

Character Assessment Compact Seminar July 2022



Over the weekend of the 22nd to 24th July 2022, the WUSV Working Group hosted a seminar at Winwick Leisure Centre near Warrington to train seven people to become SV approved character assessors. Herr Udo Wolters and Herr Jens-Peter Fluegge, both respected SV IGP judges and members of the core team who have developed the SV character assessment (CA) and breed disposition test (BDT). Five people were also trained to be assessor's assistants by Herr Lukas Hoevenner.

The trainee assessors all had to be breed or IGP judges recognised by their national club. Those taking part on this occasion were:

GSD League of GB

Shirley Hutchinson

Gary Khakian

Heather McDonald

Phil Sergent

Wayne Vessey

BAGSD

Heather Corkin

GSDCI

Mark Plunkett

The trainee assistants were

GSD League of GB

Michelle Baker

Martin Davies

Karen Khakian

Zep Zizzi

GSDCI

Tara Wendland-Baniassadi

The weekend started with a half day lecture covering the responsibilities of assessors and their assistants, the objectives of the character assessment and detailed instruction on completion of the paperwork and software updates required of the assessors.

Following this, 21 dogs were presented over the weekend to take part in a character assessment test. These dogs were formally assessed by Udo Wolters and their test results will be recorded and recognised by the SV. Each of the trainee assessors also recorded their evaluation of the dogs. On the first day 6 dogs took part and whilst Udo assessed them, Jens-Peter discussed their behaviours with the trainee assessors and how they should be evaluated. On Day two a further 9 dogs were assessed – this time the trainee assessors took it in turns to carry out the assessment and deliver the critique at the end with Udo and Jens-Peter watching. Day Three followed the same format with a further 6 dogs being assessed. At the end of each day a debrief took place to discuss any matters of interest which had arisen.



All dogs which took part successfully completed their assessments. The dogs and handlers were:

	Elmar Mersak	Thomas Eaton
	Kleehuegel Freddie	Judy Hallsworth
	Kleehuegel Estella	James Perry
	Kleehuegel Evita	Tracy Wight
	Mya v. Sudenville	Thomas Eaton
	Omen Ylanris	Rowan Brunswick
	Jasmina z Pedrovej budy	Maria Olianka
	Wanda von der Rußhütte	Charlotte Wildman
	Blerio Bezique at Mascani	Maureen Lakin
	Eris spod Sipskej Fatry	Gregory van Ebeling
	Wrizo Cruaghair	S. Cuthbert
	Kris spod Kostola	Gregory van Ebeling
	Jaede Cruaghair	S. Cuthbert
	Garon Weerdon	Richard Douglas
	P' Yanki du Val D'Anzin	Zep Zizzi
	Fabian Jojoba	Kim Waite
	Darko de Grinesa	Merryl Kim Bluck
	Chris Shaneva	Debbie Whitley
	Bailey vom Springberg	Kayleigh Hoult
	Xoxi Solo Rigoletto	Arnis Meijers
	Berra vom Springberg	Donna Thompson

The WUSV Working Group and all of the trainee assessors and assistants would like to thank all of the participants – without your co-operation we would not have been able to stage this seminar.

The event secretary was Alison Lawrence who worked hard at the computer all weekend making sure all forms were completed, certificates prepared and everything ready to submit to the SV. Thank you, Alison.

After the seminar, each trainee assessor had to submit their reports to Udo Wolters who reviewed them for consistency and following procedure. We are happy to confirm that all assessors have received confirmation from Udo that they have successfully completed the training and, subject to SV confirmation, will be approved to judge character assessments that will be accepted for SV Koerung and showing in Germany.

The approval of these assessors is very important in the UK in order to make character assessments accessible and economically viable across the country. The character assessment is a fundamental part of the breed harmonisation basic requirements and must be adopted by all WUSV Member clubs by 2025 at the latest.

The character assessment really is a test which is fun to do, requires no training and is open to all – you do not need to be a member of a club to take part in a character assessment. It is hoped, in time, that all breeders will encourage new puppy owners to participate in a character assessment. This will give them some insight into their pups strengths and challenges and help them use appropriate training methods. It will also be a great introduction to the activities that people can get involved in by joining a club if they are interested. It can only be in the interest of individual dogs and the breed as a whole if owners (new or experienced) are encouraged to properly socialise their pups in readiness for this test.

Finally, thanks to Udo Wolters, Jens-Peter Fluegge and Lukas Hoeverner for their excellent company, guidance and patience.

Shirley Hutchinson