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**Jezzi**

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Post #1



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**GSD World Discussion Board proudly announces it's second interview, featuring Tracy Bullinger, of Bullinger Shepherds, Canada.**

**Tracy is a long time trainer, breeder and competitor, a household name within the community of the German Shepherd Dog.**

**We are honored that Tracy agreed to share a bit about herself, and the dogs in her life.**

**Tracy's accomplishments include:**

**She has bred:**

~~Over 150 Schutzhund titled and breed surveyed dogs.

In 2005, Bullinger Shepherds had more breed surveyed dogs registered in the German Koer book than any kennel in the World.~~

- a. 10 Canadian National Sieger/Siegerins
- b. over 30 V-rated dogs at USA National Shows
- c. 6 VA dogs
- d. 1st place Kennel Group at the USA Sieger Show on two occasions.
- e. 1st Place Kennel Group at the Canadian Sieger Show every time shown
- f. Canada's first Conservation Dog
- g. One of Canada's top RCMP Tracking dogs
- h. 10 Canadian Champions, 7 more with points
- i. Regional FH Champion (96 points)
- j. 3 Time SchH3 National Competitor
- k. #1 stud dog for the GSDC of American Annual Training Achievement Awards
- l. World Qualifier

- m. Regional SchH3 Champion and SchH2 Champion
- n. Numerous dogs with v-scores in all phases (including 99 points in protection)
- o. Number one stud dog at the USA Sieger Show

### **As a handler:**

- a. Qualified for the World Championships with her own breeding stock
- b. Won the B.C. SchH3 Regionals
- c. Competed and placed in the VA Category on 12 occasions
- d. Handled over 50 dogs successfully in bitework at all National Sieger Shows
- e. Handled over 50 dogs successfully for KKL 1 ratings at Breed surveys
- f. SchH3 Club member
- g. High in trial for CKC obedience (197 points)
- h. Finished and pointed numerous dogs in CKC and AKC show rings
- i. Gold medal in Sports points
- j. Obtained V scores in all phases (100 points in tracking) (97 points in obedience) (96 points in protection) with dogs she has trained from the beginning.

### **Now for the interview:**

#### **1. Tell us how you first got involved with the German Shepherd Dog.**

I was a competitive horse person and bought a German Shepherd for a pet. Shortly after purchasing her I fell upon the sport of Schutzhund and I was hooked! Unfortunately the pet I had was not of the quality I needed, she was a long coat and only purchased as a pet, but she restricted me from doing what I love to do....compete!

This was my start as outlined in my Start and goals on my website. It was my frustration with being told that I couldn't have a beautiful dog that could work that inspired me to breed.

I looked for years and did research and was fortunate to come upon my foundation Can. CH V Xanthie von der hohen Erle SchH2 KKL Ia Lbz and V Dela v Kirschtal HGH KKL Ia Lbz.

#### **2. Was there a particular dog who inspired you to continue on with the breed?**

My first two litters produced outstanding for me and you will see these dogs in all my favorite lines today.

I guess I was really lucky, though I tried to make educated decisions. My

favorite dog that inspired me was Can.CH Canadian Sieger V Brew v Bullinger SchH3 IP3 KKL Ia Lbz. He was an amazing dog with so much heart, character and truly what I believe a German Shepherd should be. He was not only beautiful, correct, but his work ethic could not even be criticized by extreme working line enthusiasts.

**3. Did you ever have a "mentor" whom you feel helped you form your philosophies?**

I think I have many mentors, but the one family that has been there for me through all the years is from Kennel Maaraue, Ellen and Freddy Muehlbauer. Without their help through the years, I could not have done most of the breedings in Germany and not only do I feel they are mentors, but truly good friends. Rudiger Mai from BierstadterHof kennels has also inspired me through the years as well as many judge friends that truly have the German Shepherd dog in their heart.

**4. What accomplishments are you most proud of so far in your time working with German Shepherds?**

I think my working achievements in the past, qualifying for the World Championships with my own bloodlines and also winning our Regional SchH3 Championships with Brew.

Most current is my US VA with Wim v Bullinger SchH2 KKL Ia, she is 6 generations of all my old bloodlines that go back to my foundation.

**5. What do you look for in a potential brood female, potential stud dog, or competition dog?**

The "Golden Middle". It is really difficult, but soundness is most import, in both health and temperament. You need to know your bloodlines. The problem is most breeders don't train, my background and years of experience and being hands on definately helps with the selection. Motherlines are extremely important.

**6. Describe your puppy selection process and how you decide when you will hold a puppy back for your own program.**

I rarely do a breeding where I am not intending on keeping back something. I don't breed to produce for a market, I breed for myself. It is a lottery though, you make your best educated decision and then keep your fingers crossed. When I make a breeding decision and choose for myself, I keep what I think best represents what I expected to achieve.

### **7. Who is your favorite German Shepherd of all time?**

This is a hard question, I really can't just name one. I absolutely respect my first two foundation females and of course Brew. I imported a wonderful male named V Pele v Oxsalis SchH3 KKL Ia Lbz, this is a dog I had so much respect for, he was a tough cookie going back to the old Mutz line (which Brew does too) when bred to a Brew/Dela Kirschtal daughter produced my VA Quota v Bullinger SchH2 who produced herself over 16 KKL1 offspring and two VA's! Kevin is amazing, he really is one of the most perfect German Shepherds you could ever have the pleasure to meet, I am so honored to have him here with me.

### **8. Where would you like to be in 10 years?**

I would like to show more in Germany, I am happy with my accomplishments here and now have to take the dogs from years of my bloodlines and compete where the competition is the toughest.

It is one thing to win with dogs purchased, but there is no better feeling than having success with generations of your own lines.

I would like to mention one thing that I think is very important.

It takes a team of people to go forward in this breed, it is not a one person show.

I have to thank my friends, family and supporters through the years, especially Mary Shields, she is an incredible person and friend.

***Tracy Bullinger December 17, 2007***

**A familiar sight, Tracy with another beauty from her breeding program:**



***Wilden Westen***

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