

Zuchtschau 2006

For the second time in a row Herr Petersen, Federal Chairman for Conformation Judges, agreed to judge our annual NATC Zuchtschau. This year he decided to bring his wife with him and spend a few extra days in the Adirondacks following the Zuchtschau. A lot of DTK judges take their spouses with them on the longer trips and the DTK has strict guidelines how the financial aspect is being handled. The NATC paid for all the expenses of Herr Petersen and Frau Petersen paid her share of the room, all meals etc.

On Friday I picked Herr and Frau Petersen up at the airport and we drove up to Lena's house where we met Carrie, David, Phil Bird, Lena's friend Pattie and Lena's mom for a cup of coffee and a nice chat. The weather was beautiful and we could sit outside and relax for a bit. Lena had found a beautiful Bed & Breakfast about 20 minutes away from the show site and it was almost an adventure finding our rooms via a labyrinth of steps, hallways and several sets of stairs, some behind doors. It was definitely something completely different from the usual hotel/motel accommodations.

The day of the Zuchtschau was wet and cold but the show went smoothly and without a hitch. We had 24 dogs entered and seven of them received the highest evaluation score of "Excellent". The overall quality of the entered dachshunds has once again gone up and Herr Petersen was very pleased. At the end of the show the seven "Excellent" dogs were called back into the ring and Herr Petersen picked "Britta vom Ahorn Wald" as the best dog of the show. Britta is bred and owned by Lore Mahler and stems from the very first NATC/DTK registered kennel. Congratulations!

On Sunday we had the Companion Dog Test, the Gun Steadiness Test and the Water Test. Even though it was wet and we had a tremendous downpour at one point that even forced me to shut down and pack up the computer equipment, we made it through the tests and enjoyed the performances. We saw some fine work and had a few good laughs when one of Patt's longhairs decided he wasn't going to hand over his retrieving toy and instead jumped back in the water every time Patt got close – or when Viola, Barbie and Ed Will's new puppy, lost sight of the duck in the sun glare, swam past it, and decided to keep swimming across the large pond. Barbie was already in the boat going in for the rescue. During the 'search for the handler' part of the Companion Dog Test Auggie decided to take a little detour to go after some birds – before returning to the line and finding Sherry.

Before the certificates were handed out Herr Petersen called up John Jeanneney and awarded him the golden DTK pin for outstanding service on behalf of the DTK for founding the North American Teckel Club and promoting the dachshund as a hunting dog in North America. A proud moment indeed. Congratulations, John!

Sunday night a small group of us went to dinner and we had a lot of fun before everybody said their good byes.

Monday morning I drove Herr and Frau Petersen to Albany to pick up their rental car for their trip to the Adirondacks.

This has been a very intense but extremely enjoyable weekend and I think it proved that we are on the right track. . It was great to see Phil and Mary Bird all the way from Texas, new members Diane Webb and John Willmore from California and Connie Taylor from Nova Scotia.

I would like to thank everybody who helped and especially Lena, who took care of all the local details and Carrie, who chaired the event.

Anke Masters