

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Kurzhaar family,

Unfortunately, my husband is not able to be here himself due to personal organizational circumstances, but has asked me to speak to you on his behalf. He thanks you for having the opportunity to address you.

The DKGNA was willing to take on the responsibility for the NAKP and deserves our respect.

Anyone that has ever organized a similar event knows how much work is necessary in order to offer the handlers good testing conditions and the visitors a memorable time.

Last but not least, every initiative needs a motor, namely Frank O'Leary, to whom we express our utmost appreciation. Frank, as a token of our gratitude we wish to give you this sculpture, which you can award as you see fit.

The NAKP is a wonderful opportunity for Deutsch-Kurzhaar friends to inform themselves about the status quo and performance of our dogs.

Breeders are thereby encouraged to strive for excellence, hunters and handlers obtain a better understanding of what refined hunting manners are.

Our tests allow us to assess the potential of our DKs and to evaluate the results of controlled breeding.

The 45. Dr. Kleemann was held last week, and we were glad that the handlers which had not been allowed to take part in last year's test due to the short term entry restrictions imposed on them, had the opportunity to present their dogs.

Fortunately the two clubs Althümmling and Weser-Ems offered to host an additional Kleemann and calmed things down again.

A little over 60% of the dogs passed, and that is the average. It was a very harmonious test, the handlers had excellent testing conditions.

We've had much talk about reducing the number of entries at the IKP and Kleemann during the past months. In connection to that, just one little teaser: DD had the Hegewald the same week-end in the same area and tested 189 dogs.

The Kleemann 2024 will be hosted by the club Northwest and their president, Günter Wienöbst, has already conveyed that they will not need any entry restrictions, and that they will have the full support of their neighbouring clubs.

I regret that we were not able to offer the conformation apprentices a final exam because the majority of the DKV Presidium was against it. Harald Beyer, who is

also a conformation testing judge, would have been competent and willing to administer the test and Frank O'Leary would have made all the other arrangements.

This shortage of conformation judges, not only in the USA, has led to various problems in Germany during the past year. Having working judges check the bite and dentation at tests led to the misunderstanding that findings of "no faults" from a working judge have no relevance for breed qualification, which many "normal" handlers were not aware of.

Especially nowadays, a time full of changes, not only for the better for hunting and hunting dog training and testing, our clubs make an extremely valuable contribution by maintaining and enhancing the performance level of the best of all hunting dogs, the Deutsch-Kurzhaar.

Due to the ever changing situation it is important to foster what we have and to stand together united.

It is also imperative for us to cherish and defend our own testing system consisting of Derby, Solms, AZP, IKP, NAKP and Dr. Kleemann.

That offers us the great advantage of not having to run around in the fields trying to find a hare, of being able to have a more mature dog tested in the AZP, and being able to compare our dogs on the international level at the IKP, as well as having a test for the cream of the crop to filter out the elite, the Dr. Kleemann.

Obedience and co-operation have become more and more important in modern-day hunting venues.

These categories are already reflected in our testing regulations and it is the judges' essential responsibility to acknowledge and rate them accordingly.

Discipline and training are the key to outstanding performance. We all want a manageable utilitarian hunting companion, and for the most part, that is what we have.

At this point I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the men and women who put themselves at the service of the clubs, to the generous land owners, to the judges that donate their time and, last but not least, to the breeders who are responsible for the successful development of the Deutsch-Kurzhaar and the handlers who are willing to invest time and money to train and test their dogs. And last words to the handlers: be reminded, no matter how your dog performs at a test, you will always take the best of all dogs home again, your Deutsch-Kurzhaar.

Keep up the good work and strive for excellence.

And since I know that long speeches can spoil anyone's mood, I will conclude with a quote from the man of direct words, Martin Luther, referring to the three most important elements of making speeches:

Stand firmly, speak clearly and above all shut-up quickly.

Thank you for your attention.