

Run with the Big Dogs

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Elite Personal Protection Shepherds



This formidable dog commands respect.

Right: This woman stands about 5 feet, 6 inches tall. Her dog, Lazarus, is one year old.

Left: Ten-month-old Fang, shown here with stout paws on the boy's shoulders, typifies the gentle affection and love the breed has for women and children. They make ideal companions and bodyguards for the whole family.

lar options, dogs register high on the list as weapons of power to discourage criminal behavior.

Police officer and police dog trainer Mike Harlow, in his book *K-9 Bodyguards*, puts it this way:

“Ask any owner of a formidable dog what the average reaction is as he walks his dog towards a group of young toughs late at night. They will always give you and your dog the entire sidewalk, and more often than not they will relinquish the entire side of the street to you. So, please don’t tell me that dogs don’t deter crime.”

Officer Harlow further elaborates:

“I’m always astonished at the number of people who are alarmed at our escalating burglary rate due to the influx of drugs in this country. Many of them seek my advice on how to increase their safety. I usually tell them to buy a gun and learn how to use it. It requires less maintenance and is less of an intrusion on their spare time.” To those who don’t want guns or who

want something more, Harlow advises: “The next answer is get a formidable dog. They are a wonderful alternative to guns and are not only a wonder deterrent, they are great company as well. They are the ideal companion for those night deposits at the bank or ATM (a growing favorite for muggers).”

Notice the use of the word “formidable”. It is instructive to note that the term comes from the Latin *formidare*, to fear and means “causing fear, dread, or apprehensions. Having qualities that discourage approach or attack.”

World-renowned martial artist Bruce Lee once pointed out that the best way to win a fight is not to get in one. Because once engaged in a fight, the possibilities of loss, maiming, or even death are very real, to say nothing of the legal mess that is likely to ensue. Thus, it seems astute to this writer to provide would-be attackers with an intimidation factor to think about, and they may well suddenly remember a pressing engagement elsewhere! No muss, no fuss.

Ok, so you’re going to get a “formidable” dog and

C rime is very much on the minds of Americans these days, in spite of the recent slight drop in the crime rate nationwide. Carjackings, muggings, rapes and home invasions tend to be upsetting to domestic tranquility, and people have been responding in kind by arming themselves and making other preparations. And while handguns and shotguns remain very popu-

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name him “Cruncher.” But what kind of dog is most likely to terrorize your local thuggery? There are a number of options, but for this article we will narrow it to three. Some people like Dobermans, but they’ve fallen out of favor with most police departments due to nervousness and other genetic faults. Rottweilers are an excellent choice, but they require a lot of training and are not for wimpy owners. German Shepherds are beautiful animals, family oriented, highly intelligent and trainable, but sadly in America so many have been bred simply for looks and have had the working drive bred out of them. And remember, it is the working drive that is so necessary for protection drive.

Ed Frawley, owner and master K-9 trainer at Leerburg Kennels, points out: “You will not find any American bloodline dogs in our kennels. It is our belief that AKC and the German Shepherd Dog Club of America have ruined the American breed. These organizations are responsible for breeding the working ability or drive out of the American Shepherds. Not one American bloodline can consistently produce Schutz



Appropriately named Lobo, this wolfish-looking dog stands 31 inches at the shoulder and weighs a rugged 130 pounds. He has the run of a 100-acre farm.

We see from this that breeding is a serious responsibility and can be quite tricky. A typical example is where both parents are Shepherds recognized by the AKC, and their offspring are all Shepherds, even though their bite may be overshot or undershot, they may have soft ears, sway backs, short superstocky bodies, and be gun-shy or even have nervous, “spooky” temperaments. Yet they have papers, and are pure bred dogs that can breed in turn, even though they can be worse than useless by displaying fear in the face of danger, or even by turning on their master and/or biting children.

Shiloh Shepherd-

By way of revealing a new rare breed of dog, the following is excerpted from the pamphlet, Introduction to the Shiloh Shepherd, published by the Shiloh Shepherd Dog Club of America (S.S.D.C.A.):

“Do you remember a specific ‘German Shepherd’ you used to know as a child, one that your family or friends told you about? The dog with that almost super human intelligence! That big family protector that was so very gentle

with little children, yet would give his life for his master without question! The dog that would walk you to the school bus, and then show up again exactly on time to wait for your return? The hero that everyone talked about, the one that seemed half human? His personality consisted of Lassie, Strongheart, and Rin Tin Tin all rolled into one! Well, that dog is still here today, and he is called a Shiloh Shepherd!

“For the past 30+ years these dogs have undergone a very intense ‘recreation’ process started by Shiloh Kennels in New York. Tina Barber, originally a Schutzhund trainer with N.A.S.A. (North American Schutzhund Association), was born and raised in Germany [home of the real thing in Shepherds!]. The dogs she was familiar with were big, strong, easy to train, loyal, and extremely intelligent. These were the large mountain herding dogs that stole everyone’s heart! After coming to America and devoting her life to training, showing, and breeding these dogs she soon realized that some very strong trends were forming to not only change the appearance, but also the personality of these animals. As time went on, things changed quickly. The big massive square-bodied dogs we used to refer to as ‘German Shepherd’



One-year-old Shep shown here won’t fully mature until about three years of age.

hund [protection] dogs or police service dogs. In Germany a dog cannot be bred unless both parents have Schutzhund titles. If a dog has poor temperament, it cannot get a Schutzhund title and therefore cannot be bred. This is why the German dogs are so much better than American dogs.”



Although only one year old here, Warrior, a personal protection dog for a man living in Brooklyn, New York, now stands about 32 inches and weighs more than 140 pounds.

soon began to stretch out, longer and

thinner with small 'fine' bone."

Tina had to do something, and she did. Not willing to follow the popular fads, she insisted on breeding the old, original type she loved so much.

"The Shiloh was bred to preserve the original qualities everyone loved so much in the 'German Shepherd.' Although the dogs were much too big and not angulated enough to please the show fancy, they nevertheless still retained the intelligence and working ability of the Schutzhund dog, and many were trained for police work and personal protection. They also proved themselves to be excellent search and rescue dogs as well as herding dogs. The Shilohs were bred mainly for sound hips, temperament, and the original very large size." (S.S.D.C.A. literature.)

This is where the "formidable dog" factor comes into play. Standing 30 to 32 inches at the shoulder, weighing in at 120 to 140+ pounds of solid muscle, with a beautiful black or dark brown sable coat that gives a wolf-like appearance, this dog says "LLLLLEEEET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!" just by showing up. The bad guys will walk away clean, believe me! The axiom "a good big man will beat a good little man every time" applies to dogs as well, and the bad boys know it. No one wants to fool with what looks like a wolf-dog on steroids. And yet, to their family "pack," they are totally stable and trustworthy, possessed with a loving, gentle nature. Tina comments:

"Future Shilohs will be trained as bodyguard dogs, for a very selective group of people that insist on only the very best! As time progresses you will find their popularity as a mentally sound protector will reach from coast to coast and eventually across the continents.

These dogs possess such depth in their personalities that you have to do a lot of studying in order to understand all of their capabilities better."

Super Dog-Tina continues: "Aside from the fact that these dogs happen to be the best possible companion you

could ever provide for your family, they are also one of the most versatile breeds you could ask for. With the superior intelligence they possess, along with their fantastic sense of smell, these dogs are highly acclaimed as the most capable search & rescue dogs you could ever ask for! To them, this type of work comes naturally, even though they are very obedient as a rule, they seem to know just when to follow their own instincts. Working with such a dog is pure pleasure." And, "despite the foolish notion that large breeds are 'clumsy,' you will find the real Shilohs unbelievably agile!"

Ms. Barber notes that, to understand the nature of these animals one must know that the roots of the true German Shepherd go all the way back to the wolf. Though not a true wolf-dog in the sense of a modern wolf-dog hybrid (which are beautiful and intelligent but potentially dangerous), nevertheless original records show that the mongrel was crossed with the wolf hybrid to establish the foundation for the German Shepherd breed. It is only when we know this that we will be able to more fully understand the type of intelligence they possess.

A wonderful gentleman by the name of Chuck Eisenmann wrote several books, including, *Stop! Sit! Think!* And, *A Dog's Day In Court*, to give a fuller understanding of the mental abilities of these dogs. Unfortunately, space does not permit proper detailing of the marvelous results of Mr. Eisenmann's approach with Shepherds, but he never trains his dogs, he teaches them! Speaking in a conversational tone, and using various languages such as French, German, and English, plus hand signals, he is able to get them to demonstrate "intellectually learned" associations. Asking his wonder-dog London, (star of "London, TV's Littlest Hobo" show) to "get some-

thing to clean my dusty shoes with," causes the dog to trot back into the room with a shoe brush. And how many dogs do you know that, when spoken to respectfully in a soft voice about "how bright the light is and I want to go to sleep," will walk over to the wall switch and flick it off-while standing on his hind legs? If you want to understand the spirit and intelligence of these magnificent animals. Eisenmann's books are must reading. You can also read more about it in, *The Origins of the Shiloh Shepherd*, by Tina Barber (see end of article).

Proper Home, Training-Because Shiloh Shepherds are so large, so intelligent, and possess such profound physical abilities, it is compulsory that the owner be dedicated to proper socialization and training. To do otherwise is a serious mistake. If you do not train these dogs they will train you. As when a child is left to himself, is neglected and allowed to do as he wants, with little or improper restraint, when he becomes a strapping young adult he can be a menace to himself and others. Just so, an intelligent, powerfully built dog such as the Shiloh Shepherd must be brought under the leadership of an alpha-type personality, an owner he can

give deference to. This does NOT refer to someone who yells, hits, or is verbally or physically abusive!

As Chuck Eisenmann teaches, faith in and respect for the dog come first, after which contact is made with the dog's intellect. Eisenmann says that we humans must change our attitude toward dogs to one of respect, for "A dog is an intelligent animal." This new attitude of respect combined with love and natural leadership will go a long way with these dogs. Fall in love with the dream, but be realistic also.



Prepare yourself for ownership. A good place to start is the list of books and videos provided that can help you get a handle on proper socialization and training. If you use a trainer, please make sure they know what they are talking about. There are a lot of wannabes out there. If you do not sense love and more importantly faith in and respect for dogs in a trainer, combined with competence and a working knowledge of canine behavior in general and your breed in particular, look elsewhere. Do your homework before you bring the dog home. Your family and your new dog deserve it.

Breed warden Tina Barber closes with these comments:

"Before choosing a puppy investigate the breeder. Spend time checking out previous litters produced, as well as their owners. Understand that not every line suits every need. The breeder is a matchmaker, who tailors the needs of the prospective owner with the appropriate Shiloh gene pool. There is a great variety within the breed to suit virtually everybody."

If you want a dog you can fall in love with, are proud to show others, and who naturally possesses a formidable appearance to the bad guys while giving up its life to protect your family if need be, then the Shiloh Shepherd is for you. Get more than one, and you will truly be able to run with the big dogs!

RESOURCES ON BREEDERS AND THE BREED:

INTERNATIONAL SHILOH SHEPHERD Registry. Inc. (ISSR)
PO. Box 309 Silver Springs, NY

14550; Lisa Barber, Secretary (716) 493-3135; Tina Barber, Breed Warden (716-493-5747)

For the "Origins" book, send \$5, ISSR rules & regs, send \$3, ppd . NOTE- This information is a must to understand the breed.

This information is also available on the Internet at the following sites:

<http://www.shilohshepherd.com> and <http://www.shilohshepherds.org>.

For information about the Shiloh Shepherd Dog Club of America (SSDCA) and its regional chapter clubs, please contact Karen Ursel at (716) 346-6741 or e-mail to ssdcaboard@aol.com.

BOOKS:

Stop! Sit! Think! \$10.95 pb, \$16.95 hb. **The Better Dog, The Educated Dog** \$4.00. **A Dog's Day In Court** \$8.95 pb, \$12.95, hb. S&H \$1.65 or 10 percent, whichever is greater. (541) 679-6666. Chuck Eisenmann, 8160 Looking Glass Rd, Roseburg, OR 97470. The dean of canine education. Natural common sense methods, adopted by many modern-day trainers. Starts where others leave off.

How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With by Rutherford and Neil, Alpine Bpub., ISBN 0-9331866-09-X, Explains puppy critical periods, pack leader concept, etc.

Dogs For Dummies, by Gina Spadafori, IDG Books, \$19.99, 1-800-321-9236. Covers all the basics in one easy-to-use book.

VIDEOS:

David Dikeman's COMMAND PERFORMANCE., Two videos, Instruction Guide, Field Training Cards, and a 15' Dog Lead, 1-800-321-9236. Call for pricing. Best-selling training program ever sold. An eclectic mix of the most successful techniques ever used by trainers, combined into one smooth program. Recommended.

Raising Your Dogs With The Monks of New Skete. Three videos, \$64.95 +

S&H, 1-800-777-5383, ONE LEG UP Productions. Features orthodox monks, renowned for the breeding and training of German Shepherds. Covers all aspects of canine training from birth to adulthood. Excellent tapes, strong on bonding and socialization.