

## THE ROTTWEILER WORLD IN GERMANY TODAY

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*Sincere thanks to all those Rottweiler enthusiasts and breeders across the world who have shared with me their knowledge and views on the subject.*

*The Dogs / Bloodlines discussed in the following article represent the cream of the German Breeding programme. Each of them as very prominent studs brings value to the breed. The intention of the author is to highlight the issues observed on these dogs/ bloodlines such that breeders could compliment these issues appropriately in their own breeding programme.*

When I think about at the way the panel of ADRK Judges has picked the Klub Seiger over the last two years, I can't help but think if they are sending out a message to the breeders and enthusiasts around the world.

Both years they have not made their pick from the Champion class, and that to me seems strange. A few years ago breeders liked to bring in to their bloodlines extremity and flashiness.

The head type underwent a major change. This revolution was led by Mambo Crossener Ranch and soon breeders in Europe (Germany and rest of Europe) bred for this type. Impressive stops, short muzzle and pronounced occiput, extreme hinds, steeper croups, and extreme topline became the fad of the day.



Mambo Crossener Ranch

The result of these breeding efforts brought in dogs that looked impressive when stacked German style and were loaded with an Omph Factor about them. These dogs breezed through their titles and were champions with ease.

What quickly got left behind were traits of effective and efficient movement, working drive and correctness of mouth. All these being so cardinal to the qualities of a “True Rottweiler”

Many of the favorite dogs were plagued by these traits, Dogs like Gino Berghalbinsel, Rex Bleichstrasse, were those whose movement was to say the least disappointing. Dogs like Vico Kressbach, Djuke Vilstarland, are examples of those dogs that were dismal in their working trails. Amigo Schwaiger Wappen one of the best sons of Mambo in my mind should have been just more DOG.



Gino Berghalbinsel



Rex Bleichstrasse



Djuke Vilstarlerland



Amigo Schwaiger Wappen

There was never a dilution of the breed survey tests but the instances for incorrect bites and extremity has definitely increased across Europe. Given this backdrop the Judging Panel of the ADRK to my mind has retraced the path a bit and has been picking up winners from the Working class. The importance of correct heads and muzzles, working drives, fluid Movement, seems to be ever so important now.

The other older issues that breeders had and are still dealing with seem to be Elbow Displasia (ED), Mouth Pigment and Working Drive. I shall dwell a bit on each of these issues in the same order of sequence.

*Note:*

*The 3 issues listed above are not exhaustive but they are among the more commonly noticed.*

ED testing has been in vogue far less than HD testing and breeders are yet to get a handle on this health issue. In Germany ED++ (grade 2) is still tolerated and dogs with this score are allowed for breeding. Nordic Countries are less tolerant and restrict to ED+ (grade1).

*Note:*

*The most desirable being HD Frei and ED Frei.*

*'-' denotes HD Frei and ED Frei*

*'+/-' denotes Normal and*

*'+' denotes Grade 1*

Some breeders had made the mistake of line breeding on bloodlines that were prone with ED. A classic example is Mambo Teufelsbruke, who along with his favorite son Akino Lauterbruke generally seem to increase the occurrence of this problem with more concentration of this blood into their lines. This line is also notorious for pink pigmentation of the lips and gums.



Mambo Teufelsbruke

Akino Lauterbruke

Some folks say, “What’s so important about the mouth pigment”, why do we insist on dark mouth and dark lips. It’s after all cosmetic. The answer is that it is “Breed Type”, in other words it is as important as having the Rottweiler with black and Tan markings and a black nose.

There are studies that link the mouth pigment to the health of the dog (internal organs etc) but I am more guided by the need for it to be Breed Type.



A typical head - Note the dark, almost black brown lips and Gums, even the corners of the mouth are the same shade of Black Brown. No pink spots or patches.

Working Drive is something that has been debated long enough, “how much of drive is desirable?” That being the question that always pops up and given the fact that our breed has been listed as a dangerous breed in a few countries it is imperative to look at what one

means by good working drive.

Years ago, it was not uncommon to find dogs that were extremely hard (excessive aggression) and needed to actually have dumbbells inserted in their mouth to do a dental examination during shows. Some breeders used to be proud about the number of people whom their dog bit.

Breeders needed to tone down the hardness and breed for trainability and clarity of mind, willingness to work and retain the hardness to protect (prey drive being more desirable than defensive drive).

In the path to tone down the hardness many lines lost a fair bit of the working ability and willingness to work. Many breeders abandoned their older bloodlines and based their future breeding on dogs that conformed to the more fashionable type. The head type that recently came into vogue further diluted the ability to work as the shot muzzle and pronounced / domed heads made it anatomically difficult for the dogs to retain the required bite and grip for good protection work, as it is harder for respiration and they do bring in high degree of intolerance to heat.

On the other hand some of the working kennels still have dogs that are not clear in their mind (when aroused/ agitated)

Today in Germany, one can broadly classify breeders into 3 categories:

- a) Pure Working Breeder- These are breeders to whom Dog sport and Sch / VPG mean the world and are not / less interested in breed shows
- b) Show Breeder- These breeders are those that are interested in producing flashy and beautiful looking Rottweilers with extremities, they are not focused on working drive and other aspects of the breed.
- c) The “Complete Rottweiler” Breeder- These are breeders who strive toward producing a “Rottweiler that looks and works like what a Rottweiler should” in short the “True Rottweiler”

Unfortunately, very few breeders still remain in last category (C). For the others it is simply too difficult to breed the working drives into the flashy dogs. It appears a tad easier to breed into the working dogs the flashy and attractive traits that are in vogue, if done cleverly that is.

Some of the old working lines that have been successfully included by breeders of the “Complete Rottweiler” (category C) into the modern Rottweiler bloodlines are:

*Note: all pedigree's that have these bloodlines are not necessarily dogs that have show and working qualities.*

- A) Frisko V Schloss Haus Frost, Fjordbakkens Andy, Aki V PeelerHutte, and progeny of these lines
- B) Anton V Hein, Ambassador V Freienfels, Arri and Basko V Hertener Wappen and progeny of these lines
- C) Ken V Sternbogen, Grief Oberhausener Norden, Addi, Andor, Alex Herrenholz and progeny of these lines
- D) KaroV Schwaiger Wappen, Carlo V Hamburger Michel, Kai V wildberger Schloss, Igor Muthmansdof and progeny of these lines
  
- E) Dingo and Danjo V Schwaiger Wappen , Barry &Bronco V Bakkes, Dago V Bakkes, Costa Vd Asternhohe and progeny of these lines
  
- F) Falco Von der Tente, Ingo vom Fusse der Eifel, Greif v Mortizberg, and progeny of these lines

The Korung (Advanced Breed suitability tests that are conducted 4 times a year) have been witness and in many ways a measure to how successful breeders have been on getting a handle on the working ability.

One thing that strikes a positive chord is every serious “Complete Rottweiler” breeder (Category C) in Germany today goes to these Korung's and looks at the dogs that participate there. It is here that they shortlist likely candidates (dogs with the right working drive and good show record) that they will use for their future breeding.

It's not enough that the dog has passed his ScH III/ VPGIII, a stud dog needs to bring in more. The Korung is where that possible “more” from a working ability trait (Tracking, Obedience and Protection) and physical attributes (measurement of body from a breed survey perspective stand point) is measured.

In a matter of speaking, passing an exam with good scores is not equal to possessing mastery of curriculum and improvising upon it.

In my view, some Rottweilers that have well established their mark in the last 5 years as those that embody correct breed type and strong working drives are Orlando Hause



Neubrand and Ambassador Shambala as Studs and special mention to Oxana Hause Neubrand as a female she brings in great looking dogs with super drive and working ability.



Oxana Hause Neubrand

Case and point being Valentino Hause Neubrand, Enrico Hause Neubrand and Ives Hause Neubrand who just became the Deutsche Obedience champion yesterday with 286 points.



Ambassador Shambala



Orlando Hause Neubrand

Orlando and Ambassador have consistently been producing correct breed type with good HD/ED scores; good working drives and corrects anatomy in line with the modern standards. The proof of this can be seen in the stud book, both Ambassador and Orlando are almost eight and half years old and they both are still in the top 10 most solicited studs list. This has been the case for almost the past 5 years.

Every year the Stud book sees its share of flashy dogs and fashionable lines. Names that have been on this list included the very fashionable Fax v Tengen, Odo Fleischer, Chan Bleischstrasse, Xamos Wolfertum, Cujo Weibertreu, and more recently Filou Rawberweg, Rex Bleischstrasse, Gino Berghalbinsel, Vicco kressbach, Henry V Hassberghohen, Exel Weissen schwan, Hassan Thelmerfleur, Amigo Schwaiger wappen.

But amongst all these great studs and through all this time Ambassador and Orlando have been consistent and within the top ten most solicited.



Filou Rawberweg

Henry Hassberghogen

This to my mind is a sign that behind the scenes, whilst the flashy, fashionable lines that passes like the winds of time are at work. The breeders are busy using these two studs to refine, re-enforce and lay a better foundation onto which they can build a flashy tomorrow without sacrifice of those qualities that truly make a “Complete Rottweiler”.

I dare say that in a few years from now, these two exceptional studs may well be compared to the likes of the great Rick Burgthann and Noris Gruntenblick, incidently Rick is grandfather to Orlando and Noris is Great Grandfather to Ambassador.