

## Vom Wildflugel Kennel

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Thank you for your interest in a vom Wildflugel puppy. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with additional information about my kennel and breeding program, the guarantee, the drahthaar breed, and the Verein Deutsch Drahthaar (VDD) breed organization.

I have chosen to keep my kennel operation small. I strive to produce quality not quantity drahthaars. I believe the Deutsch drahthaar should possess strong natural abilities, intelligence, be mentally stable and trainable, and have sound structure. They should not be aggressive, shy, or uncooperative. My breeding goal has been to develop a line of drahthaars that exhibit a strong hunting desire to locate and retrieve game in the field and in the water. I strive for consistency in temperament, coat, and conformation with each breeding. I want to produce drahthaars that have the personality and temperament to live as a family member, which includes the ability to get along with small children.

In my opinion, obtaining uniformity in a breeding program is a result of line- breeding and I prefer to line-breed my females. However, I will not hesitate to out-cross to a male that exhibits extraordinary qualities. All my females are what I consider to be "people" oriented drahthaars with a strong desire to please. I do not breed to aggressive males nor do I keep aggressive females for breeding. I choose to breed to a male because he possesses the natural abilities (strong pointing and tracking instincts and an excellent nose), personality, and coat type that compliment each of my females and **NOT** simply because he has impressive test scores. I never breed to a male just because of the close proximity to where I live.

While my line of drahthaars is not aggressive, males can often be dominant. It has been documented that any dog will assume the dominant role if family members do not assert themselves early on. Dogs do not believe in social equality. They live in a social hierarchy led by the pack leader (Alpha). There is never any doubt within the pack that the Alpha is the boss and makes the rules. If the family does not assume the leadership role, the dog will do so sooner or later with unpleasant consequences for the abdicating family. For this reason, I send information with each puppy that describes how the owner and family members are to assume the "pack leadership" role so that the puppy will learn its place and can assimilate into the family's environment. I also provide a training manual with each puppy. This information will give you a solid foundation to train your pup to be the hunting companion you want.

My drahthaars are first and foremost my friends and hunting companions. The females whelp their litters in my kitchen and remain inside for the first three weeks after the puppies are born.

The puppies are handled daily and are exposed to normal activities on a regular basis to assist in their socialization. I register my drahtsaars with the VDD in Germany. I do not register dogs with the American Kennel Club (AKC) and have no desire to do so. I keep my web site updated and you are encouraged to visit the site frequently for information on upcoming litters or started and/or trained dogs for sale.

The cost of a puppy, either male or female, is \$700. You might wonder why the price of a vom Wildflugel puppy is lower than drahtsaars produced at most other drahtsaar kennels. My goal is to produce quality drahtsaars and make them affordable to any individual who is interested in owning a versatile hunting dog. I strongly believe that my line of drahtsaars is as talented as those being produced at other kennels. I stand behind my breeding program and drahtsaars by offering a one year written health guarantee on each puppy I produce, providing owners with a copy of the genetic testing results on both parents, providing new owners with a training manual, and being available 24/7 to answer questions.

I provide a one (1) year written health guarantee on puppies produced at my kennel. New owners are required to sign the Puppy Guarantee and Sales Agreement. This document sets forth the terms and conditions of the guarantee. Should any vom Wildflugel puppy develop a genetic defect before the age of twelve (12) months old, it will be covered by the guarantee. In order for this guarantee to be put into effect, the owner must abide by the stipulations outlined in the Puppy Guarantee and Sales Agreement.

If a person is interested in reserving a puppy, I ask that a \$300 deposit be sent along with a completed questionnaire and a signed copy of the Puppy Guarantee and Sales Agreement. Both of these documents can be found on my web site. The information you provide in the questionnaire will help me match a puppy to your specific situation and need. The signed sales agreement indicates to me that you have read and agreed to the terms of the agreement. All airline shipping and handling expenses along with vet health papers for transportation and the airport delivery fee is the purchaser's responsibility and are to be paid in full before pup leaves vom Wildflugel Kennel. The balance of payment for a puppy is due when the puppy turns five weeks old.

Deposits are recorded when they are RECEIVED. The order in which a deposit is received is also the order for selecting puppies. Reservations are taken on gender only, not coat color. The remaining balance is due when the puppies are four weeks old. Your deposit will be refunded to you for the following reasons: (1) if you change your mind about purchasing a puppy and contact me BEFORE the litter whelps or (2) if I am unable to provide you with a puppy. For example, if you reserved a male puppy but there only female puppies whelped there are three options available to you: take a female puppy, apply your deposit to another litter, or receive a full refund.

Puppies are released to go to their new homes when they are eight weeks old. If you are coming to make your selection, you must arrive on the date and time you arranged. If you are unable to arrive at this time I will make the selection for you. This procedure is necessary in order to be fair

to the other people who are also making travel plans. Puppies that are being shipped will be selected based upon information in the questionnaire and from personal conversations with you.

As stated above, a puppy does not leave my kennel until it is at least eight weeks old. This permits me to administer one parvo only shot and one puppy shot booster. Every puppy will be wormed at 2, 4, and 6 weeks. Each puppy will be named, registered in Germany, and tattooed with its registration number in the right ear. In addition to being ear tattooed, each puppy will be micro-chipped. I have chosen to leave the dewclaws on my puppies as I believe they serve a definite purpose.

The 12-month health guarantee provides adequate time for you to determine if your puppy has any health-related issues. If your puppy should develop a genetic defect before it is one year old it will be replaced or the original price of the puppy refunded. I must be notified immediately after your vet discovers the condition. In order to qualify for a replacement or refund, your puppy must be returned to me. All shipping expenses to return the puppy and get a replacement puppy (if that is what you choose) is your responsibility.

After a puppy leaves my kennel, of course I can no longer be responsible for any injury, accidental death or contagious disease or other problems contracted outside of my immediate control. There are no other implied or intended guaranties or warranties on vom Wildflugel puppies except as stated above. This guarantee is void if the puppy was purchased under false pretenses or if the drahthaar is bred before it is certified for breeding purposes as stipulated in the Verein Deutsch Drahthaar breeding regulations. This guarantee applies only to the original purchaser of the puppy.

I do not guarantee that drahthaars produced at my kennel will have face furnishings. Due to the fact that the Deutsch Kurzhaar (German Shorthair), Stichelhaar, Griffon, and Pudlepointer were used in the "composite" breeding of the drahthaar, there will always be "throwbacks" because of the presence of latent traits from the original four breeds. Breeders occasionally produce puppies that exhibit the physical features of the Shorthair, Griffon, etc. It does not matter how hard breeders strive for uniformity in phenotypes, there have been and will continue to be throwbacks to the original ancestors. I prefer to concentrate on producing drahthaars with very good noses, pointing instincts, and water desire. Drahthaars without face furnishings can be certified for breeding purposes. The primary drawback is that they are unable to receive a ZR rating and number for conformation and coat at a breed show (Zuchtshau).

Hip dysplasia (HD) is a great concern to VDD-GNA breeders. My breeding females have two hip evaluations, one evaluation is performed by the HD-Zentrale in Germany and the other is a PennHIP evaluation. All my females and the males that I use as studs are HD-free.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide information concerning the Deutsch Drahthaar (drahthaar) breed, the Verein Deutsch Drahthaar-Group North America, and our group's goals and objectives. I do not know what you have been provided by other breeders, I apologize if any of this information is redundant.

The German hunter envisioned the versatile hunting dog concept during the early 1800's. Persistence and determination to achieve this goal resulted in the emergence of versatile hunting dogs in Germany. The drahthaar (literally translated means German wirehair) breed was established in Germany almost one hundred years ago with the formation of the Verein Deutsch Drahthaar (VDD) breed organization.

The drahthaar, as we know it today, includes ancestors from the following breeds: Deutsch Stichelhaar, Griffon, Pudlepointer, and Deutsch Kurzhaar (Shorthair). The drahthaar was developed for the foot hunter who wanted a pointer, a retriever that worked equally well on land and in water, a tracker, a flusher, and a dog aggressive to bring down wounded game. In essence, the Germans created the ultimate hunting dog that was not only mentally and physically tough, but also calm mannered and protective of family and property. Of all the versatile hunting breeds present in Germany today, as many drahthaars are registered each year as all other versatile hunting breeds combined.

A description of a standard drahthaar would be a dog with a hard dense coat with colors ranging from dark to medium brown ticked to solid brown to black and white ticked. The coat should be hard, flat lying, and dense with a dense undercoat. The outer coat should be between 3/4 and 1 1/2 inches long. The drahthaar may or may not have a beard. Males usually range from 60 to 80 pounds and 25 to 27 inches tall. Females normally range from 22 to 24 inches tall and weigh between 45 to 60 pounds.

In the early 1970's, a subgroup of the VDD known as Group North America (GNA) was established in the United States. We conform to the strict VDD breed standards and testing programs developed by the parent organization in Germany. Unlike the American Kennel Club, the VDD breed organization established specific formal standards which drahthaars are required to meet before they can be certified for breeding purposes. These standards include coat, conformation, field performance, and an evaluation of gun sensitivity in the field and in the water. Deficiencies that would disqualify a drahthaar from breeding include mental instability, gun shyness, fear biting, unsatisfactory conformation and/or coat, teeth problems (under bite, over bite, missing incisors or fangs, missing molars), entropic or ectropic eyes, missing or anomalies in the male sex organs, naturally bobbed or crooked tail, light nose, or glass eyes.

Breeding drahthaars must pass either a spring Natural Ability Test (VJP), Fall Breed Test (HZP), or Utility Test (VGP). Three impartial judges determine whether a dog meets these standards. The performance tests simulate actual hunting situations and include upland game, waterfowl, and forest tests. This breeding program ensures the hunter that a puppy produced under the VDD system will most likely perform in the field under actual hunting conditions. Each test increases the difficulty in what each drahthaar is expected to do.

The JGHV (Jagdgebrauchshundverband) translates into English as Versatile Hunting Dog Association of Germany. This is the testing organization under which the VDD and GNA conduct their tests. As previously stated the basic tests include the VJP (Association Youngster

Test), HZP (Fall Breed Test), and VGP (Association Versatile Test). Additional performance awards include the Btr (Retrieving Reliability Test), Vbr (Certificate for Retrieve on Natural Wounded Track), and AH (Armbruster Halt Award).

The VJP test is conducted during the spring of each year to evaluate a young dog's inherited natural abilities. Drahthaars (up until the age of 17 months old) are tested in the following phases: (1) hare track, (2) nose, (3) search, (4) pointing, and (5) cooperation.

The HZP is held in the fall of each year for dogs less than 26 months old. The natural abilities of these drahthaars are evaluated along with how well it has accepted training on furred and feathered game in the field and water. The test phases include: (1) nose, (2) search, (3) pointing, (4) cooperation, (5) desire, (6) water work (scent track a live duck across open water and a blind retrieve), (7) retrieving feathered game, (8) retrieving furred game, (9) manner of retrieve, and (10) obedience.

The test to evaluate the overall finished-trained drahthaar is called the VGP. The Germans consider this the "master" exam for the finished gun dog. The dogs are evaluated on how well they have accepted training on furred (rabbit and fox) and feathered (pheasant and waterfowl) game in the field, water, and forest. The drahthaar must successfully complete a blood track that has aged at least two hours.

Inexperienced individuals can train and handle a drahthaar for the various VDD tests and do as well as knowledgeable and seasoned veterans. There are several books available regarding the training of versatile drahthaars, i.e. The Drahthaar Puppy Manual by Roger Smith and Nancy Bohs; Armbruster Training Manual by Leonard F. Armbruster; How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves by Joan Bailey; and Training the Versatile Hunting Dog: New Approach to Training Your Versatile Dog for Field and Water by Chuck Johnson. While all the aforementioned books provide insight into training versatile dogs the first two books listed are the only ones with an overview of training drahthaars for the VJP and HZP tests.

I strongly encourage everyone who purchases a vom Wildflugel puppy to test his or her drahthaar for two reasons. First, the testing data provides me with valuable information to evaluate litters and make future breeding decisions. Second, not only will individuals gain essential training experience but their dogs will achieve a level training that will result in a finished hunting companion that is a joy to hunt behind in the field.

I am constantly researching and learning about canines and training. I have written a number of articles that will assist you in raising and training your drahthaar, these are included in the training manual that you receive. These articles include such subjects as: crate training, canine behavior, housebreaking, vaccinations, obedience training, training for the German tests (VJP and HZP), how a dog scents, etc.

I have some final thoughts to share with you. Anyone who takes on the responsibility of owning a puppy should have long-term goals in mind. In general, I do not believe most people realize just how important the first 12 months of a dog's life really are. I can provide you with the

genetic package that has the potential to become a quality hunting companion, but without your commitment to early socialization and training, this dog will never realize its full potential. The work you do once a puppy is brought into your home is just as important as the many years I have spent in developing my breeding program.

If hunting is your primary interest, I do not believe you could find a better hunting companion than those produced under the VDD system. I would appreciate the opportunity to provide you with a drahtaar puppy. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Jill Manning*