

Extract from:

The Police Dog: History, Breeds and Service

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Konrad Most

I am a bit reluctant to engage in designating particular individuals as the "Father" of this or that, but if there is to be a Father of the police dog it must certainly be either Ernest van Wesemael, founder of the Ghent program, or Konrad Most. Forced to a choice between the two, my opinion would be Most because of the depth of his contribution and because he was hands on and academic as compared to van Wesemael, who was primarily an administrator rather than an innovator in training.

Most, born in 1878, had a long and active career. From the Biographical Note in the English translation of his book:

"Colonel Most was one of the world's most experienced and distinguished authorities on all types of dog training and a pioneer in the study of dog psychology. He started training Service dogs in 1906 while serving as Police Commissioner at the Royal Prussian Police Headquarters, Saarbrücken. For the next eight years he gave instruction to the Constabulary on the training and management of police dogs for all purposes by methods evolved by himself. In 1912 he was appointed Principal of the newly formed State Breeding and Training Establishment for police dogs at Berlin and carried out much original research in training dogs for Service personnel and for the tracking of criminals. At the outbreak of war in 1914, Konrad Most was attached to the Staff of Field Marshall von Hindenburg, Commander-in-Chief in the East, to organize and direct the use of Army dogs on the Eastern Front, and the following year was put in charge of the organization of all canine services on both the Eastern and Western Fronts. In recognition of his war service he was, in 1919, awarded a testimonial by the Prussian War Ministry inscribed: "To Capt. Most, creator of the Canine Service in the World War of 1914-1918." From 1919 to 1937 he was head of the Canine Research Department of the Army High Command, and during that period also acted as advisor to the Government of Finland on the organization of the Finnish Canine Services. He played a leading part in the formation of the Canine Research Society and of the German Society for Animal Psychology, both found in 1931, and in 1938 was elected Honorary Life Member of both Bodies in recognition of his work on their behalf.

"From 1944 to 1947 Colonel Most was head of the Experimental Department of the Tutorial and Experimental Institute for Armed Forces' Dogs and Technical Principal of the North German Dog Farm, a center for the training of working dogs, their handles, and the trainers of dogs for the blind. In 1951 he became closely associated with courses held in the Rhine Palatinate for the instruction of sportsmen in the training and management of hunting and tracking dogs for the purpose of improving their performances in the field.

"In 1954 – the year of his death, aged 76 – Colonel Most was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the Justus-Liebig Technical College, Giessen, Hesse, near Frankfurt-am-Main. His manual *Training Dogs, A Manual*, first written

in 1910, is the recognized standard work on the subject throughout Europe."

Most bred Dobermans under the kennel name *von der Sarr* in the town of Saarbrücken, west of Stuttgart on the French border. Although the photos in the English edition of the book, taken by the English publisher, are German Shepherds, the photos on the original German edition included numerous Dobermans, and there

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[**Police Dog Book**](#)

[**Angel's Lair All Breed**](#)

[**Angel's Lair Schutzhund**](#)