

is now on two steroids and one Imuran every other day for one more month. Then I have to return to my own vet and, if she is well enough, she will be having 1/2 Imuran and two Prednisolone for the next four weeks.

Fortunately for me Mrs. Irven had heard of this disease before and had actually known someone who had lost their bitch through auto-immunity. She put me in touch with this person who talked to me and explained that not much was known when her little bitch was ill and developed AI and by the time she got her to Bristol University it was too late to treat her, but it was helpful to me having someone who could relate to what I was going through with Libi.

Wednesday, October 29th. Today Libi's ears were very bad and it looks like she will have to go back to the emergency treatment. She is very low and so are we. She went downhill very fast after her walk today but now on the treatment I hope it will at least try to stabilize her.

I have written this article not knowing whether Libi will ever recover or get better, but to let people know about this disease which is still very rare and so hard to diagnose. Please don't delay should you ever suspect something like this. Get a second opinion as soon as possible. It is so awful to watch your lovely animal so ill one day and given so many drugs, then they get better only to get ill again.

I have been through so much during these past four months - Libi is so brave, I am not. I am hoping, hoping she will get well and stay well. I also hope there will be more research carried out on this disease should it ever recur.

To others who may experience anything similar don't wait about and waste time, don't try too many tablets, ointments, injections etc. If the problem doesn't respond within a reasonable time, get that second opinion. After all the treatment Libi has had and the pain she has gone through, she is still as courageous and goodtempered as ever and how we love her! We don't know whether she will ever be cured, we can only wait and hope and pray that she will respond to the most up to date treatment available today.

Saturday, November 1st. I rang Mrs. Irven this morning to let her know Libi is doing ok. She was so pleased for us and asked me to take some photographs of Libi and let her have one. I promised I would do this.

Sunday, November 2nd. Libi was so bad today. I spoke to my vet who was about to go on a week's holiday and he suggested I try to get an appointment with Dr. Gorman at Cambridge. I rang the hospital and was told to be at Cambridge at 9:30 on Tuesday morning (Dr. Gorman is only there on Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Tuesday, November 4th. Dr. Gorman gave Libi a thorough examination and she was put back on her old dose of eight Prednisolone for

seven days and she is now on eight every other day and only slowly recovering, but she does seem to be getting better!

I am convinced there is no cure for her. We may only be able to contain it, but she will be having side effects later on. As long as she doesn't have any pain I will let her have the treatment, so from now on we can only take it one day at a time. I feel it is such a shame she has to go through all this, as she is such a good dog. *

From the Home Country

An Interview With Jens Kollenberg

Martina Kelb
Berlin, Germany

Mr. Jens Kollenberg, 47 years of age, is a highly reputed Doberman breeder (vom Norden Stamm) in Norway and Germany, as well as a respected trainer of schutzhund, tracking and other utility dogs. As one of Germany's prominent ZTP and conformation judges he gives us some personal opinions of international interest. Between being a successful German businessman and breeding, training and showing his dogs, he also finds time, together with his wife Alison, to breed pure Arabian horses in Australia. (This includes ownership of Arabians with international, national and Australian championship titles, to name only a few). We would like to thank him for taking the time out to give us this interview.

MK: Mr. Kollenberg, for many years you have been considered a very successful breeder and a competent judge. Could you tell our readers where it all started?

JK: I had had three or four Dobermans before, in 1969, I was lucky enough to get Tex v. Frankenland. He gave me the opportunity to come ahead, combining the preferred type with the right attitude and mentality. In many ways he was a faulty dog. I sometimes would look at him and wonder how he could win so much. But as a showdog he was dynamic - always "up." He became a multi Best in Show winner, and the father of several champions. I think he also passed on a lot to his grandson, Guys Hilo vom Norden

Stamm, a male that not only lifted the average standard of the breed throughout Europe, but also on a more personal level - put me on the map.

MK: How many litters have you



Jens Kollenberg pictured with leading European sire, Guys Hilo vom Norden Stamm, SchH III. This photo was taken in '77 when Hilo became the Stdtmeister, or Working Dog Champion at a trial organized by the Police Dog Club. Here Hilo competed against first class GSDs, Rottweilers and Dobes, only to beat them all.



Personally testing the depth and strength of the bite to evaluate courage and hardness. Here agitating Igor vd Edeltan SchH III.

bred to date? Which is the dog you preferred the most?

JK: To date I've bred 39 litters, with my "M" litter (the second time around the alphabet) coming up soon. I think I would say Zarina vom Norden Stamm. She was one of my favorites. She resulted from breeding Hilo to his full sister, Guys Heidi vom Norden Stamm. Heidi was also a very special dog to me, and Zarina had inherited many of those traits that had so endeared her mother to me. Zarina was a tall, impressive bitch with a wonderful, strong, dynamic character. She had a great nobility - that certain "it." Her three other littermates also became top winning show dogs, and champions in various countries, and also had the ability to pass on their excellent type. Zarina is probably best known, besides for being twice Reserve Bundessiegerin, as being the foundation bitch of the von Allgau kennel. A young breeder that has built wisely on her sound foundations, showing that special finger tip feeling it takes to become a reputed breeder. Zarina's contribution to this success was her line of Sieger, Angekört and champion progeny.

MK: Everybody that breeds wants to produce the perfect dog. How does your ideal Doberman look?

JK: How do I describe my ideal Doberman to you? I think I would have vanished before I had finished trying to describe that dog. I believe it is more important, though, to have a clear conception of the right type. A sound balance highlighted by the breed's characteristic cosmetic details, the right

attitude and an overall sound character. The last not being the least. May I say here - the most beautiful Doberman in the world with a poor character is a poor Doberman.

MK: How would you go about trying to breed the ideal dog? What opinions do you have regarding the different breeding methods, such as incest, linebreeding or outcrossing?

JK: I don't think I have a formula better than any others when it comes to trying to breed the perfect Doberman. I am not afraid of using incest, but have no fixed formulas regarding the use of incest, linebreeding or outcrossing. To me the two individuals are the most important. If out of the right quality and they fit each other, then the family background will either reinforce your choice, or perhaps make you reconsider. Most importantly, a dog doesn't reproduce its kennel name - only its own genes. I couldn't care less if a dog has my kennel name or not, as long as it's the animal I believe is the right one for me. One sees the rise and fall of many famous kennels over the years because their breeders begin to pay more attention to whether the dogs they use carry their own suffix or prefix, rather than looking for the best animal available. Then there are those people that can only be considered "namesdroppers." All too many people breeding know nothing about, have never seen, or bothered to go and see, those animals present in their dogs' pedigrees. Let alone these dogs' brothers and sisters. The overwhelming input of those who lack even a basic working knowledge of the breed doesn't make it too difficult to breed winners when you have some knowledge of the subject, plus a little bit of luck. The problem is that a lack of depth in having a strong and ever-expanding competition creates little incentive for growth and improvement in a breed.

A simple breeding cliché is as follows: Visual analysis tells you what the Doberman appears to be. Pedigree tells you what he should be. The progeny tell you what he actually is. It is helpful to keep that thought in mind when forming breeding decisions.

MK: In your opinion has the breed changed over the last fifteen to twenty years?

JK: The breed is constantly changing everywhere. Both for better and for worse. From my own personal experience I would say that here in

northern Europe, and in particular in Germany over the last twenty years, has seen many changes for the better. Not only in the basic quality, but in the average standard of the character found in the dogs. This has been brought into focus as we have been able to make a clear definition of what we understand to be a correct mentality. Then to reinforce this knowledge, we have armed ourselves with "teeth" to select the type of dogs we want entering our breeding programs. We have become the masters at "undressing" our dogs' characters. To the dismay of some owners, whose every effort has gone into trying to conceal certain weaknesses. I believe with the application of a correct mandatory ZTP (Fit For Breeding Test), the Korung and the powerful influence of the highly competitive schutzhund sport, we are well equipped for a continued improvement. All these areas provide different platforms of evaluation and identification of each individual's strengths and weaknesses. On the other hand, we haven't made any spectacular progress on the conformation side. Although our best animals are comparable to the best anywhere, we would prefer to see more depth in the uniformity on the conformation quality. Subconsciously, we are always aware of it, but it hasn't been possible yet to make this the prime target. The most important thing has been, and I think always will be, critical attention to the character and performance qualities. Until we can boast of an across-the-board high standard in this regard, we must continue to focus our main efforts on enhancing this extremely important characteristic of the Doberman. The Doberman is, and will always be, a working dog. A clear picture of our progress towards this goal is reflected by looking for a wider recognition and public acceptance of the breed's utility, at the same time bearing in mind that the Doberman should not be considered a dog for everybody. Plus through the internal barometers such as the ZTP and trial results. A sound, stable, uncomplicated animal that has the NATURAL instincts to be there when you need them. With these instincts embracing enough natural courage that they are not to be chased away in such situations. This is the prime objective. We have laid ourselves the foundations, and we will continue to build on this

rock, rather than on sand.

MK: What do you consider the most important aspects regarding breeding Dobermans?

JK: To breed isn't difficult, if your aims are few and simple enough. A farmer couldn't care less if his cow is downfaced, long or short, black or white. As long as his "Speckle" lived to 25 years and produced more milk than any other cow in the neighborhood. We have managed to breed a pig that can be slaughtered at five months, it grows so fast, and even gives us an extra rib called a cutlet. Breeding for a pure show dog is a LOT simpler than breeding for a functional working dog. Theoretically, to be functional also means that a dog should not only work well, but "look" good. Meaning physically correct for the tasks required. No one would dream of competing in a Monte Carlo race without the appropriate type of sports car. Having this sports car built on the suitable lines, one wouldn't then dream of starting without a suitable engine under the hood to match the task also. Those people who like to park their Ferrari outside their house, knowing full well it has a Volkswagen engine under the hood - these people are not the ones that should be breeding Dobermans. Even more disturbing is such an ignorance of "mechanical matters," that many people, once owning such a Ferrari, have yet to bother looking under the hood to see if it has an engine at all! I hope you can get my meaning. A good functional working dog should combine both the physical as well as the mental qualities it requires to perform its function at the maximum efficiency. This is what a Doberman is all about.

MK: Where would you say the biggest problems in the German/European Dobermans lie today? What do you believe should be done about such problems?

JK: I can't put my finger on any specific general breed problems in the German/European Dobermans which would call for any special attention. I think the big problem today is not in the breed itself, but in the low level of knowledge with regards to basic canine and breed history. For this dismal state of affairs, the blame must be laid squarely on the shoulders of the leaders of the various Doberman clubs. The assumption of an office also means one assumes a variety of responsibilities. In some cases the pursuit of personal glorification far outweighs the



Where ever in the world dog people meet, the conversation is sure to be about dogs. Pictured here in conversation with competitors after judging at a show in Los Angeles.

serviceable input. In other cases it would seem that just pure apathy is the reason for leadership failure. Sometimes one gets the feeling that too many people have sat for too long in one position. It is vitally important to educate and encourage young breeders right now, so that we have competent and knowledgeable people to take over the reins in the future. We all think we will live forever, but the fact is that most of us die in the attempt.

MK: Which dogs in your opinion have had the most influence on the European Dobermans?

JK: I must depend on the opinions of others when I talk of Alex v. Kleinwalldheim. He was considered the "saviour" of the breed here in Germany after World War II. According to opinions, critiques and photos, he was a very noble and dry dog to look at. Plus he had that something special that enabled him to pass his good qualities onto his offspring. He carried Muck v. Brunia four times, and had two Cherloc v. Raufelsen daughters, Greta v. Kienlesburg and Jessy v.d. Sonnehöhe as his grandmothers. This also gave him the "right sort of background. Then you must mention Alex's double grandson, Lump v. Haganstolz. It's interesting to note that Lump's two grandmothers were full sisters, Amsel and Addi v. Haganstolz - both having lines to Muck and also being granddaughters of Jessy. Both Alex and Lump were trained to Schutzhund 1, and Alex became Bundessieger and

Lump, Worldsieger. Lump continued his grandfather's good work, as from him came his double grandson, Vello v. Furstenfeld, SchH III. I knew Vello personally, and he left a very favorable impression. He represented, mentality wise, what we were aiming for. Conformation wise, he was a bit over 68cms, a cutlet too long in the body and had a very well angulated and well laid back shoulder. His croup was slightly dropped, and he had excellent hindquarters. Vello had a well shaped head and long, elegant neck. His depth of chest and his prominence of forechest were not up to standard. He could be described as a small, elegant dog that was considered by some to be a bit feminine. Vello himself never became a champion, but he proved to be a prolific producer of great influence. Around the same time, Chico v. Forell was born. Whelped in 1968, Chico was also a dog that had a dominant influence in our breed. He was the opposite type to Vello. Heavy boned to the point of being a bit coarse. I first saw him at the DV Sieger show in 1969 where he won the Sieger title. Chico measured approximately 70cms, and had a very strong head that was almost too heavy, with a slight Roman nose. He had a good neck and excellent topline and croup. Plus a well formed chest that perhaps could ideally have been a bit deeper. He had a well angulated front, but in my opinion was too straight in the hindquarters. The minor details were that he had small, well formed markings,

like most European dogs - but they could have been a lot richer in color. Since then, dogs that deserve special mention are Don Dayan v. Frankenhorst, SchH 1, and Bronco v. Zenn, SchH III - both combining the genetic influence of Vello and Chico. Then Guys Hilo vom Norden Stamm, SchH III - representing Lump v. Hagenstolz 4-4, 5-5-5, 6-6-6. Which adds up to about 26.5 percent for those of the readers that like to fool with figures. I hope I'm not offending anyone by concentrating on Hilo here, but I do so for a number of reasons. Firstly, I knew Hilo better than anybody, and his influence needs to be studied as it reaches further than that of his half brother Don Dayan, or his cousin Bronco. Also Hilo produced the most numbers of significant sons and daughters that followed him. I've already mentioned his relationship to Lump, and it might interest readers to know that he also carries Alex v. Kleinwaldheim 30 times in his pedigree. Added up that comes to about 25 percent genetic influence. Which just goes to show how closely related our dogs still are today. Hilo was approximately 72cms, and gave an impression of squareness, elegance and nobility. He had an attractive head with an excellent expression. His head, though, never really looked in harmony with his body, that was dominated by an extremely deep chest. He could also have been stronger in the underjaw. He had a long, well-arched and elegant neck, that flowed smoothly into a sufficiently strong back. This excellent neck to topline flowing gave a splendid impression. He had a sufficient forechest and was sufficiently wide in the front. He could have been stronger in the pasterns. His more outstanding points were his excellent shoulder, tight cat feet and rich dark tan color. Mentality wise, he was an uncomplicated dog to live with, but like most of the Dobermans whelped fifteen years ago, he could have had a degree more courage and hardness. On the other hand, he was way over average with what he had to offer concerning his vital temperament (meaning his willingness to work), his strong prey instincts, dominant protection instincts and an almost overwhelming fighting spirit. Hilo was a son of Bryan v. Forell, who was also a stud dog of great significance. From his mother, Gunthersforst Burga, he inherited the perfect shoulder and long head and

neck. Burga was a daughter of my old Tex v. Frankenland and Gunthersforst Jasmin.

MK: The breeding controls and regulations in Germany are considered the toughest anywhere. Do you believe these are necessary and far thinking, or do you think it interferes too much with the individual's creativity?

JK: Miss Kelb, all your questions could lead to four-page answers. Explaining a breeding philosophy and interpreting its consequences cannot be laid out in a few sentences. But I shall try to be as comprehensive as possible with a few short comments. Yes I do believe very strongly in the benefits of the service that we, the German Doberman Club, offer our members through both the ZTP and attention to breeding regulations. You must not forget that these regulations were formulated and voted for by club members. They are in force to help and protect both the breeder and the purchaser. The latter not being the least important person. Surely quality is better than quantity, that breeding is better than producing, and any constructive knowledge is better than ignorance? Any information and insights that a group of experienced and knowledgeable people can offer regarding individual animals must be more instructive than no evaluation or comparison at all. The ZTP, the Schutzhund trial, the Korung and the showing are all tools we can use to keep a critical perspective of our animals. This information must be made available to the members, or how else can breeders make educated decisions based on having access to relevant facts? Those breeders whose attitudes regard these controls as mere stones in their path, rather than as constructive breeding tools, really are not interested in the general improvement of the breed at all. Their self interest dominates their decisions, and they should not be, therefore, allowed free rein to cut corners that end up compromising the whole integrity of the breed in the long run. It's all very well to sprout about peoples' rights and their freedom of expression, but many are quick to forget that all rights must be tempered with responsibilities. Otherwise all one has is a free-for-all that is little better than anarchy. We accept that the perfect Doberman doesn't exist. All have positive and negative traits in both the conformation and the character.

What the German Doberman Club seeks to establish, therefore, is a cut off point to ensure that dogs below a set quality level, in either conformation or character or both, simply do not enter our breeding programs. I ask you, who but the ignorant or unethical would wish to breed from such low grade animals anyway? We are at liberty to increase this cut off point as the breed can afford it. German breeders aren't more clever than those in other countries, but they are not "thrown to the wolves" and left to fend for themselves by their club, and are certainly better armed to succeed through the publicly available information regarding all breeding stock and their backgrounds.

MK: Let's talk about other fields of your experience. As a German ZTP and specialist judge you have had the opportunity to see and compare Dobermans from all over the world, including most recently in Los Angeles. Can you share some of your impressions with us? Also, regarding this appointment in the U.S. There was a criticism voiced in a prominent American Doberman magazine. Did you find this criticism valid?

JK: First let me say that it was a great pleasure to meet so many really pleasant people in Los Angeles. Conformation wise, the better Dobermans I saw would be able to win anywhere. I also found the handlers' attitudes and presentation extremely organized and professional without being overdone. Whether stacking a Doberman, or, for that matter, any working breed, is a correct method of presentation is a matter of interpretation of what is considered "normal," as well as influenced by the all breed system in that country. This didn't bother me, as I had ample opportunity to see what I wanted during the evaluations. The good organization made the decision making a quick and relatively simple affair. I think if we had a few of those handlers over here to present and market our European Dobermans, it would bring a whole new dimension into our shows. Briefly, concerning your last question - the sour grapes voiced - I can only trace back to the fact that I don't take bribes.

MK: Inviting overseas specialists to judge in Europe seems to gain more acceptance now. What are the benefits, if any, that you see in this?

JK: Only playing in your own backyard doesn't always provide



An all-time personal favorite of his own breeding was Zarina vom Norden Stamm (German and Int. Ch., SchH I).



A promising youngster (and daughter of Alida) for the vom Norden Stamm Kennel is Kalina v. Norden Stamm. A 10 months of age, she became German Junior National Champion (Bundesjungendsiegerin) late in 1986.

enough perspective or stimulation to maintain a competitive edge. The growing interchange of specialist judges, points of view, information and data can only benefit the whole breed worldwide. One positive example was the invitation to the American judge, Mrs. May Jacobson, to judge at our prestigious IDC show. She definitely gave us some interesting input, which I'm sure we all appreciate and will take care of in the future. I for one would certainly welcome her, or her other American colleagues, back to Europe.

MK: Back again to the German club. Do you believe the small number of specialists we have is a good thing, when one considers the enormous input and influence they have on the breed?

JK: The actual number of judges isn't the most important issue. Rather that their common platform is clearly laid out - based on sound principles, knowledge and breed experience. Then we must ensure that these people are competent and prepared to consistently enforce the application of what the club policy is. This will ensure a consistent development of the breed. One not subject to fluctuations of fashion, etc., as well as giving breeders a stable platform to work from and measure their dogs against.

MK: In view of the importance of their influence, do you believe these people are adequately educated?

JK: Of course, no person is

perfect. Like our dogs, we aren't machines. There is always room for improvement. Always the human factor is the strongest and weakest link in any chain. I think it is particularly important for these judges to make it their responsibility to keep abreast with the breed's development, keep up to date with current technical data, and most of all to keep a "hands on" knowledge of the breed, via continually breeding, showing and working their own animals. These things are imperative if one is to maintain any practical competence and perspective. Some "new brooms" and fresh blood would certainly not do any harm either. It is tempting to slip into a rut without the pressures of healthy criticism and self evaluation.

MK: Concerning specifically the German/European Dobermans and the American Dobermans - where did you see the greatest difference in the application of the standard?

JK: The Americans are achievers. The most important thing is to be the best and to win. It is a commendable attitude, and they certainly have my respect. The American Cocker Spaniel is an acknowledged American breed, with an American standard that everyone is following. They have managed to make this point very clear, and no one would dream of changing this standard over here, from what the Americans believed it should be. The Doberman is a German breed. Yet in

various countries its standard has been open to interpretation. I find it a great pity that we have not been interested or clever enough to "sell" the concept and understanding of what a Doberman is. I have experienced trends in other countries where the dog's only relationship to being a Doberman is that they are black and tan. These animals have nothing to do with what a Doberman is all about, and sometimes I wish they would change the name of their breed to something else. We must realize that in a world increasingly dominated by promotion and marketing, no such concept as ours can prevail without asserting its superior qualities positively and publicly. Unfortunately to date, the language barrier, our healthy local puppy demand, and the general lack of any real interest (as well as sophistication) with regards marketing and promotion has resulted in much of the failure of this concept to be driven home comprehensively around the world. Also, as in the case of the U.S., a lot of communication and future understanding was lost through the death of Mr. Fleitmann, and after the war for the obvious reasons. There was never any follow up on old friends like Mrs. Adamson and Mr. Grover after that, for example. The day we can manage to "sell" our concept of what we believe a Doberman should be as described in our standard, then I do believe that the Americans, for one, will

be our strongest allies and competitors. The positive growing involvement of Doberman people in the schutzhund sport in the U.S. is just one of the means available concerning bringing attention to the fundamentals of this concept.

MK: The last few years has seen a big increase in the export of European, and in particular German, Dobermans to the U.S. This trend seems to extend to most of the working breeds. What do you believe are the reasons behind the new wave?

JK: There is a variety of reasons. Different articles and ads in well known American magazines. The awakening interest there in the schutzhund sport, complimented by the general natural aptitude of our dogs to excel in this form of competition. Also well respected and innovative breeders, judges and handlers such as Mary Rogers, Marilyn Meshirer, the Jacobsons, Ray Carlisle and Marj Brooks have taken the opportunity to come over and get first hand information. A number at the same time have either bought or used European dogs. I also have had the pleasure, together with Mr. Wiblshauser, of attending the Westminster show in New York, and later the U.S. National in Denver. Information exchanges and ideas travel fast these days, and clever people will not hesitate to travel when they know something positive is to be gained. It doesn't, or rather shouldn't, matter whether a dog has been whelped in California or Bavaria, as long as it is a good Doberman. The skillful utilization of the best from both worlds can only benefit everyone. It only needs to be known where to find the right dogs. There is any amount of documentation showing that the introduction of hybrid vigour by combining good specimens of two completely unrelated strains will produce spectacular results. Such outcrossing is like spontaneous combustion. It needs only to be born in mind that separate pure genetic pools must also be maintained to draw back on later. Then it's a matter of the best to the best, and hope for the rest! Perhaps few are willing to sell their best animals outright, but one method of productive exchange might be in the swapping of important stud dogs and leasing top bitches. The level of progress would have to hang on the correct utilization of a few key animals, because in the case of Germany for example - there exists neither the numbers nor the depth of quality that it could afford to cater to a

mass exodus.

MK: As we view the American Dobermans from the outside, it seems that the Doberman in that country is bred primarily to be a show animal. Speaking then only on the conformation level, what would you consider the major differences between the European and American Dobermans?

JK: I have already said earlier in this interview that I've seen Dobermans in the U.S. - at Westminster, Los Angeles and Denver Nationals - that I believe could win at shows anywhere I've had a chance to make a comparison. If I knew enough about what was in these dogs' backgrounds and their mental capacities, and could be satisfied that these were up to what I consider the Doberman Standard calls for, I would also use them in breeding. In the same vein, I would not hesitate to recommend some top European Dobermans for use in the U.S., to improve on some important areas. You are asking me for comparisons and differences, and frankly speaking, to do the subject justice would require more space than I'm allowed here. In comparison, preferred physical points vary, not only from dog to dog, but from country to country. Generally speaking I noticed differences in the expressions (of the head), the substance, and a general tolerance of a longer bodied, softer backed dog than we like to see. I could happily recommend the American dogs for their generally dry and well shaped necks, excellent hindquarter angulation (some being even more than what is wanted) and overall lovely tight cat feet. From the other side, I believe the European Doberman in general could offer some improvement regarding the American dogs' tendency to be too straight in the shoulder and upper arm, as well as having the shoulders placed too far forward. This is a critical point, as a well laid back and well angulated shoulder is a key factor to fixing a Doberman's type. It gives the animal a longer neck line, a smoother neck to topline flow-in, and a shorter topline. Plus a better reach in front. But for God's sake, get rid of the ridiculous statement that the shoulder/upper arm angulation should be ideally 90 degrees. This is neither physically possible nor desirable type wise. To comment on simple cosmetic details, I believe the European dogs could offer their American cousins the warmer, richer color and smaller markings. I think this is a glaring point with the American

dogs, as generally this has degenerated considerably throughout the whole breed there. The majority being far too big in their markings, and the color being unappealing and washed out - like straw. I would like to say that I've limited my comparisons to Europe and the U.S., mainly because those Dobermans I've had the opportunity to see in countries other than these two have all derived most of their inheritance from either one or the other or both.

MK: To finish up, what is your ultimate dream?

JK: My ultimate dream? To have such a Doberman - that it breezes through its Schutzhund III, places in our German Leistungssieger competition, wins the Bundessieger title, then goes to the U.S. where it wins the National Schutzhund competition there and nicely rounds things off by taking out their National Champion title. That day, I think, would light up a cigar.

MK: Thank you Mr. Kollenberg.

JK: My pleasure, Miss Kelb. **

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A recent star for the vom Norden Stamm Kennel was Alida vom Flandrischen Löwen (German Ch., Bdsgr., SchH III) exported USA. Her grandfathers are two of Europe's most influential stud dogs - Guys v. Norden Stamm and Bronco v. Zenn. She is strongly linebred to Vello v. Furstenfeld.