



Interview with Dr. Olga Grin (Russia)

Interviewed by Jane Mitchelmore



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Australia - 2002 Newcastle, NSW -
Sieger Nottrott Wild Hakim & Siegerin Berewolf Bold Lori



Australia 2009 NSW Sieger Oberschoen Black Ash ow, br. Vernon



Brazil Belo Horizonte - 2005 Sieger Zorba Earl Antonius &
Siegerin Olympia vh Neubrand



Russia Kazan 1994 - ADRK Judge Kurt Lohnert & Olga Grin,
Mstislav Polivanow - breeding seminar in University of Kazan

Please tell us about yourself and your dogs, past and present.

Dogs have appeared in my family since the beginning of the '80s. Since this time, Rottweilers have been inextricably linked with my life and gives me many interesting and pleasant moments. Rottweilers were not common in our region of Russia; there were only a few representatives of the breed. However, the desire to get the Rottweiler was for me a very important issue. I had no doubts that the Rottweiler would be my breed. Why the Rottweiler? Even then, I was fascinated by its austere beauty and strength, which was legendary in the Russian kynological environment. First, I saw a Rottweiler in a photo of the old Soviet book about dog breeding. As it turned out, it was a well-known champion and stud, Harras v Sofienbusch. My judge activity began in 1986. In the early '90s, I was involved in the foundation and development of the Rottweiler Club of Russia. I supported the Russian Rottweiler Club and was a RRC board member until 2006. During this time I, along with a small group of volunteers, imposed and consolidated a Körung system for Rottweilers in Russia. In 1994, I invited to my native city of Kazan the first ADRK judge ever—Mr. Kurt Lohnert with his special workshop and judgment made a real breakthrough and opened the ADRK era in Russia. For 12 years, I was a member of the publishing council of the Russian magazine "ROTTWEILER". In 2010, my monograph about the history and genealogy of the Rottweiler breed, The Essentials of Rottweiler Breeding, was published.

At the present time, I am a professional veterinarian with a PhD in Biological Sciences. My specialization is the structural features and pathology of the musculoskeletal system of molossian group dogs. I am a Körmeister and FCI International all breed judge, RKF judge's examiner, Chairman of the Canine Federation of the Republic of Tatarstan, and the head of the breeding department of CFRT. I am the owner of FCI registered kennel Russen Rothenschild.

With respect to my personal dogs, my very first Rottweiler, named Kirk, was born in 1985. He was the champion of the working trials. His pedigree was typical for the Russian Rottweiler at the time, based on Rottweilers imported from the German Democratic Republic. From the very beginning of my work with the breed, I kept the position of breed warden in a major regional club. This time in the Soviet Union, I was not able to register my own kennel. The work was conducted on the lines and families. In the early '90s, the work with Hassan v Königsgarten lines was laid in our club by stud Hasso v Florian (Chris v Obergrombacher Schloss x Blanka v Florian). Hasso was the very first ADRK Rottweiler we brought to Russia from West Germany with a Ztp (admittance in ADRK breeding programme). He had a great exterior and working qualities (SchH III, AD, BH). In the mid-'90s, Russian Ch. Ben v Lerchenfeld, from Bulli v Hungerbuhl lines (Int. Ch. Dick v Rhongeist x Ines vd Lichten Aue), was widely used in the club. In early 2000, I came back to Hassan v Königsgarten lines, through famous stud Gerbert Iz Taddi (Ben vd Scherau x Kelly Velta Floyd), inbred II-III on parental couple Irk v Obergrombacher Schloss x Dascha v Burgthann. In the mid-2000s, important steps were taken to consolidate the positive qualities of our livestock. Together with family friend and Rottweiler admirer V. A. Doncov, we obtained top quality producers from Germany, including Int. Ch., Ch. of Germany and Russia Filou v Rauberweg (Brutus v Rauberweg x Mona v Ostsachen) and Int. Ch., Ch. of Germany and Russia Felix v Hause Zschammer (Cujo vd Burg Weibertreu x Baccara v Haus Zschammer). They are the most important Rottweilers I ever had in my life. Breeding stock of my kennel on the maternal side is a most important topic for a separate article—it is impossible to briefly describe this question in an interview format.

What made you decide to become a Rottweiler breeder?

The intention to know more deeply the Rottweilers from the practical side. Just knowing all the features of breeding, the problems of growth and education of the puppies, the secrets of producing quality puppies, the specific of keeping adult dogs in kennel. You can greatly expand your own experience and apply it in practice to conduct quality judgment. The experience to be a breeder is very valuable in a general sense. I cannot imagine a specialist judge or Körmeister, who has not personally raised any litters or who has not trained their own Rottweiler. Also, I strive to get my own paragon, the achievement of which is only possible through long-term work, theoretical and practical experience.

What activities have you done with your Rottweilers?

I started my practical activity on the training field. My highest achievements were the titles of my Rottweilers in trials, accepted within the Russian kynological system. For several years, I was seriously involved with my Rottweilers in the IPO program. Now I pay more attention to training and promotion of obedience with Rottweilers as a universal companion dog. In my club, I have special consultation hours for ring training and behavior modification. I have also been actively involved in showing my dogs at shows, first as a handler, and lately as a manager.

What is your ideal phenotype of a mature male and female?

This is a sturdy, bony, average height, not too squat, athletic, compact dog, having a regular anatomy of the body structure and angles of limbs, well-developed and strong muscles, and elastic limb joints. Sexual dimorphism in the species must be very well expressed. Males should be medium to large and massive, with emphasis on strong withers. Male head details: sharper, look tougher, more confident. Females are much more elegant, medium to large female size, topline drawing softer, not so pronounced withers. Female head is not so massive, compared with males, but clear shape is required, and the look is softer. In any case, the look should not be gloomy or sullen. The head of a Rottweiler should be voluminous, but drier than most molossians and well refined in detail. Head size must be impressive, but in harmony with the body. Of particular importance in the assessment of the head, which may well be accentuated by only the experienced breed judge, is desired breed type expression (BTE). This is a subtle connection of head parts: from the skull to muzzle, shape of the eyes, ear size and position, making the overall picture—at last, at the optimum combination of all parts, is a real masterpiece. The quality of movement and temperament plays a crucial role. In the modern shows, a Rottweiler without balanced movement and active temperament has virtually no chance to win. Relatively recently, the tail appeared to become a new item selection. The preferred tail is a long saber, preferably held below the topline in stance and in movement. Today, dogs are subject to disqualification from the kinked tail, tail curled over the back, and tightly curled into the ring one or more times. This is the modern Rottweiler in my mind. Of course, in the world I saw only a few specimens of such a quality. At most of the shows, I meet Rottweilers of normal quality. Each of them has its advantages and disadvantages. I think this is a natural phenomenon—a breed exists for selection and improvement. Breeders erected it to the most noble traits. After all, the process of breeding is a real art.

What do you look for in maturing dogs and why?

Psycho-physiological Rottweiler maturation depends on the prevailing of a particular type of constitution. The maturation is completed approximately in the period from two to three years. Evaluation of adult dogs has its own specifics. Adult dogs and bitches can get the highest exterior scores, only in those cases when they have no faults of individual structure, and they are characterized by a pronounced sexual type. In the males, particularly strength of skeleton and muscles must be expressed, the volume of the chest, usually high in withers and compact body. Females are relatively graceful, elegant, and with noble head proportions. Female format tends to be more stretched than the male. If I judge junior or intermediate class I can forgive a still shallow chest and some poor musculature, while in the examination of adult mature dogs, I can compromise only in very exceptional cases.



Russia Sankt Petersburg 1997 -
Sieger Changr & Siegerin Akslen Olympia



Russia , Ekaterinburg City NDS - Sieger Ajaks from Land
Blakemore & Siegerin Hotrein Freska



Hasso v Florian, SchH 3, BH, Ztp, born 1989



Int-Dt.VDH CH Felix vh Zscammer, SchH 3, Ztp
born 2004



Russia , Kazan 1985 -
my first Rottweiler, KIRK, born 1985

At the show you recently judged in the USA, how did the dogs meet your expectations? Do you see any positive or negative trends?

I would like to note the quality of the dogs at the last show in Sacramento, California was quite diverse. There were numerous entries, but the quality varied from top-level to pet-level. Such a diversity displayed in a professional show, happens not too often. As a rule, in specialized championships, representatives of professional kennels compete. They actually are the trendsetters in matters of breeding. The main competition in this show was between imported dogs, with few exceptions, from the adult male and female classes. Positive qualities of local livestock are mostly good pigmentation and eye color, correct bite and dental formula, with very few exceptions, the right condition and structure of the coat, and good breed temperament. A main negative trend I would note is the problem of size—there were a lot of small dogs, especially males, below average and very small height, with a illegible expressed sexual type. These dogs often have weak or average and mediocre bones and heads with atypical or poorly expressed relief. Another problem, not only local but also global level, is weak ligaments in front and rear. Especially alarming is a noticeable trend towards shortening of the forearm; the dog looks too squat due to this. In the description, I pointed out these shortcomings. But to eliminate them it is necessary to review the breeding program at local kennels in many aspects, which are fundamentally important issues. I would suggest to breeders thorough pedigree analysis and changing some conditions of selection in local kennel breeding programs.

At the USA show, you made a comment on several dogs saying they were true to the Rottweiler standard for four generations. Can you explain what you mean?

In my comments, I usually make reference to the fact that any breed standard describes the average dog model without taking into account development trends and qualitatively new trends. Those trends are naturally formed in the process of selection for the general and the particular features of the exterior. For example, if we take the very first Rottweiler standard, which was created back in 1901 by the animalist-artist Albert Küll. From 1907 to 1913, there were two general standards—DRK (Deutsche Rottweiler Club) and SRK (Suddeutsche Rottweiler Club). In 1913, it was revised and edited by a group of dog owners of the IRK (International Rottweiler Club). Since the inception of ADRK, the FCI Standard has been revised three times: in 1921 and 1960 (above all size and format), as well the FCI standard applicable to our time from 2000. If we read carefully the evolution of the FCI Standard, it will be obvious that the standard only describes the general features, setting specific requirements for the dental formula, clear height and weight limits and recommended to take into account some proportion. Over time, it became a more detailed standard in the description of some features, but did not describe the linebreed types, relationship between constitution and some specific features of various type representatives. When I describe the dog and point to belonging to the classical type, I mean that described dog has correct anatomy and size, average characteristics, which generally correspond to the standard, but its exterior is not bright enough in terms of the expressiveness of some of the exterior features. Classical type dogs are now and will always be relevant. Potentially, they may lead in the show ring, if they are not competing with some other dog with superior type. For example, today the preferred type of Rottweiler is a large, athletic dog with massive and dry head with emphasized strong relief and noble expression. Let's compare the exterior of two prominent studs, Leo vd Cannstadt (born 1908) and Mambo vd Crossener Ranch (born 1988). Both were the brightest representatives of their times, but when compared now, noticeable how much general and individual parts of the Rottweiler exterior have evolved. Since the breed has lively, dynamic structure, consequently I will give preference to the superior type dogs, which of course is not contrary to the basic norms of the valid standard.



Int-Dt-Rus CH Filou v Rauberweg, Sch I, BH, Zip born 2002



Int-RUS CH Sherifrott haus Howard (Filou v Rauberweg x Cherny Legion Lira) born 2010



RUS CH IPO-IBEN v Lerchenfeld (Dick v Rhongeist x Ines vd Lichten Aue) born 1996



RUS CH Gerbert iz Taddi (Ben vd Schrau x Kelly Velta Floyd) born 1999



*Sweden Stockholm 2000 - Svenska Brukshundklubben Speciality show
Sieger Faunus Arthur & Siegerin Razzmatazz Iermezzo*

What steps could breeders take to keep the breed from splitting from the working Rottweiler to the show Rottweiler?

For me, there is no division of working or show Rottweiler. We should not substitute the conception. There are high-quality and poor-quality dogs in terms of expertise. I can admit some condition of insufficiency for Rottweilers in a period of intense preparation for the working trials, but it does not mean that at another time this dog will look like a "Doberweiler." Same thing applies to the temperament in my vision. I do not think it is a reasonable position about equal demand for the reaction and speed for Rottweiler and Malinois, as some would like. It is absolutely not appropriate, because the Rottweiler has been created and designed for other purposes. What steps should be taken to consolidate the breed type? Use in the breeding program correct dogs, who have the desired type of exterior and appropriate quality of breed mentality and temperament.



USA 2009 AIRK Show hosted by South Carolina MARK
L-R: Siegerin & Sieger Karl vh Neubrand

What is the biggest health issue you see in the Rottweiler? How can we correct this?

First of all, mental health. Maybe it sounds a bit strange in relation to dogs, but without a final inspection of dangerous abnormalities in Rottweiler mentality, breeding cannot be complete. If we talk about physical health, one of the main issues is definitely focusing on diseases in the skeletal system. It concerns Rottweilers, and indeed, other molossians. Emerging problems cannot be reduced as soon as the issue of dysplastic hips and elbows, where hereditary symptoms and causes are now being cleared. There are a lot of problems with impaired growth and development of the extremities, and genetically caused structure asymmetry of the limbs and the axial skeleton. The correction of any deviations from the normal musculoskeletal status requires comprehensive complex actions and cannot be covered in the interview format. This is a very extensive and profound topic.



California, USA 2008 - ARV Regional Sieger Show hosted by South Coast Rottweiler Club
L-R: Seiger Wasko v Marianental & Siegerin Heska v Kummelsee

What is your opinion on vaccinations?

Vaccination of dogs is now one of the very serious issues debated in veterinary medicine. There were different views put forward, including issues of advisability for annual vaccination of adult dogs. I adhere to the traditional view of the need for annual vaccinations, especially rabies, parvo, corona, viral enteritis, and plague. In my country (Russia), there are still small spots of these infections, although vaccination was able to significantly reduce the incidence limit. The exceptions, of course, are the countries where the above-mentioned diseases are not recorded during the reference period. Over time, I believe there will be introduced a new generation of vaccines, with really prolonged action, usable in unclear localities, that allow a single lifetime vaccination. Until this issue is under discussion and there are no sufficiently and reliable clinical outcomes, we cannot talk about reduction or exclusion of vaccinations from the list of preventive actions.

A trend we are seeing in the breed is a lot of hockiness and loose ligaments in the hindquarters. Does the trend of having more extreme angulation play a part in this problem we are now seeing?

I would not say that excessive hock angles are the predominant problem in the modern Rottweiler. There is a very varied range of deviation from the correct structure of both front and hind limbs. With regard to the forelimbs, often narrow hocks, and the deviation from the parallel position in hocks, and violation of the length of the blade bone and the proportions of the humerus, the shortening of the forearms, upright (knuckling over) pastern. With regard to the hindquarters, here I would note first of all imbalances of length of thigh bone and the shin and metatarsus, which leads to deviations delivered, and symmetry breaking. If we consider the special case of the saber (too pronounced, the acute angle of the hock), usually this fault of structure can be caused by a complex of reasons such as excessive length of tibia, limb weakness of ligaments, and too long croup. Extremely pronounced angulation both front and rear leads to a general imbalance of the dog in a position, lowering the efficiency of movements and rapid fatigue. Any deviation from the optimum ratio of bone length and parallel positioned limbs leads to a decrease in efficiency and the dog's value for shows and breeding use.



USA 2007 AIRK National Sieger Show hosted by MARK
1st place 12-18 month females - Youth Siegerin

Is unbalanced angulation becoming a problem in the breed? Can you discuss briefly angulation as it relates to a dog's movement?

Yes, it definitely is a problem. To be very brief, the imbalance of angles is one of the main problems in violation of the effectiveness in movement. The Rottweiler has a regular type of construction, where the joint of the shoulder blade, shoulder and hip joints should be located on the same horizontal level. This quality primarily provides smooth and stable movements with the least energy consumption. Limbs, moving relative to the spinal column, resemble equable motion of the pendulum. Provided the correct relative position of the shoulder blade, shoulder joint and hip joint, forelimbs step adequate to hindquarters step. In case of violation of the horizontal or vertical angles ratio, motion amplitude is distorted, and balance and harmony disappear. These qualities are closely linked to the final evaluation of the dog and its chances to win. A balanced dog is a functional dog with correct proportions of all exterior parts, including angles-the dog that is pleasant to the eye. But this is a very broad topic, which can only be indicated in an interview format. This theme must be an advanced level seminar for breeders and judges.

What are areas that you feel Rottweiler owners should focus on in greater detail and why?

The first is education and physical development of the dog. It should be developed to the direction in which the owner wants to take their Rottweiler. For example, if you want a companion dog, take simple obedience courses. If you want to participate in shows and reach success there, it is worth it to focus on the special show handling training program. If you need a guard dog, train the dog at a special rate of protection qualities. Certainly important points for each Rottweiler owner are the issues of education, feeding, and

adequate exercise. In general, focus on the issues that provide a comfortable and pleasant life for you and your dog. Rottweilers are large dogs, demanding to matters of growing. Difficulties may arise during the development of the pups, especially in the period of active formation of bones, joints and ligaments, from age 2 to 8 months. It is important to follow the correct program of exercise and physical activity. It is very desirable if the program will be designed for each dog individually, taking into account the genetics, age, characteristics, and condition.

What things do you like to see in a Rottweiler who enters your show ring?

For me, a positive overall impression of the dog consists of several important factors: breed charisma—the overall balance of the construction and the movement, the exact size of the dog, strong bones, and of course the shape of the head—"chiseled" with outstanding breed expression. A friendly character combined with high temperament and interest at the show in the ring certainly plays a huge role in the dog's perception. I cannot name any of the most complete Rottweilers I have ever seen, but there were those from whom it was impossible to tear sights away. There is a very accurate term for such cases: eye-catching dog. In the world, there are not many such dogs. Their prominent attitude and harmony inspire, make you dream and dare. I do not think that names play any particular role, because each time has its own "look catchers." These dogs are outstanding, but still have their small problems. Regarding the concept of "style" —that is a combination of the preferred exterior characteristics, conditional for a certain time period.

When two dogs are comparable, what determines which dog will place over another and what do you look for?

A decisive moment for nomination to the leading positions is distinguished type, the ability for effective presentation in motion and static, and the preferred size. Having all of these qualities distinguishes a true ring leader. Superior balance and preferred type are very fine qualities, which give the dog the privilege to look the best among equals. "Alluring attraction" is another one's best card in the leadership potential. This is a dog's ability to attract the judge's attention—a huge advantage in the ring. This dog is able to control the body completely, even without handler effort, it has correct stance and moves so confidently and quickly, as if enjoying its own balance. That dog is calling everyone around, including judge and spectators, to share this excitement. I really appreciate these qualities, and always try to emphasize them in my judgment.

Do you see different types of handling in various countries in how the handlers present the dogs to you? What do you like to see from handlers who present dogs in your ring?

For me personally, a good handler is the advocate in the dog's assessment procedure. I would like to see the handler as the one who is totally focused on the dog and protecting the dog's interests before the judge. I do not see anything wrong when someone helps from outside the ring, but in this case, moral standards must be respected. The helper should not be noisy and annoying. At the same time, I like the independent way of presentation when the dog is focused on the handler and does not need any help. The first object of examination for me is the advantages and disadvantages of the dog. A skilled handler, in my opinion, should be dissolved into the dog's background to present its advantages to the judge. Different handling styles cannot affect the dog's assessment. But a skilled handler may present an SG dog to a V rating, and an inept handler may present a V dog for an SG rating. In any case, the main point of the major specialized shows is elicitation of the best and most promising breed representatives, due to which our breed will receive new qualitative benchmarks that will allow the breed to prosper in the future.

VOM HAUS ZAFIROVSKI
ROTTWEILER KENNEL

REBECCA
VOM HAUS ZAFIROVSKI
★★★★★

ZOE
VOM HAUS ZAFIROVSKI
★★★★★

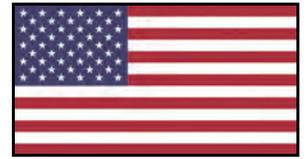
KERBER
VOM HAUS ZAFIROVSKI
★★★★★

VOM HAUS ZAFIROVSKI | METODIJA ZAFIROVSKI
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No. 1 & 2 CCRK RKNA Breed Show 2016



Hosted by Central California Rottweiler Klub
October 1 & 2, 2016 Sacramento, California

Judges: Olga Grin (FCI-Russia) & Vinicio Di Paolo (FCI-Argentina)

Photos: Jane Mitchelmore Editor@totalrottweilermagazine.com



L-R: Lala Roberts, Miguel Rodriguez, Audra Sinclair & Lisa MacGillivray



Vinicio Di Paolo & Olga Grin



L-R: Loretta Gorski & Renee Lancaster



Welcoming speech



Apollo vh Lupa



Woody Bright & Von Sarco's Gemma, IPO 2



L-R: Carol Beasley & Lucy Ang



L-R: Alex Alvarez, Benito Polanco Alvarado, Freddy Flores & Luis Enrique Martinez



Middle - Don Brooks & Nightshadow G-Force



Michelle Platt & Alaska vd Eichen Berg