



Report on the Temperament Test, Breed Suitability Test and Behavioral Assessment as well as the examination of holding a Rottweiler in the canton of Aargau, organized by the Regional Group of Zürich on the 6th of November 2016

The SRC regularly reports on breed surveys. When reporting, the focus usually lies on the daily happenings. This time however, the report shall be somewhat different and shall point out the purpose of such events. In this sense, the following report will show the contribution that the Swiss Rottweiler Club (SRC), founded in 1921, has made, to breeding a healthy and beautiful working dog with a safe and pleasant nature. This of course, within the scope of the the Swiss Cynological Society (SKG) regulations.

Existing Situation

The SKG is the umbrella organization of most dog breeders in Switzerland. It was founded in 1883 and is based in Berne. At present, it is made up of 358 sections (independent associations) with a total of approximately 68,000 members in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The SKG itself is affiliated to the international cynological governing body, FCI, and has the purpose to promote uniformity in the breeding, for this purpose, the SKG maintains the Swiss Dog Stud Book (SHSB / LOS)

Unfortunately, in the case of the Rottweiler, a large number is imported (often without official papers). The number even exceeds the amount that is originally bred in Switzerland. Many of these imported dogs correspond to the Breed Standard of the Rottweiler dog, as published by FCI, however, many of these dogs also have faults such as character deficiencies or faulty temperament and health problems. The SRC has a firm opinion respecting this matter: There is no reason why one needs to breed outside the FCI. The controlled and documented ancestry and breeding of your four-legged family member should be of value to you. Therefore, the SRC wishes that potential dog owners buy a Rottweiler from a recognized and licensed (Swiss) breed.

Unfortunately, in the past, the image of the Rottweiler has been influenced by various negative examples. It can be discussed, debated on, lamented or polemised whether it is correct, when reporters picture the Rottweiler in the press as a vicious dog or when, as is the case in some cantons, the Rottweiler appears on a list of potentially dangerous dogs. The shared opinion of the SRC and its breeders is clear: it is our goal to breed a dog with abundant strength and even-tempered nature with a high stress threshold. A dog which is well suited to being a working, service and family dog. SRC breeders take this responsibility seriously.

However, there are cases where the problem is not the dog or its faulty temperament. In these cases, the problem can be found on the other end of the lead, the holder. Therefore, the first step, when wanting competent dog holders, needs to be done by the breeder, namely in selecting dog holders that are capable of leading this breed. Thus, it is part of the breeder's responsibility to check the potential buyer.

In the preface of the Dog Holder Certificate, the SKG writes the following about the Rottweiler dog: "In addition to being a service dog, such as being search, rescue, protection or shepherd dogs, they also take over a very important social function. At the same time, the general conditions for animal welfare are becoming increasingly difficult. Today, more than ever, competent dog owners are called for."

Keeping this in mind, only buyers who are able to keep dogs physically as well as mentally fit, which are properly educated, should be able to access a dog from this breed. Having said this, SRC breeders are aware of their responsibility to sell their dogs to competent dog holders.

Breed Survey Days

Since 1963, three Breed Survey Days have been carried out by the SRC per year. These days include a Temperament test (temperament testing) for the Rottweiler, a breeding suitability test and a certificate (Körung) for the Rottweiler. Since 2012, the SRC has offered behavioral assessment and, since 2013, the practical examination of the breeders' rights for holding list dogs in the canton of Aargau

Breed selection on the occasion of a Temperament Test, Breed Suitability Test and Liscence

Dogs are accepted for breeding dependent on their passing of the temperament test. This primarily intends to select Rottweiler dogs for the breed with a high degree of safety when considering their temperament, and to exclude dogs with disqualifying faults from the breed. The temperament test intends to show, with the greatest possible degree of certainty, which dogs fulfill the criteria of the SRC and only those should be accepted for further breeding. This forms the first prerequisite for holding the Rottweiler in today's urban society, as well as holding the Rottweiler as a companion, sports, service and/or working dog. Dogs with deficiencies or faulty behavior do not meet the requirements called for in the Standard Breed. These dogs can undoubtedly be a danger to their environment independent of whether they are kept as family, service or working dogs. It is therefore important that the dog must have, to a marked extent, the desired essential characteristics of the breed. Logically this means that only dogs should be bred further which show a friendly and peaceful attitude consistent with the Breed Standard.

In a non-threatening situation, these are above all: steady nerves, high internal security and goodness. In the military test, these are above all: intrepidity, inner security, desired sharpness and hardness. Insecure, anxious, stressed dogs, those with missing or low gun-sureness, those with a lack of protective drive or unwanted sharpness, are not allowed to pass the temperament test and thus should not be used for further breeding.

The Breed Feasibility Test is subdivided into a conformation grading evaluation, gun-sureness and a Guard and Defense test.

The surveyor evaluates the dog according to type, construction in stance, limbs, gait, teeth, hair, etc. according to the Breed Standard of the FCI for the Rottweiler breed. Reasons to exclude from breeding are listed as breed specific disqualifying faults. If the dogs inspected by the surveyor show a negative behavior (for example: dogs which do not allow the surveyor to measure their length, deny dentition or testicular control) the

Temperament Test Admission

For the Temperament Test, the dog must be at least 12 months old. One should aim for the dog to complete a Temperament Test between 12 and 18 months of age. All Rottweilers registered in the SHSB are permitted for the Temperament Test. It is not mandatory that the owner of the dog is a SRC member. A dam in heat is not permitted to the Temperament Test. Normally, a dog only completes the Temperament Test once in a lifetime.

Admission to the Breadability Test

Dogs are admitted if:

- Dams need to be at least 18 months old and sires at least 24 months;
- Dogs are registered in Switzerland in the SHSB and whether the owner or the dog have been restricted to be listed in the SHSB;
- the dogs have passed the SRC Temperament Test;
- the dogs have passed an endurance test (of 20 km) with AKZ;
- the dog was evaluated as being at least "good" according to the Breed Standards at a breeding exhibition;
- the requirements called for by the SRC concerning hip dysplasia (HD) and elbow dysplasia (ED) are fulfilled - HD maximum B degrees and ED maximum 1 degree;

evaluation is terminated. Dogs that do not meet these requirements may be deferred for later re-examination.

The gun-sureness test is done by shooting at least 20 meters laterally from the dog. Two shots, 6 to 9 mm caliber, are fired in succession into the air. The dog needs to stay calm and is not allowed to be influenced by its owner.

The Guard and Defence Test is done similarly to the IPO level 1 test.

The coronation of breeding is the licensing (Körung). This aims to pull out the best dogs for breeding. For licensing, higher conditions are imposed. The admission to the licensing is approximately the same as that for the Breadability Test

An aborted or failed Breadability Test or failed licensing can be repeated twice. If the Breadability test failed three times, the Rottweilers are excluded from breeding.

Dogs who have been qualified as being breeding dogs by fulfilling the ADRK or OeRK regulations, are recognized as breeders in Switzerland as well. Following an import assessment, these dogs are then approved for breeding by the SRC. The import inspection is carried out by an SRC-Temperament Test judge and an SRC exhibition judge.

Behavioral Assessment

This deals with how the dog and the owner interact, handle each other. The behavioral assessment begins with an in-depth and documented survey on the dog owner's life and habitat. The next step is to analyze the behavior of the dog in a peaceful situation in relation to foreigners and towards various acoustic and optical environmental influences. The desired and undesired behavior of the dog is documented step by step. At the end, summary is given of the dogs a) excitability, b) calming, c) temperament, c) binding to its owner, d) reaction to environmental irritation, and e) comments and recommendations for the dog owner. The behavioral assessment is not a breeding measure.

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Abbreviations:

ADRK	Allgemeiner Deutscher Rottweiler-Klub
BH	Begleithund, class 1 to 3
ED	Elbow Dysplasia
FCI	Fédération Cynologique Internationale
HD	Hip Dysplasia
IPO	Internationale Prüfungs-Ordnung, class 1 to 3

Admission to the Licensing

Dogs are admitted if:

- A Breadability Test was passed;
- Dams are at least 30 months and sires 36 months old;
- The dog was considered as being “excellent” or “very good” at at least 3 exhibitions through 2 different on Rottweiler-specialized surveyors;
- One of the following tests were passed with AKZ:
 - Sires: SchH 3, IPO 3, SanH 3, BH 3 oder LawinenH 3;
 - Dams: SchH 1, IPO 1, SanH 2, BH 2 oder LawinenH 2.

Admission to the Behavioral Assessment

The dog needs to be at least 12 months old. Various Rottweilers are admitted to the behavioral assessment, including those without official papers. The owner's membership in the SRC is not compulsory. A Dam in heat is not admitted.

LawinenH	Avalanche Rescue Dog, class 1 to 3
OeRK	Österreichische Rottweiler Klub
SanH	«Medical» Rescue Dog, class 1 to 3
SchH	Schutzhund, class 1 to 3
SHSB/LOS	Swiss dog pedigree number
SKG	Schweizerische Kynologische Gesellschaft, Société Cynologique Suisse, Società Cinologica Svizzera,
SRC	Schweizerischer Rottweilerhunde Club
ZTP	Breeding suitability test

Photos

IKE_DSC01374, Temperament Test: Dog's reaction to strong pressure from people

IKE_DSC01374, Temperament Test: Dog's reaction to the environment

IKE_DSC01374, Temperament Test: Dog's pray drive with strange people

JASPER_DSC7048 Temperament Test: Dog's reaction to people moving fast towards the dog

JASPER_DSC01406 Temperament Test: Dog's reaction Dog reaction to loud different noises

DEE_DSC7059 ZTP: Dog is measured and touched by the judge.

EBAY_DSC01438: ZTP: IPO 1, Department C IPO dog sport

DRAGO_DSC7077: Behavioural Assessment: First aid as per judge instruction

IKE_DSC7042: Temperament Test: Guard and defence, speed of calming down

PASHA_DSC7086: Behavioural Assessment: Encounters of dogs