



Bur Oak Hundesport News

*A Dog Sport Club in Northern Illinois Specializing
in Schutzhund and German Conformation*



Club member Teri Tognetti and State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance instructor and evaluator Scott Peirson train Teri's GSD, Malachi, towards the dog's certification as a working Search and Rescue canine. In top photo, Teri rewards Malachi with a tug after he bark alerted by the correct tunnel where Teri had hidden. Next step: inserting tunnel and a hidden "victim" into a rubble pile. (Story on pages 8, 9.)

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SUMMER, 2011

This Newsletter is published quarterly for Members & Friends of Bur Oak Hundesport as its official publication. It is sent to all Club members & on an exchange basis with regional Schutzhund clubs. Opinions expressed in the articles are those of the writers & not necessarily that of the Club.

What We Are

Bur Oak Hundesport was formed as a non-profit organization on Jan. 12, 2003 to encourage & promote training of purebred German Shepherd dogs & other desirable breeds for the dog sport of Schutzhund.

Diverse founding members include several breeding kennels, & expert through novice proponents of all three phases of Schutzhund training & competition (tracking, obedience, & protection work). Other key interests of the Club involve conformation & ring training.

Bur Oak Hundesport is affiliated with the German Shepherd Dog Club of America-Working Dog Association, Inc., (GSDCA-WDA). As a member of the World Union of German Shepherd Dog Clubs, through its affiliation with the GSDCA, the WDA provides enthusiasts with a framework for activities in the U.S. patterned after those available to the world-wide German Shepherd dog community. All members of Bur Oak Hundesport are part of the GSDCA- WDA.

Where We Train

Bur Oak Hundesport's regular training facility is located at Gridley Field in Long Grove, IL, just east of Route 83 & Gilmer Road.

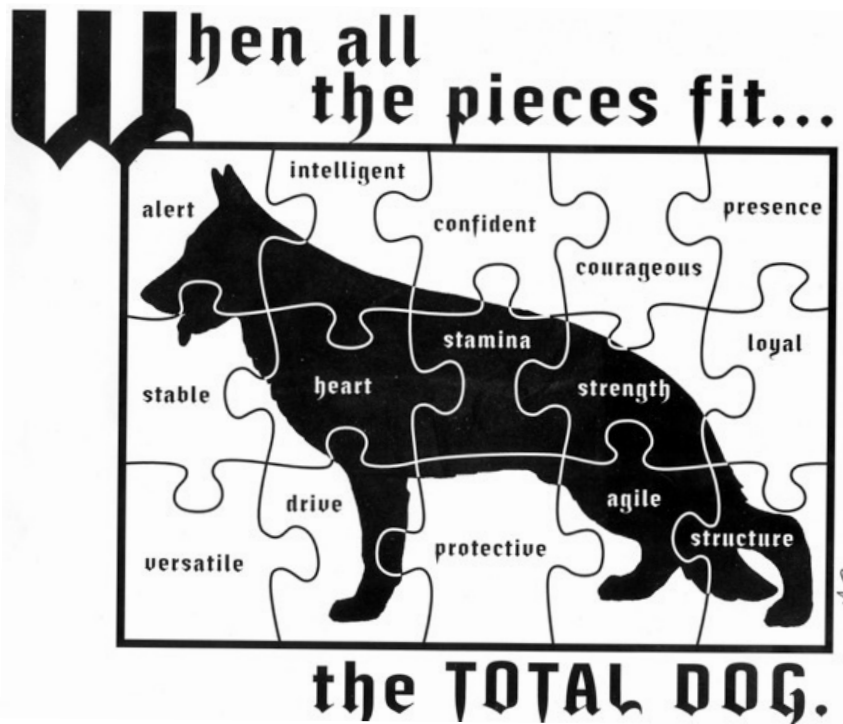
Our Officers

President	Mike Karlov
Vice President	Bill Plumb
Treasurer	Joe Barry
Membership	Jan Ashmead
Secretary	Judy Braginsky

To Contact Us

Membership information:
memberinfo@buroakhundesport.com

Bur Oak Hundesport Web site:
www.buroakhundesport.com



Bur Oak Hundesport Training Schedule

Each Sunday, the following training is available:

TRACKING -- 8:00 a.m.

OBEDIENCE -- 9:00 a.m. on the Training Field

SITS & DOWNS SESSION* -- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

PROTECTION -- 10:30 a.m. (or after obedience training is finished) at the training field.

*This is a group session where we work on various distractions while maintaining group sits and downs. The time of the sits and downs will be increased as dogs gain confidence with the exercises.

Various distractions to dogs learning to maintain a sit or down can include other dogs and handlers working on eye contact, a person walking or jogging by, car drive-bys in front of dogs, people playing catch in front of dogs, or starter pistol shots fired from a distance.

** Guest trainers: There is a \$20 cash fee (per round) for the first dog and \$15 for each dog thereafter to participate in all three event areas above (including ring training, if held). See Membership Chairperson Jan Ashmead to sign the necessary waiver and pay the fee.

Club news...

Hot Dogs

Honorary Club member Jose Rodriguez and Alma vom Atahualpa, earned an FH 1, and high FH, in tracking at the American Working Dog Federation Championship April 7-10 in Bowling Green, KY.

Club members earning titles on their dogs in recent months included a SchH3 for Mike Lichtwalt and Heidi; a SchH 1 for Lee Marconi and Amuk; BHs for Mike Karlov and Captain, Jamie Elliott and Radar, Lee Marconi and Amuk, and Mike Mallen and Iago and an AD for Joe Barry and Eli.

Welcome New Members

The Club welcomed into membership recently: Sandy and Fred Nueschen and Riva, and Ed and Robin Bohrer and Onyx.

Extra-ODIN-ary

Club member Ruth Black's and Neda Tkalcevic's Odin vom Mittelwest, SchH3, was awarded his third VA title in less than a year when he was awarded VA2 at the USCA Sieger Show in Dallas, TX on May 1. Odin, 3, also received for the second time the No. 1 American-bred Working Class Male Award.

Odin is currently being shown in Germany, where he made V2 at his first show at the OG Meimers Schutzhund Club, under SV Judge Wilfried Scheld.

Ed and the Tracking Lead

Here's a cautionary tale from Club member Ed Bohrer to memorize before you get out there to train your dog:

"I'm sorry to have to say this, but it appears I failed to follow one of the most (and now I believe THE most) important rule of training: Be aware of where your lead is before you throw a ball for reward.

"After completing a track with Onyx this past weekend, I threw his ball and, well, you guessed it, 92-pound dog takes off with the lead tangled around my right ankle. Result: 3 broken bones, one dislocated ankle, and a bunch of hairline fractures.

"So, after surgery installed 12 screws and a plate, I'll be off my leg for about 6 weeks (the first 2 pretty much complete

Alpha Mail...

Gone Fishing.
---- Mike



house 'arrest').” --- Ed

All Dogs Go to Heaven

Sincere condolences to the Nueschen family on the loss of their 10-year-old GSD, Grace. We all know how hard it is to lose a dog, especially one whose lifetime is long enough to be an era of our own lives. Writes new Club member Sandy:

"We let our 10-year-old Grace go to the 'Bridge today. She had chylothorax, a rare condition where fluid enters the chest cavity through the thoracic duct; She had surgery at UW 3 months ago, which allowed us to drain the fluid at home.

"She was doing relatively well until this week, when she went into kidney failure."

We hope the Nueschen's young Riva

Got Cockle-burrs?

If you're out there in the wilds tracking your dog, you've probably come across... the cockle-burr.

Lots and lots of cockle-burrs, depending on how much brush you track through, all stuck to your dog's hair and all over your clothes and pant legs. The weedy pest with hooked bristles is hellish to remove, especially if a lot of them have grabbed a free ride.

And there were lots and LOTS of them stuck around the hairy ears and tender "junk" of my Amos, TD, after tracking through the Lake County Forest Preserves.

Cockle-burrs take a long time to remove when you pick them off one at a time; and there's lots of commotion attached. Back home, the whole process took more than an hour.



Special Trial Award for our Club President Mike Karlov (above, left), with Captain and SV Judge Heinrich Balonier. (See page 6)

One of perks of belonging to a club like Bur Oak Hundesport is the advice that's readily available from members who've "been there."

Here are great tips on how to remove cockle-burrs from a dog without growls, whines, nips, screams, and cries -- from Club member and master tracker Tawny Wagner, and AKC Tracking Judge Donna Kircher. Tawny suggests forgetting about using your fingers to remove a cockle-burr. Instead, get a pair of flat-nosed pliers and crush the burr first. (Move carefully around a dog's junk. Or anybody's junk, for that matter.)

Option No. 2: Donna suggests spraying the burred area with baby oil to soften the situation. Then, gently brush out the pieces that remain. --- Judy

Train with Your Brain

Editor's Note: World-level Schutzhund competitor Debbie Zappia was in town a few months ago for a seminar sponsored by the Working K-9 Club in Bloomingdale, IL. Debbie is a five-time World Union of German Shepherd Dogs (WUSV) team member and has been a member of numerous Federation Cynologique International (FCI) teams, as well. She and her GSD, Escobar v Adelerik, SchH3, FH2, Kk1, were WUSV Vice World Champions. Debbie is considered an innovator in Schutzhund training. Following are some notes taken while I audited the March 18 seminar. -- Judy

PHILOSOPHY

"Dogs love to learn and play games," Debbie says. "They get what they want by ultimately doing what we want. Most dogs will eagerly approach lessons once they learn the benefit to themselves.

"When you set up your lesson, know what you want to achieve before you train.

"Decide what type of dog you have, sensitive or confident. A very sensitive dog benefits from a near-errorless lesson. A confident animal needs more room to make mistakes and learn from the choices.

"**Failure should be** just information to a dog and contain no emotional fallout. The dog becomes secure in the behavior that is correct.

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

"Automatic attention is the most important behavior your dog will ever learn. Lack of attention is the reason that (some) trainers move to compulsion. Attention must become your dog's DEFAULT behavior.

"**Before you can** teach anything (attention included), your dog has to like food or a toy, preferably both. Without tools you cannot build a relationship. If your dog will not work for food, you must teach him to love food. Try different types. Roast real meat.

"The way you present the food (or toy) can make all the difference. Throw the food. Move the food and have your

4.

dog chase it. Show your dog the food and take off with it, running while pretending you are eating it.

"**It is difficult** to teach your dog technical behaviors with a toy. Food allows you to reinforce more often, to continue the flow of the lesson. I use a toy once a behavior is learned to raise the behavior to a higher predictable level of excitability.

"The smaller progressive pieces of an exercise that you reinforce, the quicker a dog will learn the behavior.

"**Remember, it** is impossible to teach something to someone who is not paying attention. It is useless to give a command to a dog that is not paying attention.

REWARDS

"How and where do you deliver the reward? Do you want to build excitement or calmness? How you deliver the reward will determine the outcome. Quick movements from you will activate excitement, while, calm, predictable delivery will result in calmness from your dog.

STRESS

"Because our dogs compete in a contact sport, they must learn to deal with physical as well as mental stress. Most dogs competing in Schutzhund enjoy rough play. It's important that they learn that pops on a prong collar are fun. That the response to a pop is to come up and forward. That pulling hard on a flat collar is acceptable.

"**They must move** forward with physical stimulation. Oftentimes, we wait too long before teaching correct response to different forms of stimulation.

COMPULSION

"For attitude and accuracy, you don't use total compulsion. This does not mean I do not do corrections. You need some corrections (in the training process) to compete at high levels in the sport."

Debbie says her main training tools are food, dog toy (tug), and sometimes a clicker and an e-collar.

"**An e-collar is** a handy training tool to have but it's how you use it that is key to it being effective," she says. Introduced correctly, it can be a plus.

"More and more people train in non-compulsion at higher levels of competition,

including Israeli Sharon Ronen, the first woman to win WUSV championship competition. She doesn't use compulsion in training her dogs.

"**In countries where** compulsion is used to train in Schutzhund, few make it to high championship competition levels. I see young people coming up through the ranks who will be awesome trainers and competitors because they do not use compulsion.

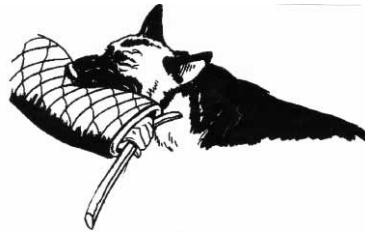
"Every one of my competition dogs had 'shaper' training and no compulsion. (Free shaping is a training method where a dog "teaches itself" through trial and error, Debbie says.)

"**It is hard to compete,** show after show, with a compulsion-trained dog because, ultimately, the dog can't take the pressure.

"I want my dogs to compete as long as they can."



Field Work



It's a fact that learning the ropes of Schutzhund takes lots of time, effort, and dedication to the dog sport. Here's the first in an occasional series of photos taken by Club member Joe Ashmead of Club dogs and handlers putting in some sweat equity on our field.



Radar (above) and Jamie Elliot hit the A-frame.



Amos (above), Judy Braginsky, and Helper Mike Karlov; Amos and Mike at the sleeve (below); and Amos holds onto his prize (bottom photo).



Tawny Wagner (above, left) introduces Melissa Van Dermeir and pup, Jessie, to the scent pad in tracking.



Jan Ashmead and Gunner doing some sleeve work with Helper Eddie Calderon.



The BH Club

Let's hear it for a new round of Bur Oak Hundesport Club members who passed their BH (Begleithund) testing, the first step towards going out for the Schutzhund titles.

All the heeling on and off lead, sits- and downs-in-motion, the starter pistol shots, the recall, traffic sureness practice, and more finally paid off when SV Schutzhund Judge Heinrich Balonier announced they'd passed during Bur Oak Hundesport's recent Club Schutzhund Trial and AD.

Lots of applause for the new BHers Jamie Elliott and Radar, BH; Lee Marconi and Amuk von Karthago, BH, and to Mike Karlov and Captain von Karlovhaus, BH (whose score merited a special Club Award, Exemplar Bur Oak Dog BH). And to our Joe Barry whose Eli vom Kavanaugh passed his AD at the Trial (through heavy fog for most of the morning).

More congrats to Club member Mike Mallen, who reports that he successfully completed his BH with Iago at the Greater Chicago Schutzhund Club Trial June 11-12.

Others passing the BH at our Trial were Vince Feltner and Josie vom Geistwasser, BH; Annaliese Eaton and Igor vom Zwinger, BH; and Rolando Salvador and Bella van Rohaus, BH. Also passing the AD was Anetta Witun's Vik Artrox, AD.



Jamie Elliott (above, left), Radar, BH, and the Baloniers.



Lee Marconi (above, left), Amuk, BH, and the Baloniers. Lee and Amuk earned their SchHI a week later at Greater Chicago's Trial.



SV Judge Ingeborg Balonier (above, left), Mike Karlov, Captain, BH, and SV Judge Heinrich Balonier.



New SchH 3 - Plus

GSD Heidi von Lichtwalt tucked another Schutzhund title after her name after she and Club member Mike Lichtwalt passed their SchH3 testing at our recent Club trial.

Achieving this high level in Schutzhund dog sport is always a big deal. We all know and appreciate what a dog has to learn and the time it takes to learn it all in obedience, tracking, and protection, the dog ultimately hitting and searching those blinds, finding the “bad guy,” guarding him convincingly, escorting him off the field, and the dog, itself, showing courage when threatened.

Besides their SchH3, Mike and Heidi earned an armful of awards at the Trial: High Protection Sherri Award, High Obedience Sherri Award, and the High Tracking Sherri Award. The special awards were given out in memory of the Club’s late DOT, Sherri Bednarczyk, and donated by Sherri’s daughter, Dawn, and granddaughter, Ariana, from Sherri’s massive collection.



Mike Lichtwalt (above, left, clockwise, Heidi, SchH3, Judge Heinrich Balonier, Mike and Heidi with their trophies, and Heidi (at left) eating some celebration dog treats from one of her trophies.

Search & Rescue 101



A well-trained Search and Rescue (SAR) dog is a sight to behold.

Such a dog can evenly maneuver the most difficult terrain with the grace of a mountain goat, all the while helping police and fire departments look for a trapped, hidden, or missing human, alive or dead.

The dog must be steady and calm in stressful and changing situations, unflappable to loud noises that would spook many other dogs.

The SAR handler is no slouch, either. People who own and handle SAR dogs are volunteers who spend hundreds of hours training them. The handler, himself, has learned SAR skills enough to make your head spin.

Such a team must be available 24/7 on an unpaid basis to respond to callouts. And, as SAR team members will testify, most come at inconvenient times, such as the middle of the night, or when the weather is bad, or on holidays.

All told, search and rescue is an expensive, grueling, and time-consuming volunteer vocation.

Club member Teri Tognetti is embracing the challenge. She and her 4-year-old German shepherd, Malachi von Kraftwerk, TC, CGC, HIC, T1, have been training for some time towards being mission-ready as a SAR team.

They train with Scott Peirson, a full-time captain and paramedic with the Des Plaines Fire Department.

Peirson is also an instructor and evaluator for the State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance, or SUSAR, with two German shepherds of his own (Alex and Xamb) that are certified disaster search dogs.

Standards are, well, high to become a SAR team.

Teri has already passed several levels of certification by the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) for humans and is considered the human “half” of a working SAR canine team.

She is a probationary member of People and Paws Search and Rescue, 8.

Inc. based in Milwaukee, WI.

To get there, Teri became certified in standard CPR and first aid, learned wilderness survival skills and the finer points of using a map, compass, radio communication during a search, and more.

She knows how to fashion a rescue harness with webbing out of rope and to tie five different kinds of rescue knots to secure, raise, and lower a victim, and to rappel herself up and down, too.

Last October, Teri and her teammates underwent two days of testing in order to be certified as a SAR Tech II through NASAR.

Day one consisted of a written test of 190 questions and then demonstrating how well one could tie those rescue knots.

Day two, the group entered Lapham Peak Park located in Wisconsin’s Kettle Moraine State Forest – where the grass and thick brush were at times as high as their necks – for testing on their ability to track, navigate, and area and grid search.

“We had to be able to recognize a set of footprints, measure them, and tell which foot it was (right or left), and what direction they were headed,” Teri says.

“In another test, we had 15 minutes to work 100 meters out and 10 meters between groups of 3 of us to search and find clues, at least 5 in each lane.

“One team member had to keep time and another had to be the guide to keep us straight. I was left guide.

“We all passed except for one team member who was injured in the field and couldn’t continue.”

For Christmas, Teri’s kids bypassed flowers and candy and bought mom SAR equipment called a wolf pack.

The compartmentalized backpack is constructed to hold 57 different items, including a global positioning system, radio, flashlight, chemical light sticks, spray paint, goggles, shelter material, water, rope, wire, knife, basic first aid kits for handler and dog; plus gear for

the search dog, including food and water.

Training the SAR handler, of course, is only half the job.

There’s the key teammate. Your dog.

Teri has been training Malachi for more than a year. She aims to specialize in urban disaster search, and tracking Alzheimer’s patients who have wandered off.

SAR training for a canine focuses on many aspects of off-leash obedience under voice command, including directional go-outs and emergency recalls. Search skills include bark alerts and tracking, trailing, and/or air scenting.

Dogs have an instinctive fear of walking on unstable ground. They will not, by nature, enter dark, narrow spaces. In order to safely search rubble for victims, the SAR dog must learn it is possible to balance or gain control of a moving object by using its body weight and gravity, to spread its toes and not dig in with its toenails, to place each foot deliberately and independently on the rubble without being overly concerned about its safety.

Teri and Malachi have trained many times at “Rubbletown Milwaukee,” a first-of-its kind facility in Wisconsin, developed specifically to train dogs for certification in urban SAR. Rubbletown consists of a 6,000 square-foot primary, constantly shifting “pile,” complete with large slabs of concrete, metal rebar, wood, and other building materials piled to a height of 10 to 15 feet. There are also numerous concrete pipes placed throughout to provide concealed locations for “victims” as well as tunnels to practice limited access.

Constant training on rubble piles also toughens the SAR dog’s pads so it doesn’t need to wear protective booties that can make a dog less sure-footed.

SAR dogs need to be in good shape to climb, run, and jump and to maneuver into position to do the job.

Since much of the training includes working on obstacle equipment and real-life obstacles like rubble piles,

Continued on page 9

Search and Rescue 101 *Continued from page 8*

advanced agility and off-leash training are crucial prerequisites.

But no one can teach dogs to have the courage, desire, and drive needed to work a disaster site. Ultimately, it takes a special dog.

In September, Teri hopes to travel

with Malachi to New Jersey for his SUSAR Type 2 canine certification. The day-long testing of a SAR dog candidate for its agility abilities and obedience and searching skills will be as intensive for Malachi as it's been for Teri.

"A big part of this particular test has

the dog searching between 6,000 and 10,000 square feet of a pile of rubble for two 'victims,'" Teri says.

"The SAR dog candidate has 15 minutes to find them." --- *Judy*



Cartoon by Jim George, www.drawthedog.com 22/104

Bundessieger Pros



When SV Schutzhund Judge Heinrich Balonier agreed to replace ailing SV Judge Jurgen Hess for Bur Oak Hundesport's Club Schutzhund Trial and AD on May 28-29, the Club certainly got more than it bargained for.

Not only did Herr Hess manage to secure a replacement judge for us at the last minute so we could even have a Trial, (a real challenge since SV judges' judging calendars can fill years in advance), he managed to tap not one but two fellow Schutzhund legends, Heinrich Balonier and his wife, Ingeborg, who acted as interpreter.

Both Baloniers are respected SV judges who also have had great success at the SV Bundessieger show as competitors.

If you don't know a Bundessieger from a bundt pan, the SV Bundessieger is the most prestigious working dog event in the world.

While the SV Sieger Show is strictly a conformation competition, the Bundessieger is Germany's national championship for Schutzhund, kind of like our World Series for major league baseball.

Much like standard schutzhund trials, the Bundessieger focuses on three main areas: tracking, obedience, and protection. The event is held within a stadium; and handlers must ensure their dogs do not get confused by the noise and the large crowds present.

To even be entered in the Bundessieger is a high achievement. Some of Germany's best dogs and skilled dog trainers compete in the yearly event but first have to undergo a demanding qualification process to try and get there.

Entrants in regional qualifier trials for the Bundessieger, for example, have to qualify with a minimum score of 286 (out of a total 300) points and a rating of pronounced courage and hardness in protection at two regional qualifiers under two different judges.

To place at the Bundessieger is huge; to win it, an extraordinary feat. And the Baloniers, who both share a remarkable degree of training expertise, are no stranger to big-time competition like the Bundessieger show, as well as the

10. Sieger show, and for Universal

Heinrich has shown at the Bundessieger a whopping 13 times, handling 5 different dogs and earning second place in 1989 (98-100-98) with Cliff von Huhnegrab. (Cliff's earlier Bundessieger placings included third place (100-95-98) in 1987 and seventh place (98-96-98) in 1988.)

Wife Ingeborg, only the fourth woman ever called to be a SV Schutzhund judge, has shown at the Bundesseiger six times. In 1998, Ingeborg worked their Nastor vom Wolfsburger Schloss to a third place, the same year Nastor was Universal Sieger (and placed V-110 at the Sieger Show). (Universal Sieger is a high honor for a dog that has performed best in both working trials and the conformation ring.)

The Baloniers competed together in the Bundessieger twice, in 1988 and 2007. At one of the shows, "Heinz placed 7th with Cliff," Ingeborg recalls. "Rex (vom Haus Feuerbach) and I were 'a bit' behind in placings."

Ingeborg remembers Rex with special fondness.

"You didn't have to train Rex to track. He did it himself. He was very powerful in protection, too. Many, many helpers fell down because they couldn't catch him."

It seems that training Schutzhund dogs is "in the family."

The Baloniers' daughter, Heike, at age 18, competed in the 1990 Bundessieger with Yasso von der Main-eiche. and earlier earned a Youth Schutzhund Championship. Many times, Ingeborg says, all three of them competed together in regional schutzhund trials, one time father (with Cliff) competing against daughter (with Yasso).

Ingebord's nephew, Tim Pecho, has competed in the Bundessieger three times at the tender ages of 11, 12, and 13 and twice won a Youth Schutzhund Championship.

Ingeborg's brother, Holger Pecho, is an SV Judge, too, and a helper for their

home club, OG Grossostheim, started by Heinrich and Ingeborg's father. Ingeborg has been Club President for 20 years.

"We like to train dogs," she says, modestly. "We like the dog sport." She adds that it is important to have the support of one's local club and a good helper, as well as a good dog, to be successful.

The Baloniers also breed working lines under the kennel name, vom Welzbachtal. They are the breeders of the 2002 WUSV World Champion Kallie v. Welzbachtal.

Current Balonier dogs at home are Aika von der Glacis, SchH2, 4 ½; Zamp vom Welzbachtal, SchH3, FH1, 6; Tim vom Welzbachtal, SchH3, 8 ½; Demeter vom Zuchtgut, SchH3, 10; Vasco Vikar, SchH3, IP3, 7 ½; and Cliff vom Waidler Bluat, AD, 18 months.

Cliff, we heard, just earned his BH.

--- Judy



SV Judges Heinrich and Ingeborg Balonier at Gridley Field.

Canine Commando

U.S. Navy SEAL War Dog is Top Secret

A German shepherd? Possibly.
A Belgian Malinois? Maybe.

Regardless of breed, a military working dog helped take out the world's most notorious terrorist before it melted back into the shadows alongside 79 U.S. Navy SEAL commandos.

In keeping with the rest of the top-secret, super-elite SEAL Team 6 that killed Osama bin Laden, the dog that reportedly accompanied the SEALs on the deadly raid of bin Laden's compound remained shrouded in mystery.

Though 79 men snuck into Abbottabad, Pakistan, only two dozen of those soldiers slid down the ropes. According to *The New York Times*, a dog was one of them, strapped onto an assault team member as the two were lowered out of a Black Hawk helicopter.

The military is staying tight-lipped about the dog's identity, refusing to reveal even breed or gender. President Obama is one of the few Americans to have met the dog, in a closed-door session with the SEAL team in early May.

(When President Barack Obama traveled to Asia last fall, an elite team of 30 bomb-sniffing dogs was part of his security entourage.)

Major William Roberts, commander of the Defense Department's Military Working Dog Center at Lackland Air Force Base, said the dog on the raid might have been brought in to check the compound for explosives, sniff door handles to see if they were booby-trapped, or search for secret rooms in bin Laden's compound.

Heavily armored dogs equipped with infrared night-vision cameras have been used by the SEALs in the past. The dogs wear ballistic body armour said to withstand damage from single and double-edged knives, as well as protective gear that shields them from shrapnel and gunfire.

The dogs are sometimes fitted with infrared and night-vision cameras so the handler can see what the dogs are seeing from up to 1,000 yards away, and communicate with the animal through a speaker on its vest.

Some war dogs are trained to attack anyone carrying a weapon and have become a pivotal part of special operations as they crawl unnoticed into tunnels or rooms to hunt for enemy combatants. The cameras on their heads beam live TV pictures back to the troops, providing them with critical information and warning of ambushes.

In August 2010, *The Register*, a British online tech publication, reported that "top-secret, super-elite U.S. Navy SEAL special forces are to deploy heavily armoured bulletproof dogs equipped with infrared nightsight cameras and an 'intruder communication system' able to penetrate concrete walls."

The article also reported that the U.S. Naval Special Warfare Group had awarded an \$86,000 contract to Canadian firm K9 Storm for the supply of 'canine tactical assault vests' for wear by SEAL dogs.

The K9 Storm catalog boasts an array of high-tech canine devices, from storm lights to long lines and leads to an assortment of vests – assault, aerial insertion, and patrol-

SWAT – that help to protect the animal from harm due to everything from bullets to ice picks.

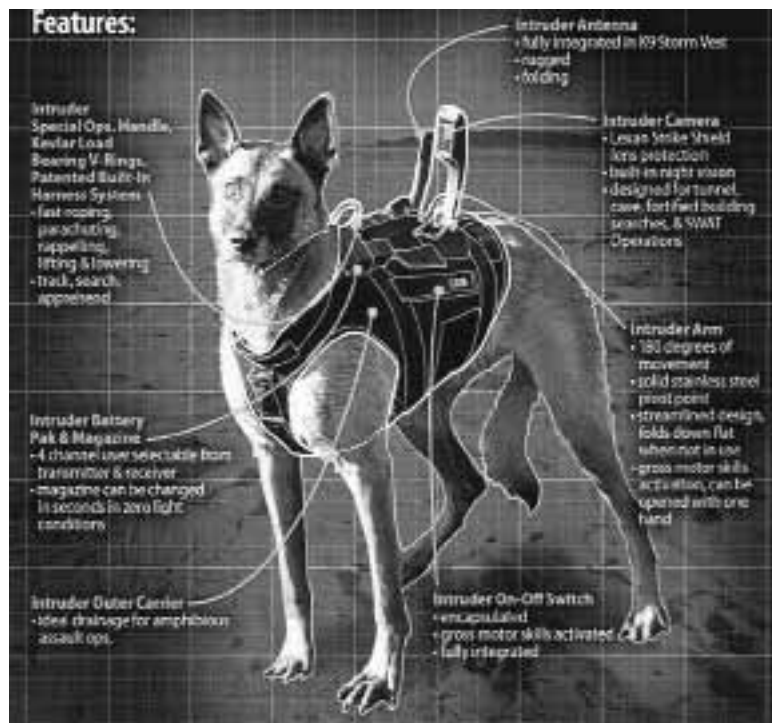
There are currently some 600 military dogs serving in Iraq and Afghanistan – a number that is expected to increase substantially.

German shepherds have been leading the way in Special Air Service commando raids in Iraq and Afghanistan. Wearing oxygen masks, the dogs have been trained to jump from aircraft at 25,000 feet, before seeking out insurgents in hostile environments.

Overall, there are some 2,700 dogs on active duty in the American military. A decade ago, before the Sept. 11 attacks, there were 1,800.

"The capability they bring to the fight cannot be replicated by man or machine," General Davis Petraeus, current U.S. commander in charge of Afghanistan, said in 2008. "By all measures of performance, their yield outperforms any asset we have in our industry."

(Sources of article include: www.globalanimal.org/writer Arthur Jeon; NYDailyNews.com; The New York Times Web site: www.newyorktimes.org.)



“The motto for work on man, of any and every description, is firstly, obedience, secondly, obedience, and thirdly, lastly, and always OBEDIENCE. The dog’s obedience testifies to the intelligence and ability of his trainer.” --- *Capt. Emil von Stephanitz on ManWork for Protection Dogs*



Bur Oak Hundesport

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