

## Promoting the Deutsch Kurzhaar

There are many Deutsch Kurzhaar (DK) breeders and Owners who think that by advertising, showcasing and commercializing the Deutsch Kurzhaar in competition type venues that they are somehow promoting and supporting the breed. They are simply incorrect and quite frankly have missed or misunderstood the purpose of the DK and the intent of the German testing and breeding philosophy.

Those that judge the success of a breed or a breed club by the number of dogs bred or the number of members a club has are misguided in both aspects.

Success of a breed is not measured in how many specimens are around but how well that breed performs its assigned tasks.

In addition, the success of a breed club is not measured by how many belong to it but by how its members respect and devote themselves to the breed and by the integrity of its breeders.

Showcasing a breed in as many venues as possible will eventually degrade the quality of the breed since those that do it are offering the breed up to anyone who happens to take a fancy to it for any reason, including reasons that are not good for the breed. A club should be looking to recruit solid quality members who will align themselves with the philosophy of the club and reflect their allegiance in their actions.

The total numbers of dogs on the ground or people in the club is no substitute for quality.

In order for the DK to be and continue to be a successful versatile breed it needs but few things:

- First it needs a group of people that are exclusively dedicated to its existence and whose focus is not diluted by interest in other dog venues.
- Secondly, it needs dedicated breeders who make no portion of their living breeding dogs and are committed to delivering puppies only to hunters that have the dedication required to train and test in their system and to belong to a group that embraces the German testing and breeding philosophy to its fullest intent.
- Finally, members of any club that truly supports the DK should be critical of breeders, owners or fellow members who do not support and abide by the breeding rules and the essence of the German testing and breeding system which is intended to maintain and improve upon the versatile hunting Deutsch Kurzhaar for the common foot hunter.

That means that the show ring, field trial circuit and other competitive venues should be of no concern to those who support the DK when it comes to breeding, testing and promoting. Those who believe that doggie game venues are the correct place to showcase the DK are probably doing the breed a disservice since it's not likely that gamers will quit playing games and change systems. The reality is that they will just look for creative ways to incorporate the DK into venues and blood lines where it was not intended to be.

The future of the DK breed does not rest on quantity but relies on quality of dog flesh and quality of membership. Each of those comes only from real devotion and an eye for the

same. As Albrect Keil , a well known German versatile hunting dog trainer/breeder, would attest to, only those who “fight with hearts blood” for the DK are those that would likely make good leaders, breeders and members. Their example and the dogs produced within the system they believe in will serve as all the promotion the versatile hunting DK requires.