

A loving tribute to the immortal

**VDH/D Ch, BdSg, DV Sg Alida v
Flandrischen Löwen, SchH 3, FH, ADPr, ZTP**

March 29, 1984—November 8, 1993 (story originally published 1994)



Vale Alida v Flandrischen Löwen

By Alison Kollenberg

Aeulogy in honor of Alida is not only timely, but richly deserved, because here was a bitch whose genetic influence is enormous, often equaling and at times surpassing that of prominent stud dogs. For a bitch, whose number of offspring is limited by the nature of her gender, that is no mean feat. Apart from her daughter (Kalina vom Norden Stamm), the amazing depth and breadth of her influence world-wide could be said to be unrivalled by any bitch since the post war period.

Consider that her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are to be found in more than 27 Dobermann breeding lands. Amongst these are many highly acclaimed and decorated animals. The numerous Siegers, Specialty Winners, National Champions, Best-In-Show winners, conformation and working champions and breeding champions makes an impressive list when viewed on paper.

Bred in the purple herself, Alida's excellent phenotype and genotype was able to consistently produce animals that, in turn, themselves proved to be exceptional producers. This is borne out by the number of countries whose leading stud dogs and bitches have had an obvious impact on the development and direction of the breed in these lands and are directly related to Alida in the immediate pedigree.

Alida herself was no "soap bubble." She came out of the key bloodline responsible for producing the great majority of Germany's Dobermanns of significance. The same bloodlines, in fact, from whence sprang the USA's most significant producers of the early post-war period (see the Bloodline chart later in this article). Alida's pedigree also combined in the immediate background the country's two most acclaimed stud dogs of their era, successfully combining the "rough and the

smooth." Namely the rough, robust power of the Sieger dog, Bronco v Zenn, SchH III, and the smooth, elegant nobility of the Sieger dog, Guy's Hilo V. Norden Stamm, SchH III. Alida had 4 Bundessieger (German National Champions) in her first and second generations alone! Her mother, the Bronco daughter Alexa v. Heiderhof, SchH III, was also a Bundessieger, as was her sire, the Hilo son, Ali v. Langenhorst, SchH III. Alida was, in fact, a worthy royal daughter of a most royal house.

Since being exported to the USA, Alida's story is best told by those more closely involved with her in that country. But her life story in Germany before this time has passed on great wealth to the breed there and elsewhere, and needs telling if only for that reason alone. Her story had a remarkable beginning to what was to prove a remarkable life.

Alida's mother, Alexa, was the smallest and least imposing in her litter and, therefore, the last to be sold. But she blossomed like the proverbial Ugly Duckling,

and by 1982 had become Germany's top winning show dog and also Bundessieger at the early age of 18 months (an achievement later matched by her daughter Alida, and Alida's daughter Kalina after her). Alexa's siblings were also successful, with six of them becoming champions with SchH III titles. This was a highly fertile family, as later seen by the large litters she and her offspring always produced. It was not uncommon for them to have litters of anywhere from 10 to 18 puppies. Taking into account that Alida's family was also known for its longevity, it

could be deduced that these factors, together with their high individual prepotency, were key factors behind her family's broad genetic sphere of influence.

Around this time my husband, Jens Kollenberg, came on the scene. We had just returned to Germany and were looking for a foundation bitch to take up where he had left off some years earlier. Reading the DV Club's show critique books, it became apparent that Alexa possessed those qualities he was looking for. A meeting was arranged to see Alexa with the view of buying or leasing her from her owner, Albert Rochtus. Neither proved possible, but my husband and her owner



Alida v Flandrischen Löwen

did come to an unorthodox arrangement whereby her owner would breed her to the male of Jens' choice, and we would buy all the bitches in the litter. It was Alexa's owner's first litter, the "A" litter, and there were five bitches in all: Anka, Anja, Amida, Azura, and Alida. We ran all the puppies on till 3 months of age, and then made our final picks, retaining the two pearls (Alida and Anka). Azura went to Australia and died of milk fever while raising her second litter. Amida went to the German Chief of Judges Ottmar Vogel, and was later repurchased by us and finally exported to Adlercrest Kennels in the USA, where she went on to form a small dynasty of her own internationally. Anja was sold locally, was never bred, and remains today with her family in Elmshorn, Germany.

But without a doubt, Alida and Anka were the stars. Both bitches placed at the top of the major Sieger shows, easily earning their conformation and working championships. Through the breeding box, they repeatedly proved to be bitches of great genetic powers. These bitches weren't the only stars in the litter, as the males Atlas, Aristo (exp. Norway) and Armin also proved to be above average show dogs and producers. I personally know of at least five champions in this litter.

Alida was an extroverted and flashy puppy. From both her parents she inherited the good shoulder and upper arm and strong bone and substance so necessary in any brood bitch worth its salt. From her sire came the rich color, strong head and way above-average fighting spirit and prey drive. These points weren't lacking in Alexa either, but specifically from her mother Alida inherited the long neck that seemed to go on forever and her wonderful dryness and style. More compact and muscular overall though, Alida was a fast, dynamic bitch to work and show, easily earning her championship, SchH III and FH titles. She also became Bundessieger and DV Sieger (German Club Specialty Winner) shortly before being exported to the USA.

It is worth mentioning here that German Dobermanns are practically unique amongst the large working breeds in that they have as often as not succeeded in combining their show and working champions in one and the same dog.

When it came time to breed Alida, Jens Koltenburg found a male whose own individual qualities

would not only compliment hers, but bring fresh impetus to the offspring through his own outstanding inheritance. Our "K" litter vom Norden Stamm, Alida's first litter by the Sieger dog, Ebo v.d. Groote Maat, SchH I, has gone down in the history books as one of the most important litters bred in Germany in that decade. There were 11 puppies. Most were exported to other lands and five became champions. Of these, without a doubt the most famous is Kalina v. Norden Stamm, SchH III, a bitch whose formidable qualities in both the working and show arenas have earned her high praise from

high places in several languages. Kalina, together with her full sister in blood, Mia v. Norden Stamm, by Ebo out of Alida's sister Anka, can take their place amongst the most titled animals in the history of the Dobermann breed, in fact.

There were nine bitches in the "K" litter, and all were pre-sold to breeders world-wide who wished to capitalize on their genetic background. The two males in this litter, Ken and Kandy, went into domestic "working dog" homes, whose owners unfortunately showed no interested talent in promoting them at stud.

Therefore, it has been through its female, or "mother line," that this family has continued its widespread influence on breed development. Only Kalina, Kastra, and Kassandra remained in Germany, with the two

former later proving to be the most prepotent in successfully reproducing their inheritance. The sisters Kamilla, Karma, Kitopakita, Karamella, Katrina, and Kira went far abroad to Sweden, Norway, Japan, the USA and Australia (later re-directed to the USA) respectively. It was consistently found that their greatest successes were most pronounced when these bitches were bred to the highest quality males who could also fundamentally support their blood. The long list of Champions, Siegers, and Specialty Winners that have emerged from such combinations also supports this conclusion.

It was near Christmas when Alida whelped us her first litter, and around that time my husband was in New York at a Westminster show, on the invitation of American breeder/judge Marilyn Meshirer, to speak at a judges training seminar held in conjunction with the show. It was here that Jens first met Ray Carlisle, a past-President of the DPCA and to become Alida's future



Alida and daughter Kalina

owner and life-long friend. It was an explosive first meeting, with these two strong-minded men comparing breeding systems that, on first evaluation, seemed to have little in common but the name of the breed. When the dust had settled though, it became soon apparent that both men really held the same ideals in a dog. His curiosity piqued, Ray made a reciprocal flight to Hamburg in Northern Germany to meet our current young Siegerin, Alida.

Hers was a vivacious, vital personality and her enormous youthful eye appeal made an immediate impact on Ray. Although such high profile animals are rarely offered for sale, in the spirit of international cooperation my husband agreed to part with Alida. Six months later she found herself a resident of the USA, where her life story continued to unfold like a flower in blossom and whose details are best relayed to readers by those in first-hand contact with her during that period.

To sum it up, it might interest American readers to know that at the time of her importation, Alida was the first genuine German Sieger dog since Jesse v.d. Sonnenhohe to be exported to the USA. A significant difference between Alida and Jesse was that Alida was the first Siegerin imported by an American to have also passed the working trials and German ZTP (Fit for Breeding test). Alida could be said to have something very much in common with Jesse v.d. Sonnenhohe...her pedigree carries 445 crosses to Jesse!

Conformation, working, and reproductive champions directly descended from Alida can be found on every continent today. For example, inside the USA one recent conformation champion descended from Alida is her grandson, American & Canadian Ch. Cara's Talon, Am/Can CD, BH, CGC, VCX, ROM. Talon was the 1992 DPCA National Reserve Winners Dog and notably also bred by Ray Carlisle. No doubt it was with feelings of great satisfaction for Ray to see his innovative vision pay off in just one of many tangible rewards.

I have hesitated to list the names and homelands of Alida's hundreds of other highly successful descendants. I had started a list, but it grew out of all proportion to what could be accommodated in an article such as this, and at the same time I feared I would omit many of those animals that I cannot be personally aware of. With this in mind I have instead chosen not to name individuals at all. They know who they are, wherever they be!

One thing is certain...there can hardly be any other Dobermann bitch in post-war breed history that can match Alida's profound impact on the international development of this breed. Therefore, let us write up her name in words of fire for all posterity to appreciate the enormous breadth and depth of her individual contribution to the breed. Irrespective of nationalities or origins,

by any standards she can stand proudly amongst those truly great Dobermanns recorded in breed history.

Memories of a true friend

By Ray Carlisle

I first heard about Alida from Jens Kollenberg when he was in America for the Westminster Show in 1986. Jens was saying how much better he thought the bitch he had in Germany was than anything he had seen here in America. Of course, being the kind of arrogant individual that he is, with the pride and confidence he has in himself (and in his dogs), he and I did not hit it off too well. So we ended up in a little bit of controversy right off the bat.

But Jens' confidence and how good he thought Alida was took my curiosity to the max...I flew to Germany to see her and her get. What was really convincing was seeing her and her kids (who were about 6 months old at the time, sired by Int/Ger/Span Ch Ebo v.d. Groote Maat, SchH 1). They were without a doubt the most impressive pups I had ever seen; even though they were in a strange place, they were outgoing and unconcerned, and beautiful. Alida herself was just breathtaking, with an exquisite head and expression and an air about her...she strutted as she walked. I instantly fell in love with her.

Every task Jens or I asked of her she did, and did well. She was very much in tune to commands, and when I called upon her she responded instantly.

I started trying to negotiate to buy her; she really wasn't for sale, so it was quite a struggle. At that time she only had a SchH 1 degree, and had just gone Bundessiegerin (meaning she was the best Doberman bitch in Germany in 1985).

To make a long story short, I worked out a deal where I would purchase Alida, but only after she had a SchH III title. Needless to say, she earned her SchH III and an FH six to eight weeks later...which is easy to believe because she was that type of dog, quick to learn and a very sensitive and willing worker.

Living with Alida was a great pleasure, especially watching her work and perform. I think anyone who ever saw her would say she was an exciting dog to watch. But living with her was really the big insight into her; she was the easiest dog to live with I had ever been around. She was extremely protective, but also very predictable. She would always let you know how she felt.



She was tough but controlled. She gave you the confidence that she could literally do anything you asked her to do, and that she would want to do it. She was what I would have to call a perfect house dog...very protective of the house (and very vocal!), quiet when you asked her to be quiet, going to her own spot to lay down and behave herself. She wasn't a pain in the neck.

On the other side of the coin, I could leave the house with the greatest of confidence that there wasn't a soul who was going to come through that door without Alida knowing it and without her voicing a heavy objection until someone told her it was OK. Once you told her it was OK it was, and there weren't any arguments. But if someone tried to sneak in or threaten, or had any bad motive in mind, there isn't any doubt she would take them on...and she would do it instantly, without hesitation. Even so, my kids ran in and out of the house with their friends, and my grandchildren were always running around the house (just like any normal household), and Alida had the ability to discriminate. She was extremely trustworthy.

The only time there was ever any problem was when she had puppies; then, the only person that was always OK was me. When I was home, I was in charge. That's the way Alida was. I was the boss and she knew it, and when I was home it was fine. But if I was gone you had to be very conscious of her, and cautious because she was very protective of her puppies.

Alida represented the result of generations of selective breeding for both physical beauty and excellent mentality. Now, she was not perfect. But she had strong instincts and drives and passed those qualities (together with physical beauty) to her children and grandchildren. While most dogs have pieces of what they should have mentally, living with Alida was really rewarding because all the pieces fit together. She had high drive yet was always controlled, not at all wacky to live with. I loved and enjoyed the Dobermans I had before Alida, they were unique and special in their own ways. But never before had I experienced a "Total Doberman" and the fact that it really is possible to have multiple layers of depth in a pedigree. This makes it possible to produce dogs that can do it all and are a joy to live with. That's

what Dobermans are all about!

Another reason I wanted European bloodlines was that I had just gone through earning a SchH I (and failing a couple of times with a SchH II) with Cara's Son of a Butch (Chip) and I had lost him to a heart attack at 5 years old. Chip was my 5th straight Doberman to die from cardiomyopathy, and I felt an obligation that, if I really was a true Doberman person, I should do something about it instead of giving lip service. I felt the best alternative was to go to Europe and get a very healthy and beautiful dog, well trained, and bring it here to begin my breeding program again from scratch. Thus, Alida was the chosen one. I couldn't have made a better choice.

Alida was, without a doubt, one of the breed's greatest of all time. I don't say that because she was my closest friend, but because of everything she has done and everything she stands for. She represents a long line of producers: her mother, herself, her sons and daughters and now her grandchildren. It's something that's in the genes that stamps their get one or two notches above everyone else around them. And she not only produced tremendous quality, but quantity as well (very large, healthy litters). Her offspring are successfully represented on every continent in 28 countries, as show dogs, working dogs, and outstanding

producers. She was only bred 3 times, yet her impact on the breed has been tremendous. The ability to produce quality in quantity...that's depth of pedigree.

I bought Alida for health reasons and for the sport of Schutzhund. I wanted a dog I could compete with because I am not a very good trainer; Alida made me look like I was excellent. I could walk out on the sport field with her, and she gave me that 100-point attention. She would walk and strut with her neck curled around my leg, looking up into my eyes saying, "Dad, let's go, what do you want next? Hurry, hurry, hurry, I'm ready!" With that kind of bouncy attitude, you never saw her with her tail down and her ears tucked back. Her ears were always up and she had fire in her eyes, and her tail was straight up because she enjoyed it and she was having fun.

Jens delivered her to me in 1986 at the DPCA National in Denver, Colorado. She earned her SchH III,



Ch Elektra's The Windwalker

and I beamed with pride; she and Jens looked very good together. Even though I knew I was nowhere near his standard as a handler or trainer, I was looking forward to working with Alida.

So I went home with my dog and began to work with her, and we entered our first Schutzhund trial in Pennsylvania. Believe it or not we went High in Trial... and nobody could take their eyes off her.

Alida was such an outstanding performer that to be working with and training with this dog was an experience nobody could ever explain. She just begged me to work with her. She had

such excitement, such enthusiasm. Alida would pull me on a bicycle, that's how she kept in condition. We would go for miles every day. She was without a doubt the strongest bitch I have ever seen and could pull me 5 miles non-stop on a bicycle without my having to pedal; if you don't think that's a lot of work, go out and try to road work a dog for 5 miles, much less have one pull you on a bicycle for 5 miles.

By her mannerisms and personality, Alida built confidence in me and anyone who saw her perform, because she was such a spirited performer. Her protection skills and her presentations were really animated and fast. She was, without a question, extremely intense; I guess that would be the best word to describe Alida, intense.

Alida was a playful dog who enjoyed running and playing, having a grand old time. When I would go places, I would bring her too. I used to bring her with me to the office, and she'd make friends with everyone, then just lie down by my side and never be in the way. She would go with me to the job sites (I own a construction company), run around and make friends with the guys at the site. She was very protective of the car, so any time I'd leave her in the car she would certainly let everyone know to stay away from the car. Yet she was the kind of dog that made friends with everyone and drew attention to herself. She just commanded attention and respect.

Alida was very strong in character and had very high drives. Her prey drive was extremely high, and her guarding work was just spectacular. She wasn't a really hard dog; you couldn't go banging around on Alida. She

was much too sensitive for that. I call it intelligence, not just sensitivity: sensitive to the handler, and intelligent to avoid the pain. This type of intelligence, this type of drive personifies the type of dog she was.

I bred Alida twice to American stud dogs (Ch. Electra's the Wind Walker and Ch Akela's the Vindicator) to blend together the best of the best, offering the American public a high quality alternative. Unfortunately, most American breeders don't realize what they're missing because they have never had what Alida offered. You don't miss what you never had.

Alida produced two litters for me, and it was really educational. I'd watch her teach her puppies how to play and socialize with each other, how to hunt and be competitive...but she never allowed them to fight. She taught them to use their noses to find food and would hide their toys, forcing them to use their noses to find them. It was a learning game.

I have her grandchildren around me all the time, and they're all special to me. But Alida was my "once in a lifetime dog," my best friend and teacher. She was the dog

that really taught me about European stock, the result of generations of breeding for working ability, beauty, and conformation, what depth of pedigree really means. It's totally different from breeding for generations only for physical beauty. She was a dog who "walked the walk and talked the talk," as the saying goes; Alida lived her life as an example of excellence.

She had such dignity and, even during her last days, she loved life and wanted to live. I made a grave mistake. I let her suffer over a weekend because I just didn't want to give her up. The mistake I made was having a tumor removed from her breast; 30 days later she was dead. I wish now that I had it to do over again...maybe she would have lived longer.

I sorely miss Alida. She's buried underneath the old oak tree on my property in Washingtonville, NY, where she loved to run and hunt and play. I'm sure that if there's a heaven for dogs, Alida is there.

Alida's get include 12 champions, 9 schutzhund titles, 4 CDs and 1 CDX so far...



Ch Akela's The Vindicator

Litter #1, whelped in Germany, was sired by German Sieger Ebo v.d. Grootte Maat, SchH 1, and produced 4 champions and 6 schutzhund titled get:

Int/Ger Ch Kalina v Norden Stamm, SchH 3
Swe Ch Kamil v Norden Stamm, SchH1
Karamella v Norden Stamm (major pointed in US and Germany)
Swe Ch Karma v Norden Stamm, SchH 3 (multi BIS winner, avalanche dog)
Ger Ch Kassandra v Norden Stamm, SchH 3
Kastr v Norden Stamm, SchH 3
Ken v Norden Stamm, SchH 1

Litter #2, sired by Ch Electra's the Wind Walker, produced 5 champions, 2 Schutzhund titled, and 4 CD get:

VDH Ch Rotkappchen v.d. Cara, SchH 3, ZTP
Am Braz Ch Cara's Willing and Able (#1 dog, all breeds, Brazil, 1990)
Ch Cara's Irish Dancer N Romancer, CD, ROM
Ch Cara's I'm the Gambler, WAC, TT, CGC
Can Ch Cara's Windchime
Cara's Caution Highly Flammable, SchH 2, WAC, BH, CD
Cara's Quest v Justamere, CD
SKC Ch Mirabel Leadin the Wind v Cara, CD

Litter #3, sired by Ch Akela's the Vindicator, has produced 2 champions, 1 Schutzhund titled and one CDX titled get so far:

Ch Cara's Black Rose Chilkat
Ch Cara's Forget Me Not
Cara's On the Richter Scale, SchH 1, BH, CGC, TDI
Cara's Valar Lothlorien, CDX

Early alida

By Luci Newsom

In July 1984 my husband and I had to move from our native Texas to Weisbaden, Germany at the request of the U.S. Air Force. Having been a member of the DPCA chapter club, I immediately began looking for a way to contact the Dobermann Verein. As luck would have it, I had seen an ad for a German dog in a Doberman Quarterly shortly before leaving the States; it was an ad on Guy's Hilo von Norden Stamm and had the breeder's name and phone number in Germany, so I was able to call Jens and Alison Kollenberg within a month

of arriving in Deutschland. They were kind enough to connect me with some local people and maintained a friendly phone relationship with me for quite a while before we actually got to meet in person.

The Kollenbergs invited me to see the two puppies they had decided to keep from a litter they'd recently whelped...and my first look at Alida and her littermate Anka was really my first look at the best of German Dobermanns. We went to a local specialty, where the judge German Menke gave Alida her first CAC toward her German championship.

I desperately wanted Alida for myself, but Jens and Alison weren't ready to decide between Anka and her and (unfortunately for me) they wished to keep Alida to show and breed.

Several months later, we went to San Antonio for a visit and I brought the photos I'd taken at dog shows that year to show Frank Grover and let him see what I'd been looking at in the German shows. He singled out Alida's picture and said, "I like this one very much." Neither of us knew then that he had picked out the next Bundessiegerin, and in October I was able to meet up with the Kollenbergs and see Alida shown at her finest moment. Being more than a little tenacious, I asked the Kollenbergs to put me on a list for Alida's first litter. Then we all (including Alida) went to dinner at the hotel near the Westfallen Halle...when the maitre 'd realized Alida was the Dobermann Bundessiegerin, he immediately sent a waiter for her own steak and napkin on the floor beneath our table!

Two months later, Alida presented her breeders with 11 beautiful puppies, her famous "K" litter. I was thinking I'd be bringing a male home to the States, but fate intervened and I share my home today with Kalina and Karmella. I still regret not being able to own Alida, but have been very happy with all that she has passed on to her children and grandchildren. If I never make much of my kennel in the Dobermann world, it won't be for lack of some of the finest quality Dobermanns ever bred.

I am very lucky to have met the Kollenbergs, and luckier still to have two of Alida's first offspring. When I remember that first year in Germany, it will always bring back the memory of Alida too.

Alida

By Leslie Hall

Ray Carlisle may have had an inkling as to what lay ahead when Alida arrived in the U.S., though I doubt he knew the depth of this future. He had acquired quite a legacy, and an enormous responsibility to those that sent her and to her own potential.

Alida was lovely to look at, calm and secure



mentally, and she quickly settled into Ray's home and family. When she was to be bred to Ch Electra's the Wind Walker, I was asked to be her travel companion (and in my mind, her bodyguard!). Ray had given me detailed instructions, and I was a little concerned with the task ahead of me. This was Alida, a schutzhund trained German-speaking European champion; Ray wanted me to toss the ball with her, play with her, and stay with her. Right, take a valuable bitch that isn't mine to a park in California and play ball with her. Not!

My apprehensions were unnecessary.

Alida and I spent two weeks in California. We hung out, walked, went to dog shows and ate at Burger King every morning. We went sight-seeing together, and eventually played ball (off leash) in many beautiful places. She protected me fiercely at a convenience store where a robbery had just occurred; she never said a word or raised a hair unless there was a real threat.

She was the perfect Doberman in my mind, ideal temperament, sensible, stable, smart, fun, tough, loving, silly, thoughtful...and I came to wish she were mine. Through the years, she continued to prove my feelings about her. She taught Ray a lot, helping him grow in directions he might not have wandered without her. Alida taught everyone that met her something of what a Doberman can be. Her get are worldwide sensations, and her grandchildren are continuing in the same footsteps.

The Doberman is much richer for having had Alida among its ranks, and Ray was very wise for having been able to fulfill her potential. Perhaps he did know what lay ahead when Alida arrived; he was very, very lucky to have had her as his best friend.

Memories to last a lifetime

By Janice Myers

I remember the first time I met Alida as though it was yesterday. It was at the 1987 DPCA National in Somerset, New Jersey.

I recall my comment to Ray at the time: "She is everything I thought she would be, and more." Alida had such a presence about her, she demanded attention. I had already fallen in love with her from her photograph in the Doberman Quarterly for her litter announcement.

That same day Gambler, only 8 weeks old, sat on the grass ringside and watched his mother Alida compete in Schutzhund 3.

Alida possessed an inner being that was truly unexplainable; to me, her eyes offered all means of com-

munication, her spirit and light-heartedness along with her desire to please made her outstanding. I have so many warm and wonderful thoughts I will cherish a lifetime.

I loved to watch her work. She made me laugh every time Ray would give her the command to finish from a recall; I could hear the grass move beneath her bottom as she eagerly placed herself by his side, then looked up to him for his approval.

She has a place in my heart where she remains each day, where all I have to do is call upon those memories and she brings a smile to my face. I will always see her running and carrying her tennis ball with a burning desire to please, ready to work at a moment's notice.

It has been both a privilege and an honor to have known a Doberman like Alida, for a dog like her only comes along once in a lifetime and I thank God she came into mine.

It is very hard when one loses a Doberman, and especially one that has had such an impact upon the breed, one that was truly a devoted friend and companion to her owner.

I will miss you my friend, and for all the wonderful memories I have it will help to ease the pain of your loss...but we all must remember her death is not an end, for through her she leaves a legacy that will carry on in her name for future generations to come, here and around the world.

Alida was the total doberman

By Bonnie Wittrock

When I first saw Alida, she was playing with a man out in the field at the 1986 DPCA National in Denver, Colorado. I had no idea who the dog was, her background, or who the man was playing ball with her. I only knew this was one of the prettiest bitches I had ever seen in the 20+ years I had been breeding, training, and showing Dobermans.

I stood and watched her for the longest time; there was something very special about this bitch, she had a magnetic quality that made me look at her. Her animation and drive were exceptional. Her rust markings were a dark mahogany red color, and her black was the blackest black you would ever see. I had been working on my own breeding program for 20+ years, but this bitch had something I wanted...and for the first time I was looking at a dog that made me want one just like it.

At that time I was very pro-American dogs; even though I worked the sport of Schutzhund, I felt the problems we were having in the sport was not the



Doberman breed but the lack of knowledge on how to work a Doberman. I walked out on the field and spoke to the man who was playing with this exceptional bitch. He introduced himself as Jens Kollenburg, and went on to tell me how this was German Ch Alida v Flan-drischen Lowen, SchH 3, the first German Siegerin to come to the United States in 50 years. He told me how a man by the name of Ray Carlisle had purchased her for his breeding program and to work in the sport. I couldn't believe my ears. This wonderfully beautiful bitch was also a SchH 3...I must be dreaming! A German dog you could enjoy looking at!

Starting that day, my ideals for my breeding program changed, and they continued to change when I saw Alida work in the Schutzhund trial a few days later. She was magnificent. I started to formulate a whole new idea of what the ideal Doberman and Total Doberman meant to me. This one bitch put my thinking process in overdrive, and I was re-evaluating everything that I had come to learn to be true about the Doberman, it's working abilities, and what my goal were to be from that point on. I thought I was firm in my beliefs,

but this single bitch changed my mind in one brief encounter. How could this be? I'm not a wishy-washy thinker...once I make up my mind, it takes overwhelming information to change it. Alida changed my mind without a word ever being said.

This encounter prompted me to purchase a bitch puppy from the Kollenberg's "M" litter (Morgan v Norden Stamm, SchH 3) , and now I own a grandson/ great-grandson linebred on Alida (Am/Can Ch Cara's Talon, Am/Can CD, BH, CDX, VCX, ROM), soon to be schutzhund titled.

Alida completely changed my breeding program and goals, and I'm not alone: she did more for the Doberman breed all over the world (changing minds and upgrading breeding programs) than any other single individual I can think of. It will be many years before we see the full impact Alida has had on us all, and how many lives she has changed simply by her presence and the way she made it possible to compare.

A great gratitude is owed to Ray Carlisle, for having the foresight to know the importance of this bitch, and the knowledge to use her to benefit us all.



Alida with littermate Amida