

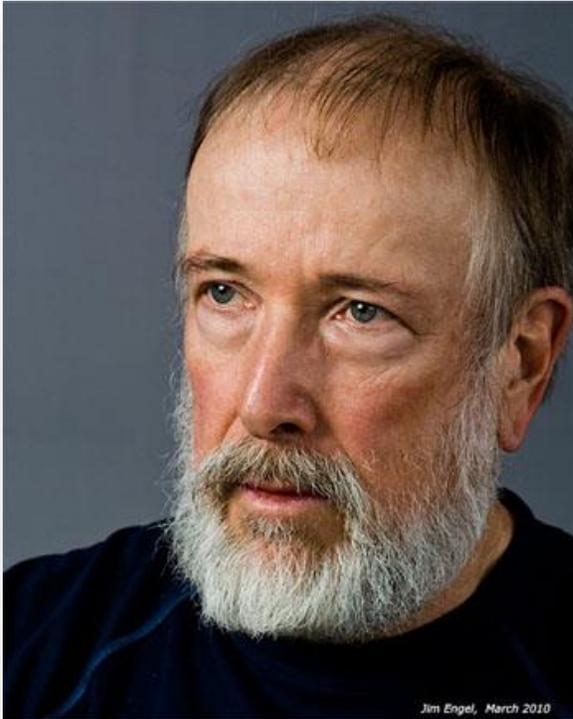
*Extract from:*

## **The Police Dog: History, Breeds and Service**

Copyright James R. Engel

December, 2018

### **About the Author**



I suppose my canine world persona goes back to the days of my monthly *Dog Sports* magazine column, in the later 1980s. Not everybody loved me, but even those who did not turned to my column first to see what it was that they were going to be angry about. Context is important here, before the internet all one really had access to was the *Schutzhund USA* magazine every couple of months and *Dog Sports*, so a monthly column got you a whole lot of attention. Quite a few articles also appeared in *Dog World*.

Now I know all of this is going to sound a whole lot like bragging, so to keep it real let us start out with what I am not. For one thing, I am not a top-level protection dog training helper; simply started too late and was never strong enough or quick enough to aspire to excellence. Did some club level training, worked a trial or two years ago but was always ready

to hand the sleeve over to a better guy.

Nor am I an especially big deal trainer or handler; was always an amateur with a full time career, which tends to limit the number of dogs you wind up working; worked with too many real experts not to know my limitations. But we still did manage to take home the trophies, and all of my dogs were owner trained, many born on the floor of our kitchen or whelping room.

A great deal of time was spent in Europe, in the Netherlands training with a KNPV trainer and judge, and in Belgium. In Belgium there was a little bit of work in the old style Ring jacket, just barely enough to know I was out of my element; but certainly a learning experience. I have traveled far to see the best, the Cup of France in French Ring, the champion of Belgian Ring in a regular trial, many KNPV trials, IPO and Schutzhund many times in the Netherlands and Germany.

Professionally, I hold an MS in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University and spent many years in the communications industry with Motorola, primarily with police and public safety radio systems. Had some fun, did major technical presentations as far away as Australia and picked up a few patents along the way.

I have trained four Bouviers to Schutzhund III, three of which also became AKC champions of record and one achieved the advanced FH level in tracking. I was North American working champion for my breed four times and reserve champion several more. I have taken a dog to compete in the Bouvier Championships in the Netherlands. We have shown dogs at the Schutzhund III level from California to Maine, from Florida to Canada and in Europe. I have competed in USCA regional championships.

Many dogs from our breeding have Schutzhund titles, other working titles including Bouvier working champion and held numerous AKC conformation championships. My old Leah was Schutzhund III, Bouvier working champion, AKC conformation champion and the top group-winning female in the AKC show ring in 1984.

Our Bouvier book was the American breed book of the year and is still the standard of comparison worldwide. It sold many thousands of copies throughout the world. I have conducted training seminars for Bouvier groups from Oregon to Florida; instructed beginning obedience classes in a club situation; and sometimes consult on problem dogs in my breed. There were various political offices over the years; I was for instance the founding and longtime secretary of the AWDF, the *American Working Dog Federation*.

© Copyright 2018, James R. Engel

[Police Dog Book](#)

[Angel's Lair All Breed](#)

[Angel's Lair Schutzhund](#)