



Seminar Notes

The German Longhaired Pointer is a misleading name as it implies it is first and foremost a pointing dog when in fact it's primary use is "after the gun" that is for tracking and finding fallen deer, wild boar, game birds and fur. In the country of origin it is known simply as the Deutsch Langhaar.

From early European history dogs have been used for catching game, blood hounds for deer, boarhounds and lighter dogs for partridge, duck, rabbit and hare. The lighter dogs were used for herding birds into the net and had been taught to stand still when birds were found and over time they developed this instinctively when scenting them. When the net was thrown over the dogs and birds they were also taught to crouch down and this setting instinct became imprinted as well as a retrieving skill.

By the 16th century the best netting dogs came from Spain and were known as the *español* or *setting spaniel* which was then introduced into France and in time to Middle Europe. It became exceedingly popular both as a partridge dog and for hawking and had a reputation for being very faithful to its master. These estates were mostly forest so it was bred to local hunting dogs and became known in these areas as The *Stober Dog* (rummage dog). It was medium sized, long coated and soon gained a reputation as a forest dog with a skill for finding sparse game over harsh conditions such as mountains, ice and snow. They were basically flushers but were also noted for going in for the kill and they excelled in water work, tracking and retrieving. It became the foundation stock of the German *Wachtelhunde*.

Other larger hound type dogs called *Brackens* (scent hounds) were used for tracking deer and boar scent.

Prior to the Napoleonic wars wealthy estate owners retained large kennels of specialised netting and hunting dogs but following the treaty of Westphalia in 1648 the German speaking population was broken into smaller independent kingdoms. These were ruled by noblemen who took a keen interest in breeding hunting dogs. What they decided would serve them best would be an all-round scenting, tracking, retrieving dog so they mated the *Stober* dogs to hunting dogs. What emerged in time was a large, sturdy longhaired, spaniel like dog which became known as *der Deutsch Langsam*, the slow dog.

By the next century records suggest all hair types short, wire and longhaired were now



being selectively bred even though these eventual indigenous breeds did not become separated for almost another 100 years. The coat colour Brown in hunting dogs was probably selected for its camouflage appearance.

As in England from the 1750's, these Federation of Germanic States replaced netting with killing game by the newly invented flintlock.

The flintlock was inefficient in delivering a fatal shot so most quarry was only wounded. The slow dog became very popular with foresters as it was necessary for a dog to track blood scent to find injured deer and boar. Because it lived as a family dog a good temperament became an important breeding feature.

In the Northern regions of Germany deforestation occurred and this created easier communication between the great estates. These open fields were cultivated which encouraged a plentiful supply of partridge and quail.

Although efficient in the Southern forests, Der Langsam was too slow for hunting feather for it could only quarter about 50 feet in distance from its handler.

Around the early 1800's noblemen imported English and Scottish Setters and these were mated to this dog. Scottish Setters were exported in large numbers to Germany and became known as Der Wildhuter Hunde, The Gamekeepers Dog. It is highly probable this genetic input became very influential as they were mated in quantity to the slow dog. In time this produced a faster, smaller quartering dog with a better nose for finding feather.

Unfortunately there was no structured breeding programme and der Deutsch Langsam was replaced by dogs in the North which were diverse in size, looks, coat colour and working styles. They began losing their retrieving skills, their willingness to please and keenness which were so valued by the hunters.

When quicker transportation was invented there was improved communication and ideas and dogs were exchanged between the North and South. They agreed to breed a longhaired brown dog of great versatility which retained all its Germanic qualities combined with a small infusion of English field specialist skills and they started a rudimentary breeding programme. All dogs and their progeny which did not meet these new exacting standards were culled out including those with the colour black. What they began to achieve was "German Marmalade with a little English Sauce!"

By 1878 the first Langhaar Breeders Association was formed in Berghausen and the following year, 5 longhaired dogs were chosen as foundation stud dogs from those entered in a show in Hanover. They were Job, Mylord, Don a brownschimmel, Roland and Kalkstein who was brown and white. A breed standard became formalised the following year.



During the following decade both Freiherr von Schorlemer- Alst and Helene Frein von Beverfoerde were instrumental in perfecting and securing breed type. In 1897 the Deutsch Langhaar Verband was formed and their first prufungs and conformation tests were held to chose the best specimens both in conformation and working ability for a regulated breeding programme. From 1881 to 1900, 632 Longhairs were entered in their stud book. .

So What is a Longhair?

I can define this by quoting from the Deutsch Langhaar Club

“ Surely with all breeds you get good and not so good dogs. For this reason we are devoted to the German Longhair. He is a robust dog who does not mind wind and bad weather conditions. He is pretty, unspoilt and not docked. His movement is flowing, elegant and when he jumps he uses his tail to steer. To see a Longhair on point with his tail straight out behind him is a picture of harmony. It is known the Longhair is easy to train and our breeders attach importance to this. We want a dog with hunting instinct, sometimes it is said the Longhair is disadvantaged because he gets tired on a hot day. This is not so, he hunts quick and thoroughly. In the eyes of a novice his searching may look slow and his movement looks calm due to his long tail. With docked dogs the movement sometimes looks slightly “chopped off”.

A disadvantage of the Longhair is that after a hunt for ducks or on a wet day he needs longer to dry off. However because of his coat he is protected against the cold and wet and does not get cold quickly. He will not hesitate to jump into icy cold water which often will not even get through to his skin. This is why he is particularly good in water.

We want a calm unshakable dog, a nerve strong dog which is easy to train. Overpassionate dogs are not acceptable. The Longhair today is quick but not hasty, we want a dog which can quarter open country and hunt. He should be a loud forest dog and should not hesitate to go into thorny thick undergrowth. We want a strong water dog that is not afraid to go in even if it means breaking the ice. He should be loyal, incorruptible companion which is a characteristic which once named him “ the old German forest wardens dog”. Being an all-rounder is the first demand which we make.

A lot of dog lovers like the look of the Longhair, however we must make it clear he is a dog for the huntsman, he is far too good to live his life in the city because a non huntsman could get problems as he will not understand the Longhair when his hunting instincts come through.”



Breed Type

“A breed is a population of dogs related by descent from particular ancestral stock and breeding true is for certain defining characteristics that serve to distinguish it from all others.”

The FCI classification is The Deutsch Langhaar Vorstehhund (Spaniel Type) and is included in section 1.2 with the Grossen and Kleiner Munsterlander, The Brittany, Picardie, de Pont- Audemer, French Spaniel, Stabyhoun and the Drentse Partrijshond.

One could say this description is correct due to the early influences of the longhaired Stober

The influx of Setter blood was abandoned in the first decades of the 19th century and was then significantly diluted by culling in the middle of the 1800's. Records suggest there was no influx of Irish setter blood which would have introduced phaeomelanin into the whole coat colour creating a red or orange hue and lighter noses and pads. The orange hair seen on the ears is dead hair but is not removed. It should radiate an expression of softness, nobleness and “ fire”!

It's neck should be long for air scenting and tracking.

Its body should have balance with flowing lines from it's head to it's tail!

Its movement should be powerful yet graceful.

It should be of sufficient height and bone density so the skeleton can support strong muscles.

It should look neither too fine nor too course

It's back should be long to facilitate a ground covering stride so it's shape must be rectangular.

Its tail should be long so it can indicate when game is present and as an indicator of its good nature.



Its coat should be of sufficient quality and quantity which protects it in cold weather and water.

It is only be brown , brown and white or schimmel .

It should be able to hunt all day, indicate and find game and retrieve from land or water.

It should not be too fast or too slow for its nose

It should be loyal and eager to please at all times.

Be even tempered especially with children

It should never be aggressive to humans or other dogs.

It should not be shy of loud noises.