



**LV-DVG AMERICA**

# **Manual for Training Directors**

# INTRODUCTION & REQUIREMENTS

In 1995 the VDH adopted a Training Directors' Certification Program. This program was intended to assist the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen with its newly enacted Dangerous Dog laws. The VDH, having numerous members knowledgeable of animal behavior, agreed to certify Training Directors at all levels and to provide classes for citizens owning dogs identified as dangerous under the new law. A citizen, after successful completion of a training course from a Certified Trainer Director would then be allowed to keep the dog.

It was hoped that this law would extend beyond the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen but few states followed suit. However, the DVG foresaw the importance of such a movement and adopted a similar program for all DVG member clubs. On March 3, 1995 the "Training Regulations for the DVG" were adopted by the General Membership with a grace period of two years. The program was to be fully implemented by all DVG member clubs by April 1, 1997.

LV/DVG AMERICA has since been allowed an extended grace period to develop a program that will be compatible with its vast geographical boundaries. This "Manual for Training Directors" is a result of this grace period and must be implemented by all LV/DVG AMERICA clubs by January 1, 1998.

As of January 1, 1998, at the next scheduled election of officers as defined in each LV/DVG are recognized by LV/DVG AMERICA as a "Qualified Training Director Applicant" (QTDA). Each club within LV/DVG AMERICA will receive a copy of this manual. Any member wishing to seek office as Training Director at any level within the LV will have to satisfy two prerequisites: AMERICA club, KG or LV by-laws, no member may hold office as a Training Director until they

1. Show proof of titling one dog in either BH, FH, or SchH.

&

2. Complete and successfully pass the test at the end of this manual with a score of at least 80%.

Once a candidate has completed the test, it should be mailed along with proof of having attained one of the above mentioned titles to the LV/OFS. Currently these tests should be mailed to:

James Akin-Otiko, LV OFS  
2606 Coffey Avenue  
Bellvue, NE 68123-5543  
e-mail: [akinotiko@cox.net](mailto:akinotiko@cox.net)

After successful completion, the LV/OFS will approve the candidate as a QTDA and send notice to the club, KG or LV where the candidate is seeking office. The LV/OFS will maintain a listing of all QTDA within the LV and publish the list two times each calendar year in the DVG AMERICA Magazine.

**\*\*\*Please note that all DVG clubs will have to select a Training Director from those meeting the above requirements at the next election as defined by Club By-Laws on or shortly after January 1, 1998.\*\*\***

# Acknowledgments

This manual is a synergistic product of several sportfriends throughout LV/DVG AMERICA. As the LV/OFS I was asked to develop a "Manual for Training Directors". Upon receiving this assignment I enlisted the help of several LV members to assist in translating German articles for this purpose. I also drew from past articles prepared for "LV/DVG AMERICA Magazine", from information found on the "LV/DVG AMERICA WebPage" and from local DVG club membership manuals. I am grateful for the tireless energy these sportfriends offered in preparing this work.

In particular, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for:

--**Margaret Hummen, DVM** for many hours of work in preparing the "Manual of First-Aid for Dogs". This manual was offered to us from LV/Nordrhein-Westfalen. Dr. Hummen reviewed the manual, agreed it was an excellent work and proceeded to translate and interpret it for the use of the LV/DVG AMERICA membership;

--**Armin Winkler** for his help in translating the remaining portions of the LV/Nordrhein-Westfalen "Manual for Training Directors". Mr. Winkler spent many hours on the phone with me discussing portions of the manual and their applicability to LV/DVG AMERICA;

--**George Ardner**, LV/DVG AMERICA President for negotiations with the DVG main office to allow our LV to pursue the Training Director Program in a manner that is workable within the vast geographical boundaries of the United States and Canada;

--**Henry Sowders**, LV/DVG AMERICA Treasurer for researching the laws pertaining to dog ownership, liability and insurance;

--**Bill Harper**, WebPage Master for the countless hours he has spent developing an easy resource to draw information from. Some of which is included herein;

--**Carol Patterson**, DHV Judge and historian for developing and updating the organizational information and her valuable editorial input to the final draft;

--**Members of the Tulsa Schutzhund Club**, who went over this manual with a fine toothed doggy brush to edit and suggest changes to the final draft;

--**My wife, Janice and daughter, Michelle** for allowing me to hog our home computer for so many hours while developing this manual.

Tom Ray, OFS  
LV/DVG AMERICA  
January 1994 to December 1997

# **LV/DVG AMERICA MANUAL FOR TRAINING DIRECTORS**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

**SECTION I. HISTORY & ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**SECTION II. PHILOSOPHY**

**SECTION III. LEGAL LIABILITY & INSURANCE**

**SECTION IV. HELPFUL HINTS**

**SECTION V. SAFETY**

**SECTION VI DOG BEHAVIOR**

**SECTION VII. MANUAL OF FIRST-AID FOR DOGS**

**SECTION VIII. TRAINING DIRECTOR CANDIDATE TEST**



## THE HISTORY OF DVG

by: Gary Patterson and Hartmut Beckmann

This article appeared in the JAN - FEB 1988 issue of DVG AMERICA National Schutzhund Magazine

1987 marked a special occasion at the D.H.V. German Championship. Like all Schutzhund championships, it was filled with showmanship, excitement and disappointment. What made this event special was the celebration of the 85th anniversary of the working dog movement which came to be known as D.V.G. This special anniversary chased the canine historians to their books and chaotic records (often incomplete) in an attempt to tell the rest of us how D.V.G. has gotten to this point of being the oldest and largest Schutzhund training organization in the world. What follows, is the result of their efforts to reconstruct a long and tumultuous history of the modern service and sport dog. If there seem to be a few empty spots in the record, remember that Germany went through two major wars during this time and documentation is not always so clear. Our special thanks goes to the staff of D.V.G. and its President, Christa Bremer, for compiling so much of the material.

The history of the modern working and sport dog is most amazing in two simple facts that are often lost in the blitz of other dog facts. The first is that modern services and sport dog training is a recent event, only appearing at the turn of the century. The second is that but for a handful of men with divergent backgrounds appearing within a space of a few years, there might not be what we think of as the modern working dog.

Archeologists tell us that man and dog have worked together for twelve thousand years, but that relationship was limited. Outside of herding and guarding property, the dog had very little relationship with modern society and, in fact, was considered a menace in populated, nonagricultural areas. The factor that changed the working dog's role in our society is as topical as today's news and had little to do with the love or respect of our canine friends.

In 1897, a Prussian police inspector, Franz Laufer, had a serious problem. His officers were suffering from increased attacks during night patrols. These men worked alone and could not defend themselves against violence from criminals and unruly crowds. The policemen needed more help and the authorities would not give them additional police because of tight budgets. While Laufer had no previous experience with the ownership or training of dogs, he thought the answer might lie in having the officers accompanied by dogs, big and strong enough to ward off harm to his men. The idea may have been simple, but it was also revolutionary and most certainly unpopular. Not only did the government worry about civil liability (sound familiar?), but even the police officers complained, as they simply wanted more officers, not the uncertain company of a vicious animal.

Laufer finally found his opportunity in 1900 when the level of attacks on police officers reached a point where the government could no longer ignore the issue. Laufer was given 500 marks to purchase three dogs and train them to accompany police patrols at night. The task was not an easy one. Laufer was left with getting food scraps from the local hospital to feed his dogs. Veterinary care was offered free by a local doctor.

But the greatest problem was that no one really knew what had to be done. It is a mark of Laufer's determination and natural ability that the program ever worked. Having no experience with dogs, he studied books on natural history and breeding in an attempt to understand dog behavior and the breeds most likely to bring success to the idea. There were no books on training and, as he found, no other police departments in Germany were using dogs in any type of police program. He finally found a sergeant in his own department who had previously been a game warden and had some experience with dogs. It is interesting to note that this Sergeant Lange thought the best breed would be the German Shepherd Dog, but Laufer disagreed and felt the Great Dane would create a more imposing picture to any criminal.

In October, 1901, Laufer put his first police dog on the street. This was a Great Dane named Caesar. While Laufer had always envisioned the dog's role to be more than protecting a patrolman, the initial work of these first police dogs was only protection. They were required to wear muzzles and be on lead. Nevertheless, Sergeant Lange did train the dogs to track and perform other duties which would ultimately save Laufer's program and lead to the expanded role of the police working dog. After initial public criticism and threats of law suits when one person was bitten, the police canine program started to pay off. In one case, a dog tracked a suspect two miles from the scene of the crime to a house, an event that was witnessed by many townspeople. This, and similar successes, turned the course of public opinion and the future of Laufer's first canine unit was assured.

In 1902, Laufer felt that his police dog ideas were not being accepted, so he took action to expand the information he had gained. First, he held a demonstration that was attended mostly by police officers and in which the redoubtable Caesar appeared with a reluctant decoy. Not much is known about what this dog did or its level of training, except to say that some of the money Laufer received from the observers went towards paying the decoy's medical bills. Interest from this demonstration prompted Laufer to start an organization to promote the training and working of police dogs. This organization, The Police Dog Club (P.H.V.) was the first in Germany and predecessor to what would become the D.V.G. It is interesting to note that one of the founding members of the P.H.V. was Captain Max v. Stephanitz, who only three years earlier had co-founded the German Shepherd Dog Club of Germany (S.V.)

As a sidenote, it is also interesting that at this point in time, many talented people were appearing on the scene to establish a standard for the working dog that is still observed today worldwide. Yet, their contributions at that time must have seemed limited. Captain v. Stephanitz was primarily interested in developing the working dog breed. Laufer was primarily interested in the practical problems of police work and training. Even though their paths did cross in 1902, they each went their separate ways to mold the concepts which led to the modern S.V. and D.V.G. By 1903, the S.V. had conducted its first 'efficiency trial' while the P.H.V. was conducting its first police dog trial. The tests of this first trial have not been specified, but by Laufer's comments one can conclude that the results were something less than hoped. This is hardly surprising when one considers that both the S.V. and P.H.V. were traveling in uncharted waters, going where there was no precedent, no experience. While police officers in Ghent, Belgium had started a similar program in 1899, there is no evidence that the German police departments shared any information with them until 1903. They seemed to have been totally independent movements, started for the same reasons with only the historical coincidence in common.

The movement started slowly, but with a purpose. By 1904 the first set of police trial rules was published by the P.H.V., but in 1905 the total membership was only 270 people. In the next seven years, the final events were to occur which would assure the success of the police and Schutzhund dog. In 1912, the The

P.H.V. had grown to six thousand members, with sixty-four clubs. But a more significant event was also occurring for the future Schutzhund movement.

The P.H.V. from its inception had been designed to answer a critical need of police officers. As it evolved, more private citizens were joining P.H.V. clubs to train their dogs for protection work. While the history is not clear, it seems that the increased demands for this kind of training from the private sector were not being met by this police organization. Therefore, in 1912, The National Police and Schutzhunde Club was founded (R.V.P.H.). There is no evidence that this organization was a protest against the practices of the P.H.V., but rather represented a response to the need for working dog training by the civilian population. In fact, the stated goals of the R.V.P.H. were to work with private individuals, breed clubs and to bring the P.H.V. closer to a working arrangement with the working dog breed organizations. The record shows that these organizations were attempting to achieve some of the same results.

The war set back the dog movement drastically. The membership of the P.H.V. dropped by 50%. But it is also clear from the accounts of v. Stephanitz that dog training became an important part of the military scheme during this period and, no doubt, greatly contributed to the swell in working dog interest during the 1920's. In 1925, another important event occurred which finalized the Schutzhund movement, as we know it today. The P.H.V., R.V.P.H. and one other South German utility dog organization agreed to standardize their trial rules, trial records and to mutually recognize each organization's trial judges. They further entered into agreements with the major working dog breed administrative body (P.V.Z.) to standardize trial procedures.

These standardized trial rules are the foundation of today's modern Schutzhund rules. While these rules probably dictated somewhat different procedures, a brief explanation shows that the aim of these organizations was to test then what we believe is still valid today. It is also interesting to note that some of the elements of these rules which are now discarded under Schutzhund continue as a part of the various Ring Sport trial rules used in France, Belgium and Holland. The rules presented three levels of testing, similar to our Schutzhund I, II and III, used today. The first level was called the Breed Test. but was not a breed survey or conformation examination. It had tracking, similar to today's Schutzhund I. In obedience, the dog was required to heel on and off lead, down, sit, retrieve on the flat and over the jump. It was also required to work under gunfire, do a send out and long down. As a hold over from the war, messenger work was required, as well as a retrieval from deep water. In protection, the work was somewhat police dog oriented in that the dog would do some attack work with a muzzle, but also defend the attack on handler, escape, out and recall to the handler from the decoy.

The second level was called the Schutzhund Test. While the word 'Schutzhund' had been used previously, namely by the R.V.P.H., the reference was meant only to describe a personal protection dog. This is the first reference to Schutzhund in its broader meaning that we have been able to find. The third level was described as the Police Dog Test. These tests were only extensions of The Breed Test and closely follow the modern Schutzhund II and III rules for tracking, obedience and protection. But there were some differences. The dog was required to retrieve a ten pound dumbbell! It was also required to refuse offered food, similar to modern Ring Sport. The protection work, again, continued with muzzle attacks combined with more stylized protection work, similar to that in the first level. In The Police Dog Test we start to see some additions that have evolved into the modern Schutzhund protection work. The dog was required to search an area and find the decoy, where it would then bark and hold him until the handler arrived. Stick hits were also introduced.

Then there was the FH test. While similar in concept to our modern rules, the demands at the most advanced level may say something about our current FH requirements. At this level, the track was about two miles long and aged seven hours!

It is interesting to speculate that with this spirit of cooperation and the leadership that was surely more farsighted than this brief article can indicate, the working dog movement might have had a far smoother future than what has in fact happened both in Europe and America. But history intervened in a way that frustrated, even destroyed, these positive early accomplishments.

In 1933, the Nazi controlled German government dictated that all dog organizations must disband and be covered under one organization. This extended to all training and breed organizations then in Germany and continued until the end of World War II. This organization hardly seems worthy of mention except in the fact that it erased the identity of all the working dog organizations, preventing them from achieving their earlier goals. Again, the record is not totally clear, but there is some indication that the government wanted to exercise control over all dog breeding and training. This control went so far as to create special trial rules which could be used for demonstrating German working dog training in conjunction with the 1936 Berlin Olympics. No doubt the need for dog training in law enforcement and military adventures also increased the government's interest in the working dog.

The end of the war found the organized working dog movement in chaos. The former members of the P.H.V. and R.V.P.H. started or continued local club activities but there was no national organization to further the efforts which had found so much success before the war. Additionally, the allied occupying forces in Germany were not enthusiastic about the formation of any national organization, no matter how seemingly innocent its purpose. After many setbacks, former members of the P.H.V. and R.V.P.H. met and formed the D.V.G. in 1947.

Since that time, D.V.G. has grown to an organization approaching 30,000 members, with over 16,000 people participating in 1900 Schutzhund trials each year. With five other non-breed affiliated training organizations, it founded The German Dog Sport Alliance (D.H.V.), which now numbers 83,000 members.

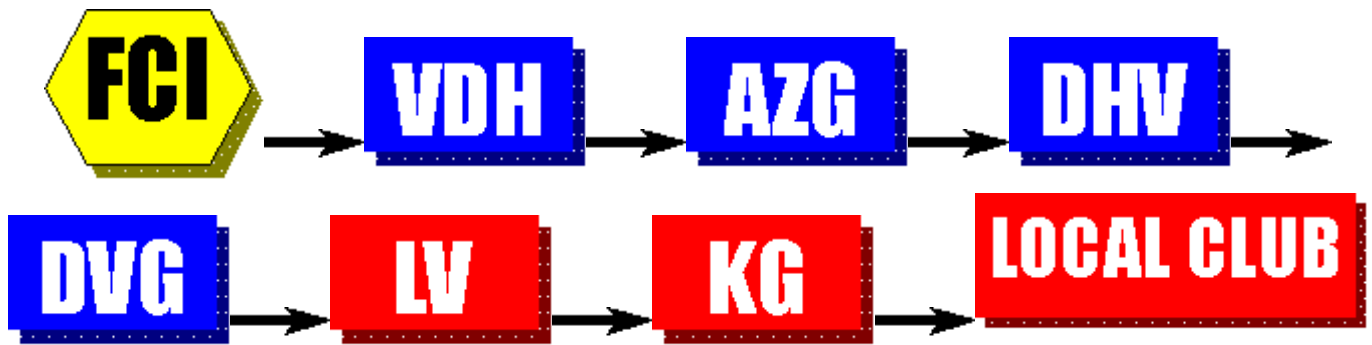
While, only three years old, D.V.G. America has doubled in membership with fifty-five clubs. With the recent addition of Canada, the future of an organization dedicated only to Schutzhund training seems assured in North America.

The history of the working dog movement in Germany has some lessons to teach those of us who have concerns about its future in North America. Think about the adversity that the early founders went through and the word 'determination' has a new meaning. Think about how little these people knew about the working dog and its training, and our training problems seem small. Think about how clearly these people must have seen where they wanted to go and our sometimes myopic view must be trivial. In short, history does teach us that we are dwarves, standing on the shoulders of giants, but we can still lead the way. Franz Laufer and Caesar would be proud.

# The ABC's of DVG or Who are all the Players?

Adapted from articles by Robert Egolf (March, 1987) and Ron Maloney (May & June, 1995) first published in DVG America Magazine and from personal communications with Carole Patterson.

Assembled in chart form, the organizational structure of dog clubs to which the LV/DVG America belongs looks like the following:



[International Kennel Club Federation](#)  
["Federation Cynologique Internationale"](#)

The umbrella organization for almost every kennel club in the world. Two notable exceptions of this are the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the United Kingdom Kennel Club (KC)



[German Kennel Club](#)  
["Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen"](#)

**The German equivalent to the AKC except that the VDH is more of a governing body and does not maintain breed records. Like the AKC it is not an organization of individual members but rather an organization whose members are other organizations, alliances or clubs, including DHV.**



### **Working Dog Council**

**"Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Rassehundezüchtervereine und Gebrauchshundeverbände"**

The group which oversees all the working dog clubs. Groups belonging to the AZG include breed clubs such as the Shepherd Club (SV), Rottweiler Club (ADRK), and Doberman Club (DV), along with nine other breed clubs. It is not truly a free standing organization, but rather a working council under the German Kennel Club (VDH). This is where the trial rules are actually written, adopted and amended; not just for schutzhund but for all types of trials and competitions in Germany. The members of this council are appointed or elected from the various breed clubs and dog training organizations in Germany. The trial rules produced by this body are made in the name of and under the authority of the German Kennel Club, VDH.



### **German Working Dog Association "Deutscher Hundesportverband"**

Website: <http://www.dhv-hundesport.de>

This is the umbrella organization for seven different training organizations, including the DVG. It is the only member of the AZG which is not breed specific and is solely dedicated to training. It has around 100,000 members and is second in size only to the SV. The member organizations of the DHV are as follows:

- [Bayerischer Landesverband für Hundesport \(BLV\)](#)  
(Bavarian Regional Association for Dog Sports)
- Bundesverband Rettungshunde in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (BRH)  
(The Rescue Dog Association of the Federal Republic of Germany)
- [Deutscher Sporthund Verband \(DSV\)](#)  
(German Sport Dog Association)
- [Deutscher Verband der Gebrauchshundesportvereine \(DVG\)](#)  
(German Association of Working Dog Sport Clubs)
- Hundesportverband Rhein-Main (HSVRM)  
(Dog Sport Association of Rhein-Main)
- Sudwestdeutscher Hundesportverband (SWHV)  
(Southwest German Dog Sport Association)
- [Schutz- und Gebrauchshunde-Sportverband \(SGSV\)](#)  
(Protection and Working Dogs Sport Association)

The DHV publishes and distributes the Trial Rules that have been approved by the AZG for Schutzhund (SchH), tracking dogs (FH), companion dogs (BH), watchdogs (WH) and rescue dogs. The DHV is also the final authority for appointing, supervising and disciplining the trial judges who judge the above degrees and promulgates the judges rules, which provide the framework within which these judges are trained, appointed, and function. When a DVG judge is appointed, the actual appointment is made by the Chief Trial Judge (Leistungsrichterbmann - LRO) of the DVG, but the appointment is made in the name of and under the authority of the Chief Trial Judge of the DHV.



**German Association of Working Dog Sport Clubs**  
**"Deutscher Verband der Gebrauchshundsportvereine"**

Like all other DHV members, DVG is strictly a training organization. The DVG is non-breed specific. It schedules and approves trial dates, provides the immediate framework within which Trial Judges are trained, appointed and function, keeps all of the records and documents concerning our dog's titles and supervises and supports all of the local clubs that comprise its membership. The DVG was founded in 1902 as the Polizehund Verein (PHV) or Police Dog Club. It changed its name in 1912 to the Reichsverband für Polizei - und Schutzhunde (RVPH) or National Alliance for Police - and Protection Dogs, and in 1947 became the DVG.

**Mailing Address:**

**DVG Hauptgeschäftsstelle**  
**Gustav - Sybrecht - Strasse 42**  
**44536 Lünen**  
**Germany**

**Phone: 01149-231-878010**

**Fax: 01149-231-8780122**

**e-mail: [info@dvg-hundesport.de](mailto:info@dvg-hundesport.de)**

**website: <http://www.dvg-hundesport.de/>(The site is in German)**



**Landesverband DVG America**  
**(LV/DVG America)**

**One of 14 LV's within the DVG. Covers both the United States and Canada**

### LV/DVG America Officers



There are four regional groups, or KG's within the North American LV. They are

- [North Region](#)
- [Southeast Region](#)
- [Midwest Region](#)
- [Western Region](#)



DVG local clubs are located throughout the United States and Canada. To locate a club nearest to you see the lists of DVG clubs in your region ("Kriesgruppe"). Select your region (or state) from the list below.

- [North Kreisgruppe](#) (USA - [CT](#), [DE](#), [MA](#), NH,NJ, [NY](#), [PA](#), RI, [VT](#) & CANADA - [ON](#), [PO](#))
- [Southeast Kreisgruppe](#) (AL,[FL](#),GA,[MD](#),MS,[NC](#),[SC](#),[VA](#),WV)
- [Midwest Kreisgruppe](#) ([AR](#),[IL](#), [IN](#),IA, [KS](#),KY, [LA](#), [MI](#),MN, [MO](#),NB,ND, [OH](#), [OK](#),SD, [TN](#), [TX](#), [WI](#))
- [Western Kreisgruppe](#) (USA - [AK](#),AZ, [CA](#), [CO](#), [ID](#),MT,NM, [NV](#), [OR](#), [UT](#), [WA](#),WY & CANADA - [AB](#), [B.C.](#))

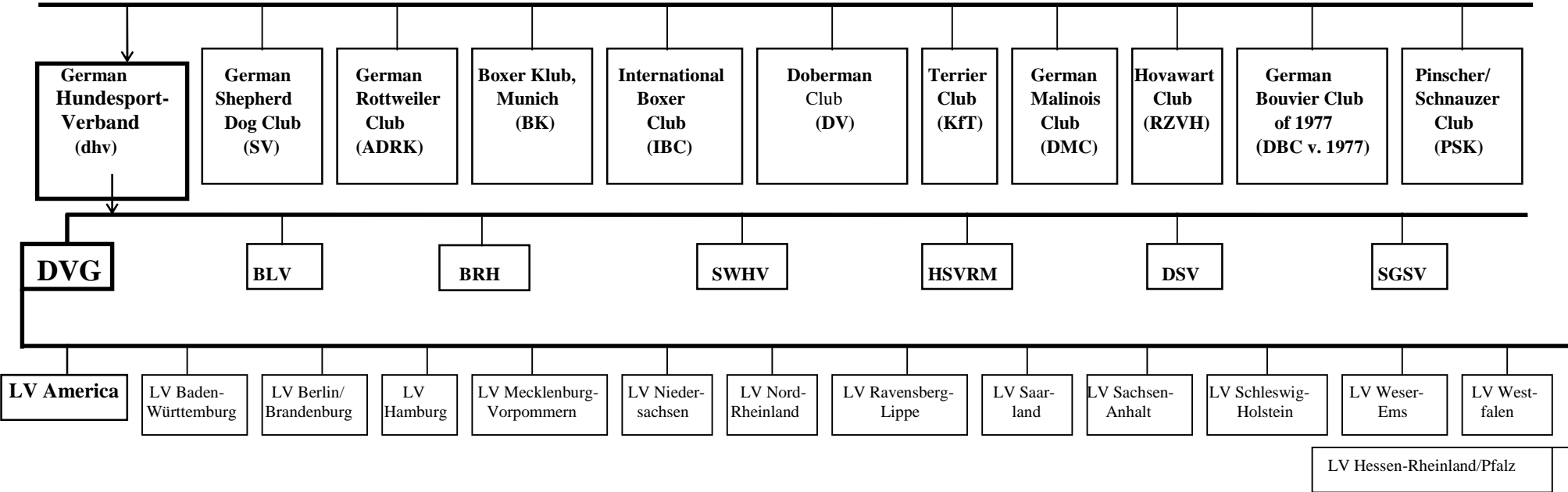
**International Federation of Kennel Clubs  
(FCI)**



**German Kennel Club (VDH)**



**Working Dog Council (AZG)\***



DVG - German Assn. of Working Dog Clubs  
 BLV - Bavarian Organization for Dog Sport  
 BRH – Rescue Dog Assn. of Germany  
 SGSV - Protection and Working Dogs Sport Organization

SWHV - Southwest German Dog Sport Assn.  
 HSVRM - Dog Sport Organization (of the) Rhein-Main  
 DSV - German Sport Dog Organization

\* Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Zuchtvereine und Gebrauchshundverbände (German Association of Breed Clubs and Working Dog Organizations)

**MEMBERS OF THE VDH/AZG**  
**(Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Zuchtvereine und Gebrauchshundverbände)**

(As listed as completely revised Handbook for Judges, 2004, issued by the AZG)

Only the following named organizations -- members in the VDH -- are correctly permitted to issue scorebooks/performance certificates and hold trials in which recognized training titles are awarded.

dhv	-	Deutscher Hundesportverband e.V. (dhv) (German Working Dog Association)
SV	-	Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde, Augsburg (German Shepherd Kennel Club)
BK	-	Boxer-Klub, München (Boxer Club, Munich)
IBC	-	Internationaler Boxer-Club (International Boxer Club)
ADRK	-	Allgemeiner Deutscher Rottweiler Klub (General German Rottweiler Club)
DV	-	Dobermann-Verein (Doberman Organization)
KfT	-	Klub für Terrier, Kelsterbach (Club for Terriers, Kelsterbach)
DMC	-	Deutscher Malinois-Club (German Malinois Club)
RZVH	-	Rassezuchtverein für Hovawart-Hunde (Purebred Breed Organization Hovawart Dogs)
DBC v. 1977	-	Deutscher Bouvier-Club von 1977 (German Bouvier Club of 1977)
PSK	-	Pinscher Schnauzer Klub e.V. (Pinscher Schnauzer Club, Inc.)

## dhv (GERMAN DOG SPORT ASSOCIATION)

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

You can see from the flow chart supplied how the dhv, our parent umbrella organization, relates to the other working dog organizations in Germany. The main difference is that the dhv is made up of organizations/associations which are non-breed specific, do not hold any confirmation shows, do not hold Körungen where dogs are rated for breeding purposes and generally are pure training organizations. However, the working titles awarded (VPG, IPO, FH, etc.) within the member organizations of the dhv are recognized by all of the working dog breed clubs as a basis for suitability for breeding.

- 1) DVG - Deutscher Verband der Gebrauchshundsportvereine = The German Association of Working Dog Clubs
- 2) SWHV - Südwestdeutscher Hundesportverband = Southwest German Dog Sport Organization
- 3) HSVRM - Hundesportverband Rhein-Main = Dog Sport Organization (of) Rhein-Main
- 4) BLV - Bayerischer Landesverband für Hundesport = Bavarian Region Organization for Dog Sport
- 5) DSV - Deutscher Sporthundverband = German Sport Dog Organization
- 6) SGSV - Schutz- und Gebrauchshunde-Sportverband = Protection and Working Dogs Sport Organization
- 7) BRH -- Bundesverband Rettungshunde in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland = The Rescue Dog Association of the Federal Republic of Germany

Each one of these organizations is a fully independent, self-governing working/sport dog organization. Within the dhv, each organization has a voice in decisions made about rules, trial regulations, etc., and each has its own judges certified under rules set up by the dhv as a whole in keeping with the judge certification rules of the VDH, and all trials are scheduled and held within the organizations and judged by their own judges. All of the organizations abide by the general trial principles and regulations set up by the VDH Working Dog Council (AZG). These trial rules are revised periodically by conferences held within the AZG, with input from all of the AZG members (the dhv and all of the specific working dog breed clubs). The dhv representatives on the AZG take to these conferences and all other meetings held by the AZG input from the individual dhv member organizations which is obtained by requesting input from their own members (i.e., the DVG requests input from the LV's, etc., the SWHV requests input from its clubs, etc.).

The President of the dhv is Wolfgang Rüska, the Vice President is Christa Bremer (our DVG President), and the LRO (Chief of Judges) is Wilfried Schäpermeier. Wilfried Schäpermeier is also the president of the AZG and the 2nd vice president of DVG and Christa Bremer is second vice president of the VDH. Christa also sits on the board of the AZG. Alfons Fieseler is the dhv OfS. Other officers of the dhv include the OfT (Representative for Tournament Sport), Waltraud Dreher; OfA (Representative for Agility) Sabine Propp; JO (Youth Representative), Norbert Franzel and a whole bunch of others.

## **MEMBER LANDESVERBÄNDE OF THE DVG**

DVG is made up of 14 domestic organizations, mostly in the northern and central part of Germany, and one foreign. LV America is the exception and is the only non-domestic member. LV America has full voting rights on the DVG Board and our representative attends the annual meeting each year on the last weekend in March. Normally our representative is the president of LV America, but occasionally because of work or scheduling conflicts, another elected LV Board member attends. The daily running of the organization is handled by the DVG Executive Board (the Präsidium), which is made up of Christa Bremer, President; Klaus Lücke, 1st Vice President; Wilfried Schäpermeier, 2nd Vice President; Eberhard Uekötter, Secretary; Siegfried Urganus, LRO; Heinz Rübel, OfS; the heads of the Tournament Dog Sport and Agility; the Head of the Youth Program; and the Chief of Public Relations. [I don't have all of the individual heads of the various divisions that don't relate to Schutzhund.] The general board is made up of all of the above plus the presidents of the 14 LV's or their representatives. The general board meets several times a year, but the main meeting in March is the only one our LV President attends.

### **DVG MEMBERS**

- 1) LV America
- 2) LV Baden-Württemberg
- 3) LV Berlin Brandenburg
- 4) LV Hamburg
- 5) LV Hessen-Rheinland/Pfalz
- 6) LV Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- 7) LV Niedersachsen
- 8) LV Nord-Rheinland
- 9) LV Ravensberg-Lippe
- 10) LV Saarland
- 11) LV Sachsen-Anhalt
- 12) LV Schleswig-Holstein
- 13) LV Weser-Ems
- 14) LV Westfalen

The names of the LV's reflect the area of Germany in which the LV is located and in some cases reflects the entire state (Schleswig-Holstein) and in others, simply a city (Hamburg) and in others, a region within a large state. Each LV holds its own trials primarily using judges residing within the LV and assigned by its own chief of judges or LV/LRO. However, if the trial schedule is particularly heavy or an LV Championship is being held, the LV/LRO can request judges from other LV's by making the request through the DVG/LRO, just as we do when we request a judge from Germany. Some of the LV's are so

small that they have no separate regions (Kreisgruppen) within the LV, only multiple clubs. Others have many. Each LV basically runs its own business within the framework of the DVG/dhv/VDH rules and regulations. No LV may set out rules that are in conflict with or in opposition to these rules and regulations. The by-laws of each LV must be approved by the DVG Board, including any amendments or changes to those by-laws that are made through the years.

Likewise, the by-laws of each Kreisgruppe and any club applying for membership within an LV must be approved by both the LV Board and the DVG Executive Board. Unless there exists some specific problem with a club's by-laws, recognition by the Germany DVG Board is pretty much automatic, once the club has been accepted by its own KG and LV.

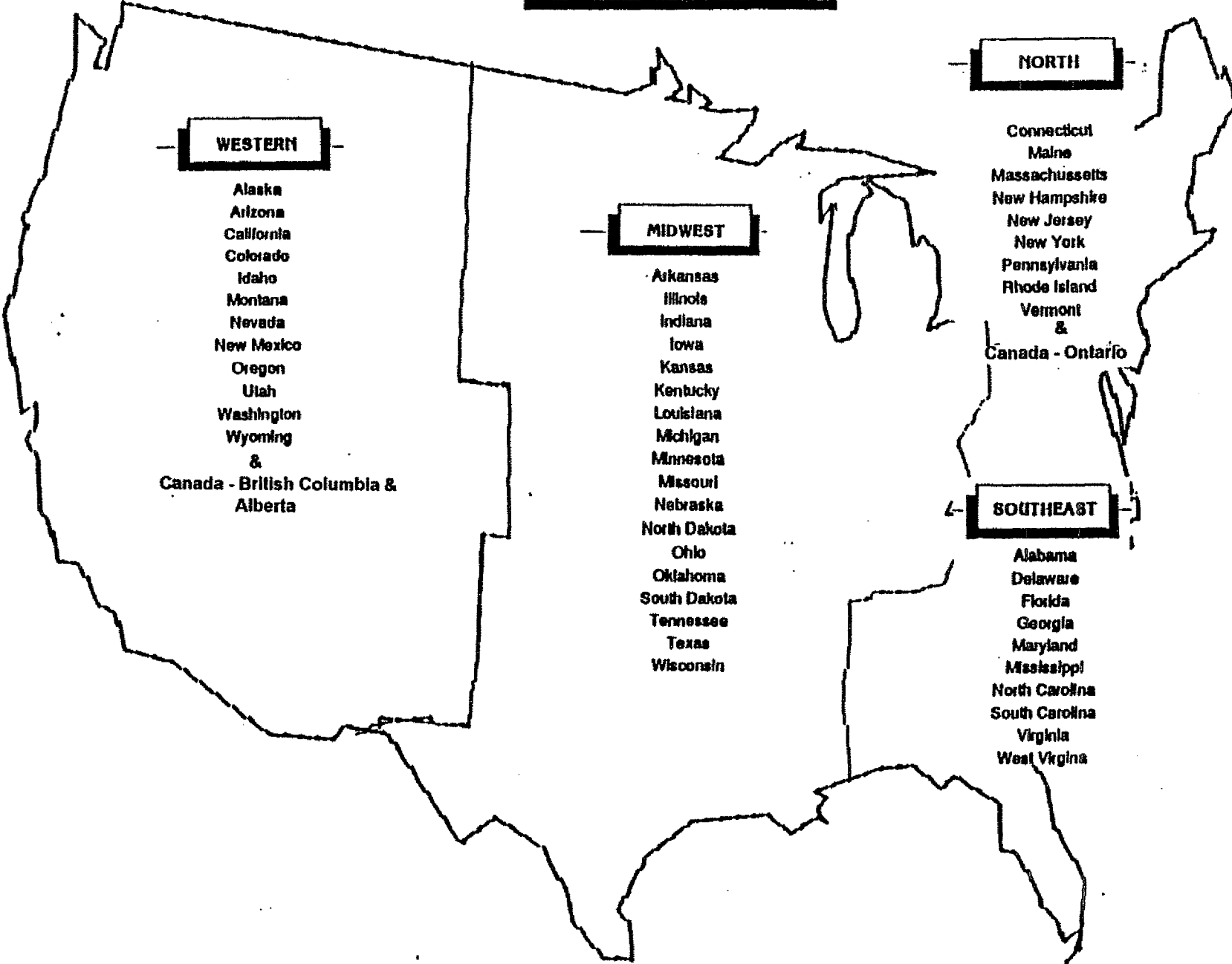
Membership to DVG is held only through clubs. Even those who hold membership-at-large within an LV are considered "club" members, as their memberships are held through the Kreisgruppe Sammelgruppe, which is considered an at-large club, designated as such usually for those people wishing to hold DVG membership but live too far from a club to join. We in LV America probably have more Sammelgruppe members than would be found in Germany, since there are so many clubs scattered throughout Germany, whether DVG or one of the other breed or dhv member organization clubs.

Likewise, the by-laws of each Kreisgruppe and any dub applying for membership within an LV must be approved by both the LV board and the DVG Executive Board. Unless there exists some specific problem with a club's by-laws, recognition by the German DVG board is pretty much automatic, once the club has been accepted by its own KG and LV.

Membership to the DVG is held only through clubs. No one is an individual member of DVG. Even those who hold membership-at-large within an LV are considered "club" members, as their memberships are held as Kreisgruppe Sammelgruppe members, which is considered an at-large club, designated as such usually for those people wishing to hold DVG membership but live too far from a club to join. We in LV America probably have more Sammelgruppe members than would be found in Germany, since there are so many dubs scattered throughout Germany, whether DVG or one of the other DHV member organization clubs.

While the paperwork sometimes seems unwieldy because of the language problems, Germany is usually helpful in trying to clear up any problems that may arise. The main problem within LV America is the time it takes to get things accomplished. It simply is necessary for us in LV America to consider the mailing time involved for sending in our paperwork for trial and scorebook applications and act accordingly by planning ahead as to which members will need scorebooks during the year, when our trials are to be scheduled, etc. There is always someone in the DVG office who reads English, and should a problem arise, writing a letter to the office explaining the problem and requesting help, will usually meet with success.

**LV/DVG AMERICA STATES  
WITHIN EACH KREISGRUPPEN**



## **LV/DVG AMERICA HUMANITARIAN CLAUSE**

**LV/DVG AMERICA's** primary objective is to protect and advance the interests of working dogs involved in any portion of our training endeavors. This advancement takes place as a result of the training and testing process of DVG Schutzhund. The intended outcome of this progression is that each of these animals will project a positive benefit to their respective breeds. Therefore, the image of our working dogs will benefit on the whole.

**LV/DVG AMERICA** believes this objective can be carried out through humane training practices. It is our belief that these practices begin with the best possible care to ensure our dogs are mentally and physically healthy before they are engaged in the training process. Further, it is our intention to manage our training activities in such a way that no dog is subjected to inhumane treatment, excessive force or abuse of any kind. Respect for the integrity of these animals shall be maintained with vigilance. The laws within this LV which pertain to animal rights, safety and welfare shall be upheld within this organization at all times.

DVG Schutzhund as practiced by **LV/DVG AMERICA** is somehow more than a tool of dog training and testing. This sport provides the medium by which man and dog merge as a single harmonious working team to compete in the name of sportsmanship as signified by our logo.



# THE BREED OF DOG FOR YOU

Since the early days of dogs' association with mankind, dogs have been put to work. The working group has multipurpose dogs from the tiny sheep herding Shetland Sheepdog to the giant property guarding Mastiff.

Many of the tasks dogs learned to undertake are an extension of a natural instinct. The herding dogs are trained to use their instincts to chase a moving object. We refer to this as prey drive. Guard dogs merely exercise on someone else's behalf, their natural desire to protect their territory. We use the term defense drive.

There were those which were essentially guard dogs, those that worked as draught animals, (originally for sledges and small carts) and more recently for sport. Work with these dogs has been widespread throughout the world for centuries. All have one thing in common, they are intelligent enough to be trained to perform very complicated tasks and they are, for the most part, large, strong and muscular animals. Of the working dog group there are nine (9) breeds that seem to be best suited for the sport of Schutzhund. These are: the German Shepherd, Belgian Malinois, Rottweiler, Doberman Pincher, Giant Schnauzer, Airedale, Hovawart, Boxer and the Bouvier. Please keep in mind that **DVG is an all breed working dog association** and the use of dogs which are not frequently seen in Schutzhund are welcomed. However, if you are interested in having the best possible chance of competing in top competition, you are best advised to select one of the nine previously mentioned breeds. One should always use good judgement in investigating these dogs and their breeders.

If you already have a dog that you wish to use for Schutzhund training your local **LV/DVG AMERICA** club will be glad to help you attain your goals as a trainer.





# DOGS AND THE LAW



Did you know that in several areas throughout the U.S.A. and Canada there are specific laws that apply to dogs and their owners? The legal responsibilities for dog owners are not found in any federal statute but rather in various state statutes, Common Law, local and municipal ordinances. Since there are fifty states in the U.S.A., ten provinces in Canada and thousands of municipalities, it is difficult to address all the laws governing dogs and their owners within LV/DVG America. An individual's residence or temporary presence, and the applicable state, province and local laws of the concerned jurisdiction(s) will govern one's canine legal obligations.

These laws are obviously not identical; but many similarities can be observed from one jurisdiction to another. In many instances enacted laws are modeled after a successful law in another jurisdiction. Generally, State and provincial statutes address personal liability for one's canine pet. In many States, for example, there are laws governing mandatory access of utility company meter readers to an owners premises, wherein, the owners are strictly liable for any damage as a result of the aggressive actions of their dogs. Other States may also have laws defining and regulating against housing a "vicious" dog. Most local municipalities, however, usually focus on such subjects as licensing/tags, rabies vaccinations, neutering, "leash" laws, nuisances, maximum number of dogs per residence, and fines related to infractions.

In general, if your dog injures an innocent person, you can be subject to a civil tort suit for damages inflicted and in some States to criminal prosecution.

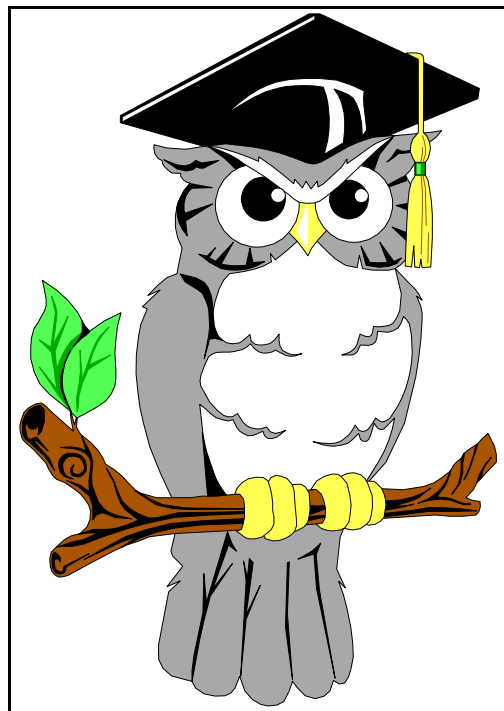
Each community must enforce federal, state, province, county and city ordinances, and each community has a slightly different set of laws regarding dogs. One example is the law found in the State of Florida. Chapter 767.04 in Florida statutes states: "The owner of any dog that bites any person while such person is on or in a public place, or lawfully on or in a private place, including the property of the owner of the dog, is liable for damages suffered by

persons bitten..." Exceptions to this rule occur if your dog is provoked or if someone trespasses on your property, as in a burglary. The Florida statutes go on to state: "Any negligence on the part of the person bitten is a proximate cause of the biting incident and reduces the liability of the owner of the dog by the percentage that the bitten person's negligence contributed to the biting incident."

This legal concept, however, does not always apply to children. If children wander onto your property, even if you have not invited them and they are too young to know the danger, then it's up to the dog owner to take precautions to make sure the child is not hurt. According to many state statutes a child is considered "too young" if under the age of six.

In many communities, an organized club training or trial activity will be subject to these same guidelines. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Training Directors of local LV/DVG America clubs to research these laws and educate club members about their legal responsibilities. Public libraries are usually the most convenient and helpful source for reviewing the accumulation of these various laws. If a public library is not available it is wise to request a copy of the laws pertaining to dogs and their owners from your state legislature, county or municipal government.

**BE WISE -  
CHECK IT  
OUT!**



# **CLUB LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Schutzhund dog clubs should consider the advisability of securing liability insurance coverage for their sporting activities. There are a number of liability exposures inherent in conducting our dog training sport. It should also be kept in mind that club incorporation does not necessarily provide an impenetrable shield against dog related liability causes of action (i.e. lawsuits). Coverage can be secured for both the club and also governmental units such as cities and counties which lease real estate to the club. However, please note that these insurance policies do not include club members as insured parties to the insurance contract; club member should have their own separate coverage through endorsements to their homeowners policy or otherwise. Basic liability insurance policies include coverage per occurrence and in the aggregate (e.g. \$500,000 and \$1,000,000) for personal damage liability risks; these policies can be tailor made for the needs of each club. For example, endorsements can be secured for training classes of various sizes, fire protection, use of live ammunition, tattoo clinics, etc. There are at least two insurance companies (carriers/insurers) presently in the market place that cater to the insurance needs for dog clubs:

**Sportsmen's Insurance Agency Plan, Inc.  
P.O. Box 799, 1042 E. Joseph Street  
Cape Vincent, New York 13618-0799.  
(315) 654-2068, fax (315) 654-3097**

# BASIC EQUIPMENT NEEDS

## FOR THE DOG

Having the right equipment is very helpful in getting the most out of your training experience. It is always best to purchase quality equipment even though it may cost a bit more in the beginning. If you take good care of it, most of the equipment needed will last from dog to dog. Even though purchasing equipment for puppies may be short lived, it is still best to purchase quality products and save them for the next puppy or sell/trade to other dog owners as the puppy grows.

The equipment needed for Schutzhund training can be extensive. This can be attributed to personal choice in having separate pieces of equipment for all three phases of Schutzhund; Tracking, Obedience, and Protection. In addition, as your dog grows and advances to higher levels of training, so may your need for additional equipment. It is for this reason that only the basic equipment will be discussed to assist you in getting through the first few months of training. This list is designed to assist Training Directors in suggesting equipment needs to club members. Each Club Training Director may wish to add to but surely not delete any of these items. The following is a list of basic starter equipment:

1) **Collars:** Two kinds of collars will be needed:

a) A chain or large link slip collar. The fit should be loose, but, not so loose that more than 3 inches of excess is left when it is snug on the dog's neck.

b) A leather or web collar. This collar should fit loosely around the dog's neck while at the same time not being able to slip over the dog's head.

**Note: It is always a good idea to have both collars fastened to the leash while socializing young and inexperienced dogs to humans or other dogs. By hooking the leash to the leather collar as well as the active ring (ring that tightens) on the chain collar, if your dog becomes overly excited and backs out of the leather collar, the chain collar will act as a safety net.**

2) **Leash:** One 6-12 foot, 1 inch web or leather leash. Initially the leash may be used in all three parts of Schutzhund training.

3) **Harness:** Many trainers prefer a harness over a web or leather collar for use in the tracking and protection phases. Some dogs have a hard time tolerating a collar in the early phases protection work. This piece of equipment is optional and will more than likely be needed on an individual basis.

4) **Pet Carrier:** A pet carrier is an excellent way to contain your dog both at home and during training sessions. It makes for a safer way to transport your dog to training and allows you to leave rover unattended while assisting other trainers or socializing at training sessions.

5) **Bait/Toy Pouch:** A \$2.00 nail pouch that can be purchased at any building supply store. This make an excellent pouch to tie around your waist and carry rover's favorite bait and toy to use in training.

6) **Water & Dish:** In all kinds of weather, cold and hot, Rover requires water. Each time you come to training make sure plenty of water is brought along for your dog. When the weather is hot it is a good idea to bring extra amounts to wet Rover down with as he heats up.

## FOR THE HANDLER

### CLOTHING IN GENERAL

As strange as it may seem people that are otherwise very interested in the Schutzhund sport have turned away as a result of the extremes in weather conditions one must face. Many times newcomers show up very enthusiastic only to find themselves ankle deep in mud and water, pulling their shirt over their ears to block the bitter winds and jumping up and down to keep warm in freezing temperatures. It only takes a few times of this uncomfortable feeling to destroy a person's interest in the sport. One wonders how many have turned away from the sport under these circumstances and how things might have changed if they had been prepared to meet and conquer the adverse weather. Therefore, this short but very important section on handlers's equipment needs was developed to help prepare the Schutzhunder for these conditions.

It is a very old idea to wear lots of clothes when it is cold and remove them layer-by-layer as it warms up. While layering is an old practice, its use today with modern garments give one a versatile, thermally efficient and convenient way of dressing for Schutzhund weather. It is useful to understand clothing needs in four layering categories according to function:

- 1) The underwear layer maintains a comfortable micro-climate next to your skin.
- 2) The clothing layer absorbs moisture and provides some insulation.
- 3) The insulation layer provides for additional warmth.
- 4) The shell layer protects against wind, rain, snow, and sun.

The human body is most comfortable at a temperature when its heat production is balanced by its heat loss. Twenty-six centuries ago, Lao Tsu wrote "Movement overcomes cold. Stillness overcomes heat." 2600 years later this is still true but only half of the equation. The other is choosing the right layers of clothing.

#### UNDERWEAR LAYER

Rather than use natural fibers (cotton, wool, silk) which absorb moisture from sweat, polypropylene and other similar synthetics work by repelling moisture. To be effective polypropylene must be thin and in close contact with the skin. It is suggested that long underwear both top and bottom are worn any time the temperature is below 45 degrees.

#### CLOTHING LAYER

Moisture (sweat) transported by the underwear layer either evaporates or is absorbed by outer clothing. The amount of absorbed moisture depends on the material and fit of the garment. A snug fitting absorbent clothing layer is most comfortable for active use. This layer consists of shirt, sweater or sweatshirt and pants (jeans or sweatpants).

#### INSULATION LAYER

Thickness is warmth. Nylon fleece, polyester pile and batting, goose down and wool all have similar efficiency if they have the same thickness and are not saturated with water. Thinsulate materials gives almost twice as much insulation per inch of thickness because of the unusually short radiant path lengths. If comparisons are made by weight, goose down is unmatched as an insulator. Schutzlanders should be mindful that insulation reliability when wet is especially important. Most synthetics are superior in this regard. These materials can be purchased at most sporting goods clothing stores and recently many discount store have began to carry items of fleece and pile clothing.

#### SHELL LAYER

Wind shells add 10 to 25 degrees to the warmth of any garment. In windy weather wind shells increase warmth by 50 degrees or more. Shells made of fabrics like Gore-Tex, SympaTex and other laminated nylons are windproof, waterproof and breathable. These are by far the best but in many instances more costly than simple nylons.

#### FOOT & HAND WEAR

In cold weather boots and gloves built around the same principles outlined above are also very important. When purchasing both to be used in wet weather, check to see if the garment is waterproof or water resistant. Many feet and hands have felt frozen in sustained wet weather when the material is only water resistant. If you neglect these two parts over

the rest of your body, you'll end up cold. Rubber boots are a good guard against sustained water exposure in moderate weather. Rubber boots should be in every Schutzhunders equipment bag. However, remember that rubber is a conductor of cold without proper insulation and by itself not a good choice for warm feet in cold weather.

## SUMMARY

Consider your entire body when attempting to layer effectively. Sweaters can not compensate for the heat lost through bare legs and pants will not keep your head warm. Remember too that wind, dampness and fatigue reduce comfort levels. Give yourself a margin for error by taking extra clothing to Schutzhund training. A little planning and knowledge of proper layering techniques will keep you comfortable in most adverse weather conditions.

# SAFETY REGULATIONS

In an effort to provide for safe training sessions, **LV/DVG America Training Directors (TD)** should insure the following guidelines are adhered to during organized group training sessions and DVG sanctioned events:

1. There will be no alcohol or illegal drug use during any organized CLUB training session. Any person under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs will not be allowed to participate in CLUB training activities.
2. When guests and non-members visit an organized CLUB training session, the TD will explain or appoint a seasoned club member to explain the sport of Schutzhund, the club's guidelines for conduct at training sessions and the safety rules herein.
3. Never leave children alone with dogs, particularly infants and toddlers. Children may believe they are playing with a dog when they are actually provoking it.
4. The TD should examine the equipment before each CLUB training session to insure it is in good shape and suited for the safety of participants; handlers, helpers and dogs.
5. All dogs at CLUB training sessions should remain on-leash when socializing off the training field. Only two dogs at a time should be allowed off-leash. This occurs when one dog is practicing the off-leash obedience phase, excluding the "send out" exercise, and another dog is on a long down. However, at the discretion of the TD and under precautionary measures, other dogs may be off-leash only for specific instructional and training purposes.
6. Dogs living in separate households should NEVER be allowed to roam freely with each other at a CLUB training session. When introducing two dogs to each other, both handlers should walk them slowly toward each other ON-LEASH. They should only be allowed to nose each other but NEVER stand nose-to-tail or side-by-side. If a fight should break out (growling/teeth display) both handlers should back straight away from each other on leash to prevent a full scale dog fight.
7. In the event a full scale dog fight should occur, under no circumstance should any person attempt to physically break up the two dogs.
8. During the protection practice at a CLUB training session, only one dog at a time should be allowed on the training field. All other dogs should be secured in pet carriers or other secured enclosure. If new or young dogs need to watch an experienced dog or if they are to be worked in a protection training group (ie. Puppy circle), they should be double collared and held firmly on leash at a safe distance from one another as determined by the TD.

# DOG BEHAVIOR

*LV/OFS Note: This section discusses the behavior of dogs a Training Director might encounter during CLUB training sessions. This section is not intended to make anyone an authority on dog behavior. It is, however, excellent information that will help the reader identify potentially dangerous situations. This information was taken from a "Manual for Training Directors" developed by LV/Nordrhein-Westfalen and translated by "Armin Winkler" for the purposes of this manual. While all dogs are referred to as "he", this generic term applies to both male and female dogs.*

## Specific Knowledge Examination

### Regarding dogs who appear dangerous because of their behavior

#### 1 Things worth knowing about the temperament or the behavior of dogs

1.1 After a gestation period of about 62 days a dog is born. The first eight weeks of his life he spends with his littermates under supervision of his mother(dam). In this time his senses develop, this is also when the dog learns what species he belongs to and what humans are. This is called imprinting. At the beginning of the so called socialization phase he is usually placed with his future owner. From this time on the training or education of the dog takes place. The human takes the place of the male dog, who in nature would be responsible for the education. The strict social hierarchy of a wolfpack is also of great importance for the dog. He can handle a lot of things, equality is not one of them. Therefore, he must be treated with the necessary authority. Loving affection, play, and sufficient exercise cannot be neglected any more than the consequent enforcement of learned rules. A dog who was properly trained during his puppyhood will later only become aggressive in the rarest cases. This is especially true and important for the training during the age of 12 to 24 months. In this time the dog will find his final place (rank) in his family (pack). In this time, if one neglected to enforce strict enough discipline early on, incidents can occur. But not only training and education are responsible for the development of the behavior of a dog. It is also influenced by environmental experiences and personal comfort. Negative influences or sickness can make an otherwise good natured and peaceful dog irritable, nervous, and hard to control. Similar to humans, strong emotions play a large role

#### 1.2 Dog Behavior

To express his mood, the dog has a lot of tools, which he can use in very different ways. Bodyposture, accompanied by facial expressions and vocalisations, speak a very clear "language". The overall impression of the dog is the tell tale sign to determine, for example, a beginning readiness to attack, since some signals, due to some breed specific characteristics, are not always clearly recognizable.

Generally one can say:

### 1.2.1 Intimidation- and threat behavior

The leg musculature becomes tense, movements become stiff and rigid, the tail is carried erect, the hair on the neck and back stand up (like a brush) (pilo-erection). The subcutaneous (under the skin) musculature of the neck and throat is flexed very tightly. The ears are held high, and point forward. The wrinkling of the skin on the forehead above the eyes ("eyebrows") creates a very threatening stare, the eyes are blank and fixated (like under hypnosis).

At this point the dog can utter a guttural growl which may be interrupted or accompanied by forceful barking. The lips may be pulled up, so that the teeth are partially exposed. This behavior can very quickly change to aggression but also to fear. How convincing and obvious this behavior is becomes clear when one considers, that this more or less pronounced intimidation behaviour is interpreted and felt by many humans, who find themselves confronted by animals displaying it, as "true" aggression. Attacks with serious intentions are, however, rarely observed in such situations.

### 1.2.2 Fear Posture

The body is tense, the hind legs are slightly bent, the back is arched, the dog appears as if he is shrinking in body size. The tail is "pinched" between the hind legs. The head is lowered and carried in a "ducking" position. The ears are "slicked" backwards along the head. The corners of the mouth are pulled backwards, partially exposing the teeth (like an insecure smile). This pulling backwards of the entire facial musculature, the eyes become smaller and an extremely fearful, hard to describe, facial expression is created. This body posture is accompanied by whimpering which may vary in intensity.

**Note: Intimidation behavior or fear can very quickly change to "real" aggression which is an expression of extreme readiness to attack or to defend**

### 1.2.3 Normal Appearance

The body posture is upright and loose, the musculature is relaxed. Movement is fluid and harmonious. The tail hangs down loosely "like a sabre". The facial expression is relaxed and smooth, lips are closed. The eyes have a lively expression, and the ears move independently to pick up and process sounds.

### 1.2.4 Expectation Posture

Body posture is still loose, but there is a hint of tension in the musculature. The head is carried erect, movements become bouncy, and the tail is horizontal and is excitedly wagged back and forth. The coat is smooth, the face gets a lively expression. The ears point forward, the lips are slightly open, the

corners of the mouth are pulled up a bit (like a grin). Often the tongue hangs out a bit, the eyes look round and very lively.

#### 1.2.5 Play Posture

Body posture is very loose, movements are usually choppy, fast, and appear a bit exaggerated. The dog hops around on his front or hind legs and wags his tail forcefully. Noticeable is the typical invitation to play (this behaviour is often misinterpreted by humans as aggression).

During this behaviour, the front legs are stretched out and are thrown forward onto the ground, so that the chest almost touches the ground, the hind legs on the other hand are upright, the tail wags so hard that the entire rear of the dog wags along with it. The head is usually thrown back and forth in a dodging motion, the eyes are big and round, and sometimes one can even see some of the white of the eye along the lower edge of the eye. The ears can be in motion, but most of the time they are somewhat sideways, or "slicked" against the side of the head and slightly down. The mouth is slightly open, the corners of the mouth are pulled backwards and up, so that a friendly facial expression appears (it looks like the dog is smiling). This posture is usually accompanied by short, high pitch, excited barking, but sometimes also by whining and whimpering, or playful growling.

#### 1.2.6 The Aggressive Dog

Anyone who has ever seen an aggressive dog is usually deeply impressed by that picture. Even a dog of a very small breed gives the impression that it is very dangerous. Using the German Shepherd as an example works well to illustrate the different moods (compare to the pictures following this section).

Similar to the intimidation and threat behaviour, the entire musculature is tense. The dog gives the impression he is ready to pounce. He moves stiffly, almost as if in slow motion. Also, his facial expression changes to a terrifying grimace. The eyes become piercing and more threatening, the lips are raised even higher, so that the skin in the top of the nose wrinkles. The mouth may be open, but the corners of the mouth are not pulled backwards as is the case during fear behaviour. One can usually hear a strange growl almost like the hiss of a cornered cat. The ears pointing forward even more, together with the hair standing up from neck to tail, give the overall impression that the dog is very angry; this is a picture rarely seen.

These basic expressions can appear in many different variations, as we can also see in humans. Important is always the overall impression the dog gives.

**Note:** The mood of the dog can be determined best from the position of the ears and the tail.

### The signs of aggression in comparison



Dominant threatening  
ears are pointed forward



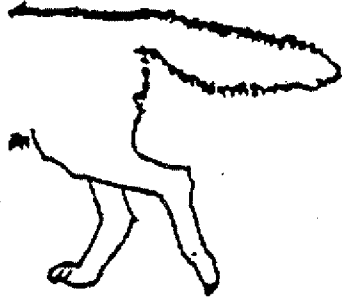
Fear aggression  
ears are slicked back

In both cases:

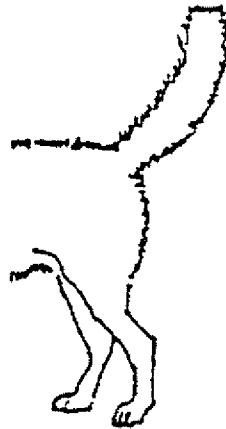
Nose is pulled into wrinkles, teeth are visible, neck hair is standing up, deep, stretched out growl; entire body is tense, the hair stands up from neck to tail like a brush (see picture below)



# EXAMPLES OF TAIL POSITION



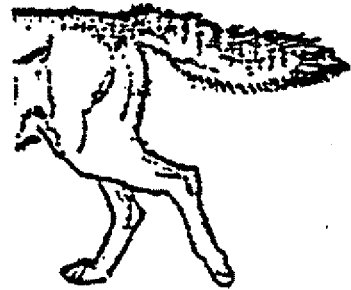
tail sticks straight out



tail is erect



Alert  
(neck and backhair flat)



Threatening  
(sometimes accompanied  
by excited quivering)



normal position



submission



fear

# BODY LANGUAGE OF DOGS



Alert



Threatening

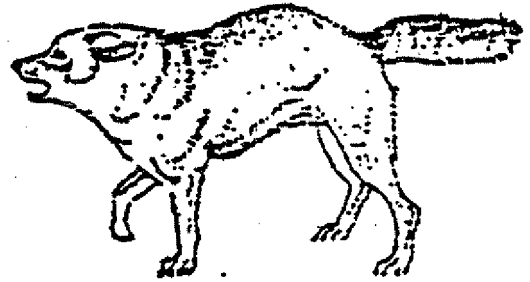


Fearful

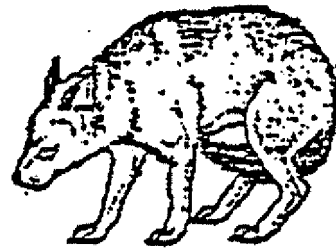
## GENERAL BODYPOSTURE AND ITS MEANING (EXAMPLES)



Alert



Wants to Play



Fearful



Relaxed



Submissive

### **1.3 Basic Principles of Interaction with and Handling of Dogs**

1.3.1 Man and dog live in two different worlds. Since a dog can only make connections, but he cannot think, we have to take that into consideration if we want to get somewhere with the dog.

**Note: A dog can only make connections, he cannot think.**

1.3.2 The basic rules summarized:

- (1) The dog always wants to know exactly what is expected.
- (2) He is a selfish creature who needs authority, and needs to know his place (rank) in the pack.
- (3) He always has to know that his handler is stronger than him.
- (4) Under no circumstances should the dog be beaten.
- (5) Love and trust are the cornerstones of dog training.

**Note: One should make desired behaviors as pleasurable as possible for the dog.**

1.3.3 The training of sound behavior takes place by addressing hearing, touch, and sight. For example, a leash pop with simultaneous forward movement, coupled with the voice command "heel". Or pulling up on the leash, pushing on the rear of the dog, along with the voice command "sit", and so on. Later, the voice commands become symbolic and are sufficient.

**Note: The training of sound behavior happens by addressing hearing, touch, and sight.**

1.3.4 When a dog runs away and does not return when called, the trainer has to move away from the dog. This can also happen symbolically through signals, for example, by crouching down, by turning away, or by moving away in the opposite direction. The dog will then follow the trainer on his own.

**Note: If the dog does not want to come, the handler should move away from him.**

1.3.5 Confrontations between dogs are generally harmless, if they unfold without any outside influences. Attempts to separate fighting dogs are the cause of a lot of accidents. A good training tool is the leash, because it allows the person control, but also gives the dog self-confidence. But it can also have an aggression increasing effect, if one does not leave the danger zone in critical situations by using the aid of the leash, and instead just stands there. As a rule, aggressive dogs become even more aggressive when they are on a leash.

**Note: One should never try to separate fighting dogs.**

**Note: On a leash, an aggressive dog can become even more aggressive.**

- 1.3.6 By talking to the dog calmly and by petting him, even an aggressive dog can be calmed down and distracted by his master. It is also important that the dog is taken out of the critical zone.

**Note: By petting the dog, and by talking to the dog calmly as well as by making body contact you can calm your dog down.**

- 1.3.7 When one deals with a dog, one should know that he is a descendant of the wolf. The main sensory organ through which he experiences his environment is his nose.

**Note: The primary sensory organ of the dog is his nose.**

- 1.3.8 If dogs later on develop into problem dogs, then as a rule it was caused by humans. They were either not exposed to humans enough during the imprinting phase, or they were ruined through faulty training. Also, constant isolation in a kennel, or on a chain can be the cause for the dogs development to turn out wrong. Dogs like that especially need to be re-educated and have to be brought under the control of the persons who are responsible for them.

**Note: If dogs develop into problem dogs, then that was as rule caused by humans.**

- 1.3.9 This re-education happens through good training, where praise and correction is handed out simultaneously when desired or undesired behavior is shown when a command is given. Corrections should never occur out of control or by hitting, instead leash jerks and voice commands or possibly grabbing the dog by the scruff of the neck are the proper ways to correct a dog. Any type of training should be fun for the dog. A dog is controlled by his drives (instincts), he lives in a different world than humans do.

**Note: Correction should never be administered out of control or by hitting.**

- 1.3.10 Children and dogs should categorically only be together if the dog can be watched carefully and one should always consider the unpredictability of dogs as well as children.

**Note: Dogs and children should only be together under close supervision; one should always consider the unpredictability of dogs as well as that of children.**

- 1.3.11 The temperament qualities and characteristics are not only inborn, they are also shaped by training, and one can keep the dog's aggressive tendencies under control when the training is done right and with purpose.

**Note: Aggressive tendencies in the dog can be kept under control through deliberate and purposeful training.**

## **1.4 Practical applications:**

- 1.4.1 My dog is running off leash in a park for example and a hiker is approaching with a dog on leash. There is only one correct option, namely: I calmly put my dog on leash and pass by the hiker at some distance. Even if I know my own dog's behavior, I don't know that of the other dog and a dog fight could ensue.

**Note: When encountering people with dogs on leash, one should also put his own dog on leash. One should then lead one's dog past the other dog at a safe distance.**

- 1.4.2 Dogs should only be allowed to play together if they know each other well. It is good socialization for young dogs to play frequently. What is good socialization is sometimes hard to recognize, even for experts.

**Note: Dogs should only play with each other if they know each other well.**

- 1.4.3 When a dog owner and his dog encounter single individuals (i.e. a jogger), one should be especially careful. The dog should calmly be put on leash and calmed down, if necessary he should be handled with strict commands. People or dogs who run away trigger the dogs pursuit and prey drive, which can lead to disobedience.

**Note: If lone individuals are encountered, the dog should be put on leash and should be calmed or handled with strict commands.**

- 1.4.4 One should pay special attention in situations where a walk starts from the car. The sequence of events should always be that one first checks the entire situation, then one opens the car, puts the dog on leash, and then lets the dog out of the car.

**Note: Before a dog is let out of the car, he should always be put on leash.**

- 1.4.5 If a person picks his dog up and holds him in his arms when on a walk, because the person is scared of another dog, a dangerous situation is created. The other dog is then especially interested in the whimpering little bundle in the person's arms. In such situations, both people and dogs have been injured. In cases like that, one should put his own dog on leash. Then, tell the other dog owner that he can safely pass with his dog walking on the ground.

**Note: If other people fearfully pick up their dog because they are scared of another dog, put you dog on leash and let the person know that he can walk his dog safely on the ground.**

- 1.4.6 Also, if fearful people approach, or people who act strange, the dog should be calmed down and put on a leash just to be safe. All movements should always be normal, not especially fast, but also not especially slow.

**Note: When approaching people who act fearful or strange one should put the dog on leash just to be safe.**

- 1.4.7 Also, people who approach to meet or pet the dog, if the dog has a tendency to become aggressive, should be informed of that fact and should be asked to keep their distance. The dog should be held back.

**Note: When one's dog could possibly become aggressive, one should tell people who want to pet the dog of that fact, and they should be asked to keep their distance.**

- 1.4.8 Especially difficult are situations of someone walking two or more dogs at the same time. This is not an advisable situation as dogs that themselves are not inherently dangerous, may when with other dogs display pack behaviour which is different from the behaviour of a single dog.

**Note: Walking two or more dogs together is not advisable.**

- 1.4.9 Once a dog shows an exercise in a proficient manner, this is no guarantee that he will perform this exercise forever when told to do so. The dog owner therefore has to continuously practice. The most important form of practice is daily contact. Daily feeding and grooming, and plenty of social contact are the prerequisites for proper bonding between owner and dog. This bond is what will allow a dog, which has attracted negative attention, to be re-trained and re-educated to become once again a social being. The bond between man and animal can only be maintained with long term daily contact.

**Note: The most important form of practise is liberal, daily contact.**

- 1.4.10 An adequate environment in which to keep the dog should go without saying. One should consider keeping the dog in the house, or if the dog is to be kept in a kennel, that he spends several hours a day in the family home. A properly built and equipped doghouse is naturally required as well as suitable space for having a dog in general.

**Note: It should go without saying that a dog must be kept in a suitable environment with adequate contact with family members.**

- 1.4.11 Even if a dog is walked on a leash, with a muzzle on, the handler cannot be inattentive. Dogs that are on a long leash can still bother people or other animals, or cause property damage by soiling or damaging clothing.

**Note: A dog should never move about without supervision, even if he is on a leash or wears a muzzle.**