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# ROTTWEILER

## F O R U M

By Daviann Mitchell

### **When were you first attracted to the Rottweiler, and what attracted you?**

While at college in 1981 and with graduation just around the corner, I started researching what breed of dog I wanted at that point in my life. After grooming dogs during junior high and high school for 6 years and having had German Shepherds most of my life, I decided I wanted a working dog with short hair and no tail. I researched Rottweilers, Dobermans and Boxers. Ultimately, I decided on my chosen breed - the Rottweiler. The Rottweiler is a strong, robust dog, with confidence, strong work ethic, and devotion to family. The Rottweiler is a dog with whom I can enjoy my time on the sport field and also with whom my family and I can come home to at night and cuddle. Of course, the Rottweiler also meets the requirements of short hair and no tail! So there you have it, in 1982, I purchased my first Rottweiler Michener's Michael CD, Certified Police Dog.

### **What kennel name did you choose, and how did you choose it?**

My kennel name is Nighthawk Rottweilers and the name came from my foundation stud dog, CH Einmin Lanneret v Rottdan CD, AD, TT, TDI, Working Police Dog Mountain View Police Department, aka "Hawk."

### **Who has influenced you the most in your breed and please tell us why?**

I would have to say Valerie Cade, of Pandemonium Rottweilers, has had the greatest influence on me in my early years. Valerie had a keen eye for type and character and she was very careful about her breeding choices which resulted the producing some of the greatest dogs of their time, not to



*MULTI V-1, CH Shel-kon's A Cool Java Blend  
CDX, RAE, BH, AD, CS, HT, TT, CGC*

mention big winners and producers as well. Furthermore, her gentle hand on the dog in the ring also has influenced my handling the dogs today.

To this day, I am still friends with Valerie, nearly 30 years later. We shared a nice glass of wine a few years ago at her home in South Florida; shared a few laughs, and just enjoyed our visit as they come so few and far between these days. However, regardless of distance, I will always respect her and be thankful for the time she spent with me, educating me and sharing her experiences with me, both good and bad. It was from Valerie, that I really started to understand genetics and phenotype and how they each have their place. I learned quickly without genetics, one can lose phenotype very quickly or lose wonderful dogs due to health issues down the road, so that must be there above all. To this day, all of my breeding decisions start on paper and if that is good to go, then the dogs who best compliment my dog or bitch phenotypically will be chosen as a breeding

partner always trying to maintain proper type and temperament.

### **What would you like judges to focus on when judging the Rottweiler?**

For me, I think type is critical. Because our breed is a working breed, function is equally important. Our breed is not a head only breed which many, in my opinion, seem to be overly focused on right now. I see too many dogs that have huge heads bordering on mastiff type being sought out by many when our standard does not call for such extreme. Also, our standard is 9:10 and I also see many dogs that are described as "long and low" which also does not meet our standard. Extreme rear angulation out of balance with the front is also a problem. I have seen an abundance of sickled hocked dogs, that while moving, causes the back foot to overcome the front and not present a proper gate. Popular does not translate to correct or our standard. I would like to see the judges focus on balance, type and the ability to move effortlessly with a strong back and moderate angulation, making the whole picture. The icing on the cake is the dog's presence in the ring, which goes to temperament. Our breed is a strong confident breed that should show him or herself proudly in the ring. While there is no perfect dog, when you see this complete package walk in the ring, you know you have a winner that day!

### **Other than one of yours, of course, who were/are the 3 best Rottweilers you have seen and why?**

I would have to say the three best Rottweilers I have ever seen are **CH Pandemonium's Ciastus CDX, TT, Mex. PC, Multi BIS / BISS CH Nelson v het Brabantpark** and **Multi V1 / Multi BOSS/Select 1 CH Wyndhurst Que Osa Carries On CDX, CI, TT, CGC, RTD**. Each one of these animals possess outstanding breed type and bone without being overdone, each has magnificent presence in the ring, and all have outstanding temperament and produced themselves and better for generations to come.

### **Tell us, in your opinion, the difference between a good Rottweiler and a great Rottweiler?**

Many dogs and bitches possess proper and sound structure, but lack the overall picture of power and strength and true Rottweiler type. For me, the really great ones possess type, character and presence with proper conformation. That is what separates the good ones from the great ones. There are certain dogs, while perhaps not the most ideal in every aspect of his or her structure, but possesses a presence when they come in the ring that causes one to stop and take notice and say, "WOW, now that is a Rottweiler!" When a dog has that wow factor, can run on his or her legs over time without breaking down and shows power and strength with proper type, I will always be drawn to that dog or bitch. Some may pick apart particular aspects of the dog, but it is the complete picture I look for, not the pieces.

### **Please tell us why you are so passionate about your breed?**

My heart is with our breed because of their strength of character, willingness to work, and powerful structure. I have been blessed to have owned a top ten conformation dog, a top ten Schutzhund 3 dog and what has been described as one of our breeds overall top producers for conformation and working all wrapped up in one package - Multi BISS/Group Winning Am/Can CH Von Boylan Antonio Banderas B, SchH 3, AD, TT, CGC, HIC. Tony not only proved himself in the working as well as conformation ring, he has sired many #1 dogs and bitches in conformation, sired many top ten working dogs and several #1 ARC Producers and you see many of his grand kids in top ten in working and conformation today. What makes me passionate about breed is that this same dog, a top ten SchH 3 dog, was the most kind, loyal, gentle and loving family dog anyone could ever ask for. As passionate as he was on the working field, it was complemented with how gentle and kind he was helping raise my daughter Mary Ann. To me, it is the whole package, presence, character and type - that is what the Rottweiler is to me. As a side note, Tony may not have been #1 in conformation or #1 in working or #1 in production, but he forever remains #1 in our heart.