

*Teams from across the Northwest Region came together to raise money for the WUSV Team.*

## WUSV Fundraiser Hundebowl

by Michele Hansen

Putting on a fun tournament is a great way to raise money for the WUSV Team. The Northwest Region Hundebowl was hosted by the Way Out West Schutzhund Club (WOWSC). Tim Nightengale, WOWSC president, and Rachel MacDonald headed the organization of the event. It was held at Hilmar High School Football Stadium; a venue suitable for a Regional event and just outside the immediate San Francisco Bay Area. The morning was chilly, leaving crisp frost on the dirt tracking field, but before long the weather turned into a normal sunny California day.

Since this was a fun tournament, no titles were required. Each team included three handlers and their dogs. All three phases were required, and each team chose who would participate in tracking, obedience and protection.

The event was an excellent opportunity for handlers of all levels to gain additional experience on the trial field, and the chance to get stadium experience was appreciated. This was also a rare opportunity for new handlers without Schutzhund titles to get their feet wet in a trial environment. Many handlers took advantage of the chance to perform one phase and showcase their talents. One team of particular interest was our Regional Training Director Joel Monroe, who is also a helper. It was a perfect opportunity to see him practice what he preaches. He showed Jalk Stan-Hrad in a protection routine, demonstrating very correct handling. Joel always reminds us how important it is to be consistent in our handling, and it was a picture that many of us won't forget.

A number of veteran handlers who have competed at the National and World level donated their time to judge each phase. Menlo Park SchH Club's Ajay Singh, also our Regional Breed Warden, evaluated the tracking phase. Martin Vollrath from South County SchH Club (who has been a judge for past tournaments) evaluated the obedience phase, and David Deleisseques from San Jose German Shepherd Dog Club evaluated the protection phase. Our protection helpers were Tim Nightengale from WOWSC and Chris Fedora from SJGSDC Club. Rachel MacDonald, who is a beginner in the sport but not new to dog handling, was our tracklayer. Dave Neese and Mike Flores gave a hand with lunch. Everyone who volunteered did an excellent job and played a big part in making the tournament a success.

Handler – Junie Santos with Hari z Adaru  
Helper: Chris Fodera, Judge: David Deleisseques  
Photo by Hoss Jones





Veronica Stork's Elvis with Helper Chris Fodera  
Photo by Hoss Jones

High in trial with a score of 278 went to the team from Alameda Schutzhund Club. Colleen Gorgas handled her retired girl Gallina vom Fruhlingbach, or "Galli", in tracking. Colleen, who is originally from Germany, has been a USA member for more than 20 years and has showed at least four dogs at the Nationals. Greg Bento handled Envie vom Kleinen Tal for the obedience portion. The two have competed in multiple Regional and National events. Envie is an energetic girl and is always fun to watch.

Douglas Surber with "Lodi", Artemis vom Kiefern Tal, performed the protection portion. Lodi is retired now at eight years of age, but still enjoys working. It is always a pleasure to see this team at a fun tournament. Lodi is American bred and the first dog Douglas trained in Schutzhund. The team has competed in two Regional Events and eight National Events and was on the FCI World team. The winners of Hundebowl received a cash prize of \$500 and in turn donated half of their winnings back to the WUSV Team. Now that is team spirit!

To top the event off, beautiful beveled, etched glass trophies were donated by Junie Santos from MPSC for the High In Trial team for each phase. High Tracking went to Colleen Gorgas with "Galli". High Obedience went to Tim Nightengale with Jax vom Haus Drage. High in Protection went to Douglas Surber with Lodi. Included was a special trophy for the most entertaining team, which went to Veronica Stork and Elvis her Rottweiler. Veronica's feet slipped out from under her when Elvis delivered a powerful fuss during protection! It looked like an episode out of the Three Stooges.

Schutzhund enthusiasts participate in the sport for a variety of reasons. Some are involved to develop the bond with their dog. Others may do it to fulfill their competitive spirit. No matter what the reason is, there is a great amount of satisfaction in participating in an event that gives back to the sport, such as Hundebowl.

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October 9 - 12, 2008

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