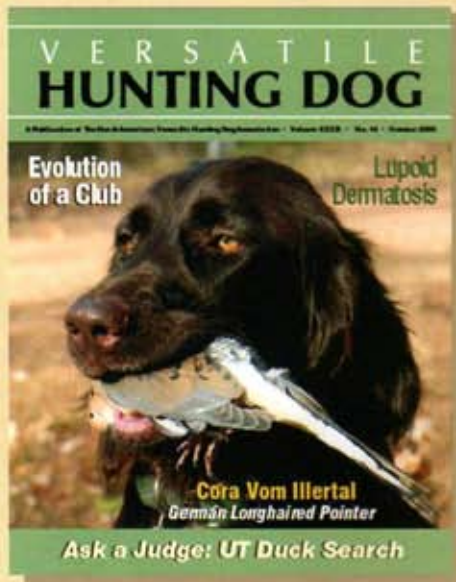




Cora Vom Illertal "Kaylee" *German Longhaired Pointer*



My Once-in-a-Lifetime Dog

When I graduated with my undergraduate degree in 2003, the first graduation present I got for myself was a new puppy. The breeder asked me to test my puppy, and having never had a gun dog before or run in a hunting test before, I was a little hesitant. But we decided to give it a shot and I have been hooked on testing ever since. When my husband and I started looking for a second dog, we were extremely selective and would only consider a breeding with a ton of natural ability, a proven pedigree, and a calm, cooperative disposition. We visited several kennels for several different breeds and never really found anything that excited us. And then, one night, I just started looking through NAVHDA test scores of all of the different breeds and I noticed some German Longhaired Pointers. I was a little wary

of getting such a rare breed, but it seemed like all of the longhairs run in NAVHDA testing had done really well. Then I jumped on the internet and read as much information as I could find about these dogs. Everything I read proclaimed the breed to be calm, cooperative, and extremely talented.

I spent the next few months translating as many articles as I could about the breed (there are many online, but most are in German or Dutch). I also spoke with the three different breeders in the United States at the time. In December of 2005, we picked up Kaylee, our first German Longhaired Pointer. She was a very sweet, quiet puppy who was extremely eager to please us. At five months, the snow was finally off the ground and we introduced Kaylee to her first bird, a pigeon. She pointed it from about 30 feet away and remained frozen for what seemed like forever. And she has pretty much pointed everything since that moment. In August 2006, we ran her in a NAVHDA Natural Ability test at 10 months of age. She ended up with 108 points and a Prize I. I was just starting to realize that Kaylee and I were a very well-matched pair.

Our next notable testing success came in the fall of 2007. Kaylee was 22 months old and we decided to run her in a NAVHDA Utility test. This would be my first UT as well. Kaylee did a good job in the test, but clearly I had not finished the whole force-fetching process yet. A dropped duck at the blind cost us a Prize I. Instead, we finished with 184 points and a Prize II. Three weeks later, I drove to Colorado to run Kaylee in a HZP (a German test very similar to the NAVHDA Utility Test). In the weeks between the UT and the HZP, I had finished up Kaylee's force-fetching and it really showed on test day. Kaylee was just phenomenal in the 90-degree heat of that mid-September day. She received maximum scores in every category except for the duck search. And she only scored 10 points there (instead of the maximum 11 points) because she found the duck too quickly and she did not have to search as hard to find it. She ended up with 190 points in her HZP...which is a record for the breed here in North America and one of the highest scores of any breed for 2007. And to top it all off, she received the honor of being named top female at a breed show the day before. One of the German judges who watched Kaylee at the breed show and the HZP called her the "best longhair in America". I think I pretty much floated that whole drive back. It was so cool to know that other folks thought my girl was so awesome.

We had a healthy puppy waiting list built up shortly thereafter so we decided to breed Kaylee this last summer. Luckily, a friend had

