



Helper Special Feature

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About me

I am 37 years old and married, with a two-year-old son and a baby girl on the way. I was born and raised in Long Island, New York. Our family currently has three Rottweilers, one Belgian Malinois and one Dutch Shepherd. We have a Rottie litter which was born in November. We also have pet chickens and an African Gray parrot. I tend to think of myself as an easygoing guy who likes excitement and challenges.

Background

I have been active in the dog world since childhood, being partially raised by my grandparents who bred dogs, and working at my uncle's boarding facility as a boy. I was always around dogs. At the age of seven, I rescued a five-year-old abused German Shepherd who was not too fond of people. Over time, and with some tender loving care and training, I rehabilitated the dog. This transformation process started my addiction to dog training.



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How did you get interested in the Rottweiler?

Growing up our family unit always included multiple dogs: mixed breeds, German Shepherds, Dobermen, and then in 1994, our first Rottweiler. I immediately became intrigued with the balance of loyalty, confidence, strength, beauty, and natural ability to protect in the Rottweiler. At this point, my addiction started and the love for the breed introduced me to new Rottweiler endeavors. Through the years, I have owned and trained many Rottweilers. I have traveled nationally and internationally for Rottweiler shows and competitions. This journey introduced me to many top Rottweiler breeders and trainers and who today I are my lifelong friends.

How did you get started in IPO?

Through the years while I was growing up, training and rehabilitating dogs, I stumbled upon the sport of IPO. I did some research via books, videos, and the internet and became intrigued with the beauty of dog and handler teamwork. I knew that I wanted to get involved. I looked around the local area and contacted a dog trainer named Joe Moldovan who had success in the sport. Joe and I trained together for a few months, and then I joined his schutzhund club. There I met Howie Sydlar, the helper of the club, who had a background in Belgian ring sport. Through the years working with Joe and Howie, I increased my dog training skills drastically. I learned the art of motivation in sport and learned the foundation of proper helper work. I would consider these two gentlemen my mentors. Over the years, I frequented many seminars and trained with many different people. I believe you learn good and bad from all training situations and your ability to progress is limitless. I am happy with my progress in the sport, but look forward to learning and enhancing my skills through the future.



Training facility

Today I own and operate a full service dog facility in Long Island, New York called Maximum K9 Service. Maximum K9's indoor dog training facility in Deer Park, New York features over 3,000 square feet with a solid rubber floor for traction and safety. The room is equipped with a lot of fun and challenging obstacles such as agility equipment, urban agility obstacles, jumps, a-frames, IPO blinds, bottle pits, scent detection walls, bottle curtains, tunnels, bridges and much more. Maximum K9 also offers a full service dog grooming salon along with a fully equipped retail shop with training gear, pet supplies, and our proprietary branded balanced raw food and supplement line called Maximum K9 Nutrition. Maximum K9 Service offers obedience training, IPO sport training, agility, flyball, Max K9 scent sport training, and personal protection. Maximum K9 also has a professional service division offering K9 handler teams for contract in security, explosive,



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narcotics, and bedbug detection. Under this division, we also train and source detection dogs for others.

Training groups

I belong to two IPO clubs in Long Island, New York: my original club, Mid Island with Joe Moldovan and Howie Sydler, and the new club Pine Barrens directed by John Donaly. I recently moved to a new home and my schedule is chaotic with my business and family life. Pine Barrens is closer to me and offers more training times. The people in both clubs are amazing. Our groups are both multi-breed training groups. Members have different backgrounds and experiences in dog sports including IPO, Belgian Ring, and AKC.

What are your basic training methods?

The method I use in basic training would be marker training with a lot of value that comes from me. I want to build a relationship with the dog. I want the dog to be in the moment with me and not want to be anywhere else. I believe you must also be firm with the dog, clear but not heavy handed.

What makes a good helper?

In my mind, a good helper is one who teaches the dog and adjusts to the level of the dog. A good helper has to be able to read the dog and see what is needed and how much is needed to get the dog where he or she wants the dog to be. Dog training and especially helper work is not "cookie cutter" work. There are a lot of variables that take place in a short amount of time, and yes, you need to be in shape!

What breeds do you like working with and why?

I am a dog trainer and I like challenges, so the answer is all breeds. I look at all dogs as individuals. When evaluating a dog, I ask myself, "what does this dog need or have?" I then create an action plan based on the need. This is what makes dog training fun and challenging. But if I had to pick one breed, it would be the Rottweiler, only because they are my favorite.

What advice do you have for handlers?

The best advice I could give is bond with your dog, know your dog in and out, and then make an action plan based on what you are trying to achieve. Try to stick to the plan and be consistent.

What advice do you have for helpers?


The best advice I can give is to work with as many dogs as possible and learn how to read all dogs. Your goal is to teach the dog to be as strong as possible, but you don't want to push the dog over the edge.

Are there any Rottweilers who have impressed you?

There are a lot of dogs out there that impress me. I am a fan of Duke von der Scherau, Dago vom Türnleberg II and Edge vom Carrabba Haus. I am also very pleased with my new boy Enzo vom Carrabba Haus. He is the complete package of conformation and drive. He took V4 out of 37 dogs in the youth class at this year's Klubsieger in Germany, and his foundation for IPO is more than satisfactory. I look forward to showing his potential in the show ring and on the IPO field.



What advice do you have for people starting out in the IPO sport?

The advice I can give is keep an open mind to different training methods. Most important is to have fun with your dog. If you stress too much, your dog will not perform. This is a team effort and both dog and handler need to be in tune with each other.

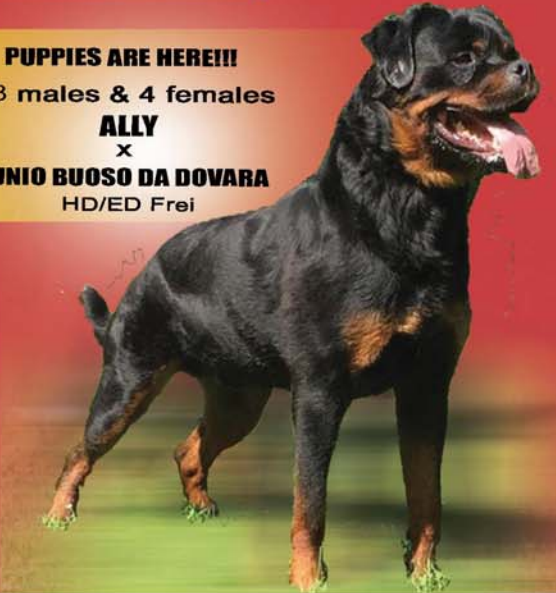


Multi V1
ENZO V CARRABBA HAUS

Multi V1, RKNA CH
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&
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PUPPIES ARE HERE!!!
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