

## Latest News from the JGHV Director of Testing

### **Five years of evaluating temperament during the test as an appendix to the VZPO/VGPO/VPSO.....which is half-time!**

Time for a review - and thus time for a résumé - time for reflection!

When I spoke in the title of half-time, I would like to compare this with a game (soccer / handball, etc.).

In each half, one of the managers looks at the current result (score) of the game and then plans for the second half with a few questions:

- How has the game developed?
- What did we achieve?
- How did we achieve it?
- Who played?
- What do we have to change, or should we change?
- When should we substitute?

Lots of questions - few or almost no answers, because already with the first questions, how has the game developed and what did we achieve, we will give up, or we don't have an answer. We would like changes in the Test Regulations. Changes, just to change things or do we want changes, because the previous results warrant them. Who then has these results and/or which breed club has evaluated this data set (Ostermann Statistics), which the JGHV makes available to each breed club. Clearly, an evaluation of the pure test results e.g. with the VJP (tracking work, use of nose, search, pointing and cooperation) can be done very quickly based on an Excel file, but with the data regarding the evaluation of temperament, it is a bit more difficult. Let's have a look at the text of the appendix to the VZPO/VGPO/VPSO on the evaluation of temperament during the course of the test.

***In addition to the evaluation (testing) of the natural abilities and performance of our hunting dogs, recognizing and documenting temperament and behavioral traits is of the utmost importance, especially for the breeding of high performance and temperamentally sound hunting dogs. Association Judges have a great responsibility in this regard. The following definitions are to be considered and applied in the evaluation of temperament and behavior.***

***The temperament and behavior of the dogs must be observed as completely as possible during the entire test, recorded, and noted on the test score sheet.***

My dear friends of the hunting dog world,

After intensive work by the Studbook Commission and the Executive Board of the JGHV, the VZPO/VGPO and the VPSO with all appendices, including the assessment of temperament, valid from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2027, were adopted by a majority at the Annual Meeting on March 19, 2017. With this, all test regulations and appendices are valid for 10 years, and so right now, it would be **half-time!**

At this point I do not want to again dredge up all the steps taken in the preparation or all the justifications as to how and why the JGHV or the Annual Meeting came to this version of the assessment of temperament, but we all must now ask ourselves a lot of questions as to whether it was the right way to go. But to determine this, we have to look at or evaluate the existing data from the past 5 years. The question is only, who evaluates this data from the VJP/HZP/VGP/VPS, who has this data? Of course, the JGHV has all the data, but the responsibility for evaluation lies solely with the breed clubs. The JGHV is responsible for the testing of all hunting dogs and makes these test regulations available to all breed and testing clubs for the performance of natural ability and utility tests. The JGHV manages the entire testing system, which is held in accordance with the test regulations of all JGHV testing clubs and provides the respective breed clubs with data that has been checked and compiled for the purpose of breeding management. Thus, each breeding and testing club is free to use this database (test results) for publication and for the information of all breeders or to guide their breeding. Unfortunately, there are still breed clubs in our ranks, which despite the most modern IT or EDP breeding programs, do not make this data, or the database available to their members and therefore to breeders and stud dog owners. Only if all recorded data, including the evaluation of temperament, is compiled and evaluated, are statements about the current status of natural abilities and / or performance tests and the temperament of our hunting dogs or the respective breed and their heredity possible. Only if the breed club provides all data unfiltered to every member, breeder, and stud dog owner, can the breed be monitored, and reliable guidance be given for breeding. Now, however, it raises the question: To what extent this has been done, who has done it, and this especially with regard to temperament?

Dear friends,

As I have already written in issue 4-2023 of the *Jagdgebrauchshund*, I repeatedly receive inquiries, proposals, requests for changes and suggestions on how to change the test regulations.

For sure, some suggestions / requests for changes cannot be dismissed out of hand, but always with the question, why does/should this have to be changed or modified.

With the entire assessment of temperament, however, we must remember that this is not a test subject but is only noted. Thus, the temperament, the behavior of the dog during the test, which is different for each dog, is observed and then recorded on the test scoresheet. Even if nothing is recorded on assessment of temperament, the dog can still pass the test.

The further question is. What is temperament and when do we assess temperament?

## **Temperament is the behavioral state a dog is in at the time of the event.**

I do not want to say anything about this now, because this is a topic of its own and should be dealt with separately after the explanations on the subject of temperament in the *Jagdgebrauchshund* magazine 5-2023. Now it is simply time to evaluate the available data, to process it, because without a proper dataset the game continues into the second half, but whether we go into overtime, this must be shown by the evaluation and not by premature speculation. At the Annual Meeting 2026 at the latest, those responsible must decide whether the games (tests) will continue as before, or whether something will be changed, or a substitution will be made in the future, along with the question of what and who will be substituted or what will we change and how many possibilities of substitution / change we have.

- the players (dogs/ dog handlers)
- the referees (Association Judges)
- the rules of the game (definition of evaluating temperament)

But before we start thinking about this, I would be happy to get as much feedback as possible from the breed clubs on this topic. My goal is to give a short overview in 2024 of the determination of temperament in all

tests that have been carried out so far. The breed clubs must provide the data for this. We need a well-prepared data set from all breed clubs involved.

A further presentation and additional thoughts on the subject of "temperament", with the focus: What is a dog with a strong temperament and where does the dog with a weak temperament begin, and how different is the evaluation of temperament at the JGHV tests, I would like to publish in the next issues of the *Jagdgebrauchshund*. I hope for a lively discussion and active participation of all hunting dog people, who deal with this topic in depth. Then I would like to write their thoughts about temperament and publish them in the *Jagdgebrauchshund*. We can only make progress if everyone thinks about it and presents his or her personal opinion to others. Sometimes, the smallest bit of information helps us successfully navigate the way and shape the further course of the game.

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(Translation: Ken Bremer)