

Karlos to the Kleemann Then to Utah

by John Heiner

At the 2020 Dr. Kleemann Prüfung there will be not less than five dogs owned by members of the DKGNA. This article features the fourth KS hopeful and his owner.

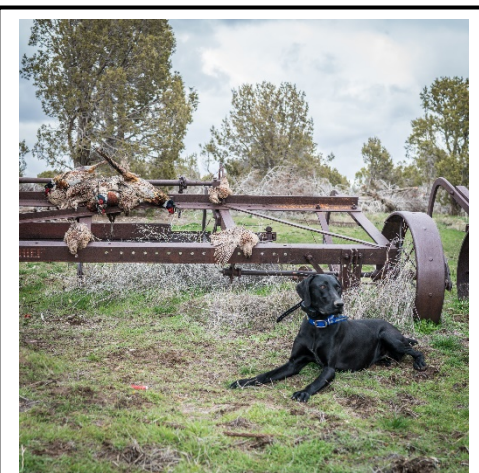


Braya Vom Hochland
D1 S1 Fw: V (pup SG1)

I was warned that it could become an illness. If having 1 DK is great, then certainly having 2 or 3 would be even better. It happened. I got the bug! I am not referring to the brutal pandemic we know as COVID-19. I am referring to the DK bug! I would argue the DK bug is far more contagious. That said, the seriousness of COVID-19 is real, and I pray that each of you stay safe. What I do know is the DK bug is far more fun!

I started with a liver and white female out of Tyler Smith's vom Hochland "B" litter (Braya vom Hochland - Rey). My dad got in on the action and purchased a black "I" pup out of vom Hidden Creek in Alabama (Isobel vom Hidden Creek - Izzy). We were focused first and foremost on finished hunting companions. To arrive at finished hunting dogs, we followed the program by attending training days put on by the DKGNA. We completed the Derby, SOLMS and HZP. When I was a kid, my dad and I raised field bred springer spaniels. I love springers; however, there was something about the process, the strict regulation, and the breed versatility that drew us both to the DK.

As I learned more about the breed and got involved in the community of DKGNA members in Utah, it became obvious that the DK for all intents and purposes was in its infancy in the US and the West. That is exciting but it also represents challenges including finding suitable studs nationwide. Optimistic about what Rey and Izzy could bring to the breed, we established our kennel, von Wasungen. My ancestors come from Wasungen, Germany where my 4x Great Grandfather Johann Martin Heiner met and married Adelgunda Dietzel. We felt it appropriate to pay homage to our German ancestry.



Isobel vom Hidden Creek
D1 (4h point) HZP 184 Fw: SG

As we searched for studs, we discovered 2-4 in the US that we would have interest in breeding to if possible. We were also excited about

some up and comers running through the DK testing system. That said, there wasn't a lot of options and many required significant travel. We also began exploring acquiring a stud from Germany to meet our kennel goals and bring additional value to DKGNA members and approved DK bitches here in the US. Tyler Smith was aware of a stud named Karlos owed by Rudiger Stilgenbauer out of vom Klepelshangener Forst. I connected with Frank O'Leary as he'd recently spent time on Rudiger's hunting preserve in Germany and had personal interaction with Karlos. The more we learned about Karlos, the more we accelerated the process. Upon consulting several key players coupled with multiple Whatsapp calls into Rudiger, it was obvious Karlos needed to come home to the Utah.



As a Kleemann qualified dog, we were left with 1 more critical decision. Do we ship Karlos to the US and integrate him into our home, family and kennel right away or do we wait and have him compete in the Kleemann this upcoming October? What would you have done? There were valid points on both sides of this fence. We chose to keep him in Germany. We arranged to have Rudiger train and prepare Karlos for the Kleemann while continuing to stand him at stud in Germany. The Germans continue to breed to Karlos and he continues to live out a charmed life on Rudiger's hunting preserve while preparing for the Kleemann. We continue to get to know Karlos more through Whatsapp.

Karlos is a big boy at over 80 lbs. He is a site to behold. He is described as "thorny" and "goes into the water in any weather and also reliably chokes all predators." It is also noted his "serenity and calmness in everyday life are worth mentioning." As we considered Karlos, temperament was key. Frank O'Leary described him as the sort of dog you don't even realize is sitting there in the home; yet, Rudiger describes him as "always there when you need him."



Karlos vom Klepelshangener Forst – ZB-Nr. 0244/16 D1, VJP 70, HZP 185, AZP1, VGP 1/336 CACIT, VStP 56B, HN, LN, SJ, VBR, HD A2, OCD frei, FW: V1-CAC (Anwartschaft deutscher Champion VDH), 67cm – 81 lbs.

Having trained and run my own female through the testing system including Derby and SOLMS, I take great pride in learning the process and handling on my own. That said, I also recognize the value of asking for help. As

many of you have experienced, help throughout the testing process is key. The DKGNA is unmatched in its willingness to provide that assistance. Competing in the Kleemann and bringing Karlos to the US is no different. It has required a community effort. As a community of DKGNA members and friends in Germany, this opportunity was possible. At von Wasungen, we feel blessed to call you all friends. We are grateful for the mentorship of many including Tyler, Frank and Rudiger. We look forward to joining Karlos in Germany, hunting wild boar and coons with Rudiger, spending time in Germany with other DKGNA members, and returning Karlos to our home and kennel in October. Karlos will be available to approved bitches winter 2020. (For more information regarding Karlos and future breedings contact John Heiner @ 801-857-7914)