

## Stahlrosenhof Puppy Information Package

### How to Locate a Good Trainer

Finding a good trainer is not easy. Finding a good trainer you can call at 6 am on a Sun. when you have a problem is like finding a needle in a haystack. You will probably want to start with something in-between. Why do you need a trainer, or someone close for technical advice? You will be able to answer this on your own about the second day you have your puppy home.

First you need to determine exactly what your goals are for your puppy. Then you need to look for someone, or a training group with similar goals. Not all groups or clubs are alike and you will find some have attitudes and egos you may not want to have to deal with. Some also have the 'breed discrepancy' and are not inclined to welcome 'other' breeds.



Your puppy will need a job. Whether it is being an active companion, or doing search and rescue work, if you don't find something to continually teach and motivate your puppy with, he will find something on his own. This may not be acceptable to you, and will put unnecessary stress on your puppy. Besides, working with your puppy is half the reason for having one, and you will find your puppy is so smart and easy to teach you will want to do more. (note that this does not apply during the adolescent stage - we turn our phones off during that

period – just kidding :)

If you can find a trainer who has worked with Mals before, so much the better. If not, make sure they are willing to modify their teaching strategies to fit the dog. Many trainers will use one method across the board, regardless of breed or personality type. This will probably not work well, and may cause inadvertent problems. However, just because a trainer has previously worked with Malinois, does not necessarily make them an expert, or the best one for your puppy. Find out if you can attend some training sessions either prior to getting your puppy, or before taking your puppy, to get an idea of what their methods are like.



There are some play and training tips included in your new puppy package, or often sent through email prior to getting your puppy. Please read through these when you get them. There are lots of fun ideas and games to keep your puppy busy, and you worn out. If you need help in locating a trainer, or aren't sure what you want to accomplish, we will gladly assist you if we can. Even puppy group classes are great socialization and learning experiences, and at a minimum, the puppy needs good basic obedience.

We do not recommend sending your young puppy off for training. Your puppy

needs the bonding time with you in order to be an effective and responsive partner. And, you need to learn how to work with your puppy. If you feel you must send your puppy somewhere for training, wait until your puppy is a little more mature, at least 6 – 9 months old. Make sure you have visited the facility, and that they will allow you to visit other training sessions. They should also have some required handler acclimation time, where you return to work with your puppy yourself. In this way you understand what he has learned and how to maintain his training. Sometimes people will send their puppies for specialty training in a particular discipline they do not have the equipment or expertise themselves to train in. This is of course perfectly fine and often necessary. However, remember it is still your responsibility to understand how to maintain the training. Many places will also allow you to return for a "refresher" class if needed.

One note about the lines we breed. Most of our pups have a tendency to exhibit very dominant characters. Your trainer should be willing to work with you in teaching your puppy what is acceptable group behavior and what isn't. Of course if you ever have questions we are available to try and answer them to get you through the puppy stage.

