



April, May, June 2017

# DVG AMERICA

National Schutzhund Magazine

•LRO Updates

•Northern Illinois  
Schutzhund Club Trial

•Commands, Cues and  
Context

•Nor Cal Working Dog Club  
Trial

LV DVG America

Inside this issue!

## MEMBER HANDBOOK

Alexandria Schutzhund Group's Meko Calderon works with Jill Doherty's Quando von der Tetiaroa





## What is DVG?

The initials DVG stand for Deutscher Verband der Gebrauchshundsportvereine, or the German Association of Working Dog Sport Clubs.

This is not an exact translation, but one that is most meaningful in English. While attracting breeders of all working dogs, DVG exists for only one purpose - the training and titling of dogs of all kinds. In addition to IPO titles, DVG offers Obedience and Tracking titles, providing competition opportunities for all people who love to train dogs, even the smallest of breeds.

If you are interested in finding out more about LV DVG America, please visit our website for more complete information.

[www.DVG-America.com](http://www.DVG-America.com)

April - June, 2017

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## Why DVG?

The training purist and competitive breeder can look to DVG for many benefits not offered by any other organization in the US or Canada.

- Over 100 years experience in the training of all breeds of working dogs
- All judges are German Kennel Club (VDH) and FCI recognized. Currently there are 10 certified judges residing in LV America. In addition, visiting judges from Germany may assist with local trials and championships.
- Trial decoys are certified, and on-going training and testing are required.
- It is the only organization whose members are qualified to compete in a German National Championship.
- All titles and scorebooks are recognized by the VDH, allowing a DVG member to compete in any local trial in Germany.
- An annual American Championship for levels 1, 2 and 3.
- Members and clubs throughout the United States and Canada

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## LV DVG America Magazine

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# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LV PRESIDENT

Annetta Cheek

The Board continues to work on ways to improve the administration of LV America. Recently clubs had an opportunity to vote on bylaw changes that would allow the clubs and the Board to use more modern electronic voting methods. The results were not in when the magazine went to press. If these provisions pass, clubs will no longer be required to submit their votes by US mail.

This edition features the member handbook, which is also available on line. Shortly we will be posting a draft version of a club handbook, and I'll let you know when it's available for comment. Please take a few minutes to look at it and to send us your comments. We want it to be as helpful to clubs as possible, and without input from the members we're sure to miss some important topics.

Shelly Timmerman, the world's best volunteer, has decided to step down from her position as webmaster of [dvg-america.com](http://dvg-america.com). We all appreciate the many hours Shelly contributes to the LV in this and other roles. Since we are moving the website to a new platform to accommodate this change in staff, we decided to send around a survey to members asking for suggestions about the site. Although the response period will be over by the time you get this, if you have some suggestions you didn't submit please send them to me. And if you can help with the website, please let me know.

That reminds me to ask once again that you provide your email to the LV if you have not already done so. You can just send me your email at [dvgamericaprez@fastmail.com](mailto:dvgamericaprez@fastmail.com). The web survey was not the first time we reached out to get the opinions of the membership at large, and it won't be the last. As I

mentioned above, I'll be asking for comments on a draft club handbook in the next couple months. If we don't have your email, you won't be able to participate. We are at about 80%; we really would like to be able to contact the rest of you electronically. If you don't want to share your personal email, consider creating a separate email you can share with us.

We have a new coordinator who will help new clubs form – Ann Thomas, long-time president of the Western KG. She must have missed us a lot to agree to come back in this role. If you know someone wanting to form a new club, have them contact Ann at [dvgamericaclubinfo@gmail.com](mailto:dvgamericaclubinfo@gmail.com). We very much appreciate Ann's willingness to serve the organization in this important capacity.

Another change that is in the works is the introduction of Caniva, an on-line program that handles trial entries. <http://info.caniva.com/en/tour/> It's getting widespread use in Europe, including at DVG. A couple of our clubs have tried it, and I've heard that it's easy to use and saves a lot of paperwork. If you want to learn more about it than you can get from the website, contact Melissa Hepler (941-234-6182). Her club just used it for a trial and had positive comments about it.

Our representatives to the BSP this year are Chris Meverden with Danger and Rukmalie Jayakody with Nemesis. I know we all wish them the best of luck.

I hope you all have a safe and successful trial season. See you at the Nationals in California this fall.

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# Trial & Event Calendar

DATE	CLUB/EVENT	CITY/STATE	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL	JUDGE
Apr 29	Endeavor Working Dog Club Trial	Los Alamos, NM	Ugne Schmitt-Sody	505-259-2864	belgianmalinois04@yahoo.com	Jacki Purdham
May 6	Allgemeiner Hundesport Klub Trial	Battle Ground, WA	Michael Duncan			Ted Hartman
May 6-7	Alexandria Schutzhund Group Trial	Leesburg, VA	Annie Velletri	301-646-6961	velatvel@aol.com	TBA
May 6-7	Tulsa Schutzhund Club Trial	Tulsa, OK	Nick Reinhard	918-607-0320	okgsd@yahoo.com	Amanda Hoskinson
May 20	Centennial Schutzhund Club Trial	Denver, CO	Jay Swearingen	303-523-7045	jayws@comcast.net	Jennifer Reid
May 20-21	Washington DC Area Gebrauchshund Club Trial	Washington DC Area	Jennifer Zembower	240-355-7915	jenniferzembower@gmail.com	TBA
June 3	Salem Schutzhund Club Trial	Salem, OR	Jennifer Reid			TBA
June 10-11	Front Range Hundesport Trial	Denver, CO	Carole Patterson	303-674-4655	caroledvg@mindspring.com	TBA
June 10-11	MWKG Championship, Meridian WDC Trial	Blue Mound, IL	Sarah Hemberger	217-341-2081	shemberger@gmail.com	TBA
Sept 16-17	Cascade Schutzhund Club Trial	Rochester, WA	Les Flores	360-259-9192	les@delasfloreskennel.com	TBA
Sept 23	Allgemeiner Hundesport Klub Trial	Battle Ground, WA	Michael Duncan			TBA
Sept 30	Mid Tennessee Schutzhund Club Trial	McMinnville, TN	Toni Vernon	931-668-8530		Lisa Little
Oct 1	Centennial Schutzhund Club Trial	Denver, CO	Faye Manceaux	303-697-7729	Hartmut.Beckmann@CenturyLink.com	TBA
Oct 7-8	The Sirius WDA Trial	Fredericton, NB, Canada	Tammy Murray	506-260-2962	tlmurray2010@gmail.com	TBA
Oct 28-29	Nebraska Hundesport Club Trial	Omaha, NE	Collett Youngblood	402-955-9938	youngbloodcm@gmail.com	TBA
Nov-17	Quebec DVG Trial	Fredericton, NB, Canada	Sylvie D'Auteuil	418-836-9233	kraftig@sympatico.ca	TBA

Please note: This calendar is created from the information on the DVG America website. For the very latest in trials, events and information, please visit the site. [www.DVG-America.com/calendar.html](http://www.DVG-America.com/calendar.html)



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# Nor Cal Working Dog Club

Submitted by Chris Wolters, photos by Sarah Lindgren-Akana, Chris Wolters, Jim Grech

The dawn broke revealing the blue sky and mist shrouded field nestled in the Northern California hills. The dirt parking lot, full of pickup trucks and minivans served as the venue for our group to initially come together amidst the barking of numerous dogs. The cool temperature in Kelseyville is typical for early December in this part of California and those that are gathered are happy that the day will not reach the scorching heat of summer. Today is December 03, 2016, the day of Nor Cal Working Dog Club's trial! The energy in the parking lot and around the field begins to morph to anxiety and excitement as our training colleagues, IPO friends and spectators begin to gather. Handlers walk their dogs, organize equipment and some squeeze in a few last minute practice exercises, in conjunction with, of course, those deep breathing or other mental routines competitors perform prior to the start of a trial. It's so fun to feel the positive energy of likeminded sports people exuding competitive spirit coming together with the utmost respect and well wishes for one another.



Hiroe and Pyra bark and hold: Image -Chris Wolters

Being founded 25 years ago the Nor Cal Working Dog Club has continually transformed itself to remain aligned with the sport and the people steadfastly adhering to the foundational philosophy that an IPO club must provide high quality training, matching each handler/dog team's experience, capabilities and desires, embracing the objectives of DVG, while always providing a safe, positive and fun overall experience. Club members look forward to celebrating on February 18, 2017 at the DVG Western KG Regional IPO Championship where the club will be recognized for its longevity.

As pre-trial activities continue in the parking lot the temperature rises and the mist dissipates revealing the beautiful pine covered hills more vividly. Tim Cutter, the trial helper, arrives and the energy rises to a new level. Shortly thereafter, Jennifer Reid, the trial judge, arrives and the field is prepared. It's showtime! There are nine teams entered: Heather Ross with two Dutch Shepherds; Rex for FH 2 and Tango for BH, Three IPO 2 teams: Kathy Grech with her Doberman Idella, Amy with her Malinois Tessa and Oksana Bovt with her Doberman Nitro. Marie Miller-Anderson with her Doberman Danzig for OB 2 & TR 3. There are two IPO 3



Amy and Tessa group: Image -Chris Wolters

holders entered to attempt to attain scores qualifying them for the 2017 DVG Nationals: Lynn Lohner with her GSD Titleist and Hiroe Wolters with her Malinois Pyra. Club President, Marie Miller-Anderson, calls the group to order and introduces the judge. The judge says a few words and the trial begins in earnest with the BH Team, Heather and Tango. The feeling amongst the observers morphs from supportive anxiety to optimistic concern and then to general pleasure as the routine progresses well. All handlers are familiar with the humorous saying, "my dog has never done that before!" so as the routine finishes we are relieved and joyful for the team's success. Next up are the IPO 2s. We enjoy IPO 2 because the dogs are young but the teams have progressed through their initial training to the point of embracing some of the finer nuances of the sport. As the teams of Kathy & Idella and Marie and Danzig take the field we are eager to observe their performance and test our judging skills as they perform their routines. The Judge

provides a robust assessment pointing out key aspects of the performances which will be used by the handlers to adjust their training programs as they continue to strive for continuous improvement. Amy & Tessa and Oksana & Nitro, come to the field, check in and take their positions, one on the long down, the other at the starting point. Both teams proceed through their routines and successfully complete the OB phase of the trial. With the BHs and IPO 2s complete, the IPO 3s are ready to launch. Lynn & Titleist and Hiroe & Pyra report into the judge and take their places on the field. Lynn & Titleist move to the start point while Hiroe & Pyra go to the long down position. Both teams



Kathy Grech and Idella : Image -Jim Grech

execute well, achieving satisfactory scores. After the obedience phase, there is a general feeling of relief. Although there is a lingering sense by some handlers, that maybe "I" could have done better, it is done and we've all taken away things to improve upon for next time. And, now is not the time to dwell on what happened in obedience but rather focus on what's coming up in protection. During the pause between events, participants, observers and the Judge partake of the delicious homemade chili and other snacks. Tim Cutter, the Helper, suits up and is stretching, readying for the onslaught of highly tuned, powerful working dogs. These ferocious K9s have the ability to strike fear in the hearts of the meanest bad guys, yet our Helpers look forward to bringing out the best showing of each dog's fighting spirit by challenging them to exhibit enthusiasm, aggression, discipline and obedience. (Thanks Helpers!) The Helper and

Judge confer and Tim moves into blind six The first team up for PR is Kathy with Idella. As they come to the

field the audience falls into rapt attention. The team checks in with the Judge and moves to the starting point. .... Kathy sends Idella to the first blind, "Revier!" and IPO 2 PR has begun.

Although every handler has their own favorite event, protection is often considered the "glamorous" event, where the action's at. Well, we are not let down by the action in this phase of our trial. Tim is a very experienced Helper who knows how to "bring it on" at the appropriate intensity for the level of the event. The IPO 2 dogs are challenged to allow them to demonstrate their training, aggression and control, as well as their bite grip. The energy level associated with the trial intensifies the performance of some dogs, bringing out their best. On the other hand, a few dogs react to the pressure of the trial environment and do not show as well as expected. Again, everyone learns and there is mutual support among the handlers as well those in the audience.



Lynn and Titlest long bite: Image - Chris Wolters

tail high, wagging with a slight bounce and swagger in her gait. When Hiroe sends her to the blind search Pyra demonstrates her speed and motivation. After performing the call out they move to the escape position. After a few moments delay the Judge gives the nod to Tim and he bursts away. Again, Pyra shows her quickness and is on him in a flash. She is a smaller Malinois but her passion is clear as she hangs on and tugs on the sleeve. Hiroe and Pyra perform a solid routine and score ..... 98, a tie between the IPO 3 teams and a three way tie for the trial! What a great situation for these wonderful friends and training buddies. We all breathe a sigh of relief, day one complete, two events done. Let's take a break and relax with our comrades over dinner.



Marie and Danzig fussing: Image - Hiroe Wolters

morning. Although the fields are wet, they are not soggy and the new grass is halfway between ankle and knee deep in most places, making for good tracking conditions. Seven teams will track this morning, three IPO 2s, two IPO 3s, one TR 2 and one FH 2. Chris moves out and begins laying the FH 2. With its three hour wait time it is the long pole. 1800 steps, a cross track crossing two legs and 7 articles. We are anxious to see this team of Heather & Rex perform! Next, Caity lays the IPO 3 tracks. The trialers begin to arrive. Flights are established, the draw complete and Lynn & Titlest first to launch. Hiroe & Pyra are up



Oksana and Nitro in blind :Image -Akana

judge is driven to the airport. A milestone achieved, tomorrow we begin training anew.

Nor Cal Working Dog Club has enjoyed being a part of DVG family for the past 25 years. One of the most notable things about

When it's time for the IPO 3 teams there is a general rise in the level of interest and enthusiasm. These teams have trained long and hard and are at the top of their current game. Both IPO teams have been training together for years and have a very friendly rivalry. 1<sup>st</sup> up are Lynn and Titlest. Titlest is known as a strong boy who really shows a lot of power during protection. After the walk to the starting point, Lynn turns toward the 1<sup>st</sup> blind and launches Titlest. It is apparent that he knows this game and responds well to Lynn's commands as he executes the blind search. When he arrives at blind six it's clear that this is where he wants to be, aggressively warning the Helper not to move with deep, dark barking. Lynn arrives at the blind, calls her dog out and throughout the remainder of the exercise the team demonstrates a talented mixture of aggressiveness and control. This team attains a score of 98! Great work! A tie for the high PR score with IPO 2 Amy & Tessa team who also attained 98 in PR.

As Hiroe & Pyra enter the field it's clear that they are ready to challenge the Helper. They walk to the starting point, Pyra in her characteristically joyous way, When Hiroe sends her to the blind search Pyra demonstrates her speed and motivation. After performing the call out they move to the escape position. After a few moments delay the Judge gives the nod to Tim and he bursts away. Again, Pyra shows her quickness and is on him in a flash. She is a smaller Malinois but her passion is clear as she hangs on and tugs on the sleeve. Hiroe and Pyra perform a solid routine and score ..... 98, a tie between the IPO 3 teams and a three way tie for the trial! What a great situation for these wonderful friends and training buddies. We all breathe a sigh of relief, day one complete, two events done. Let's take a break and relax with our comrades over dinner.

This evening Caity Hastings has kindly offered her home for the Judge's dinner. As we leave the field, the experience of a trial, love of dogs and camaraderie is once again in the forefront. The dogs are taken out of vehicles for a brief walk and potty before the trip to home, the hotel, a friend's house or dinner. Evenings at trials provide the opportunity for attendees to take a breather, talk about DVG, clubs and trainers, helpers, techniques.... generally everything associated with dogs, the sport and each other. It's a great learning and bonding time. And fun! After the get together at Caity's home everyone leaves to get a good night's sleep before tracking in the morning (haha! - few sleep well, most are processing what occurred during OB and PR but are mainly thinking about Tracking in the morning),

4:30am the alarm rings -argh. Struggling out of bed we have that fleeting thought, "Why am I doing this again?" But before the thought fully forms we are out of bed and moving to prepare for the day. The track layers, Chris Wolters and Caity Hastings, arrive at the tracking field and meet the club president and Judge. The timing of laying the tracks and the locations are finalized in the cool, foggy, wet morning. While the IPO 3s are in progress the tracks for the IPO 2s are laid and when the 3s are done we move right into and through the 2s. Marie & Danzig nail the TR 2 with a score of 95. For the finale of the trial Heather and Rex start the FH 2. As we watch we realize more than ever how long 1800 steps and three hours is. At moments we wonder if Rex is on the track or when a corner will come but each time it is obvious that he knows what he's doing and each time we jointly sigh with relief as he continues on. After what seems to be a very long time Rex downs on the final article and the Judge signals that they have successfully completed the event.

With all events completed final scores are posted, scorebooks are returned to participants and all participants come together to congratulate or console one another. It is wonderful to see such sincere and heartfelt support and sportsmanship. Winning teams in categories of events are asked to come onto the field and accept medals. Then all participants come to the field in a final sign of solidarity and camaraderie. Pictures are taken which will be treasured in time. Everyone wishes each other the best and begin to leave. The trial is over. The



DVG is the quality of judges. The judge for this trial, Jennifer Reid, demonstrated the best qualities of the sport that we enjoy and expect from our judges: a sharp eye for detail, fairness & consistency and a persona which is encouraging and motivational – all done so well with her approach, which minimizes the tension handlers experience (and dogs!). Thank you, Jennifer! The Nor Cal Working Dog Club epitomizes what we feel is the intent of DVG, not only showing dogs but also providing a venue for people of various levels, with differing goals to come together participating in a sport with one general, commonly held goal; enjoy our dogs to the utmost bonding with them by pursuing optimal performance. As a team we experience success and failure together. We enjoy, challenge and motivate each other and cheer for others. Everyone's success is celebrated, great or small. Our Club President, Marie, ensures that along with high quality training club members enjoy coming together. The sport of IPO is a long ride. Having good teammates is a key to success. In the past 25 years, the club has adjusted to various

obstacles keeping us in existence. We appreciate all members who support our club demonstrating our love of this sport and keep us going. A special thank goes to Judy who has been one of the great supports of our club allowing us to use her field. Thank you, Judy! We look forward to celebrating our next milestone - our 30th anniversary.



Trial participants: Image -Chris Wolters



Hiroe Wolters and Pyra:  
Image-Sarah Lindgren-Akana



I'm not sure why but it seems like I'm special today  
Pyra & Hiroe acheive high in trial :  
Image-Chris Wolters



Tim Cutter and Nitro  
Image-Sarah Lindgren-Akana



Oksana Boyt and Nitro  
Image-Sarah Lindgren-Akana





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# Northern Illinois Schutzhund Club's 2016 Club Trial



By Kathleen Sanderson, photos by Bob Lee | Steve & Drogon BH

One of my favorite things about NISC's club trials is that they always seem to attract a wide variety of breeds. Our 2016 club trial was no exception! We had 12 dogs entered, and of those 12 we had: 3 Rottweilers, 3 German Shepherd Dogs, 2 Dobermans, 1 Airedale, 1 American Bull Dog, 1 Malinois, and 1 Dutch Shepherd! (Another interesting note is that 7 of the 12 dogs entered were females!) We also had the pleasure of hosting DVG Judge Jacki Purdham, who was an absolute joy to have presiding over our trial!

The morning started out with perfect tracking conditions – cool with a light frost, but the promise of a sunny, gorgeous fall day to come! The five IPO1 dogs were the first up to track, and all five passed! Especially impressive were first time IPO handler Leslie and her GSD, Axel, who laid down a 98 point track and ultimately took High in Tracking! Closely on their heels was Karma, a Rottweiler, with 97 points! Next to track was the IPO 3 bitch,

another Rottweiler named Missy, who walked an article but otherwise tracked a beautiful track laid by Donna Gauvin and earned herself 89 points! And finally, our favorite American Bull Dog bitch, Sage, earned herself a very nice 94 points on an IPO 2 track laid by Tawny Wagner!

On to obedience we went! Our first BH pair was Sandy and Riva, a GSD, and Patty and Ice, a Dutch Shepherd! Its never easy to be the first to walk on to the obedience field, but these two showed us how it should be done! Next up was Pat and Triumph, an Airedale, and Doris and Halo, a Dobie! Triumph showed moments of brilliance, and Halo demonstrated just how cute and lively a Doberman can be! Finally, we had Steve and Drogon, another Doberman, and our demo team, Betty and Liza! (who also teamed up with an IPO 1 dog a little later on – many thanks to Betty and Liza!). Drogon gave Steve great focus and they passed the obedience portion handily. All five BH dogs easily passed the traffic portion too! Well done!

All seven IPO dogs also passed obedience, with Karma earning High in Obedience! And then it was time for protection. Our helper, Eddie, had been up all night whelping a litter. But he refused to let the club members down, so he showed up with a smile on his face and did excellent work as usual! Protection is always a fun phase to watch, and our competitors did not disappoint! Dave and Xenta, a female GSD, were one of the first pairs on the protection field, and they put in a solid routine with nice calm grips and good barking! Christine and Chaos, the trial's only Malinois, also put on a tremendous show with great speed and enthusiasm! And finally, Abbey, our third Rottweiler competitor, with her first time IPO handler, Michelle, threw down the gauntlet with a whopping 96 points! Michelle and Abbey walked away with High in Protection, and all seven IPO dogs walked away with a new title! And for the second year in a row, Terri and Sage, the American Bull Dog, walked away with High in Trial! It was by all accounts, a very successful trial.



Kathleen & Karma IPO I



Kathleen & Missy IPO 3



Leslie & Axel IPO I



Michelle & Abbey IPO I



Sandy & Riva and Patty & Ice BH



Pat & Triumph BH

Many thanks of course to our trial secretary, Donna Gauvin, and all of our club members who helped with lunch, trial field set up, and everything else that goes in to hosting and organizing a trial! We couldn't do it without you! And of

course, many thanks to our judge, Jacki Purdham, who was helpful, friendly and supportive, even while pointing out our teams "weaknesses." We look forward to the next time we have an opportunity

to "strut our stuff" under her watchful eye!



By Deborah Palman, Maine Warden Service (Ret.)

# Commands, Cues and Context



The wild members of the dog family evolved to be social predators and their behavior and attributes reflect this evolution. Although dogs have evolved somewhat to live with humans and their attributes have been further modified by selective breeding, dogs still retain characteristics that make their communication methods and sensory inputs very different from humans. This is why training dogs can be difficult for a handler who does not understand how dogs relate to human communication.

K-9 handlers and trainers live in a world where verbal, written and now “digital” information is important. Although non-verbal communication is important in inter-human relations, humans are so tied up in their own thoughts that they seldom consciously focus on non-verbal communication. Police officers observe the non-verbal behaviors of people they contact to understand what the person is thinking and feeling, and to predict what the person will do next, or to use the information to investigate something a person may be trying to hide. In spite of this skill, however, many police K-9 handlers don’t realize how crucial non-verbal communication is in dog training.

## Dogs Communicate Non-Verbally

Dogs communicate primarily non-verbally. While they do use verbal communications like barks and growls, most of their communication involves body postures, orientation, eye contact, breathing, sighs, movements such as lip licks, shake offs, yawns, etc., many behaviors that humans employ but are usually not aware of. To an untrained dog, verbal communications from humans are the least important and least understood mode of communication. But, perhaps because humans want to be using their hands, limbs and other body parts for tasks other than communication, handlers and trainers do their best to teach dogs to respond to verbal commands.

Handlers teaching hand signals and verbal commands quickly realize that the dog will respond to hand gestures before they respond to verbal commands. This makes verbal commands the harder of the two to teach. If you teach them both simultaneously, usually the dog will only respond to the hand signal if the two are given separately. Not only do dogs pay attention to limb movements, they

also associate the handler’s breathing, voice tone and volume as components of the commands being taught. This is why the dog that responds well when the handler is relaxed and confident suddenly doesn’t know what to do when the handler’s body language, breathing and voice changes under the stress of certification exercises.

The training of behaviors like sit, down, heel, etc., is often accomplished by using a lead, physically manipulating the dog, or luring it with food or other rewards. These actions involve accompanying hand and body movements and positions that the dog quickly associates with the behavior being taught. For example, if a dog is lured into a sit using a treat held in a hand that is moved towards the dog’s nose then up and behind its head, the dog will tie this hand movement (and the presence of the treat) to the behavior. Trainers use the word “sit” as a command for the operation, but the dog is really responding to the presence of the food and the movement of the hand. To get the dog to sit on the verbal command only, trainers need to “fade” the “lure” by separating the food from the



movement, then slowly making the movement less and less until the hand can remain down and the dog will sit on the verbal command to earn its reward.

Holding and using a leash during training causes handlers to move and position their hands in a manner different from the way they would if they were not holding a leash. Although most handlers don't think about how they are moving their hands, the dog notices every detail of their body position and movement. This can complicate the training of heeling, because, when novice handlers try to work off lead, they may change suddenly from walking with their hands in a lead holding position to walking with their hands swinging at their sides, something the dog associates with an "off lead" recreational walk instead of the behavior of heeling. Smart handlers walk differently when training heeling, staying more "at attention" and using shorter, faster steps keeping a steady cadence because they know that this "body language" can still be used when the lures and leashes are eliminated. When transitioning to working off lead, initially they let the dog drag the lead but keep their hands in a "lead holding" position, slowly fading and changing the positions of their hands during training, and eventually eliminating the presence of the lead.

### Cues

Cues are anything the dog associates with a behavior. The commands that handlers give are cues, but so can be the equipment the dog wears, the equipment or clothes the handler wears, the environment the dog is in, the type or presence of the reward that is being given, body and hand positions, almost anything the dog associates with a behavior and the training that is going on at the time. Humans don't normally notice of all these variables, but dogs are acutely aware of everything that goes on around them because of their

wild heritage. In addition, their acute senses allow them to notice things their handlers aren't even aware of. Handlers and trainers can deliberately use cues to help inform the dog what is going on, like the use of a tracking harness indicating it is time to track. Trainers striving to thoroughly teach a command that is not dependent on other cues vary the environment and cues so that the dog responds anywhere, anytime to only a verbal command, and doesn't need the cues of a leash, sight of the handler, the presence of a toy, the training field, etc. to respond. Trainers may also deliberately "proof" a dog against previously learned training "cues" the dog might encounter during deployment, like teaching a detector dog to ignore pressure or jerks on a leash when the dog is following a target scent.

### Context

Context can be thought of as the "big picture" or the environment, although for dogs we know it includes many things, like a time component. Handlers know that if they successfully train their dogs to stay in a down stay for a minute that it is very unlikely that a dog will hold a down position for five minutes the first time it is attempted. Dogs definitely have a "time," distance, or "effort" clock in their heads. Detector dogs who receive training that gives them a find every five minutes or so come to expect this find, and may give a "false alert" after seven minutes of searching without a find. Time or other unseen context factors can be difficult to recognize.

Some problems caused by context come from how often a dog is trained in a particular context. An example of a problem being caused by lack of enough training in a context occurs often with the narcotics detector dogs I train with in Maine. The dogs that are single purpose narcotics detector dogs usually spend most of the long cold winter

training indoors, perfecting their indoor searches and occasionally working on vehicles when possible. They rarely do "outdoor" area searches away from buildings in the cold and deep snow. Come spring and certification time, someone will set up some hides outside in the grass or brush. The handlers take their dogs out to work and the dogs spend their time sniffing dog scents and marking bushes, apparently unaware that they are supposed to be doing a narcotics search. It usually takes some re-motivating, re-commanding, re-training etc. to get the dogs searching outdoors again. Handlers who had a good outdoor search the fall before are confused, but the answer is obvious once you look at it from the dog's point of view.

First, narcotics handlers do outdoor searches infrequently because, once learned, the outdoor environment is usually easier for the dog than the complex air currents in heated buildings, plus they rarely deploy in areas outdoors. So handlers tend to work in buildings more often, not to mention it is usually more comfortable inside, especially during the winter. Second, what is the dog's experience with outdoors vs. indoors? Three or four times a day, the dog goes outdoors to go to the bathroom. Multiply 4 times a day by 130 days of winter, and you have 520 times the dog has gone outdoors to eliminate in opposition to perhaps only a few times that the team has gone outdoors to do a search during the winter. In the dog's mind, going out to eliminate is at least 500 times more likely than searching. So the dog defaults to doing his own thing rather than searching.

Dual purpose patrol and narcotics dogs seem to switch to outdoor narcotics searching more readily, perhaps because they do evidence search, tracking and apprehension work outdoors, but I also suspect because a patrol dog is more likely to think "work" in almost any environment than a detector dog who trains in more

limited contexts and usually has less obedience training.

As handlers, we need to remember that the dog sees the “big picture” and everything in context. We tend to think of dog training as dog training and forget that time spent not training influences the dog. The fact that the dog is always learning, adapting and being trained by the context and environment means that non-training time can “erode” training away if the handler is not paying attention to the activities the dog is engaging in. This is why dogs need continual and constant training. It is not so much that they forget what they were trained to do, it is that non-training experiences change their programming and expectations.

### Understanding Commands, Cues and Context to Train Better

One key to good training is to understand that context, non-verbal cues (like equipment) and non-verbal body language are more important to the dog than verbal commands or cues. Understanding how context affects learning allows a novice handler to understand why their dog, which does a great “sit” at home or at the training field, doesn’t sit in new places. I read somewhere that a dog needs to learn a command in a minimum of five different locations before they will start to generalize the command’s use in other new locations. That is a lot of training in new places, and explains why you always have to review basic training when moving to a new place with a novice dog.

Handlers also need to be aware that cues and contexts may “override” the influence of a verbal command, and train or deploy accordingly. The use of equipment for special tasks instantly and continuously tells the dog what is supposed to be doing, like a tracking harness for tracking, a special collar for detection work, or a high visibility vest for search and rescue dogs. Handlers

don’t think of a lead as a cue, but the dog does. Detector dogs that work constantly on lead may have problems understanding off lead searches if most of their off lead time is spent as “free time.” Conversely, I’ve heard some handlers blame “too much heeling training” for the failure of their narcotics dogs to locate drugs, and I sometimes see obedience trained detector dogs lapse into a “heel” or follow mode when their handlers place too much pressure on them. This is probably not a result of “too much heeling training” so much as poor training involving compulsion that doesn’t differentiate enough between heeling and searching, so that the dog defaults into heeling when searching on lead close to a stressed out or frustrated handler. Not teaching heeling may avoid the problem, but I’ve seen many dual trained dogs show that heeling and searching can be taught correctly.

The handler’s body language is a major cue for the dog, and the handler’s emotional state becomes part of the context of training and deployments. Well trained working dogs become partners and closely bonded to their handlers. Their behavior only mirrors the emotional state of their handler. Understanding this can help handlers to learn to control their emotions when working with their dogs.

Total emotional control is not generally possible in all situations, however, and, when under stress, the handler’s voice and body language changes. Training for patrol dogs should include shouting or whispering commands and rewarding the dog liberally for performance so that the dog isn’t put off by changes in the handler’s voice in an actual deployment.

Handlers and trainers have to pay minute attention to the commands, cues and contexts that accompany training and either use them all to enhance performances, and/or vary them in training to remove their influence so a dog that understands the command in any context. For example,

a true “tactical” heel would mean that the dog comes to the side of the handler whether the handler is standing, sitting or lying down, which means that the dog will not be responding to body positions or visual signals but to the verbal command alone, even if the handler is out of sight when the command is given.

### Make All Contexts a Cue to Pay Attention

The training technique that is sometimes called “no free lunch” is something all working dog handlers should apply. Basically, the technique is that when the handler recognizes the dog wants to do something in everyday life, the dog has to execute a control or a simple command before it is allowed to proceed. Thus, every time the dog wants to get out of a vehicle, go through a door, go outside to relieve itself, etc., the dog should wait, or execute an easy command, such as a sit, before the dog is released to do what it wants. Doing this continuously throughout the dog’s working life creates a dog that pays attention to the handler all the time. Access through doors is easy to enforce because the handler can do a body block at the door opening, or close the door and keep the dog from going through. In other situations, a lead may be used to restrain the dog so that it has to wait until it complies and the lead released or unhooked. What the handler would like to do is to convince the dog that the handler “produces” all these good things because the dog obeys the handler’s commands.

This can be applied to all sorts of training, like permission to search, permission to bite, etc., and should be the foundation of teaching control during reward motivated training. When this is first applied to a dog that is used to doing whatever it wants, patience is needed because it can take time for the dog to comply, but once it



becomes a habit, the dog will start to comply with commands more consistently and rapidly.

No free lunch allows the handler to program the dog to respond to commands in many different contexts and enhances the dog's work ethic. Dogs begin to think they are "on duty" and following commands at all times rather than just in training venues. The handler that uses "life rewards" (things the dog wants) for training opportunities can convince the dog that the handler controls access to all good things.

For safety's sake, all working dogs should have some sort of vehicle exit control. All patrol dogs should wait in the vehicle until told to come out, and they should be taught to heel or some other control command when they exit. Detector dogs should at least wait in the vehicle until they are hooked on lead. If a handler neglects to do these simple control commands, then each time the dog is just let out of the vehicle simply by opening the door, the dog is "unlearning" the commands and habits that will keep it safe and paying attention to the handler. Even if you don't have the time to formally train each day, keeping up the daily "no free lunch" discipline goes a long way to maintain training.

Too often, we blame the dog for not performing when the dog is not performing because some cue or context present when the dog was trained is missing, or we have inadvertently let the dog's "off duty" time deprogram its training. Assuming the dog is of good quality and capable of the work being taught, ALL problems in performance are ultimately problems created by inadequate or unfinished training. Handlers who blame their dogs for problems only create an emotional "black hole" that can trap them in a bad emotional state and perpetuate poor training.



# LRO ANNOUNCEMENTS

LV DVG America LRO, Hartmut Beckmann

- I know everybody is waiting to hear about the new IPO Rules while probably reading and hearing updates on this issue. At this point, though, this is still all rumor and speculation. Arguments are still going back and forth and final decisions are still to be made. Another meeting at the FCI level has gone by without any final decision. A final version of the new IPO rules might still be a few months out. As soon as I learn about any final decision in regards to rule changes, I will publish the information and let members know.
  - Over the last months the Caniva system (to manage trials), which most of you are probably already somewhat familiar with, has evolved and most problems or inefficiencies have been eliminated. DVG America will send out updated information soon on what it can do and how to use it. In the meantime, if you already know about it and are comfortable using it, feel free to use Caniva to apply for trials on-line. After entering your trial application, it will automatically be routed to me for judges' assignment and to the DVG Office for authorization. When logging into Caniva please make sure to use the correct link to access the DVG specific Caniva database which is customized for DVG, the link is [dvg.caniva.com](http://dvg.caniva.com). There will also be a link placed on the DVG America website. DVG America will publish detailed information about Caniva and how to use it very soon.
  - I have revised the qualification requirements for competing in our DVG Nationals (including qualifying through AWDF Championship); please see details in the member's handbook which will be in the magazine as well as on the website.
  - Scorebooks Applications:
    - Please make sure that you send in any scorebook request at least 4 weeks in advance. Though the DVG office is very efficient in processing scorebook applications, please account for delays in mail delivery or other factors.
  - Scorebooks Changes:
    - For change of Ownership or Change of Club the scorebook needs to be sent in to the DVG Office to make those updates. Incorrect information can cause the scorebook to be invalid. Please send those in as soon as possible.
  - In addition to the above updates, I am currently working on a LV America Judges survey, somewhat similar to the helper forms. This survey will be optional for clubs/trial chairmen to submit to the LRO. The purpose of the survey is to allow clubs to provide feedback in order to continue improving the Judges' Program. The survey form will be added to the current forms provided on our DVG America website and your feedback will be used for continued education. If you choose, I will treat it as confidential.
- Lastly, best wishes to our 2 competitors, Rukmalie Jayakody and Chris Meverden, who will be competing in the BSP (DVG Championship) in Germany at the end of April.
- If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please let me know so I can address those.



It all started  
when my dog  
began getting  
free roll over  
minutes.

Jay London

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## Submission Deadlines:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (Jan-Feb-Mar).....November 30<sup>th</sup>
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (Apr-May-Jun).....February 28<sup>th</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (Jul-Aug-Sep).....May 30<sup>th</sup>
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (Oct-Nov-Dec).....August 30<sup>th</sup>

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*The Trial Results for DVG America magazine come directly from the judge's trial report forms. In the case of handwritten reports, DVG America magazine makes every effort to accurately report the results, but is not responsible for errors that may occur.*

*To reduce the time necessary for corrections and to ensure the most accurate results, it is highly recommended everyone use the electronic forms available on the DVG America website.*

# Trial Results

Dog's Name	Handler's Name	Breed	Prior Title	Attempted Title	A	B	C	Total	Title Awarded
<b>South Florida Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>Judge: Melissa Hepler</b>			<b>December 3 2016</b>				
Catawba's The Hellion UD40	Sidney Arellana	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Oreo (Fernandez)	Mike Fernandez	MIX	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Figo von der Gustav	Liliana Ribero	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Dunga von der Gustav	Jorge Ribero	GSD	BH	IPO 1	95	78	91 a	264 G	IPO 1
Brodie (Wells)	Eric Wells	MIX	BH	IPO 1	73	66	87 a	226 M	–
Donis von Lotta	Donna Blair	GSD	IPO 1	IPO 2	91	83	83 a	257 G	IPO 2
Kyes Midnight Fireshow	Mark Hemmerle	DOB	IPO 3	IPO 3	92	88	85 vh	262 G	IPO 3
Catawba's The Hellion UD40	Sidney Arellana	MAL	BH	FPr 1	21			21 M	–
Figo von der Gustav	Liliana Ribero	GSD	BH	FPr 1	96			96 V	FPr 1 (TR 1)
<b>Highway Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>Judge: Hartmut Beckmann</b>			<b>Dec 10-11, 2016</b>				
Aine von Miludee	Luis Granda	BOX	–	BH	Nicht Bestanden			–	
Foxie	Jordan Alexander	MAL	–	BH	Nicht Bestanden			–	
Metlof's Amos	Helen Tyler	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Hex ze Stojate Vody	Wendy Vaughan	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Roony Vikar	Joshua Lininger	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
H'echo ot Vitosha	Alessandro Ferri	MAL	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Xarre vom Vilstaler Land	Shelly Timmerman	ROT	–	BH	Nicht Bestanden			–	
Dai	Marijo Van Dan Bulck	MIX	BH	IPO 1	81	87	92 a	260 G	IPO 1
Cadance ot Vitosha	Ruth Gimpel	MAL	IPO 1	IPO 2	93	88	92 a	273 SG	IPO 2
Yoshi	Audwin Alexander	MAL	IPO 1	IPO 2	89	51	79 a	219 M	–
Boyka ot Vitosha	Zenopia S Boyle	MAL	IPO 1	IPO 2	99	88	88 a	275 SG	IPO 2
Ikon von der Tetiaroa	Jill Doherty	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	90	85	89 a	264 G	IPO 3
Izod von der Tetiaroa	Shelly Timmerman	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	96	63	87 a	246 M	–
Ozzie Casa De Mandingos	Charles Porter	BOUV	IPO 3	IPO 3	94	82	87 a	263 G	IPO 3
Neue Vision's Dagger	Nancy Berezovske	GSD	TR 1	FPr 2	88			88 G	FPr 2 (TR 2)
Gladiator's of America Baltazar	Renee Michel	DOB	TR 2	FPr 3	80			80 G	FPr 3 (TR 3)
Gladiator's of America Briosia	Renee Michel	DOB	TR 2	FPr 3	21			21 M	–
<b>Coast Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>Judge: Amanda Hoskinson</b>			<b>Jan 28-29, 2017</b>				
Paxo vom Kraftwerk	Ted Hartman	GSD	AD	BH	Bestanden			BH	



# Trial Results

Dog's Name	Handler's Name	Breed	Prior Title	Attempted Title	A	B	C	Total	Title Awarded
<b>Coast Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>(Continued)</b>		<b>Judge: Amanda Hoskinson</b>		<b>Jan 28-29, 2017</b>			
War Crys Geist der Wolf	Elaine Moyers	GSD	AD	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Vrouwenfelder's F*ck'em All	Danielle Felder	AMB	—	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Dark Fall Cleo	Tommy Hong	MAL	—	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Raider von Kriegs Schrei	Steven Lemmer	MAL	—	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Brave Apache von Kriegs Schrei	Edy Estrada	MAL	—	BH	Nicht Bestanden			—	
Calypso von Ein Platz	Amy Elias	ROT	—	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Abbie vom Adlerhorst	Tom Day	GSD	AD	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Forrest vom Juventus	Johnnie Cooper	GSD	AD	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Nitis	Alex Chavarin	MIX	—	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Gus von Wa-Bo	Renata Miller	GSD	AD	BH	Bestanden			BH	
War Crys Fire Grace of Typecast	Elaine Moyers	GSD	BH	UPr 1		92		92 SG	UPr 1 (OB 1)
Ynez vom Adlercrest	Linda Calamia	DOB	BH	IPO 1		DQ	Out of control		—
Duke Vrouwenfelder	Danielle Felder	AMB	BH	IPO 1A		87	DQ Did not engage		—
A Wile E Coyote v Kriegs Schrei	Amy Elias	MAL	BH	IPO 1A		91	93 a	184 SG	IPO 1A
Tatia vom Kondorstrand	Feather Cresciman	ROT	BH	SPr 1			96 a	96 V	SPr 1 (PR 1)
Stone Cold Vin Diesel	Tommy Hong	ROT	BH	SPr 2			72 vh	72 B	SPr 1 (PR 1)
Dwight	Teleh Perez	GSD	BH	SPr 2			85 a	85 G	SPr 1 (PR 1)
Freddie Mercury v Dragonerreich	Linda Calamia	DOB	IPO 2	IPO 3	92	83	80 a	255 G	IPO 3
War Crys Fire Grace of Typecast	Elaine Moyers	GSD	BH	FPr 1	98			98 V	FPr 1 (TR 1)
Tatia vom Kondorstrand	Feather Cresciman	ROT	BH	FPr 1	74			74 G	FPr 1 (TR 1)
Temple of the Tree's Elf	Danny Craig	MAL	IPO 2	FH 1	88			88 G	FH 1
Temple of the Tree's Dewey	Danny Craig	MAL	IPO 3	FH 1	98			98 V	FH 1
<b>Hell's Kitchen Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>Judge: Hartmut Beckmann</b>		<b>Feb 17-18, 2017</b>					
Gina Yacero Bohemia	Megan Barnes	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	83	82	81 a	246 G	IPO 3
Vilko von der Feuersaule	Camilla Hart	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	85	84	80 a	249 G	IPO 3
Phelan du Loups du Soleil	Adrianne Steimonts	MAL	IPO 3	IPO 3	0	87	90 a	177 M	—
Abira vom Nebeltal	Lori Lippincot	GSD	IPO 3	IPO 3	94	82	92 a	268 G	IPO 3
Temple of the Tree's Elf	Danny Craig	MAL	IPO 3	IPO 3	94	91	91 a	276 SG	IPO 3
Temple of the Tree's Dewey	Danny Craig	MAL	IPO 3	IPO 3	85	82	81 a	248 G	IPO 3
Anung un Rama von het Bos	Lauren Waters	ROT	IPO 3	IPO 3	0	75	90 a	165 M	—
Njag van de Veriphoeve	Sandra Rushing	MAL	IPO 3	IPO 3	86	94	96 a	276 SG	IPO 3
Blackgold's Brix	Marlene Ferguson	ROT	IPO 3	IPO 3	96	90	89 a	275 SG	IPO 3
Sasha vom Kondorstrand	Ann Boyce	DOB	IPO 3	IPO 3	0	87	91 a	178 M	—

# Trial Results

Dog's Name	Handler's Name	Breed	Prior Title	Attempted Title	A	B	C	Total	Title Awarded
<b>Arkansas Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>Judge: Ann Dolan</b>			<b>February 25 2017</b>				
Yaya vom Wesenhaus	Mike Yarnell	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Chance von Goedehaus	Dawnetta Calhoun	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Old World's Charles Bronson	Leah Casady	CCOR	–	BH	Nicht Bestanden			–	
Yemmie vom Wesenhaus	Kay Taylor	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Habanero vom Schattendal	Jani Turkia	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Bandit von Palmetto House	Vince Kubistck	DOB	BH	Apr-17		65	94 a	159 M	–
Kye's Redhead Stepchild	Larry Kye	DOB	BH	IPO 1	82	78	84 a	244 G	IPO 1
Cora van Meerhout	Pam Falls	GSD	BH	IPO 1	84	75	92 a	251 G	IPO 1
Yanni vom Wesenhaus	Steve Locher	GSD	BH	IPO 1	94	89	98 a	281 SG	IPO 1
Quenby von Bairdhaus	Jim Prentiss	GSD	IPO 2	IPO 3	95	86	90 a	271 SG	IPO 3
Wye K von den Hoehefluft	Kay Taylor	GSD	IPO 3	IPO 3	78	73	82 a	233 B	IPO 3
Auron ze Stribrneho Kamene	Deane Pritchard	GSD	IPO 3	FH 1	96			96 V	FH 1
Xana vom Wesenhaus	Bill Forrester	GSD	FH 1	FH 2	88			88 G	FH 2
<b>Peace River Schutzhund Club</b>		<b>Judge: Amanda Hoskinson</b>			<b>March 11-12, 2017</b>				
Kratos vom Schweizerhof	Jamie Navarro	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Brie vom Kaltonbach	Sue Nesbitt	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Erma Haus von Sternen	Hailey Hayes	GSD	–	BH	Bestanden			BH	
Theobromine	Jacquye Schimmel	LAB	BH	IPO 1	87	95	80 vh	262 G	IPO 1
Gangster ot Vitosha	Hock Wang Tan	MAL	BH	IPO 1	86	82	90 a	258 G	IPO 1
I'Grip by yellow dog	Melissa Hepler	MAL	IPO 1	IPO 2	90	90	96 a	276 SG	IPO 2
Alf's Wonder of the World	Theresa Goodman	GSD	IPO 3	IPO 3	84	89	99 a	272 SG	IPO 3
Kye's Midnight Fireshow	Mark Hemmerle	DOB	IPO 3	IPO 3	5	90	87 a	182 U	–
Maximus Jay Crittenden	Philip Crittenden	DOB	BH	FPr 2	83			83 G	FPr 2 (TR 2)

“Dogs do speak...but only to those who know how to listen.”





LV DVG America

# Member Handbook

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# How To Join

LV DVG America

## Join a DVG club

DVG is a club-based organization. To join, you must be a member of a local DVG club. There are many local DVG clubs throughout the United States and Canada - to find one near you go to the [Club Locator page](http://www.dvg-america.com/membership.html) (<http://www.dvg-america.com/membership.html>)

Clubs may have their own membership requirements. The club's membership officer will help you fill out the membership application. Do not fill this out yourself. We also have [instructions](http://www.dvg-america.com/MemAppDir%20PDF.pdf) (<http://www.dvg-america.com/MemAppDir%20PDF.pdf>) about the form.

If there is no suitable club near you, email [dvgamericaclubinfo@gmail.com](mailto:dvgamericaclubinfo@gmail.com) for help.

## Types of DVG America Membership

There are several types of memberships in the LV.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	Abbreviation	Criteria	Receives Magazine?
Member	VM	19 years and older	Yes
Spouse or partner	P	18 years or older and is tied to a VM membership	No
Child	K	Under 19 years and is tied to a VM membership	No
Youth	JGDL	14 up through 18	Yes

## Cost of joining the LV

The [current dues schedule](http://dvg-america.com/members.html) (<http://dvg-america.com/members.html>) is posted online. If you have questions, email the LV membership officer at [LVmembership@fastmail.com](mailto:LVmembership@fastmail.com)

The local clubs will have fees to join. These fees are determined by the local club, and are not regulated by the LV.

## Changing your personal information

If you need to change your name, address, email, or other personal information, notify the LV Membership officer at [LVMembership@fastmail.com](mailto:LVMembership@fastmail.com).

## Replacing a lost membership card

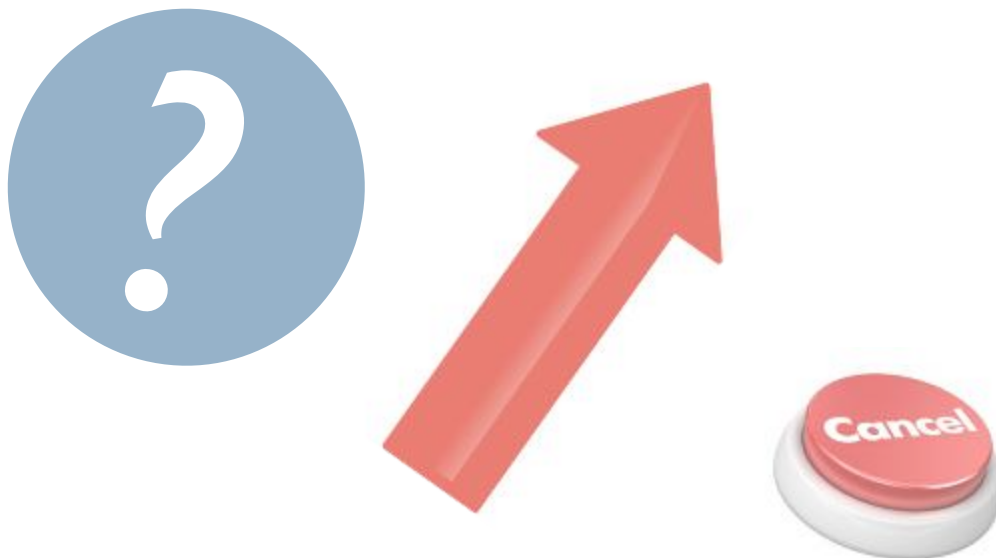
If you lose your membership card and can't wait till the following year for a new one, contact the LV Membership Officer at [LVMembership@fastmail.com](mailto:LVMembership@fastmail.com). DVG charges extra for a replacement card. The Membership Officer can tell you the current charge. It's smart to make a copy of your membership card when you get it. Keep the copy in a safe place. You don't need to show your original card at DVG events - the copy will do. So if you have a copy you'll never have to order a replacement, which is a lot more work than making a copy!

## Moving to a different club

If you want to move to a different club, have your current club notify the LV Membership Officer that you are cancelling out of that club. Germany accepts cancellations only at the end of the calendar year, so regardless of when you notify us of your change, you will remain a member of your original club until December 31. Also have your new club notify the LV membership officer of the change during the annual renewal period. If for some reason you must join your new club before January 1 of the next year, you can take out another membership in your new club. You have to pay for the second membership.

## Cancelling your membership

To cancel your membership in DVG, have your club notify the LV Membership Officer during the annual renewal period. You will remain a member through December 31 of that year.





# Scorebooks

## DVG Scorebooks

There are three steps to ordering your dog's scorebook:

- 1) Fill out the scorebook application form **electronically**.
- 2) E-mail (fastest, cheapest and preferred) or snail mail the application to Germany.
- 3) Pay for your scorebook.

DVG members must have a DVG scorebook to enter a DVG trial. Only DVG members can purchase a DVG scorebook.

### Step 1: Fill out the application

<http://www.dvg-america.com/DVGAmericaScorebookApplication2015.pdf>

Once you have filled out the form, save it again. Print a copy and have your club president or other club representative review the information to ensure the form is filled out correctly and sign and date it. By signing, the president affirms that all of the information on the form is correct.

Save the form to your computer before filling it out.



### Step 2: Submit the application

Once the form is signed, send it to Germany.

- To e-mail:

Scan the completely filled in form and save it, using your dog's name and your DVG membership number for the file name (for example: Fido #####).

E-mail it to DVG Germany to: [karl-heinz.holtkamp@dvg-hundesport.de](mailto:karl-heinz.holtkamp@dvg-hundesport.de)

- To send by regular mail:

Send the original to Germany to:

Karl-Heinz Holtkamp  
DVG Hauptgeschäftsstelle  
Ennertsweg 51  
58675 Hemer  
Germany

Germany mails new DVG scorebooks to club presidents.

### Step 3: Pay for your application

The scorebook costs \$18.00.

To pay for your scorebook electronically, click on the "Pay Now" button on the application. This will take you to PayPal, which accepts all major credit/debit cards. You do not have to have an account to use their service.



If you would rather send a check, mail the check and a copy of the application to the LV Treasurer. You can get the name and address of the current treasurer from the website contact menu.

Although scorebooks normally arrive within 2 weeks, it's best to allow up to four weeks for processing.

## Update scorebook information

Changing information on a scorebook sometimes requires sending the book back to Germany, but many changes can be done by any DVG judge.

Save the form to your computer before filling it out.



If you need to change your scorebook, fill out the [scorebook change form](http://www.dvg-america.com/DVG%20America%20Scorebook%20Changes.pdf) (<http://www.dvg-america.com/DVG%20America%20Scorebook%20Changes.pdf>) and take it with you the next time you participate in a DVG trial. The judge will change your scorebook and will send the changes to Germany, along with the trial results.

If the scorebook needs to go to Germany for the change, the judge will tell you what to do. Be sure to keep a copy of your scorebook.

## Replace a lost scorebook

Send the same information you would send for a new scorebook to Germany, at the address given above. Note on the application that this is a replacement. The cost for a replacement scorebook is \$28.00. It's a good idea to keep a copy of your scorebook, at least the front page. That makes ordering a new one much easier.

## Replace a full scorebook

When you fill your scorebook, send a complete copy back to Germany to the address given above and ask for a new scorebook. There is no charge to replace a full scorebook. A scanned copy in an email is acceptable.

## Find a DVG trial or event

All DVG trials are listed on the DVG America [events calendar](http://www.dvg-america.com/calendar.html). (<http://www.dvg-america.com/calendar.html>)





# DVG America National Championship

## Participation

### General Criteria

To trial at the National Championship, you must;

- Be a current member in good standing of LV DVG America. If you are new member, you must apply by June 1 and be on the membership rolls by July 1
- Have a DVG scorebook for your dog
- Have qualified at a DVG trial within a year before the Nationals

For all addresses relevant to entering the Championship, and for more detailed information and the venue, motels, etc., see the Nationals website <http://www.dvg-america/championship.html>

### Entering the National Championship

- Use the online entry form on the [nationals website](http://www.dvg-america.com/championship.html) (<http://www.dvg-america.com/championship.html>)
- Pay for your entry. If you cannot pay online, mail your check to the person listed on the nationals website
- Email a copy of your scorebook and entry card to the Trial Secretary listed on the nationals website
  - ☐ If you cannot email your scorebook and membership card copies, send them by mail to the Trial Secretary
- Make sure all of the information on your entry matches the information on your entry form and membership card. If it does not, the Trial Chairman will decide whether or not you may trial
- If your entry is incomplete, the host club is authorized to return it to you.

### Qualifying for the National Championship

- To compete at the IPO 1 level, the dog and handler team must have earned a BH or earned an IPO 1 title with an "a" TSB rating at any time following the previous Nationals.
  - ☐ The team must have earned at least one title in a DVG Trial.
  - ☐ If you are attempting an IPO 1 for the first time, you cannot use the on-line entry form. Use the [standard form](http://www.dvg-america.com/DVGAmericaTrialEntry.pdf). (<http://www.dvg-america.com/DVGAmericaTrialEntry.pdf>) Send it to the contact information listed on the Nationals website. You must have your training director's signature.
- To compete at the IPO 2 level, the dog and handler team must have earned an IPO 1 or IPO 2 title with an "a" TSB rating at any time following the previous Nationals.
  - ☐ The team must have earned at least one title in a DVG Trial.
- At the IPO 3 level, the team must have earned an IPO 2 or IPO 3 title with an "a" TSB rating at any level at any time following the previous Nationals.
- Alternate Qualification at the IPO 3 level using the AWDF Championship:
  - ☐ To use a score earned at the AWDF championship as your qualifying score to enter the Nationals, the dog and handler team must have entered AWDF through DVG.
  - ☐ The AWDF championship must have been within a year of the DVG Championship you are entering.
  - ☐ You must pass all three phases and receive an "a" TSB rating in protection.

## General Criteria and Scorebook Requirements

- You must:
  - ☐ Be a member of LV DVG America in good standing by July 1st the year of the Nationals.
    - ✓ New members must apply before June 1 and be on the membership rolls by July 1.
    - ✓ If the dog is owned by one person and handled by another, both owner and handler must be DVG members.
  - ☐ Have a valid DVG scorebook for your dog.
  - ☐ Have room in the scorebook for your scores at the Nationals.
  - ☐ Present your original scorebook no later than at the draw to be able to compete. Exceptions will have to be approved by the Trial Chair.

We will enter scores in all outside organizations' scorebooks on the competing dog, so long as those scorebooks are given to the Trial Secretary before the trial begins. We will also enter scores in your Sports pass.

## Drawing for position

- All competitors must attend the draw
- If for some reason you cannot attend, notify the Trial Chair. If the Trial Chair accepts your reason for not attending the draw, the Trial Chair will draw for you when all of the other competitors have drawn. This is at the discretion of the Trial Chair
- If you have a bitch in season, notify the Trial Chair. You will do all 3 phases with the last flight

## Practice

Practice on the trial field usually is Thursday morning starting at 8AM. All field equipment, both obedience and protection, will be in place for you to use. Every competitor has at least 5 minutes on the field (depending on the number of entries). We encourage you to schedule as a group so you can each have more time on the field.

Please practice good sportsmanship in sharing the jump, wall, etc. Competitors must provide their own helper and their equipment.

A judge or member of the LV Board will be present during practice to keep handlers on schedule.

During practice sessions on the trial field you must conduct yourself in a sportsmanlike manner both with others and with their dogs. Any unsportsmanlike conduct may be grounds for expulsion from the trial, as well as for additional penalties.

You may use food and toys on the field during practice. **Please be careful not to leave any food on the field.** E-collars and pinch collars may be used in a proper sportsmanlike manner during the practice session, as may other normal training equipment such as leashes and long lines.

## Dress code

Competitors must wear tan or khaki slacks and a plain white collared shirt in the obedience and protection phases. The shirt may be either short or long sleeved. No club insignia or logos are allowed. You can wear whatever you like for tracking. Of course, you can wear raingear in bad weather.

## Championship Helpers

LV Championship Helpers may not work any dogs that are entered in the Championship from 12:00 midnight the Sunday before the Championship until the Championship trial activities are completed.



# DVG Award Medals

## Sports passes

Germany used to issue printed sports passes, in which you could keep track of your titles and other achievements. If you have a sports pass, it is still valid. But Germany is no longer printing them, they now have the required forms on-line, which we've uploaded.

[Sports pass cover](http://www.dvg-america.com/Sportpass-cover.pdf) (http://www.dvg-america.com/Sportpass-cover.pdf)

[Sports pass inside pages](http://www.dvg-america.com/Sportpass-inside.pdf) (http://www.dvg-america.com/Sportpass-inside.pdf)

## DVG awards three series of medals:

- Anniversary pins
- Sports Medals
- Honor Pins



### 1. Anniversary pins

These pins are awarded automatically to members who have been in the organization for 10, 25, 40, 50, 60, and 75 years. DVG will send your pin to your club president. If you think you should have gotten a pin and you haven't, ask your club president to inquire of the LV about it. .

### 2. DVG Sports medals

Sports medals are awarded for achievements in DVG-sponsored competitions.

<b>Level 1</b>	DVG Sport Medal in Bronze	2,000 points
<b>Level 2</b>	DVG Sport Medal in Silver	5,000 points
<b>Level 3</b>	DVG Sport Medal in Gold	10,000 points
<b>Level 4</b>	DVG Sport Medal in Gold with Wreath	15,000 points

There are also pins for specific achievements in DVG trials:

First time BH, IPO 3, FH 2 and IPO-FH with at least a "good" score.

Bronze V pin for first IPO 3, FH 3 and IPO-FH with a V score in a club or KG trial.

Silver V pin for first IPO 3, FH 3 and IPO-FH with a V score in an LV championship.

Gold V pin for the winner of the LV Championship with a V score. This pin must be ordered by the LV.

You can order most of these pins for yourself from Germany by filling out the form and sending it to [karl-heinz.holtkamp@dvg-hundesport.de](mailto:karl-heinz.holtkamp@dvg-hundesport.de) or by mail to:

Karl-Heinz Holtkamp  
DVG  
Ennertsweg 51, 58675  
Hemer  
Germany

Submit a copy of your Sports pass to demonstrate that you have earned the points claimed. If you don't have a Sports pass, submit copies of your scorebooks showing the points earned. If you don't have either, consult with the LRO about what alternatives you might have.

All pins cost 5.00 Euro except the gold V pin, which is free. DVG will bill LV America, and the LV will bill your club.

If a handler is awarded the DVG Sport Medal in Gold with wreath several times, the number of times it has been awarded is included on the pin.

## Schedule of points

You can earn points as follows. In all cases, you must have qualified to earn the points.

Sport and Level	Points
IPO 1 - 3	Points earned
IPO-ZTP, VO	Points earned
FH, FH 2	3 x Points earned
IPO FH (with two successfully passed tracks)	6 x Points earned
BH	150 points
AD	150 points
StPr 1-3	Points earned
SAR	Points earned
Mantrailing	150 points

### 3. DVG and VDH Honor pins

DVG and VDH honor pins are awarded for service to the organization. Applications for honor pins follow a specific hierarchy. Honor pins are discussed in detail the LV Administration handbook.







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