

for younger and younger winners? Youngest Doberman to ... do whatever, is a great line in an ad. Breed them big, keep them fat, get them winning as young as possible - maybe so they won't be returned later!

Seriously, we feed them to be big and mature at six months, keep them fat and condition them artificially (roadwork or treadmills rather than natural free exercise). If they don't eat good, give Winstrol V or force feed. Keep in mind that human studies indicate that fat children and athletes who took steroids are high risks for heart disease. During this time, vaccinate the daylights out of them and drag them to every match and training class available. Train them to death, don't worry about burning them out. If he gets a bump, a cortisone shot will keep him from itching or making a hot spot. If those steroids shut down his immune system, give antibiotics. Should the pup be nervous and drool while traveling, a shot of atropine will take care of it. Don't forget to use dye to cover up any creeping tan or white hairs - you can dye the whole coat to make a red nicer. Belladonna in the eyes will darken them and a shot of B-12 will wake him up. If you woke him up too much, acepromazine will keep him calm. If he goes lame (from Pano or otherwise), a little bute and presto, no limp. While you are at it, make sure the pup gets plenty of cigarette smoke and exhaust fumes. Don't bathe him, as he could get dandruff. If he doesn't finish as a puppy, do all of the above again at age two.

Probably the scenario described above won't happen all to one dog, but there are many other things to add to the list of highly unnatural things we subject our dogs to, usually at a young age. When I visited England, I couldn't help but notice that there were dogs in virtually every home I visited over age ten, many twelve and fourteen. These old dogs were in good condition, too. They had all or most of their teeth, got around on their own and had adequate sight and hearing. The English do not vaccinate until after eight weeks, then only for DHL and parvo. They give two shots in two locations. After the series of two (sometimes three) shots, they vaccinate annually. No rabies and no earcrop anesthesia. Puppies are shown very sparingly and the English were horrified to hear of two to three shows, weekend after weekend, and ten shows in twelve-day circuits. Rarely is any dog under two years roadworked and most are rarely crated. Owner handling is the norm

and dog food is kibble with fresh tripe, fresh eggs, milk.

Maybe we should take a look at the "Big Picture" in our breeding and buying plans. Ask for results of tests, test for yourself, don't be blinded by fear of cardio or VWD or CVI.

Be responsible yourself rather than asking the DPCA or someone else to be responsible for you. The death register is a good idea and should be useful. I agree that a post should be required, possibly a vet statement in the case of a dog diagnosed as congestive heart failure who then dies shortly. But realistically there are too many variables if a post is not

required. A dog can drop dead suddenly of a ruptured aneurysm or a blood clot in the lung. He can "suddenly" die in his sleep from those things or from some poisons, all of which could be called cardiomyopathy by the owner who sees "sudden death" of a "perfectly healthy" dog.

To close on a happy note, it was a pleasure to attend the Garden this year and be present when the fantastic Indy won the Group. She really is deserving and her owners and handler are so nice and gracious, the whole bunch make a class act in my book. *

From the Home Country

VALE: Ebo v.d. Groote Maat & Bjorn v. Stokebrand

*Alison Kollenberg
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It never rains, it only pours, and the final days of the year 1987 also saw the passing of two of Europe's more modern sires of significance. The black Björn v. Stokebrand and the brown Ebo v.d.

Groote Maat. Two champions that have left numerous outstanding progeny behind them. In both cases, the deaths were unexpected, although in Björn's case, he was an old dog beginning to show his years. Their simultaneous loss leaves a gap in the gene pool that will not be easily bridged in the years to follow. Particularly in the case of Ebo, who had relatively few offspring, a number of which are standing far away in other lands, in particular an



Photo 1 - An imp in a teddy bear suit! In the foreground, Ebo at 3 weeks.



Photo 2 - Ebo v.d. Grootte Maat at five years.

excellent group to be found in the USA today.



He was whelped in March 1982 in Cothen, Holland, at the kennel of Mrs. Rijn-Spruit, a sometime breeder whose main interest was in producing serviceable working dogs. In a litter of five blacks and three browns, Ebo was unremarkable apart from a lusty attitude and robust build. Sold to a local couple, he soon became the product of a "broken home"

Below left: Photo 3 - Sieger-winning Ebo son in Europe. Tor Bay di Amiluc.

Below right: Photo 4 - Sieger-winning Ebo daughter in Europe. Kalina v. Norden Stamm.





Above left and right: Photos 5 and 6 - Sieger-winning Ebo son in Europe, presently on lease to the USA. Falko do Los Valenties in photos before and after his arrival in the USA in early '88.

Below: Photo 7 - Bred in the USA. Multi BOB-winning Ebo son, Adlercrest Danzig. Photo at four months.



working breeds was situated on Majorca. He paid 1,000 guilden (approximately 300 U.S. dollars), which was much less than a puppy price for a male that in the later years would command bids running into small fortunes. It is a tribute to this dog's wonderful stability of character that through these terrible earlier times of being kicked from pillar to post, it never even dented his enthusiastic and open outlook on the world and all in it.

Once arriving in Spain, he dropped out of sight for a time until his re-emergence to go Best in Show at the Spanish Nationals. One of three Bests in Show he earned in succession from his first outings. It was at the former show (where my husband had judged) that Ebo first came to our attention and it was love at first sight. From that moment we went overboard in our efforts to beg, borrow or steal the dog away. He was just the male we'd been looking for to breed to our Siegerin Alida vom Flandrischen Löwen. A lease was agreed upon and Ebo quickly changed hands once more, as there was much to be done before we would be allowed to use him for breeding in Germany. Fortunately he proved problem free and he breezed through his Schutzhund I in six weeks and made a first

and so began his lifelong migration through many hands and lands. After a number of temporary homes, he came, on

a friend's recommendation, to the attention of Dutch born Gerhard Meyer, whose well-known Los Valenties kennel for



Photo 8 - Exported to USA. Projecting that classical "look of eagles" in this study is Ebo daughter Morgan v. Norden Stamm. Photo at four-and-a-half months.

class ZTP (fit for breeding test) with a top result of V-1A after being x-rayed HD free. Later, he became a German, International and Spanish champion just as effortlessly as all else. On a further return trip to Germany in 1987, he eventually went right to the top and became IDC (International Dobermann Club) Sieger and Bundesieger.

Ebo was frequently described as an "Alva v. Frankenhorst look-alike." A past famous sire who, after becoming World Sieger and passing the German Körung, produced many outstanding progeny to follow him. Ebo's likeness to Alva was hardly a coincidence, though, as his grandsire and great-grandsire were both Alva. By European standards, Ebo's pedigree is solid gold. His sire and dam, although never highly profiled themselves, were considered sound, honest Dobermanns with a respected local



Photo 9 - Happy owner Tony Stanley, left (President of Australian Dobermann Council) and Gerhard Meyer, right, the breeder of multi BOB-winning Ebo son, Fosc di Los Valientes (centre). Fosc commences stud duties in Australia in '88.

status. Through them, Ebo's pedigree brought together some of the most important dogs of the later decades. Many known not only for being strong mentality animals, but also for being some of the most beautiful dogs of their era.

For example, immediately behind Ebo stands more than one important sire. His pedigree boasts Chico v. Forell (2:3, 1:4, 1:5), Bryan v. Forell (2:3) and of course, Bryan's sire, Vello v. Furstenfeld (1:4, 2:5). The successful crossing of Chico and Bryan progeny is often well represented, with Chico contributing great substance and power and Bryan (through Vello) recognized for bringing style and elegance.

I guess many people found it difficult to understand the lengths our enthusiasm took us to be able to use "just" a brown dog. This peculiar European prejudice against any colour but black is strangely enough quite common in a land where the majority of the most important breeding animals HAVE been browns. (To be used at all, a brown male must often be vastly superior to its closest black rivals. Perhaps one reason why browns in the past have oft proven to be more outstanding as sires of quality offspring.)

The proof is always in the pudding, though, and our resultant "K" litter from Ebo and Alida more than fulfilled expectations. So much so that the combination in blood was repeated on two more occasions with Alida's full sisters, Anka and Amida, each time with great success. Ebo's first litters were already on the ground in Spain and the following success of his German bred litters brought us all simultaneously to the same conclusion - that here we had a true breeding animal par excellence, one capable of stamping his unmistakable type and quality with monotonous regularity onto his offspring.

It was a curious coincidence that his most look-alike children also were browns. Perhaps providing some evidence that the more dominant genes were also colour linked. Ebo had all the hallmarks of the true stud animal. A first class pheno and genotype, a soundly bred character of outstanding dimensions and the ability to produce not only rows of fine daughters, but also the very rare ability to produce equally as good sons in both quality and numbers. The reputations of many famous studs hang on the quality of their daughters. Only rarely can one find a stud male capable of also producing

stud males from a variety of different dams.

"Discovered" late in his life, and used only sparingly over selected bitches of various qualities and bloodlines, he unfailingly improved upon and often far excelled the quality of the dams. From his earliest litters had sprung a group of Sieger animals. If we begin also to take into account the list of Group, Breed and class winners to his credit around the world, the percentages are quite fantastic in relation to the relatively low number of puppies from him on the ground. His first progeny debuted only last year at a number of Sieger shows, winning armfuls of titles between them. More important wins included IDC Junior Sieger male, DV Junior Sieger male and bitch, IDC Sieger bitch, IDC Reserve Sieger male, Bundessiegerin and Reserve Bundessieger, Landessieger Nord and Landesgruppe Nord Junior Sieger male and bitch.

In Germany, the early pacesetters

were the Spanish bred Tor Bay di Amiluc and Falko di Los Valientes, and the domestic bred Ken, Karramella and Kalina vom Norden Stamm. Even more Ebo kids should be seen coming into show rings and doing it all over the world in 1988. It's been a unanimous vote of confidence from breeders and judges alike when Ebo children are selected for key roles in breeding programmes, and from a variety of different lands are consistently rising to the top in show rings. Successful Ebo kids can be found everywhere from Germany to Spain, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Brazil, Australia, the USA and now the Phillipines, just to count the early starters. No doubt that as more come of age in their various homelands there'll be other countries to add to the list.

Through his precious daughters he has enriched many an individual - ourselves included, leaving us today to treasure our prized full sisters in blood, Kalina

and Mia vom Norden Stamm, even more than ever. But it is through his sons he leaves a legacy to enrich the whole breed. Luckily, many are strategically situated in homes where they are fully appreciated and in a position to do the most good. Deserving special mention for their physical and genetic potential, all typically being browns, are such key sons as Toy di Los Valientes on Majorca, heir to his father's position there and presently on lease in Germany. In Germany also is Malboro v. Norden Stamm, secured specifically for major stud work at the kennel von Haus Ehrlich, the country's largest leading breeder of working dogs. In Spain is Tor Bay di Amiluc and Falko di Los Valientes (the later presently on lease to Adlercrest kennels in Los Angeles). Located in the USA are a number of equally promising young sons. To name a few - in Maryland in the East is Mephisto v. Norden Stamm, in the Midwest is Donner v. Adlercrest and on the West Coast is Adler-



Photo 10 - In Germany our own very special legacy. Ebo daughters pictured here are Siegerin Kalina v. Norden Stamm and little sister Mia v. Norden Stamm.



Photo A - Rob Haanstra and Björn at sixteen weeks.

crest Danzig (the latter two being full brothers. Both shown in Puppy classes and both placing at the top with a number of Bests of Breed and Best of Winners). Also can be found, in Australia an excellent black son, Fosc di Los Valientes. He is a multi Best of Breed winning full brother to Falko. Somewhat more refined than the real typical Ebo sons, Fosc is probably throwing more to his mother's side of the family, Odyssee di Los Valientes, who is a granddaughter of the great past sire of significance, Don Dayan v. Frankenhorst. Naturally, his leaning to this side of such a respected background has done nothing to lessen the quality demanded in a stud male.

With intelligent and uncompromising breeding goals in the future, there is no reason why Ebo's death should result in his influence being lost or even greatly diluted. There can be found today a wide enough selection of his sons and daughters within a close proximity to each other to maintain effective inbreeding and linebreeding programmes, with the view of fixing those characteristics which made up such an exceptional animal. Outstanding attributes were the dominant character - rough, open, free and extremely energetic. A thick nerve costume supported by a high degree of self-confidence. A way over average protection instinct and strong prey instinct. On the conformation side, he represented the perfect balance between strength, style and great Adel. At a glance, there was never a doubt that this was a male! The wonderful strong bones, enormous chest volume, broad loins, wide thighs and heavy muscling. All the same, a dry and elegant dog with a long dry neck and smooth, thick, luxurious coat. He possessed a perfect shoulder and upper arm assembly which gave the naturally smooth, elegant neck to topline flowing. Although he didn't inherit his sire's extremely beautiful head, he had an honest masculine head with excellent parallels and expression. His was a special harmony of body and mind that never failed to charm, impress and bedazzle an ever widening circle of admirers. A perfect breed ambassador.

To those that knew him well, his death has been more than the passing of a landmark. It was the passing of a dear friend who had amused and beguiled us all with his egotistical personality, and filled up our days with his comforting presence. Summed up in this final paragraph is our epitaph to a dog that my husband



Photo 11 - Björn v. Stokebrand shortly before his death.



Photo B - Björn competing in a Schutzhund trial in '84.



Photo 12 - Amateur snapshot of the Sieger Björn son, Dino v. Allgäu taken just before his deportation.



Photo 13 - Sieger-winning Björn daughter, Haggai Hasjana v. Diaspora.

Björn v. Stokebrand

Björn v. Stokebrand was born in Stokebrand, Zutphen, Holland, in June 1979. Björn's breeder, Mr. Wessels-Tuyten, probably had little inkling at the time at what was in the litter before him. From amongst these pups, Björn then went to the home of keen working dog man, Mr. Hausnstra, then living in Amsterdam.

In himself, Björn was not such an extraordinary individual that he was turning heads. But in 1983 he managed to draw attention to himself by being declared Europasiieger, one of a number of events that would then "put him on the map." He proceeded to accumulate an impressive array of show and working titles that would assure his consideration on breeder "short lists" later. A nice attractive extra was that he was also a dominant black, guaranteeing those who used him only highly desirable black puppies.

Alone, his accumulated achievements over the years would not have been enough to insure his continued usage and later place in the breed's history, if he had not also been able to "produce the goods." From his noted progeny, his many fine daughters are invariably generally superior to his sons, although it was certainly not outside his capacity to produce quality sons. Observation usually noted that at practically any given time, Björn progeny could be found placing at the top in the show rings, thus, as a sire, proving his worth as a "stayer." A typical example is at the last show in Munich, from eight Björn progeny in the catalogue, six showed up and three placed on the top and three received very good gradings.

Björn was a dog of sound, moderate proportions and distinctive type. Perhaps not the most impressive animal in the line up, his excellent head and expression, short coupling and wonderful strong topline albeit served him in good stead right up until he was put to sleep at nine years of age. For a couple of years Björn had been treated with acupuncture for a spondylosis condition to ease his difficulties in standing. But then, in October 1987, he developed kennel cough, which later developed complications on the lungs. His condition had deteriorated so badly by the end of 1987 that the veterinarian recommended he be put quietly to sleep. A difficult decision for the Haastra Family, but in the end, they thought it was the best for Björn. Their very first Doberman, they had lost a great friend and companion, and the old saying, "the only

once described as having only two faults: "that we didn't breed him and that we didn't

own him." I know many Europeans would add a third: "that he was brown."

sorrow he brought us was the day he left us" for Rob and Karin. Haanstra was a very real and pointed expression of their grief. Interestingly enough, Björn is survived by his sire of eleven years, Nimrod-Hilo v. Frankenhorst SchH III.

Björn's sire line is in itself quite remarkable for the row of important stud dogs it represents. His sire, Nimrod-Hilo v. Frankenhorst, was also a very interesting dog with a number of significant progeny to his credit. Also a dominant black, Nimrod had a fierce fighting spirit and great working ability that created a lot of attention from an early age. With such significant sons as Björn and great brood bitches as Vivre-Vivien v. Frankenhorst alone to his credit, would more than justify the recognition and respect Nimrod-Hilo is accorded.

Following the sire line further, we find that Nimrod was a son of two of the breed's "late greats" - Guys Hilo v. Norden Stamm and the Japanese import, Olive of Bambys' Pride, an important brood bitch out of two German parents that had been exported to Japan. Enjoying the family longevity, Hilo had been put to sleep just short of thirteen years, and also, like his son and grandson, he was a dominant black. Björn was one of many descendants proving that no other stud dog has produced so many progeny in the quality and numbers that have "bred on" as prolifically as those from Guys Hilo v. Norden Stamm. A quick perusal of pedigrees behind winner dogs at practically any given show invariably disclosed they have at least one, if not multiple crosses to Guys Hilo. For example, compared to a number of other famous stud/show dogs that have also enjoyed considerable, and in cases even more, usage than Guys Hilo, and yet today we find that the names of a number of these other stud dogs has all but disappeared from the pedigrees of the modern champions and siegers.

In Björn's case, practically all his best progeny were produced out of those bitches best able to support his own blood, carrying a line or lines over Guys Hilo to Bryan v. Forell. Björn himself could be said to be linebred to Odin v. Forell through both the sires' tail line over Olive of Bamby's Pride, and then over Chico V. Forell in the dams' sire line. Having both Chico v. Forell and Guys Hilo V. Norden Stamm as his grandfathers has made Björn's genetic recipe a right mix for success. Once again we find the magic combination to Chico v. Forell with Bryan v. Forell (through Bryan's son, Guys Hilo)

worked wonders when it came to combining the "rough with the smooth." Björn's whole pedigree is liberally sprinkled with beautiful dogs. Five Bundessiegers alone in the first three generations.

Björn's dam, Ceylonia v. Frankenhorst, was something of an unknown entity. Her main claim to fame was that she was a Chico daughter out of the German import, Amarilda v.d. Wachenburg. The latter bitch earned her place in the breed's Hall of Fame by being the mother of Alva v. Frankenhorst, another great sire of significance.

I will have to depend on the opinions of others when mentioning Björn's character. It was recognized he had obviously

inherited his sire's and grandsire's (Hilo) great fighting spirit and strong prey instincts. But otherwise his range of "triebs" or drives was considered fairly unremarkable from the general population. Breeders that used him noted no distinctive improvement from the "norm," which suggested that Björn was something of a blender in the character department. X-rayed HD2 (bordering on free), he passed the ZTP (fit for breeding test) with an excellent ("V") for conformation and a second grading (1B) for the character. An altogether respectable result for the bulk of Dobermanns of acceptable breeding status. It would later be the above average quality of his children that would set



Photo 14 - Sieger-winning Björn daughter, Jordi-Jarantha v. Stevinhage.



Photo 15 - A young Björn Siegerin, the up-and-coming Yembi v. Frankenland.

him apart from the masses of regular animals.

With his basically sound character, the introduction of an intelligent and skilled training program quickly molded Björn into a superb competition dog. Between 1983 and 1985 he won most that was worth winning in Holland: VH III, IPO III, SchH III, Dutch Working Sieger, Best Working Dog in 1984 and 1985, Heinis Pokal Winner 1982, Eendracht Pokal Winner 1983, Hoodstad Pokal Winner 1984, and Vorselen Pokal Winner in 1983 and 1985. At the same time, he continued to collect show awards and titles and became Dutch, German, International and VDH champion as well as Europasiieger in 1983 and Reserve World Sieger in 1985. This, together with his working titles, got him a lot of use, which snowballed in later years, when it became apparent he could breed true to his pedigree.

A dependable, positive producer,

Björn has over the years sired a group of champions and siegers to do him proud. No flash in the pan, he earned his recognition the old fashioned way - he worked for it!

The following paragraphs are devoted to a number of his more significant offspring of more recent note. Naturally, there are many other equally deserving, but those few selected here can be considered representative of the best of what Björn had to offer.

Ladies first: In recent years, the tall, elegant Haggai Hasjana v. Diaspora has been used to receiving plaudits. She leans towards a typical "Hilo type" with her long well-shaped neck, balanced body, well-angulated hinds and long narrow head with the beautiful expression. The similarity is hardly surprising, as she is herself linebred to Guys Hilo over both Björn and her dam's sire, the Bundessieger Caecilius-Cassander v. Diaspora, a Guys Hilo son. Haggai is a Dutch,

German and International champion, has IPO III (equivalent to SchH III), is HD I and passed her ZTP with the high note of V-1A. In 1983, she was Bundesjung Siegerin, as well as a hot runner-up at numerous other Sieger shows.

Another Björn daughter of note is Jordi-Jarantha van Stevinhage. Coming from a family that is no stranger to success, her mother is the exquisite Farina v. Nymphenburg, a Hilo granddaughter. Farina represents some of the best of what Nymphenburg kennel was producing in the early 1980's. Farina is a Dutch, German, French, International, Luxembourg and VDH champion, as well as Worldjung Siegerin and Reserve Europasiiegerin. She is well represented by daughters like Jordi and Jordi's half sister, the IDC jung siegerin, Taiga-Unique van Stevinhage. Jordi also has passed her ZTP with a top result of V-1A, and it will be interesting to follow her future contribution through her own progeny.

An up-and-coming Björn daughter to watch is the very refined and elegant Yembi v. Frankenland. Yembi's delicate chiseling has enchanted many a judge, the long, curving neck and extremely well-angulated hindquarters serving to highlight her innate grace. Already a Junior Siegerin, from her first eight shows in the Open and Working classes, she was each time the Best Bitch. Her dam is Castra v. Frankenland, a Hilo granddaughter over her own mother, Xira v. Norden Stamm. Castra was never given the opportunity to carve her own mark out in the show or working rings, and after passing her ZTP with a top note of V-1A, she was put in whelp. Castra can rest on her laurels if only for having produced straight off Gwendy v. Frankenland, an Angekört (the toughest German mentality test) daughter of her and Bronco v. Zenn. Gwendy had it all, and more! She was Bundessiegerin, DV Siegerin, Europasiiegerin, World Siegerin, IDC Siegerin, plus, plus, plus ... as well as SchH III, Angekört and naturally, ZTP V-1A. A marvelous bitch that knew no peers, and without doubt one of, if not THE most beautiful bitch in Europe the last decade. Gwendy was a classic example of the "golden cross" between the blood of Bronco v. Zenn and Guys Hilo v. Norden Stamm. A cross that has repeatedly produced the cream of what Germany has to offer today.

Both Bronco and Hilo were highly prolific at siring Bundessiegers, and the blending of their two genetically supportive lines had been done with great suc-

cess. Not too surprising, as once again we find that Bronco, being like his grand-sire, Chico v. Forell, in producing great strength and substance, and Guys Hilo, through his sire, Bryan v. Forell from Vello v. Furstenfeld, added the style and elegance. An oft tried and true combination. Yembi herself leans towards the more ultra refined end of the scale, narrowly escaping from being dismissed as being too delicate. She is HD1 (free) and passed her ZTP with the top note of V-1A also. We can look forward to watching Yembi's show career progress in 1988.

Last, but not least, comes a Björn son deserving special note. This is Dino v. Allgäu. Unfortunately, in the future we will not be able to make firsthand assessments about his value, due to his sale at an early age to Indonesia. This regrettable event occurred shortly after Dino became Bundessieger in 1985 at only two years of age, so there was never opportunity to breed him to any extent to see a cross section of his progeny. Certainly the incentive of being offered a large sum of money is a temptation few can afford to resist, but the practice of selling important Sieger dogs before they've had a chance to replace themselves has cost Europe dearly on more than one occasion. I personally would like to see the German Dobermann Club introduce the same regulation practiced in the German Shepherd Club, where there is an export ban on the sale of any Sieger dog for one year after its win. In a breed like ours, that can ill afford to lose even a handful of key animals, I see this as an unfortunate, but necessary, control.

A tall, handsome male, Dino embodies most strongly his grandmother, Zarina v. Norden Stamm, in phenotype. Particularly with the compact, deep body, long dry neck and extremely well-angulated hinds. He has a long, masculine head that could have had a more noble expression. Like the majority of Björn's most successful progeny, Dino was strongly linebred to Bryan v. Forell. Primarily, again, over Guys Hilo. Dino's dam was Bacarra v. Allgau, an Angekört daughter of a great personal favourite, Zarina v. Norden Stamm. Zarina herself was a superb show bitch and later an important brood bitch for the number of Sieger, Angekört and champion progeny she produced. She was an incest product between Guys Hilo and his full sister, Guys Heidi v. Norden Stamm (both SchH III). Dino also made ZTP with a top result and was HD1. (HD1 means the dog is free, HD2 is when

it is not certain if the dog is free or not, HD3 is very light, and HD4 and 5 are increasingly heavier. Only HD 1 and 2 are acceptable for breeding today, although up until eight years ago, HD 3 was accepted until it was felt the breed had enough "free" dogs to be able to afford to tighten up the evaluations.)

We can only surmise what might have been had Dino not been separated from those top European bitches that could best support his blood and type. Although I'm sure he will be equally appreciated in his new homeland, Zarina's look-alike grandson will remain untested

where his possibilities were greatest. His individual potential will remain lost, as Bacarra was never rebred to Björn again before his death. Fortunately, due to the strong group of Björn daughters scattered across Europe this particular branch of the family is never far from reach and will be continued for posterity.

I realize this article doesn't really do justice to either Björn, Ebb or their families, but it is submitted by way as a small tribute to their individual contributions and hopefully at the same time has provided those reading this with some interesting and informative reading. •

Toward Better Judging

*Frank H. Grover
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The March/April issue of *Doberman World* included a well-presented discussion of the rear quarters of the Doberman. Written by Mardee Edelstein, it included several drawings. The main content of the article is a reminder, much needed, that the rear quarters of a Doberman should be balanced ... they should belong to the Doberman as a whole.

From the view of judging Dobermans in the ring, a few additional points need to be made. Modification should be made in the statement of angles. The only specifications in the standard are the angle of the hip bone to the spine (30 degrees) and the upper shank to hip bone (90 degrees). The other angles are suggestions of the writer, based on her observations.

Another point that is implicit in the presentation is that position and structure are, if not identical, at least mutually indicative. They may not be. A good structure can assume a poor position and a poor structure can look in good position. The judge needs checks beyond position. The standard describes position with the qualification "when the dog is at rest," something that almost never happens in the show ring.

The final point is that no part of the Doberman can be selected by the judge for special emphasis if the judge is going to do a conscientious job. A good rear on a poor fronted Doberman is not better

than a good front on a poor rear, if the degrees of fault in each case are the same. The good judge of Dobermans refuses to look at faults first, seeking initially the whole dog and then noting the parts that could be better. It would be an unhappy result of this excellent article if judges (and breeders) started examining Dobermans by looking first at the rears, and talking of rear faults first. We enjoy the whole dog, we breed the whole dog, we should judge the whole dog.

Another question for discussion: You are the judge. The class is winners. Your choice has come down to two. One is well developed and with good general balance, reach in front is slightly restricted, rear movement is clean but could be stronger. The other is excellent in head and neck, needing body development, with excellent reach in front and full drive from the rear. Manner of this second dog varies considerably. At times sure, confident; at other moments uncertain. The first dog is open and easy at all times. What steps would you take in the ring to make your decision? What would your decision be if those steps showed nothing more significant? Why would you make that decision? How is that decision justified by the standard?

Another question: If you could give a message to Doberman judges which you feel is much needed, what would it be?

Responses are most welcome: Frank H. Grover, PO Box 12, Helotes, Texas 78013. •