands of pages of help on the web, these are just a few I've found helpful!

All photos and tips from Shelly Timmerman, SHELLSHOTS Photography



## IT'S ALL ABOUT BODY LANGUAGE

*Editor's Note: While this article was written with Police dog handlers in mind, it fits well with our sport!*

By Deborah Palman  
Maine Warden Service, ret.

Almost every year, I assist my local region of the USPCA by judging at their annual Police Dog I (PDI) trials. If you haven't judged at a trial, judging gives one a unique opportunity to observe the effects of stress on working dog teams.

Having competed in approximately thirty PDI trials myself with four different dogs, as well in many Schutzhund and RH dog trials, I understand very well how stressful a trial can be, especially for novice handlers. I took multiple trips to the bathroom or outhouse before competitions just like everyone else.

This year's PDI trial, as usual, started with all the teams doing heeling. I know I always dreaded heeling when I was in a PDI, because it seemed to be the place where things went wrong that I didn't anticipate, even though, after my first dog, I had dogs that usually heeled well. Now that I've successfully trained dogs to heel well in competition, I now know why the heeling portion of the PDI is often the most disappointing phase of obedience for new handlers.

### Why Heeling is Difficult

It's all about the handler's body language. Heeling is a difficult exercise. It has two main training components: the dog maintaining position at the handler's leg and the dog paying close attention to the handler so he can follow or even anticipate the handler's movements. It doesn't really matter which of these components are

taught first, but both must be taught for successful heeling. Competitive heeling drives this performance to a high level, as even a small deviation in the dog's position creates point deductions. To make it harder, after the initial command to start, few if any more commands are allowed. After the first command, the dog has to pay attention and maintain position without any obvious help from the handler. Competitive heeling is really a "dance" with the handler leading and the dog following. Good competitors give their dogs the right "lead" for each turn, halt or change in pace so that the dog can react quickly and correctly. Good competitors carefully practice and program their body movements to give the dog the best communication. Their dogs also pay attention to them, because paying attention results in rewards from the handler for good performance.

### Dogs Communicate with Body Language

Dogs are biologically programmed to communicate with body language. Verbal noises are much less important to them, and when a handler works with their dog, the handler's body language has much more meaning to the dog than voice commands. Handlers and many trainers think that they are teaching the dog to respond to verbal commands, but, in reality, the dog is also looking closely at all of the handler's body language.

You can test this by holding the dog on leash, and assuming the dog knows the command sit, and thinking "sit," but not saying it, but doing all the usual hand motions, body positions and breathing to say "sit" like you normally would. Many dogs will sit, because the handler may lift up on the leash slightly, look at the dog, inhale, and do all the actions that precede or accompany the word sit when it is used. Many dogs will not perform a command unless they see the proper body actions that usually accompany it. Often the handler is making body motions they aren't even aware of, like lifting the hand holding the leash or a hand that usually holds a reward in training. If a handler really wants to test or train verbal commands, he or she should train until the dog responds with the handler's back to the dog or with the dog in another room out of sight.

**"Competitive heeling drives this performance to a high level, as even a small deviation in the dog's position creates point deductions."**

### Dogs Know the Emotional State of their Handlers

Dogs' senses are much keener than ours. They can hear and sense our breathing, our smell, and instantly analyze every movement of our hands, arms and legs. They notice where their handler is looking, the rate, strength and length of the handler's stride, and they can probably hear their handler's heart beating when they are in heel position. Every police dog is emotionally and psychologically tied to their handler. They know what mood the handler is in, whether the handler is sick or tired, and what emotion the handler is experiencing. The handler is the leader, the "god" who hands out the good and bad stuff on a daily basis, and the dog quickly learns what body language is present when the god is angry or pleased.

How would you feel if you arrived at a serious police incident to find your supervisor, the person you need to follow, appearing sick, shaking and unsure? It wouldn't be reassuring, and you would immediately be put on edge. What are your alternatives? Avoid the situation; drag along warily for the duration? Take over for the supervisor who obviously can't do the job, or maybe find someone else to help?

What do we see on the obedience field with our dogs? Some try to leave. Some heel, but poorly and at some distance from the handler, some run to the nearest judge, and some just "take control" and do what they want. Kind of like an officer with a poor supervisor when the chips are down.

Every dog is different and some are more handler sensitive than others. The sensitive ones tend to fold, and the tough ones take over or ignore their handlers. Most patrol dogs are pretty tough, but, given the mental state of some of the novice handlers I see competing, it is a credit to the dogs that they don't run off the field and back to their cruiser.

### Why Competition can be Valuable Training

Yes, competition is stressful, and seems even more so than working on the street, because on the street the handler is in control and not being judged and watched by people who are peers and know good dog work from bad. Street incidents happen relatively quickly, not like a trial where the handler knows what is coming weeks in advance and has plenty of time to get worried. Yet, if a handler can conquer their nerves on the competition field, and train so that they and their dog perform under stress, their street work will be better. Competition can be used to hone a good dog/handler team.

So what happens to the handler when they enter a competition? First of all, they usually invest a great deal of extra training time. Many have to take time off, or have begged their department to attend, pay their own way, etc., or have to compete after working all night, etc. In other words, the handler has investment in the process. This time and financial investment creates an emotional investment. Add to this the pressure of having to perform in front of peers.

So, if the handler lets the emotional stress of entering the competition get to him or her, the handler starts to worry about the performance, getting enough sleep, getting there on time, etc. The stress raises heart rate, sweating, breathing, etc., hormone levels change until the handler is feeling half sick before the competition. The handler's reptilian brain is saying, "Let's get out of here", but the higher brain says, "No, I have to see this through" and the conflict within the handler's body gets worse. It's like the handler's unconscious trying to rush the performance and get it over with, and this changes the handler's body language, voice, gait, everything. Verbal commands are given too quick and too loud. Hand signals are stiff, quick, and jerky. The dog isn't given time to mentally process the changes or the commands. To the dog, the handler even walks funny. The breath inhale before the verbal command that the dog has become used to in training doesn't happen, or it happens and is held for awhile, so the dog doesn't "hear" or see the precursors to the verbal command that the dog is used to. So the dog doesn't sit, or down or heel or whatever, because the dog doesn't see the body language and hear the verbal commands he is used to in training.

If you are new to dog training, you may blame the problems on the dog. If you have some dog training knowledge, you know to blame the training, not the dog. And then you continue to train to perform better next time. What can a handler do to conquer stress? First of all, be aware of what is causing the performance problem. It is not the dog, it is the handler's emotional state. Go back and review all the tips you learned for controlling stress short term. Practice deep breathing, and practice this during training when you are not stressed, just before you start your training routine, so the dog is not freaked out when it happens the first time in competition. The dog will get used to it and it will become part of the "start" routine and body language for the dog. The dog may even deep breath with you!

Second, understand that the dog's performance depends heavily on the handler's emotions and how they affect the handler's body language. Obedience is a dance between handler and dog, but the other phase that is profoundly affected by the handler's emotions is apprehension work. If compulsion and negative handler emotions have been part of the dog's training, and the dog perceives that handler is stressed during competition, the dog will usually do one of two things during apprehension work: fail to bite well and be slow to come to the handler, or become too stressed and lapse into fight drive, failing to let go of the bite and going out of control. In short, the weaker dogs may resort to avoidance of the situation while the stronger dogs resort to fighting too much. Neither type of dog will want to return to the handler on command if the handler is stressed out.

### Training Tips for Good Performances under Stress

Understanding that the handler's mood controls body language can give the handler the motivation to learn how to control their stress. Below are some suggestions on how to train:

- Be aware of your body language as you train in obedience. Take note of when you inhale, exactly how your hand signals are given, how you walk, your footwork on turns, etc. Take note of what body language creates the best dog performance. Refine your signals, and, for heeling, your footwork. Be aware of everything, and standardize everything. I stand at attention for heeling, I walk in a particular way, kind of a half walk, half march, and it looks natural, but it is not the way I walk when I am out for a walk in the woods with my dog. When I walk in heeling mode, the dog knows instantly that we are heeling now, and my very gait serves as a command to follow along. If you can't do this yourself, have someone watch and coach you. You can help your dog immensely with small signals like inhales (dogs that anticipate commands often move prematurely on a loud inhale), a half step in heeling before a turn,



turning your head before a turn, etc., without causing point deductions as long as the movements look natural.

- Standardize your body language and voice commands and practice them, even if you have to do them without the dog to practice obedience routines so you don't confuse the dog. Make it a chance to practice a down stay. Make body movements, breathing and footwork second nature so that you don't have to think about them during the competition, and do them the same way every time. Your dog will thank you.
- Do some training after you have run around the field enough times so that your breathing is rapid and heart rate elevated. Give commands in this state and acclimate the dog to the changes in your commands and body language. This will help for actual deployments as well as for competition.
- Create and practice "prepping routines" for each phase of competition. You can do some prep work before each phase before you are being judged. One of the things I learned from Schutzhund was proper preparation of the dog for each phase. At the last PDI, I saw a few dogs that were taken out of cruisers and on to the field with no preparation, and they were sitting at the start line wondering if this was obedience, articles or bite work. The first "heel" command seemed like a surprise to them, and they were looking around like they just woke up. In Schutzhund trials before obedience, you will see competitors play with their dogs with toys and rehearse some heeling, often leaving the toy with a friend just as they walk on to the field so that the dog thinks they still have the toy; doing a short track, article indication or start pad with food in the grass before tracking; and doing bite work in the parking lot before the protection phase. When these competitors' dogs walk out on the competition field to be judged, they are primed and ready for the activity that is going to take place. Most PDI competitors know that they have to walk their dogs so the dogs have a chance to relieve themselves before an event. Adding a start or prep routine also gives the handler something to do and think about, relieving handlers stress before their turn, and helping to put the dog and handler in sync before the event.
- If it doesn't interfere with the competition, part of the starting routine can be to get the dog out and walk or put the dog in a down stay in the general area so the dog can see what is going on. I used to get my dog out and put him or her in a down stay while I waited for my turn. The dog gets to see what is going on, can acclimate to the noise, sights and smells, and shouldn't be gawking as much during the performance. An exception to this would be bite work if you are trying to keep the dog calm. The PDI rules state you cannot disturb the other teams. I know that a lot of handlers want to keep their dogs cool in the AC before they get them out, but it seems like too many dogs come to the start line without the proper frame of mind for the exercise they are doing.
- Train as if you were going into a competition. Train on a new athletic field rather than your normal training grounds. Train on agility obstacles other than those at your usual training grounds. You will rarely compete on your training grounds and you certainly are unlikely to deploy there. Go to a new place, and practice getting the dog out and doing your startup

routine as if it was a competition. I used to hide toys on new fields and take the dog to the toys during training routines as a reward for good performance. My dogs thought there were toys to be earned through training everywhere we went.

- As you train, and as you perform at the competition, learn to shut out the outside world and concentrate on your dog. This helps to focus you on the most important thing out there, how you and your dog interact. Push the emotion aside and take charge. Notice how you are giving commands and how they affect the dog. If the dog missed a command, how should you practice this to fix the problem? An extra command might be needed, or a different tone of voice. Learn to be "in the moment" and not get emotionally lost over a mistake. Mistakes will happen, so move on. Try to anticipate the next thing you have to do as a handler to maximize performance. Strategize how to get the maximum points out of an exercise. Giving a needed extra command and getting a small deduction is better than losing all the points for a failed exercise.
- Be realistic about your limitations as a team. Measure your performance against the last trial or training, not a perfect score. There are some things that a team may never get right. Older dogs just can't do all the agility obstacles they did when young. Be totally aware of what you as a team can accomplish given your talents, training time and training ability, and don't try to push so hard that you cause your dog or your relationship with your dog to be damaged. If you and your dog can perform in a trial at a level that is 95% or better than what you do in training, you can be proud of that performance, because it tells you that your emotional control and handling are working in a high stress situation.



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- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (Jan-Feb-Mar).....November 30<sup>th</sup>
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (Apr-May-Jun).....February 28<sup>th</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (Jul-Aug-Sep).....May 30<sup>th</sup>
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (Oct-Nov-Dec).....August 30<sup>th</sup>

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*The Trial Results for DVG America magazine come directly from the judge's trial report forms. In the case of handwritten reports, DVG America magazine makes every effort to accurately report the results, but is not responsible for errors that may occur.*

*To reduce the time necessary for corrections and to ensure the most accurate results, it is highly recommended everyone use 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
<b>South Florida Schutzhund Club (Corrected)</b>		<b>Judge: Melissa Hepler</b>			<b>December 3 2016</b>				
Catawba's The Hellion UD40	Sidney Arellana	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Oro (Fernandez)	Mike Fernandez	MIX	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Figo von der Gustav	Liliana Ribero	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Dunga von der Gustav	Jorge Ribero	GSD	BH	IPO 1	95	78	91 a	264 G	IPO 1
Brodie (Wells)	Eric Wells	MIX	BH	IPO 1	73	66	87 a	226 M	–
Donis von Lotta	Donna Blair	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 2	91	83	83 a	257 G	IPO 2
Kyes Midnight Fireshow	Mark Hemmerle	DOB	IPO 3	IPO 3	92	88	85 vh	262 G	IPO 3
Catawba's The Hellion UD40	Sidney Arellana	MAL	BH	FPr 1	21			21 M	–
Figo von der Gustav	Liliana Ribero	GSD	BH	FPr 1	96			96 V	FPr 1 (TR 1)
<b>Washington DC Area Gerbrauschund Club</b>		<b>Judge: James Akin-Otiko</b>			<b>December 3 2016</b>				
Family Dobes Celeste Corazon	Juergen Winkler	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Nubia's Usual Suspect	Amanda Krieg	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Lakota's Honor Code Pawnee	Jackie Anderson Parker	BOUV	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Indie von Waffle	Kirsten Versaggi	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Ace Crumb	Brian E Crumb Sr.	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Gia von Jordan Haus	Carrie Adams Buoy	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Isen vom Kavallerie	Deanna Evans	GSD	BH	IPO 1	84	80	94 a	258 G	IPO 1
Von der King's Lo Nease	Michael Nease	DSH	BH	IPO 1	93	83	94 a	270 SG	IPO 1
Land the Machine Nogosek	Lance Nogosek	DSH	IPO 1	IPO 2	95	90	94 a	279 SG	IPO 2
Remington Whiskey	Kirsten Versaggi	MAL	IPO 1	IPO 2	80	77	88 vh	245 G	IPO 2
Pi 3.14159	Robert Walker	MAL	IPO 2	IPO 3	77	77	78 a	234 B	IPO 3
Cara's Argus My Paladin	Juergen Winkler	DOB	IPO 3	FH 1	45			45 M	–
<b>Delta Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>Judge: Melissa Hepler</b>			<b>March 4-5, 2017</b>				
Javin's Riley	Craig Javins	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Lothlorien Zirak-Zigil	Carma Cleveland	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Legato's Flynn Ryder	Linda Booker	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Sir Ruger von Jotter King	Lisa Alvis	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Addie vom Kanone	Craig Javins	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Mohawks Gideon	Paula Daigle	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	

# Trial Results

Dog's Name	Handler's Name	Breed	Prior Title	Attempted Title	A	B	C	Total	Title Awarded	
<b>Delta Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>(Continued)</b>			<b>Judge: Melissa Hepler</b>			<b>March 4-5, 2017</b>		
Piramida del NASI	Michael Durant	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Dia vom Heinolf	Daren Olson	GSD	BH	IPO 1	72	78	82 vh	232 B	IPO 1	
Loverboy von Saltztalblick	Vicki Roye	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 2	DQ				–	
Hercules vom Schattendal	Robert Holley	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 2	85	78	84 a	247 G	IPO 2	
Uno vom Glockner Haus	Mary Scanlon	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	88	87	88 a	263 G	IPO 3	
Lothlorien's Avari the Dark Elf	Bunny Lanning	DOB	BH	UPr 1		82		82 G	UPr 1 (OB 1)	
Sadie	Tammie Olson	MIX	BH	FPr 1	80			80 G	FPr 1 (TR 1)	
Esmonds Eragon	Chrystal Freeman	ROT	IPO 1	UPr 2		87		87 G	UPr 2 (OB 2)	
Esmonds Eragon	Chrystal Freeman	ROT	IPO 1	FPr 2	84			84 G	FPr 2 (TR 2)	
Indiana vom Landgraf	Linda J Kye	DOB	FPr 2	FPr 3	90			90 SG	FPr 3 (TR 3)	
Hightailing Howler Walter	Faith Pawlik	MIX	FPr 3	FH 1	12			12 M	–	
Ola vom Teufelhund	Carma Cleveland	GSD	FH 2	IPO FH	87			107 M	–	
<b>Gateway Working Dog Club</b>		<b>Judge: Ted Hartman</b>			<b>March 20, 2017</b>					
Bruce vom Gildaf	Kayla Forbes	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Charly Sapa von Wolfram	Richard Lees	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Malinger's Presto Dante	Virginia Lee Hunter	MAL	BH	IPO 1	99	93	91 a	283 SG	IPO 1	
Captain Milo	Robert Wideman	GSD	BH	IPO 1A		81	95 a	176 G	IPO 1A	
Brando von Geyershorn	Ann Dolan	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	94	90	79 a	263 G	IPO 3	
<b>Highway Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>Judge: Melissa Hepler</b>			<b>April 1-2, 2017</b>					
Magic Laroja	Kevin Harris	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Drogo Daroosh ot Vitosha	Eugenio Fuentes	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Darcy's Home Aric	Louise Ballinger	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Ragnar Lothbrok vom Rheinstahl	Gustavo Navarro	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Loki vom Ruffhaus	Shelly Timmerman	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Quando von der Tetiaroa	Jill Doherty	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Xephyr ot Vitosha	Helen Trapp	MAL	BH	UPr 1		88		88 G	UPr 1 (OB 1)	
Xephyr ot Vitosha	Helen Trapp	MAL	BH	SPr 1			94 a	94 SG	SPr 1 (PR 1)	
Lux God of War	Dan Beitelschies	MAL	BH	IPO 1	98	86	95 a	279 SG	IPO 1	
Dunga von der Gustov	Jorge Ribero	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 2	94	82	90 a	266 G	IPO 2	
Chiara vom Rommelhaus	Karen Ault	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 2	94	78	88 a	260 G	IPO 2	
Boyka ot Vitosha	Zenopia Boyle	MAL	IPO 3	IPO 3	88	91	95 a	274 SG	IPO 3	
Dijon of Black Dog Farm	Anita Guard	GSD	IPO 3	IPO 3	96	84	91 a	271 SG	IPO 3	
Donis von Lotta	Donna Blair	GSD	IPO 3	IPO 3	86	83	93 a	262 G	IPO 3	

# Trial Results

Dog's Name	Handler's Name	Breed	Prior Title	Attempted Title	A	B	C	Total	Title Awarded	
<b>Highway Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>(Continued)</b>			<b>Judge: Melissa Hepler</b>			<b>April 1-2, 2017</b>		
Angel vom haus Franck	Ben Julich	GSD	IPO 3	IPO 3	16	82	90 a	188 M	–	
Cadance ot Vitosha	Ruth Gimpel	MAL	IPO 3	IPO 3	95	81	91 a	267 G	IPO 3	
Loki vom Ruffhaus	Shelly Timmerman	GSD	BH	FPr 1	88			88 G	FPr 1 (TR 1)	
Figo von der Gustav	Liliana Ribero	GSD	FPr 1	FPr 2	72			72 B	FPr 2 (TR 2)	
Blackheart Atrevido	Renee Michel	DOB	FPr 1	FPr 3	74			74 B	FPr 3 (TR 3)	
Gladiator's of America Briosa	Renee Michel	DOB	FPr 2	FPr 3	10			10 M	–	
<b>Endeavor Working Dog Club</b>		<b>Judge: Jacki Purdham</b>			<b>April 29, 2017</b>					
Sublime's Andale	Susan Ramsay	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Cros von den Alten Bergen	Meghan McLaughlin	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Chili Brigade's C'Sparkles	Ekatarina Davydenko	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Sublime's Banzai	Brent Hudspeth	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
M'Zoe du Loups du Soleil	Dale Mason-Newell	MAL	BH	IPO 1	70	72	92 vh	234 S	IPO 1	
Elka vom Haus Dooling	Marsha Boggs	GSD	BH	IPO 1	DQ			Out of control		–
Isotope du Loups du Soleil	Amanda Robertson	MAL	IPO 1	IPO 2	85	82	70 vh	237 S	IPO 2	
Anzo du Loups du Soleil	Laurie Paffett	MAL	IPO 2	UPr 3		80		80 G	UPr 3 (OB 3)	
Anzo du Loups du Soleil	Laurie Paffett	MAL	IPO 2	SPr 3			80 a	80 G	SPr 3 (PR 3)	
Vili vom Wendelin	Dave Ashley	GSD	BH	FPr 1	83			83 G	FPr 1 (TR 1)	
Cabazon's Eleanai Be Traist	Susan Ramsay	MASTF	FPr 2	FPr 3	74			74 B	FPr 3 (TR 3)	
<b>Allgemeiner Hundesport Klub</b>		<b>Judge: Ted Hartman</b>			<b>May 6, 2017</b>					
Blazin's Drago	Kenneth Simpson	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Kanaan Alma de Hierro	Bobby Lavin	BOX	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Prince Djuke von Evman	Patrick Nesbitt	ROT	IPO 3	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Blazin's Calissi	Nick Blasdel	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Condor von Hohenhameln	Mike Duncan	ROT	BH	IPO 1	70	79	85 a	234 S	IPO 1	
Von Sarco's Gemma	Woodrow Bright	ROT	IPO 2	IPO 3	73	77	76 vh	226 S	IPO 3	
Nedric vom Haus Reid	Scott Weaver	GSD	BH	FPr 1	72			72 S	FPr 1 (TR 1)	
Beka von het Bos	Woodrow Bright	ROT	BH	UPr 1		85		85 G	UPr 1 (OB 1)	
<b>Alexandria Schutzhund Group</b>		<b>Judge: Hartmut Beckmann</b>			<b>May 6-7, 2017</b>					
Sulvain Edolon Akela	Valentin Puscasu	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Arrack's Home Rocco	Jim Hagstrom	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Oberon von Wildhaus	Leesa Foster	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Catawba's Hell Bent fur Leather	Susan Miller	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	
Voltair Extra Temperament	Susan Miller	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden				BH	

# Trial Results

Dog's Name	Handler's Name	Breed	Prior Title	Attempted Title	A	B	C	Total	Title Awarded
<b>Alexandria Schutzhund Group (Continued)</b>		<b>Judge: Hartmut Beckmann</b>			<b>May 6-7, 2017</b>				
Egon Mir-Jar	Michael P Johnson	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Carra's Moselle von Saar	Shannon Avakian	DOB	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Leah Haus Juris II	Steven Pratscher	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Cirus Chy-Ja	Annie Velletri	GSD	BH	IPO 1	96	83	89 a	268 G	IPO 1
Livingston N Kreative	Charles Countess	GSD	BH	IPO 1A		71	80 a	151 B	IPO 1A
Iko Van Gogh	Nancy French	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 2	79	70	85 a	234 B	IPO 2
Ebon Easy	Walker Woods	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 2	76	77	70 a	223 B	IPO 2
Pigott's Man on Fire	Gary Pigott	APBT	IPO1A	IPO 2A		80	86 a	166 G	IPO 2A
Talia	Kari Greenway	DSH	IPO1A	IPO 2A		64	85 a	149 M	–
Jason van de Verpihoeve	Terri Spahn	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	89	70	93 a	252 G	IPO 3
I'Grip by Yellow Dog	Melissa Hepler	MAL	IPO 2	IPO 3	78	83	93 a	254 G	IPO 3
Estrellest Upsider	Katrin Mänd	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	94	89	TERM		–
Axa Prima Sudo	Susan Miller	MAL	FH	FH	99			99 V	FH
<b>Tulsa Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>Judge: Amanda Hoskinson</b>			<b>May 6, 2017</b>				
Griffin vom True Haus	Keli Harrell	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Nikko	JoAnna Haynes	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Nadia vom Kolossal Haus	Andrew McConohy	GSD	BH	IPO 1	DQ Out of control			–	
Kayne vom True Haus	Shar Moore	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 2	72	85	88 a	245 G	IPO 2
Imzedriff's Axwell	Stephen Burgin	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	84	93	94 a	271 SG	IPO 3
Riddick vom Bohemia	Michelle Bracht	MAL	IPO 1	FPr 2	99			99 V	FPr 2 (TR 2)
Ario	Dave van Garderen	MAL	VPG 3	FH	95			95 SG	FH
Vargas Lector Teil	Herminio Vargas	GSD	BH	FH	80			80 G	FH
<b>Washington DC Area Gebrauchshund Club</b>		<b>Judge: Amanda Hoskinson</b>			<b>May 20-21, 2017</b>				
K9 Konzept's Drago	Kathryn Hoffman	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Logan	Roger Simpson	MIX	BH	IPO 1	72	80	82 a	234 B	IPO 1
Isen vom Kavallerie	Deanna Evans	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 2	89	89	90 a	268 G	IPO 2
Liberty's Porthos	David Davitaia	BOUV	IPO 2	IPO 3	82	88	94 a	264 G	IPO 3
Cara's Argus My Paladin	Juergan Winkler	DOB	IPO 3	FH	96			96 V	FH
Grumby vom Hellerwald	Jennifer Zembower	DOB	FH 1	FH 2	90			90 SG	FH 2
Sylvain Edolon Akela	Valentin Puscasu	MAL	BH	AD	PASS			AD	
Lakota's Dawn Assault Felony Navajo	Deanna Evans	BOUV	BH	AD	PASS			AD	
Family Dobes Celeste Corozen	Juergan Winkler	DOB	BH	AD	PASS			AD	
Sisco von Karthago	Brian Ciszczon	GSD	BH	AD	PASS			AD	



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[sales@allk-9.com](mailto:sales@allk-9.com)

1506 West Browning Ave Fresno CA  
(866) 342-9295

