

ASK A JUDGE

by Jorg Kaltenegger



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Here are some of the DKV Test and Zuchtschau questions that you have submitted. Please continue to email your questions to me at jpkalt@gmail.com.

Q1: You ask if the DKGNA is a breeding or testing club?

A1: The answer is a breeding club. As a member of the DKV (the official DK breed club in Germany), the DKGNA is authorized to host DK-specific tests, Zuchtschauen (breed shows) and other official events. Also, as a member of the JGHV (German Hunting Dog Association), the DKGNA is

permitted to host all German registered hunting dog breeds in JGHV tests and certifications (VJP, HZP, VGP, BTR, VBR, SW). The JGHV is a “testing only” association and may not host Zuchtschauen (breed shows). If a local JGHV club wants to host a Zuchtschau, they must be affiliated or receive permission by the parent breed club (DK, DD, DL, KLM, etc.) in Germany.

In the DKV testing system, a dog’s breeding qualifications takes precedence over a dog’s performance at a test or physical appearance at a Zuchtschau. A dog with a non-breedable physical or temperament fault may not receive a passing Prize I, II or III score in a Derby, Solms or AZP. The dog will receive a “Qualified for Prize I, II, or III score.” At the International DKV tests (NAKP, IKP and KS), the breeding standard requirement is raised to an Adult Zuchtschau rating of “SG” (very good) or higher. Dogs that do not have an adult “SG” or “V” (excellent) rating may not enter the International test; and dogs that receive a “G” (good) conformation score at the Zuchtschau in the NAKP, IKP or KS test are “disqualified” from competing in the field and water events.

During the Zuchtschau (breed show), a dog’s temperament traits and character faults outweigh the dog’s physical conformation. A dog with an excellent physical conformation grade should be downgraded for any temperament weaknesses; and the dog “must be penalized or excused” from the breed show if they are aggressive, people shy, fearful, hyperactive or have any other weakness of character. A “V” excellent, physically shaped dog should be downgraded to “SG”, “G” or “Ungen” (non-breedable) depending on how much of a weakness in character or temperament fault the dog displays. The final decision is made by the

conformation judge, but noticeable temperament faults are “required to be evaluated and documented on the Zuchtschau evaluation form.”

A dog that receives “perfect scores” at a test or has an excellent “V” conformation body will fail the DKV examination, if they have a breeding disqualification fault. The DKV regulations stress that all examinations (test or breed show) and club activities are primarily focused on maintaining and promoting the DK breeding standards.

Judges need to be very careful in making a temperament or character fault determination on young dogs participating in a Derby or Zuchtschau, because of the dog’s young age and immaturity. Any determination to permanently eliminate any dog from the breeding program needs to be done with caution and in accordance with a specific DKV regulation reference.

Q2: You ask if your spayed or neutered DK may enter a Derby, Solms or AZP?

A2: The answer is yes. Spayed and neutered (or other physical faults, teeth, etc) dogs may enter the Derby, Solms or AZP; but they will not receive a passing score. The score will be a “Qualified for Prize” score. At the Fall breeding qualification tests (Solms, AZP, HZP, VGP); dogs that need the Fall test to become breed eligible, will receive priority for test entry over non-breedable dogs.

Dogs that have eliminating temperament faults such as fear biting, aggressive, people shyness, hyperactivity, gun shy, fear of live game and weak character should not enter the test. If the judges determine during the test that a disqualifying temperament fault exists, the dog is prohibited from continuing in the test. Dog’s with disqualifying physical faults, that do not affect the dog’s safety during the test, may continue testing.