

# INTERACTIONS BETWEEN the "Show lines" and "Working lines"

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the breeder of the BSZS 2005 - VA3 Oprah di Fossombrone

(translation by Fred Lanting - Sept. 2005)

The possibility of selecting a subject with excellent morphological attributes (structure and form) coexisting with an equally high quality of character, is presented these days as not attainable. The dichotomy between the various (genetic) selection pressures seems to generate a more and more obvious division between the developing types in regard to selection for training and/or anatomy.

Many of the big powerful trotters in the show ring, with their ample length of stride and notable size, seem less suitable for producing strong nerves, "middle tonicity" (body firmness/dryness), unexaggerated form, and the ability to be outstanding in training. In some of these dogs, their character attributes do not sufficiently satisfy the expectations of training enthusiasts. On the other hand, rarely does a "champion of training" display the anatomical traits necessary to attract the breeders' attention.

By the way, it is opportune here to remember that the one and only prerequisite to take part in the tests of training [SchH, IPO, Agility, Herding, etc.] in Germany is the possession of a certificate of origin (pedigree statement) recognized by the FCI without another limitation. It is a concept that, certainly, does not favor the possibility to develop and expand breeding lines in a useful sense (except through the good intentions of individual breeders). An absurd case we can give could be that of a BSP Sieger that is not usable in breeding. [For the novice reader, the BSP is the German National Schutzhund Championship event, and the BSZS is the conformation "Sieger Show".]

Is this an inevitable and irreversible tendency? Or is it not perhaps that in the quest for the extremes, (as much in one camp as the other), the breed degenerates into "hyper" or "hypo" types (too much or too little of specific traits) whether they be morphologic (body style) or temperament?

The Standard, the chosen instrument for the selection of the breed and its expression, if it is correctly applied, resolves a great part of the problems in such a debate.

A deep culture of canine science and clear objectives must be required of those who must apply the standards of such selection, and the great teachers have demonstrated to what level the breed can arrive if it is well managed. A brief excursion into the split during the 1960s set down is clear proof that, in the face of very demanding requests on the part of those responsible for verification (judging), the breeders and the breed know how to

respond and make it happen. Medium size, solid character, pigment, variety of bloodlines were obtained and rewarded in abundance.

An analysis, although superficial, of the most recent BSP bloodlines shows how great an influence the winners of the [early] Bundessiegerhauptzuchtschau (Sieger Shows) are in the foundations of the working lines.

Note the case of **Sieger Alf Nordfelsen** through **VA2 Mutz Pelztierfarm** (much used in the Vello Sieben Faulen line), and of Nico von Haus Beck.

Vello's children 1967 Sieger Bodo Lierberg and his brother VA3 Bernd Lierberg (also in 1967) and other brothers have very positively influenced GSD breeding as a whole. In the VA (excellent select) classification, the two brothers presented the following parameters: Bodo 63 cms, 41 kgs (90lbs); Bernd was 64 cms, and 43 kgs (95 lbs). In the critique of Bernd by the judge Dr. Funk, we read: "...although I see a little defect in him: with some centimeter less he would look better". This line notably through Erich Orschler's Boss Amalienhof, has given the gray (sable) Wanko Maarau (VA, 1981), whose bloodline is present at the BSP of 2003.

Another **Sieger, 1972's Marko Cellerland** (64 cms, 40 kgs), son of the exemplary HGH dog Kondor Golmkauer Krug, has been used amply in BSP lines, and is still present, as well as the black VA Frei Gugge (63 cms, 39 kgs/86 lbs), whose attack work in the 1969 BSZS the public applauded with a standing ovation. Both specimens came from Erwin Bork's property. Frei, "the black devil", as he was described by Piero Alquati, has given, among many interesting participants in the BSZS, the female Freia Steinbockfelsen on whom it is possible to bestow or ascribe present-day genealogical relevance. Furthermore, a son of his, the BSP Sieger Enno Antrefftal, was also the father of Roland Wohrabrücke (1979, 63.5 cms, 34 kgs/75 lbs), and of the BSP Sieger Drigon Fuhrmannshof.

**VA2 (1971) Quanto Wienerau** also has generated lines utilized in BSP examples such as the 2003 BSP Sieger Attaque Adelegg.

Another Quanto W. son, Ali Katzenbuckel, has given good specimens used in training, and through the daughter Otti Trienzbachtal, he has characterized the products of Leopold Bucher's breeding program.

Kennels such as **Busecker Schloss** of Alfred Hahn, and **Kirschental** of Karl Fuller, still active, have demonstrated how it is possible to combine working abilities and morphologic (beauty) traits on a high level. [Fred's added note: Hahn is no longer. The kennel name is owned by someone who bought the business.]

**Busecker Schloss**, several times winner of Sieger Show Kennel Groups and having several in the VA group, has influenced many lines with both factors, overall through the descendants of the brothers 1966 JHKL Sieger Sirk and VA Seffe Busecker Schloss, both having sired litters of 12 pups. Sirk and Seffe were sons of VA Bernd Lierberg.

**Kirschental**, well-known for the 1988 BSZS Sieger Eiko Kirschental (63.5 cms, 31 kgs/68 lbs) through the years has attained the highest prestige from such offspring as: 1967 VA2 Senta, 1967 VA3 Perle, 1974 VA Xanta, 1976 VA Nanni, and 1981 VA Xitta HGH.

Memorable is the N-litter Kirschentel of 11 pups of Asslan Klämmle x Isa Kirschentel, a daughter of Eros Busecker-Schloss (Mike Bungalow x Seffe Busecker-Schloss), where in addition to the above-cited VA Nanni, there were five other VA dogs, such as Nimi, mother of Lasso di val Sole, from the VA Xitta who was, in turn, mother of the Sieger Uran Wildsteiger Land son, Sieger Eiko Kirschentel.

Another brother, Negus Kirschentel has sired numerous notable progeny, among which is the famous producer Zello Blue Iris, born of the mother of the Adeloga line x Freia Steinbockenfelsen (Frei Gugge daughter). 1979 JHKL Sieger Zello, (V5 in 1980) is a fusion of the prestigious Canto-Quanto line and bearer of the maternal lines of Busecker Schloss, Kirschentel, and Frei Gugge.

Naturally, many other breeders have successfully persisted in such a fusion of show and working lines. The **1976 VA Herzog Adeloga** (63.5 cms, 33.5 kgs/74 lbs) joined the line of Sieger Dick Adeloga with a maternal line based on Mike Stahlhammer (another nursery with successes in both fields) and Valet Busecker Schloss, accomplishing a quality cross, next transmitted to the Arminius (Fedor) line through Fee Weiherturken. [You can see Fred pictured with Herzog in the book “The Total GSD” — [www.hoflin.com](http://www.hoflin.com) ]

The stupendous **1980 Sieger Axel von Hainsterbach** (63.5 cms, 31 kgs), an example of class, type, movement, was born of Lasso di Val Sole x Paet Blue Iris (a Bodo Lierberg daughter descended from Frei Gugge through the above-cited Freia Steinbockenfelsen). Axel, who arrived at the title unexpectedly when almost 4 years of age and likewise disappeared very quickly, left at least one offspring of great worth in the daughter VA Ica Wienerau, who descends along her maternal line from Mutz, Lido, Jalk, Fello, Mutz, Sirk Busecker Schloss, and Bernd Lierberg.

Ica is Sieger Zamb Wienerau's mother. Her pedigree is an authentic work of art, combining lines carrying heterogeneous quality percolating through the generations until resulting in a specimen of great effect, materialized in Zamb as the final result; this shows that not only through the males is it possible to progress, to conduct positive action of far-reaching effect.

One of the mother-lines sustaining the modern bloodlines in the breed is **Wilma Kisselschlucht**. She was mother of Xando and Xaver Arminius, and of Yanka and Flora Koeingsbruch, arising in paternal line from Bodo Lierberg and in maternal line from Valet Busecker Schloss. The [incomparable] Q-litter Arminius is along the same bloodlines as Wilma. The return to the line Wilma made through Natz Hasenborn – Dax Wienerau (Jupp Haller Farm from the lines of Mutz and Bodo Lierberg) through Flora (Canto x Wilma) has produced, with Quana Arminius, the great producer Cello Romerau, a good transmitter of valuable characteristics. [*FL* note: there is more to Cello from the Q-litter and less (if any at all) from what the pedigree shows as his sire.]

The combining of Zamb and Cello in the lines is last of these examples, but still today it validates the alchemy of breeding practiced by Walter Martin; this formula was also repeated by Erich Orschler in producing Verena Batu, mother of Sieger Ursus.

Among the best kennels, Martin Göbl (WilsteigerLand) considered it necessary to introduce at a certain moment of his work, a female of alternative lines, capable of contributing benefits in structure and character: **Gina Finkenschlag**.

To Gina was born Dando Nordrheinland (a strong, well-pigmented, very vigorous relative of Dingo Haus Gero, carrying very similar bloodlines as that of Bodo and Bernd Lierberg), by a female linebred on Marko Cellerland with Dolf Lierberg blood. The excellent result of this included the great producer Marit and the VA Xena Wildsteiger Land.

This subject cannot be exhausted in a brief article that can, at the most, merely approach the revelation of some very interesting genealogical sketches. A complete genealogical investigation is complex and also of difficult interpretation, by the relevance that sometimes we desire to give consideration to "the reproducer", a dog that is presumed to be equipped with the metaphysical power to make princes out of toads.

Reality is difficult and very complex, and only careful studies and attentive validations can try to shed light on the value of planned crosses and on variables that have proven to be successful.

We must pay homage to those who have made possible the evaluation and quality of the breed to a high level. I think about those who have bred and judged; they have been underestimated and opposed. The name of **Dr. Rummel** certainly must be included with those who, with this task, have conferred splendor and energy to the breed. Many bear in mind the work of his successor **Herman Martin** on behalf of the German Shepherd. Perhaps **Peter Messler** has been less understood, but his work followed the furrow plowed by Rummel — a tradition of a quest for subjects that show all of the possible variables of the many-faceted abilities of the breed. Among his "alternative views", it is possible to cite the 2001 **Vice-Sieger** sable **Timo Berrekasten**, son of Wanko Lippischen Norden (Enzo Burg Aliso by a maternal line going back to Dax Wienerau, Dax Kesmarker Tranke, BSP Sieger Racker Itzal, and Rocco and Seffe Busecker Schloss) to whom only the hostile environment of certain breeders has denied the maximum laurel of the Sieger title.

As well as the VA **Quartz dei Templari**, who still arises from secondary show lines, by means of repeated uses of the line of Wilma, Herzog, Mutz, and Vello, he represents an ideal type of the modern German Shepherd of splendid anatomy and optimum character. Concluding with Frei Gugge, he is behind several show dogs such as **Ghandi Arlett**, whose complex line-breeding illustrates much of what I have exposed in this article.

Joining Timo, Quartz and Ghandi? It is possible, and has good promise of success. Type, pigment, dynamic energy, nerves, and reaction should emerge in the descendants. Certain types are not exclusively in the past; on the contrary, current selection has permitted us to fine-tune and enrich the quality of the dogs. Surely it is not a matter of a kind of "fad" or "political" combination, but in my search I have not found these definitions of connection in the Breed Standard.

.....And right now I have accomplished the union.

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*FL notes: Alarico is owner of Kennel Fossombrone,*

<http://www.difossombrone.it/main5%20P.htm>. This is the translation from Spanish, as I am not conversant or literate in Italian. His brother, Dario Sgroi, is the webmaster of the Forum Italiano del Pastore Tedesco:

<http://x.forumpastoretedesco.org/public/Forum/index.php?sid=477580e1cc624c060908b9ac09efe2ba>

and I was asked to translate into English, because they and their South American friends think we have a similar vision about this topic. They flatter me by calling me “a very important person in the GSD world”. (“Outspoken and experienced” might be more accurate!) The Italian version of the article is at: <http://x.forumpastoretedesco.org/public/Forum/viewtopic.php?t=3133>

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