



Interview: Judge Christian Wulff (ADRK)

By Jane Mitchelmore



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www.störtebeker-rottweiler.de



Christian Wulff (middle) - pictured judging 2012 IPO Spanish Championships, Madrid, Spain



Christian Wulff & Xando v Spitzbubenberg - pictured passing Körung



Ebbe v Heltorfer Forst - ADRK DM

Please tell us about yourself.

My name is Christian Wulff and I am 47 years old. I am a licensed ADRK performance (IPO) judge. Since my childhood, I grew up with Rottweilers. The first Rottweiler in our family was Astor vom Landgraben, the father of Ives Eulenspiegel. My father, Jürgen Wulff (ADRK Conformation Judge and Körmeister), bought this dog as a puppy in 1971. This dog has influenced me even then—I was four years old in 1971. I then grew up in my youth with Rottweilers, and in the year 1988, I got my own first Rottweiler, Garfield vom Tangstedter Forst. This dog I trained and had equal success with him: IPO 3, SchH 3, FH, ZTP, and German Championship FH in 1992 and 1993. This dog was also a customs service dog. He was trained as a guard dog and drug dog. I have championships at many trials and participated in service dog competitions.

- 1988 - K-9 handlers German Customs department
- 1989 - became a member of the ADRK
- 1994 - ADRK training for judges
- 1996 - appointed IPO Judge
- 2001 - training for trainers for service dogs (K-9)
- 2004 - appointment as coach for service dogs/Judge K-9
- 2007 - Deputy Head of the Canine Unit
- 2013 - IPO Judge/coach dog license for the regions of Niedersachsen/North Germany

I have educated and trained many dogs of different breeds, as well as ZTP, Körung, trials and shows. I train my own dogs, but also take occasional dogs from others for training, when I have the time for it.

Some of my dogs were:

K-9 Dogs (Rottweiler)

- Garfield vom Tangstedter Forst** IPO 3, SchH 3, WPO, FH, Customs Dog 1 & 2, Drug Dog Test 1-3, German Championship FH 1992 & 1993
- Kliff von den Bornhorster Seen** BH, ZTP, IPO 3, Customs Dog 1, Drug Dog Test 1
- Tibor Jaskula** IPO 3, Customs Dog 1 (bred in The Netherlands)
- Max Störtebeker** BH, IPO 3, Customs Dog 1 & 2, Drug Dog Test 1 & 2, FH 1, FH 2, German Championship FH 2003-2006, German Championship FH 4th Place 2008, K-9 championship North Germany Customs, Region Department Hamburg Best Dog in Protection 2006

Other Rottweilers (only a small selection)

- V-rated **Annika vom Holsteiner Land** BH, ZTP, IPO 1 (breeding bitch)
- V- & SG-rated **Hummel Störtebeker** BH, IPO 1 (breeding bitch)
- V-rated **Xando vom Spitzbubenberg** BH, AD, IPO 3, ZTP, Körung
- V- & SG-rated **Ebbe vom Heltorfer Forst** BH, AD, IPO 3, VPG 3, Körung bis EzA, National IPO Champion **Schleswig-Holstein** 2011 & 2012, ADRK IPO Championship 2011 & 2012, Best Female 2012 (breeding bitch, 2 litters—14 puppies)
- V-rated **Cliff vom Schandpfahl** BH, AD, ZTP, IPO 3 (breeding male)



Ebbe v Heltorfer Forst



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Highest scores:

1. **Garfield vom Tangstedter Forst:** IPO 3 100-90-96a = 286 V
2. **Ebbe vom Heltorfer Forst:** IPO 3 98-93-98 = 289 V
3. **Max Störtebeker:** Customs Dog 2 465 points (of 500) V

Since 1996, I became a judge for working dogs (IPO). I have judged trials in Germany, Spain, Denmark, and England, as well as many regional championships. Trials I have judged are:

- 1999 ADRK Championship FH
 - 2000 ADRK Championship VPG/IPO—Obedience
 - 2006 ADRK Championship IPO—Tracking
 - 2009 ADRK Championship IPO—Obedience
 - 2010 VDH Championship IPO-FH (German Qualification World Championship FH)—All Breeds
 - 2012 IPO Championship of Spain (Spain Qualification for IFR World Championship)
 - 2014 ADRK Championship FH
- ADRK judge for working dogs, breed manager LG 02, Breeder, Trainer K-9 German Customs, Trainer and Handler

History of my Kennel in the Breed

The name of my Rottweiler kennel is Störtebeker. It was named after, among other things, a famous pirate (Klaus Störtebeker). This pirate survived the end of the 14th century in northern Germany (North Sea and Baltic Sea). He was beheaded in the year 1401 in Hamburg. The kennel was founded by my father, ADRK Conformation Judge and Körmeister Jürgen Wulff. Our first male was Astor vom Landgraben, father of the famous Ives Eulenspiegel. The famous breeder and former judge Miss Marianne Bruns (Eulenspiegel) was my father's mentor. Since the beginning of 1990, my father and I started to breed litters together. So far, we have had 15 litters. In the period from 1999 to 2011, we did not breed. In 2012, I started to breed again. My current breeding female is Ebbe vom Heltorfer Forst. We expect to have puppies at the end of April 2015.

What made you decide to become a Rottweiler breeder?

I grew up with dogs since my childhood. We have always had dogs (German Shepherd, Boxer, Rottweiler). When I was four years old, my father bought the first Rottweiler. I really had no other choice. The love of dogs and the Rottweiler was always there. I think the Rottweiler is a great breed of dog and I love his look and his character.

What made you decide to become an ADRK judge?

I have always been interested very much in the training of dogs. My father, Jürgen Wulff and ADRK Judge Hartmut Teschke, asked me in 1994 if I wanted to make the training as an IPO judge. At first, I did not know if I should do it. I was quite young—almost 27 years old. But then, after some discussions I decided to do the training. I have to this day a lot of fun with this activity. I completed my



Ebbe v Heltorfer Forst - ADRK DM



Nanna Störtebeker - pictured passing Zip



Cliff v Schanpfahl



Cliff v Schandpfahl



Ebbe v Heltorfer Forst



Ebbe v Heltorfer Forst



Ebbe v Heltorfer Forst

training as a judge at the end of 1995. In February 1996, I became the youngest judge of the ADRK.

What is your training and teaching philosophy?

From the eighth week, I'll start with tracking and obedience (clicker). I train a lot with positive experiences (food and ball). I train tracking with food. I train obedience with clicker, food, and the jackpot is the ball. I train protection with clicker, fun, and aggression (when the dog is older). Of course, it all depends on the dog, the situation, and the training level. It is very important that the dog never loses the fun out of my sight, and he always wants to work.

For me there is no standard method; each dog is different and needs to be encouraged and trained individually. Therefore, there is no training method that can be applied to any dog. You always have to be flexible, to continue their education, and be open to everything. It is important that you have a team to support you and help. Without friends and workout partners, you cannot go where you want to go.

It is important that you always remain fair to the dog. Do not overwhelm him and be positive showing what you want from him. During the training course, I also show him corrections and how to solve these stressful situations. I try first to get the dog to work so he makes few or no errors. If he does not fall through my education, then he also has no stress. This of course requires a lot of time and close attention.

I am of the opinion that if you concentrate and take the time, you will be successful. However, one must be clear about that not every dog can get the performance you want. When I see a dog who is not suitable for sports, then I have to make a decision. Either I can live with it or not. If I cannot live with it, then there are two possibilities:

1. I part with the dog and find it a good new home.
2. I might find a friend in training the dog who may have better ideas.

No trainer or dog handler is perfect and you cannot know everything. It is important to be honest with yourself and sometimes put to yourself the question: Is this dog suitable for me and my mentality?

Please tell us about the club you train with.

I have been training since 1988 and was seriously involved in dog sports in six different clubs (ADRK and DVG). I have been training for a long time with my friends Dirk Baker and Sabrina together in the SV OG Bremen-Hemelingen. Dirk is a great dog handler and helper. We like and have the same view of dog training. Dirk has had two leading Rottweilers (Chaos vom Schicksalsberg and Gollum vom Tanneneck). He has successfully trained Rottweilers in recent years and has participated in many championships (ADRK IPO Championship, VDH Championship, IFR world championship). We complement each other very well and are a great team. It is fun to work together. He helps me with my dogs and with training dogs. He gave me help in the training of Nanna Störtebeker, also called Miss America. Nanna came back in January from the USA to Germany because my friend Richard Morrow could not train her himself for health reasons. Nanna was successfully trained from January to October 2014 in Germany and earned her BH, ZTP, and IPO 1. In October, my wife and I brought her back to the USA. She is now living in New York state, and will soon have puppies.

The training of a dog is only possible if people give support and help.



Ebbe v Heltorfer Forst



Ebbe v Heltorfer Forst



Ebbe v Heltorfer Forst

What elements does a Rottweiler need to be successful in IPO?

A Rottweiler requires a strong nerve, stamina and temperament. He must be crazy to want to play it and if he still eats very well, then we have an excellent base. It is always important that the dog handler takes a lot of time and the dog shows a lot. A dog should not have problems in road traffic, or in general with the normal environment in which he lives. A dog that has no problems there will remain cool while training. He should jump up everywhere whenever I want, even if it is on, for example, a shaky table. I have to bring problems to my dog to solve alone. Through such experiences, my dog becomes more confident and he will master new situations better. Very, very important, of course, is that my Rottweiler is healthy and is in good physical condition.



Ebbe v Heltorfer Forst

What are the biggest mistakes novice and experienced handlers make?

A fault that many beginners make is that they totally overwhelm their dogs and do not take the time with calm and patience to train. A further fault is that too often, they train alone and no person is there indicating faults to the dog handler who lacks the experience and knowledge. When a dog is forced, the dog handler often does not know how the dog can get out of this situation positively. It is important that I train with the dog only when I myself am motivated. You must be willing, motivated, and focused on the workout with the dog. For example, if I was drunk the night before I was to work with the dog next morning, I'm probably not focused and perhaps tired and have a headache. Then it makes no sense to train!

What do you like to see in the Rottweiler who is presented to you in trials?

I want to see the dog's temperament and have him show me that he wants to work. One must realize that the dog has fun at work and along with his handler. Today, we do not want to see dogs with everything done only by force. I, as a judge, do not want to see something like that, and I would give such a team a bad review or even disqualify them. The dog must be motivated to work with a lot of strength and power. When I see such teams, then I am very pleased.

Who are your mentors?

I've met over the years many good dog handlers and trainers. When I first came in 1989 to the Customs Dog School in Bleckede, I completed a training course with former Customs officer Andreas Mueller. From him I learned a lot at the time. Andreas then went to the USA and now lives in Arizona (Zauberberg Kennel). Another person is Dieter Träger (von den Wannaer Höhen German Shepherd Dogs). He is also a very seasoned and excellent trainer and handler. Dirk Bäcker is a friend and a great helper. We train together and we complement each other very well. A very special thanks goes to my father, of course, always at my side with help and advice.

In nearly 30 years, I have met many good dog handlers, and when you live with open eyes, then you can all learn something. You can learn what is good but also what is bad. No matter how you look at it, you always learn something.

ONLINE ENTRIES: www.ADRK.de



2015 ADRK World Family Weltmeisterschaft (IPO Championships) April 25 & 26, 2015





Austragungsort ~ Location
Sportpark am Blausteinsee Jülicher Str.
Eschweiler, Germany

Richter ~ Judges:
Fährte ~ Tracking: Herald Imhof (ADRK)
Unterordnunge ~ Obedience: Enzo Monaco (RCI)
C-Teil ~ Protection: Heiner Pellenwessel (ADRK)

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