



Max von Stephanitz

Who Owns the House of von Stephanitz?

Jim Engel

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Over recent decades the rift between ornamental and functional lines in our police breeds, particularly the German Shepherd, has been relentlessly widening.

That this is coming to a crisis can no longer be denied. Those of leadership and influence, of every persuasion, must seek dialog, find a way to close this rift and preserve these breeds and this heritage.

This is our obligation to the founders.

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Forge of Creation

As a 12 year old boy police dogs, German Shepherds, had an exotic aura, were exhilarating, ominous, alluring. This mystique, akin to that of boyhood sports teams, as in my Detroit Tigers, endures. Even today I can recite these names from the 1950s—Kaline, Bunning, Kuenn, Boone, Cash, Lary, House—enduring imprints on a youthful mind. In my heart I still believe. Every young boy understands. Every man was once, still is, a 12 year old boy.

So it is with our police breeds: early inspiration, uncorrupted before the ways of the world close our eyes to idealism, endures. Even in this age of cynicism men seek meaning, need something worthy to believe in, to aspire to. To endure a working breed must have the persona, the aura, of courage, power, aggression, audacity. This is the forge upon which Max von Stephanitz hammered out these dogs of destiny.

Perception matters. To build traction in new technology, social movement or an emerging canine role novel functionality is not enough, the public must become aware, evolve the desire to participate, to own. In the beginning such dogs were selected and trained to fill a critical emerging role on the street, night security for the uniformed patrol officer and detection and intimidation of criminal elements in emerging industrial districts.

Although the Belgians were first on the street it was the von Stephanitz flair for promotion, his uncanny ability to capture the imagination, create the public perception as well as the underlying reality, that propelled this breed to unprecedented worldwide popularity and predominance in places as diverse as America and as remote as Japan. American soldiers returning from the war in 1919 brought these shepherd's dogs with them to become hands down the most popular breed in America by the mid-1920s. Von Stephanitz had done much more than found a breed; he created almost singlehandedly the worldwide police dog heritage. Today it is largely forgotten that the Belgians were first, it was this von Stephanitz empire, especially the book, that transformed the world, stood the test of time.

Over the founding decades these police dogs, these shepherd's dogs, had been in ascent, built on a foundation of boldness, excitement and virility. Yet today those who occupy the house of von Stephanitz have gone astray, are in denial of this masculine persona, are evolving and promoting replica Golden Retrievers rather than real police dogs. In this era of toxic masculinity they seek redemption through overt political correctness, through the emasculation of the heritage. The consequences are before us for all to see, the diminishing presence in police and military service, registrations relentlessly shrinking. This pervasive denial of street level police service as the foundation of the breed is a repudiation of the heritage of von Stephanitz. This house must have owners who believe, not occupants who serve their own agenda, seek their own aggrandizement.

Deviation extends beyond these ornamental dogs to the Schutzhund field where, inexorably, dancing with dogs has crept in and driven the evolution from a credible police level trial to an overtly play sport venue where style and opinion matter as much—or more—than hard core street level police potential. [More](#)

Thus in recent years and decades this police dog persona has incessantly eroded in favor of more fashionable and profitable ornamental lines. Even in the face of faltering public trust they relentlessly persist, deplete the credibility of the founders as they line their own pockets and inflate their own egos. But dissipation and neglect can only persist so long before the credibility is spent, the heritage depleted. The people have increasingly awakened, come to perceive the dimming aura, the decline in the persona, the fading street presence, the lessening of agility and durability, the hollowing out. The police and military increasingly go to the Malinois. The original police dog persona, the essence of the legacy, is slipping away. In order to avoid the abyss we must return to our roots: a unified, enduring line of legitimate police dog candidates with no tolerance of separate ornamental lines.

This relentless cleavage of our police breeds into working and ornamental lines has been from the beginning our Achilles heel, yet continues to be taken less than seriously by working breeders and trainers as well as the show community. This is the road to oblivion.

Original Sin

Great nations as well as great men have the propensity to be complex, opaque, at times morally ambivalent yet able to evolve, emerge from blunder or adversity stronger and wiser. The United States engaged in revolution on the premise that all men are created equal yet emerged with a foundation built on slavery entrenched in our constitution, an original sin that would take two more generations and a gut wrenching, brutal civil war to eradicate. Germany in the Nazi era justified atrocities as necessary to

provide living space for their superior Arian race. The Zionist movement followed suit in Palestine, citing god given priority as the chosen people. Yet today these nations prosper, and while by no means perfect are generally regarded as having reestablished rectitude. Salvation is possible.

Although of lesser gravity our canine institutions have also been subject to these human frailties. Over more than a century the SV has been the largest, most prosperous, most influential and most respected breed entity in the entire world. Indeed, the terms police dog and German Shepherd have been interchangeable in many contexts. Yet from the beginning these Germans have struggled with their own original sin: the severing of their breed into working lines according the principles of von Stephanitz and effete ornamental lines in the vain pursuit of hollow notoriety, superficial fashion and fiscal advantage. This is coming to a head, over the past quarter century they have been in precipitous decline. Yet even here salvation is possible and recent events justify tentative optimism.

Words of the Founder

Over forty years I have been a steadfast advocate of the most fundamental principle of von Stephanitz, that structure, stride, character and instinctive drives must above all else be according to those most suitable for on the street police service, that form must follow function. Yet today I find myself in the minority. Divergent views are of several persuasions:

- Many hold that a hard core working ethic is little more than naive idealism, that reality requires what most people want, easily manageable companions that can be pretend police dogs, replicas, according to the psychic needs of the owners. That many more go into companion homes than can ever find police or military service, that that is where the money is. This mantra has predominated for decades, and we see the results before us.
- Others say that real working potential is prerequisite for long term vitality, but see the split as unfortunate but not subject to change; that tilting at windmills will lead only to frustration, that the better way is to live and let live. But this leads only to continued decline in the next generation.
- A lesser number will in a private moment tell me that I am of course correct, but it is never going to change, that I need to get over it.

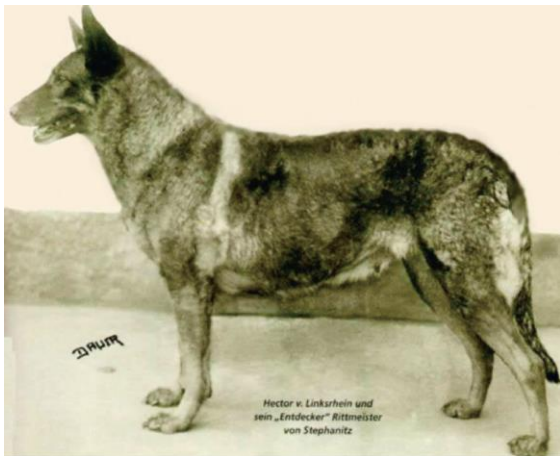
When I became tentatively involved in dog training back in the late 1970s, a forty year old sedentary research engineer looking to get myself out of the house evenings and weekends, I had no idea that breeding mattered, more or less took for granted that all German Shepherds were viable as police dog candidates, a commodity. The concept of "lines," working or otherwise, was entirely beyond my comprehension or experience. This was no accident, for the relentless breed propaganda, especially in America, strongly implied that working potential was inherent, that their show dogs and pets were all incipient police and war dogs requiring but a bit of training to be ready for the streets. (That virtually no one in America ever actually trained or truly tested their dogs was something that became apparent only much later.)

Although eventually an advocate of another breed I acquired the von Stephanitz book and read it, studied it, cover to cover, and then went back

to ponder the marked passages. I became a disciple, a believer. A prime passage:

"The ideal of the Society was to develop Police trial Champions out of Exhibition Champions, our shepherd dog therefore, was further developed by dog lovers as a working dog. The Standard by which he would be judged and approved was this, namely: – utility is the true criterion of Beauty. Therefore our dogs exhibit everywhere to-day (in a fittingly developed frame, and never as the caricatures of Nature, the greatest of all teachers) a build of body, compacted and designed for the highest possible efficiency, spare and powerful, with wonderfully well-proportioned lines which immediately attract the connoisseur, who soon recognizes that it imparts to its owner a swift, easy gait, a capacity for quick turning and powers of endurance."
(von Stephanitz, 1925) p163

Von Stephanitz envisioned a unified breed, would most certainly have been appalled at the concept of a "diversified" set of breeding lines where some could bait and gait for the show ring, some could excel in play such as dock diving and still others accompany a police officer on his appointed rounds. To exemplify breed excellence, to be the very best, to be a real Sieger, a dog must be truly excellent in police work potential, not merely able to pass relentlessly watered down show dog special Schutzhund trials. The concept of a beauty Sieger and a separate working champion misses the entire point; a worthy Sieger must be of unimpeachable working credentials.



Horand von Grafrath

"...develop Police trial Champions out of Exhibition Champions..."

There can be no doubt that this man meant exactly what he said. There is no thought of therapy dogs, leader dogs, agility, obedience, rally, search, rescue or the rest of the litany. All of these things are well and good, but none of them are a valid substitute for the demonstration of a strong protection predilection as a breeding prerequisite.

"Never as the caricatures of Nature" reminds us that the stride and structure of the herdsmen's dogs evolved over centuries according to purpose which must be respected and preserved. The Belgian and German shepherds at the end of the nineteenth century were similar in structure, for nature knew no national boundaries. Yet today the extreme angulation and steeply sloping back of the German lines stands in sharp contrast to the Belgian, particularly the Malinois. Real work, tending style herding or on the streets, is not just striding on perfectly level grass but maneuvering in a world of diverse terrain and irregularities such as fence rows and streams. In noting the importance of "capacity for quick turning" von Steinitz is reminding us of the necessity of real agility,

clearly neglected and compromised in show ring fashions of the past half century.

We are told that "Utility is the true criterion of Beauty." Although many, prominent and respected, may be in denial, I must tell this truth without flinching: in our failure to apply this principle in our show rings worldwide we have repudiated, denied, the most fundamental precept of von Stephanitz.

House Divided

These are real problems. You can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. The ongoing decline of the purebred paradigm in general and the German Shepherd in particular is a direct consequence of the realization on the part of the people that they are being sold the equivalent of

VDH GSD Annual Registrations	
2019	8,634
2018	10,679
2017	9,766
2016	10,202
2015	10,523
2014	10,470
2013	11,092
2012	12,786
2011	13,339
2010	14,501
2009	15,870
2008	16,854
2007	16,868
2006	16,908
2005	18,278
2004	19,874
2003	19,882
2002	20,352
2001	21,372
2000	20,872
1999	23,839
1998	27,834
1997	29,824
1996	30,802
1995	29,805
1994	28,730
1993	27,648

pedestrian sedans with painted on racing stripes rather than real performance cars. This will ultimately be self-limiting as we see before us in the Doberman and my own breed; I have been down this road. [More](#)

A house divided cannot stand. Lincoln told us that our nation could not long endure half slave and half free. Working breeds cannot endure half ornamental and half real, each with their own advocates unable and unwilling to empathize with or even understand the other, will inevitably lead to collapse. This process is far advanced.

Decline

The ongoing decline of the purebred dog worldwide in terms of registration statistics, respect, vigor, resilience and real world utility has been palpable for a quarter century. The brand is broken or nearly so. Most of our AKC hunting dogs are pathetic caricatures while the serious breeders and trainers have sought alternate registries, particularly the UKC.

In America the serious German Shepherds, while usually retaining AKC registration, have for forty years prospered under the auspices of the USCA which, while certainly not devoid of flaws, nevertheless has been the driving force in the emergent American working dog movement.

The bigger you are, the harder you fall. The decline of the German Shepherd, because of the depth of the heritage and the historical stature, has been in the forefront. Over the last quarter century VDH registrations have fallen from 30,802 in 1996 to 8634 today, from one in four German registrations to

one in ten, with similar declines throughout the world. (The Labrador Retrievers, originating in Newfoundland, at 2644 and the Golden Retrievers at 2190 will exceed the German Shepherds in a few years unless there is a substantial change in recent trends.)

Other German breeds have also been in decline: the Doberman has fallen from 1577 in 1997 to 478 today, almost entirely show and pet. (See the appendix for details.) **VDH Annual Registrations**

Meanwhile the Belgian Malinois has surged, risen to prominence bordering on domination, intruding on center stage in the international trials, driving the German Shepherds from French ring fields and gaining traction in the popular press, where the Belgian Malinois Cairo, featured in

the Bin Laden raid, has been the dog in the public eye. What German Shepherd since Rin Tin Tin, a century ago, has been as prominent a promoter of his breed?

This Malinois surge began only in the later 1960's after Flemish breeders and trainers, having had enough of St. Hubert and FCI oppression and marginalization of working dog culture, broke free and banded together in the NVBK in 1963. The FCI has from the beginning been dominated by superficial show dog interests and money while marginalizing but yet exploiting for publicity the working dog community. The recent Euro court rulings freeing the WUSV from onerous FCI manipulation is a major step forward, but is this enough?

Is a complete split, with the WUSV standing alone entirely separated from the FCI, hopefully with similar aggregations for other working breeds, the prerequisite for redemption, long term prosperity? It would be a perilous, as in bet the farm, paradigm change, but these are desperate times.

Culture Clash

In the evolution of these German and Belgian Shepherds we see diametrically opposite cultures. From the beginning the SV propensity was to micromanage with an increasingly elaborate set of breeding prerequisites, hoops to pay to jump through, in order to gain the sanction of registration. These impediments, easily understood and navigated, or evaded, by the insiders contribute to ongoing creeping elitism.

This bureaucratic overhead stifles individual initiative in breeding and escalates the cost and thus eventual price, which contributes to civilian reluctance and incentivizes the police and military to seek more cost effective solutions, generally from Malinois or Dutch Shepherd lines.

Where the German Shephard evolved under the control of the house of von Stephanitz the Malinois, stifled for half a century by two massive German occupations, emerged in regional pockets virtually devoid any effective central support. Where Germany was a prosperous expanding nation Belgium was not in any practical sense a nation at all, divided by language, culture and history. In the Netherlands and France other more or less isolated breeding communities also evolved.

For the Malinois this isolation was a blessing and a curse. There was before the 1914 war incipient international influence and an export market with for instance the first American police canine units, in New York and elsewhere, under Belgian influence and deploying Belgian imports. The two wars brought this to an end, brought on a half century of hardship and isolation during which the breeds of other nations prospered, as I know well through the Belgian Bouvier des Flandres community of the era.

But hardship and oppression can engender grit and endurance; the hardest steel comes from the fire and quenching. Though isolated and oppressed these Flemish trainers and breeders endured and survived, honing their lines and their skills. Recovery and vindication came from their gathering together in 1963 in the NVBK. This was a true working community, free of the oppression of the ubiquitous ornamental breeders. Here a dog was and is valued and bred according to what he can do on the trial field and street, free from bureaucratic interference. In some contexts such as KNPV registration does not even really matter.

All of this brings to the fore the question of whether SV micromanagement is the salvation or the ruination of the German Shepherd

by emphatically demonstrating that an unfettered community of breeders and trainers with true agency, guiding their own individual destiny, can overcome enormous adversity and flourish. My view is that these are extremes and while the center position is not always the truth of the matter in this case both sides do need to move toward a more rational and viable process.

Way Foreword

As the mother club the SV aspires to exert hegemony over the breed as a whole, especially in terms of breeding and registration prerequisites, through the WUSV client clubs. Success in this is dependent on their ability to bring these client clubs, and their membership, into compliance. A major obstacle is that many national clubs, such as the GSDCA, have prior and preemptive obligations to national entities such as the AKC. In order to be subservient to the SV the client national clubs would ultimately have to be free of these other obligations. The GSDCA is unlikely to withdraw from the AKC in order to become subservient to the Germans and for the AKC any serious hint of it would precipitate war.

In order to achieve international hegemony the Germans would need to overcome the inherent sense of national sovereignty present to one degree or another in most nations. There is a sense among some that the WUSV should be a union of more or less equal member clubs rather than clients, that they should govern with the consent of the world community, which would have a role in designating leadership. The AKC and similar national entities, ever mindful of their registration revenue stream, will resist being bypassed and marginalized strenuously.

All good things come to an end. Egyptian dynasties, Greek predominance and the Roman Empire came forth and then expired, usually from internal dysfunction rather than outside intervention. Seemingly rock solid corporations such as IBM, Kodak or General Motors go bankrupt or linger as shadows. Indeed the nation or corporation of long duration is the exception.

Why should the German Shepherd, or any breed, be different? Is the formal breed inherently necessary, or merely a conjured up affectation, a play thing for industrial age middle class amateurs and dilettantes with time on their hands? If the German Shepherd is to shed its founding identity as a police dog what reason, other than income for the dog merchants and bureaucrats, is there for its continued existence?

Our canine partnership has endured for at least 15,000 years, and direct human intervention in breeding selection likely has gone on since the advent of agriculture. Localized community selection, landraces, informal but nevertheless viable and prosperous ongoing breeding aggregations have come and gone, ebbed and flowed over time immemorial. They are an existential basis, a prerequisite, of our agriculture based civilization.

But the purebred dog, the formal breed, is a recent creation conjured up in the later 1800s and prospering vigorously in the twentieth century, only to wither in more recent years. Formal breeds are not necessary for police service, or anything else. The Dutch program, with strong police administration involvement, welcomes dogs of any or no breed and prospers. The Belgian program, prosperous until the Germans marched in 1914, was open to any dog which could qualify by his performance regardless of kennel club sanction.

In order for the German Shepherd to gain redemption and prosper for another century the breed identity—real police dog or pet market replica—must be definitively established once and for all; it must be the one or the other. Any delay in deciding could amount to de facto surrender.

If the breed is to be rebuilt on the police dog foundation then although the hour is late redemption is potentially within reach. As a result of the recent Euro court rulings the SV and WUSV find themselves in a significantly enhanced position to exert international influence over German Shepherd affairs, particularly as regards conformation, working trials, breeding eligibility and registration. In order to gain success hegemony must be exerted with wisdom and finesse, recognizing and accommodating the rights and legitimate interests of the GSD communities in client nations.



Klodo vom Boxberg set a new direction for the breed when von Stephanitz made him Sieger in 1925.

A century ago any sort of direct international control by a mother land was out of the question for practical reasons of distance in terms of travel and communication. Thus intercourse was through national entities such as the VDH or St. Hubert which also provided services difficult for breed clubs, especially the smaller, such as registration and administration of conformation shows and working trials. But today affordable automotive travel and airline service, the internet, powerful, affordable computer resources on a desk top and other technical and

commercial innovations have produced opportunities for novel organizational paradigms. Thus the ongoing structure of the international German Shepherd community, in the context of the WUSV, becomes a more open and thus timely issue, one that needs to be addressed with caution, restraint and mutual respect.

Although direct FCI interference has largely been mitigated the national FCI members—and independents such as the AKC or the Canadians—while in decline still retain real power and desperate determination to retain their cash flow. The AKC in particular, while grievously wounded, remains as a looming force ever watchful of its power, prestige and income. "AKC registered" is still for many the gold standard and any sort of competing registry tied to a foreign nation or ploys likely to weaken the allegiance or subservience of the GSDCA will be regarded with enormous suspicion and hostility.

Beyond AKC considerations Americans, as with any robust nation, have a sense of national unity and expectations of respect for and control of intercourse with foreign nations or their institutions. While the prestige and influence of the SV is substantial there is a natural inclination to maintain control, a firm hand on our own tiller. Current developments have provided a real opportunity for prosperity and progress; diplomacy and respect for the interests and prerogatives of others must prevail in order to reap the rewards.

In order to move forward the SV must first put its own house in order by closing the chasm between the ornamental and working lines, must merit rather than claim leadership as the legitimate heirs of von Stephanitz. Were

this to come to pass the question would become the ongoing role of the WUSV. Should it remain subservient to the SV and thus the instrument by which they maintain hegemony? Or should the SV be first among equals, each nation thus becoming a real member rather than a subservient client?

A true union would imply that the constituent clubs would share in the selection of WUSV leadership and the establishment of policy. The recent history of the FCI and AWDF would certainly seem to rule out one nation one vote, but if vote weight were to be according to annual registrations the USA would likely have four times as much weight as Germany. These are complex and difficult issues, but they must be resolved in order to go forward.

The most revolutionary solution would be separation, the SV/WUSV severing connections with the existing order, thus becoming independent of the FCI, VDH and AKC to stand alone as the universal, independent German Shepherd hierarchy. While seemingly an exceedingly remote possibility unfolding events have shown us that nothing is entirely impossible.

The English colonists clinging to the east coast of the North American continent had been in escalating conflict with king and parliament over two decades, conceiving of themselves as loyal, committed Englishmen with grievances to work out. Speculation of revolution was in their minds treason, not to be spoken of by loyal subjects. This reluctance persisted to within weeks or months of the Declaration of Independence, which came suddenly and resolutely with no looking back. The point is that not being spoken of or speculated about does not mean that revolution is not possible or even imminent.

The most complex and daunting issue would be registration of imported dogs in their new nation. Would Americans be willing to accept a pedigree certificate and registration number from anyone other than the AKC? What would become of the GSDCA and USCA, surely a unified national WUSV client in America, and other nations, would be fundamental in order for a stand-alone WUSV to prosper or even function.

A less extreme and more plausible way forward would be to reestablish Schutzhund as an independent WUSV venue with rules sufficiently distinct from the FCI IGP program so as to make competition in both venues problematic. The merger of Schutzhund and IPO in 2012 was in retrospect a blunder, for it enabled the FCI bureaucrats, with zero real interest in or commitment to work, the ability to manipulate rules and procedures for their own nefarious ends, as in the aborted attempt to remove the stick several years ago.

Heirs of von Stephanitz

The serving SV officers, as the direct linear successors of von Stephanitz, are in a legal sense his heirs. Any court of law would affirm that they own the record books, the buildings, the archives, the paper and the bricks. They themselves assert this ownership and this authority, speak out in his name.

But are these physical assets and this line of succession truly definitive, or does his vision of robust police dogs, emergent from the centuries old herding lines of the German heartland, constitute his existential, his moral, legacy? Is not this of greater moment than the property remnants? If the working propensity, the aggression and drives, the persona, is absent is not this house in disarray, derelict, abandoned?

Ultimately the sustainers of the heritage are those who carry on—training, testing, breeding—generation upon generation all the way back to the nineteenth century pastures and fields of central and southern Germany. The true heirs of the House of von Stephanitz are those who believe in and strive for this police dog heritage, those with boots on the ground, the working breeders and trainers. When this includes the SV leadership then the legacy is in good hands and there is potential for survival. When it does not then death is at hand.

We are at a once in a generation inflection point in world canine affairs, are making decisions and taking actions which will resonate for decades. We are indeed living in interesting times which, as the old Chinese adage reminds us, is both a blessing and a curse.

Jim Engel, Marengo, © Copyright January, 2021 02



Bernd vom Kallengarten, born 1957

Perhaps the pinnacle, future change was not progress.

Appendices

Social Media

In this age of electronic media who you are, and perhaps even more importantly who you want to be perceived as, your face to the world, is the web presence. Those excited about German Shepherds, police dogs in action, would quite naturally look to such a page expecting historical context, photos of von Stephanitz, an offer to buy his book, the early dogs, working trials, police and military dogs in action, a century of honor and heritage proudly presented; the whole nine yards. But what you get is something else entirely.

Look for yourself: [SV Web Page](#)

What we find is a do over of a Golden Retriever page, a pet oriented sales brochure for the most sensitive, timid potential customer, stripped of any hint of the police foundations, over the top in insipid political correctness. They come across as apologetic, embarrassed by or even somehow ashamed of their own heritage.

It is a large, well organized, carefully laid out, technically well done site careful not to offend even the most sensitive perspective pet owner with a photo or mention of serious protection. No photo of a decoy, a sleeve, a dog griping, a stick or any overt aggression. Rather than a police breed that responsible and capable civilians can, with proper management, enjoy in a home and family context it is targeted at the least common denominator, the most inept person who could possibly scrape up the cash.

In a lower corner there is a heading and photo of a dog posing by a police car, but clicking the link yields nothing, apparently they never took it seriously enough to provide content. Elsewhere we are told that aggression is unnecessary, inappropriate, that a dog should have "drive predisposition" which, bowing to political correctness, is "not to be confused with aggression."

The stirring words of von Stephanitz are reduced to "The idea of the founder of the Association for German Shepherd Dogs, Max von Stephanitz, to develop a powerful, safe and balanced dog has become an international recipe for success on four paws."

This boggles the mind on several levels. In the first place it is an outrageous parody of the von Stephanitz heritage, stripped of any reference to the police service role, a crude appeal to the most inept and clueless potential purchaser.

In claiming "Success on four paws" we see the ultimate in denial, totally oblivious to the fact that the breed is in free fall, is being supplanted as the default worldwide police dog and abandoned by the German people.

What would von Stephanitz say?

If they are going to fix the breed, the place to start is with this web page.

Registration Records

Annual German (VDH) Registrations

Year	GSD	Doberman
2019	8,634	478
2018	10,679	417
2017	9,766	491
2016	10,202	583
2015	10,523	478
2014	10,470	635
2013	11,092	650
2012	12,786	619
2011	13,339	494
2010	14,501	570
2009	15,870	522
2008	16,854	505
2007	16,868	456
2006	16,908	700
2005	18,278	580
2004	19,874	644
2003	19,882	784
2002	20,352	734
2001	21,372	712
2000	20,872	712
1999	23,839	860
1998	27,834	1312
1997	29,824	1577
1996	30,802	
1995	29,805	
1994	28,730	
1993	27,648	
1992	28,000	

Annual German (VDH) Registrations

Breed	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
GSD	8634	10679	9766	10202	10523	10470	11092	12786
Boxer	1467	1507	1559	1600	1614	1386	1637	1563
Great Dane	969	947	1095	1192	1245	1336	1445	1444
Rottweiler	1395	1471	1561	1633	1524	1566	1543	1409
G Schnauzer	787	893	847	1128	849	761	931	1003
Hovawart	802	919	836	927	818	863	858	1152
Airedale	639	761	753	784	821	792	814	764
Dobermann	478	417	491	583	478	635	597	604
Malinois	548	588	652	680	589	615	650	619
VDH Total	72381	75129	75945	77606	76312	77446	77047	80022
GSD 11.93%								

Breed	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
GSD	13,339	14,501	15,870	16,854	16,868	16,908	18,278	19,874
Boxer	1,579	1,783	1,681	1,735	1,864	1,722	1,836	1,669
Great Dane	1,336	1,488	1,609	1,699	1,905	1,685	1,807	1,890
Rottweiler	1,414	1,586	1,696	1,876	1,741	1,528	1,559	1,493
G Schnauzer	1,151	970	1,100	1,185	1,299	1,165	1,258	1,333
Hovawart	1,152	1,231	1,155	1,208	1,277	1,146	1,190	1,076
Airedale	890	997	930	958	1,080	1,054	1,206	1,208
Dobermann	616	802	704	773	580	757	750	804
Malinois	494	570	522	505	456	700	580	644
VDH Total	80709	85256	87821	89407	89530	86847	90310	92616

Breed	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
GSD	19,882	20,352	21,372	20,872	23,839	27,834	29,824
Boxer	1,690	1,704	1,600	1,966	2,106	2,594	2,659
Great Dane	1,771	1,800	1,574	1,641	1,701	1,630	1,853
Rottweiler	1,511	1,488	1,431	1,501	2,192	2,716	3,168
G Schnauzer	1,222	1,190	1,161	1,137	1,171	1,494	1,998
Hovawart	1,286	1,069	1,098	1,289	1,293	1,479	1,479
Airedale	1,089	1,115	1,065	1,056	1,150	1,235	1,423
Dobermann	784	734	712	864	860	1,312	1,577
Malinois	446	490	428	397	440	421	385
VDH Total	91227	90271	89822	88659	97860	106815	
GSD 26.06%							

2019 VDH Registrations are 67.8% of 1998
 2019 GSD Registrations are 31.0% of 1998

Background and Reference

[Glossary](#)

[Decline and Fall of the House of von Stephanitz](#)

[Who Owns the House of von Stephanitz?](#)

[SV Power Corrupts](#)

[Canine Organizations](#)

[Supreme Authority of the Canine World](#)

[Animal Rights and Wrongs](#)

[German Shepherd Police Dog Heritage Repudiated](#)

[SV Abandons Work Test for Breeding](#)

[AWDF, Stillborn American Elite](#)

[Emergence of a new Canine World Order](#)

[American Consequences of the WUSV Vindication](#)

[The Way Forward](#)

[Meltdown in America](#)

[Legacy Lost, the Other Breeds](#)

[Temperament or Character Testing](#)

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[Style and Opinion Sports](#)

[The Commercialization of Schutzhund](#)

[How We Play the Game](#)

[Has Sport Subverted the Schutzhund Trial?](#)

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Web presence:

[Schutzhund America](#)

[Ongoing FCI / WUSV Strife](#)

[Conacts & References](#)

Much more historical detail can be found in the police dog book:

[The Police Dog: Evolution, History and Service](#)