

DKGNA Member Profile

by Michael Thompson



Zara and Michael

My name is Michael Thompson and I'm from Sparks, Nevada. I live there with my wife, Lauren, our Saluki, Faza, our Pug, Brodie, and of course our DK, Zara. Professionally, I work for law enforcement for the State of Nevada. Lauren is finishing up nursing school and breeds Salukis which she competitively hunts and shows with. Some of my hobbies besides hunting include, triathlons, mountain biking, camping, and the occasional round of golf.

I grew up in a hunting family and was shooting a rifle by the age of ten. I hunted waterfowl and upland game all over the Greater Nevada Basin behind our family hunting dogs, mostly GSPs and Labradors. I have also been hunting antelope, mule deer, and elk since I pulled my first tag at the age of 12.

When we started looking for a hunting dog, we knew we wanted a dog that could blend well as a family dog from a reputable breeder. After doing a lot of research and speaking with different GSP kennels, we became intrigued by the DKs and eventually came across Tyler Smith's vom Hochland Deutsch Kurzhaars. After speaking to Tyler at length about his breeding program, his values, and what makes the DKs different from the GSPs we were sold! Months later we welcomed Bee vom Hochland, "Zara" into our family. She has been the most entertaining, loving, too-smart-for-her-own-good, wonderful addition to our family and has proved herself to be a great hunting buddy already in her first year of life!

This last April she was tested in the DKGNA Derby and scored a Prize 1 with perfect 4/4 scores across the board. Lauren showed her in the Zuchtschau and she received an SG2, second highest just behind her sister! Some of the judge's comments included describing her as an "overall excellent female type with a very proud female temperament." Learning more about this breed and the commitment to preserve the instinct and beauty of the Deutsch Kurzhaar during these events was truly incredible.

The countless hours that Zara and I have spent in the field training together has created a bond and trust unlike



Zara waiting for her Derby Scores

anything I've ever had with another hunting companion. Zara's first year of life has shown her to be the best hunting buddy, hiking buddy, lake dog, camping dog, couch potato, and professional cuddler. Her natural ability, instinct, and versatility that has been bred into her gives me a lot to look forward to and we can't wait to get into the field this year.