

The latest from the JGHV Director of Testing

(Taken from *Der Jagdgebrauchshund*, 5/2019, translation by Ken Bremer)

The third weekend in March is “Fulda”, this is what is on the calendars of many hunting dog devotees. Here the annual conferences of the breed clubs / the JGVs and the JGHV are held. Here problems large and small will be discussed, here the motions will be discussed and voted on, here the course will be set for the hunting dog and hunting dog affairs. And this includes the conference of the JGVs which was conducted on Saturday afternoon under the leadership of Frank Wagner.

Along with some important other information, the Stammbuchführerin of the JGHV, Ms. Dornig presented a short overview on the status of the new temperament evaluations of the JGHV, which were conducted mandatorily at all tests after January 1, 2018, as an appendix to the VZPO / VGPO / VPSO. In sharing this, Ms. Dornig explained clearly that there were problems at the beginning and entries were made on temperament, which did not fit with the overall test result for the dog.

Example: A dog is “severely gun sensitive” in temperament but self-confident, how is that possible? or for the information on temperament multiple responses like “calm/even-tempered” and “lively/passionate” were checked at the same time. On this too, VR have to agree upon one entry, also if the dog acted differently in the course of the day. Various levels of performance within a day are also summarized in a predicate and points at the end of the day.

These are the initial problems that can be resolved. Much worse was the ensuing discussion in the circle of experts. Here it was mentioned several times that certain evaluations of temperament could possibly lead to disqualification from breeding or that the dog would not fulfill the breeding requirements. Here examples were given with the comment, if this or that is checked, then the dog is disqualified from breeding or would not be admitted to elite breeding tests (Zuchtausleseprüfungen) of the breed club.

Question: Where is it written in the VZPO or VGPO, when a dog is disqualified from breeding or does not fulfill the breeding requirements? This is decided by the breed club / breeding regulations of the respective breed club and not by the VR at a test. If we think or act in such a way, then we do not fulfill the job responsibility of judging.

We VR have the job of running all of the testing subjects correctly, evaluating these and noting all judgments correctly on the test score sheet, without ever having the thought that the dog might not fulfill the breeding requirements or the requirements to international elite tests (Ausleseprüfungen). If we conduct our tests with these thoughts, then we allow ourselves to be guided by breeding regulations and stipulations that have nothing to do with the actual test. We cannot, for example, give a dog the predicate “very good” on the hare track because the breeding regulations of a certain breed have this as a breeding requirement or requires it for participation in an elite breeding test. It is our task to evaluate the dog’s work / performance, without any thoughts whatsoever about breeding goals or further breeding requirements. We are obliged to evaluate /

record every observation / finding during the entire test day and to record this on the test scoresheet without considering any thoughts about the future or about the future life of the dog. This concerns the performance, all physical faults and of course the temperament.

How the breed club uses these notations on performance/physical faults/temperament (positive or negative) is not our task but is subject to the breed club of the respective breed. The breed club has to decide, how—for example—it wishes to deal with the evaluation of temperament, whether it will use all of the notations for breeding management or simply drop them.

But I found it disappointing in the whole discussion of the experts within the JGV-clubs, which all belong to one or several breed clubs, that the current evaluation of temperament within the JGHV tests is still not fully developed and could result in inaccurate evaluations and thus these should or could not be used by the breed clubs for management of their breeding. Ladies and gentlemen, who asked for the evaluations of temperament? It was representatives of the breed clubs!

The JGHV introduced these (evaluations) and thus makes important information available to each breed club, which each club should use. Or can we simply ignore it, when three VR record performance/physical faults or important observations / judgments / findings about temperament on the test scoresheet? No one in a breed club would think of not using the work on the hare track, the field search or pointing for guidance in breeding management, but now when it comes to temperament we want to first take other steps, as it could turn out that some do not achieve the breeding goal. Any breed club that does not take the entire statement of a test result / test scoresheet seriously and thereafter manage their breeding accordingly, will never reach the goal, but just deceive themselves.

The VR of the JGHV has an obligation to precisely document every performance / observation / finding and judgment of temperament, to record it on the test scoresheet and confirm this with their own signature. We cannot and may not suddenly push this aside with the issue of temperament on the grounds that our VR are still not trained yet. There are also errors of judgement with other evaluations / notations by VR, but we accept these and have to live with them. We test / assess the natural abilities / performance and make observations within a test, which should serve hunting and breeding. These results may not be influenced or controlled by the requirements of a set of breeding regulations.

I wish you all happy hunting (Waidmannsheil) and success in the further training of our dogs.

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