

Sportsmanship Award for Anita Weiss

"Individuals who deserve special recognition that have made a difference in the sport of German Shorthaired Pointers, embodies the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and GSPCA Code of Ethics, and have been an active and valued member of our breed events."

When the request for 2017 Outstanding Sportsmanship Award nominations was announced, we as individuals and as a group immediately and unanimously thought of Anita Weiss as the embodiment of what constitutes outstanding sportsmanship. Anita has long actively participated in a wide variety of dog sport activities, such as hunt tests and confirmation shows, along with GSPCA held events. She is a well-respected breeder of both hunting and show GSPs which have excelled in the field and ring. She has done all this with integrity, ethics, and kindness to others within the sport, along with good humor. Anita has earned the respect of so many others in our sport because of her knowledge of and respect for AKC rules and policies, along with her respect for both the judges and exhibitors. While Anita enjoys competition, she has always joyfully celebrated the efforts and wins of others. She appreciates the merits of both show and field GSPs regardless of their breeding lines.

Knowledge and Participation in GSP Activities

Anita is versed in the history of GSPs, the GSP breed standard, AKC rules for hunt tests, field trials and conformation shows, and is excited about the newer AKC activities such as dock dive and scenting. She is a member of the GSP parent club and the GSPC of Southern California. This enthusiasm in the sport extends to being involved with other long time and respected purebred hunting dog activities such as the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) which she has been a member of for many years and been extremely successful. Anita has put numerous NAVHDA titles on her GSPs and even been invited to participate in the NAVHDA Invitational. She has earned many Breeders Awards in NAVHDA, but she has also mentored and trained with other owners and breeders so they could earn these awards for themselves.

Anita is always courteous to others, both in the ring or field and outside of them. While Anita enjoys competition and would like her dog to win if entered, she is always happy to celebrate the efforts and wins of others. She is always courteous to and supportive of other exhibitors, who appreciate her positive and supportive attitude. Anita appreciates the efforts of other breeders and exhibitors as well as the merits of both show and field GSPs regardless of their breeding lines. She wants the dogs to be judged on their merits, not other factors and would not show under a judge where she felt that perceived personal advantage might be a factor. She derives pure joy in the accomplishments of others, and their dogs. Anita is also quite generous in sharing credit with anyone who has been involved, when a dog she is breeder or owner of accomplishes great things. She has a way of making others feel that their contributions, no matter how small, were a major part of that dog's success.

Supports Newcomers to the Sport

Few persons in our sport are as encouraging and supportive of newcomers to the sport. She is always willing to take folks out in the field or to the water to train dogs. She has cheerfully helped puppy owners with puppies from other breeders when the owner lived by her; happily taking them to train on both field work and water work. For folks with puppies that were not related to her own. She has hosted many training days and weekends with friends at her house, for the sheer joy of watching the dog's lights turn on, and owners develop a love of the sport she loves so dearly. She is always supportive of anyone who wants to get into the sport, and helpful in guiding them to finding training opportunities in their area of the country.

Fairness and Ethics When Dealing with Others

Anita is known for her sense of fairness in dealing with puppy buyers, other breeders, and newcomers to the sport. Anita carefully studies health information in the OFFA site as well as the pedigrees of GSP lines to make knowledgeable decisions in breeding. Anita is always ready to share her thoughts on what she sees as the "strengths" of her breeding lines as well as areas where they might be improved. It is essential to Anita that buyers of puppies from her line and persons interested in breeding to her dogs be confident about the health, temperaments,

and achievements of her line. She makes buyers aware that she is always there to take back any dog from her line if things do not work out for any reason.

Support for Other Breeders.

Many times Anita has been there for another breeder regardless of whether or not the sire or dam are related to her line. She provides counseling to others in breeding timing and methods and assistance with reviewing pedigrees. She helps others prepare for a litter, with list of supplies etc. She answers questions that come up while the bitch is pregnant. She lends an ear or a hand when issues arise during whelping or rising of the puppies. She is there to help with health issues that arise when raising new puppies.

Anita has stepped in to whelp or raise a litter for others who have had an unexpected illness or injury that prevented them from being able to whelp or raise the litter themselves. This happened in 2013, 2015, 2016, and 2017, when she was the Emergency Surrogate to whelp and raise litters for other breeders who had physical injuries when their bitches were due to whelp. She goes to other breeders' homes to introduce their new puppies to birds, and take photos. She uses her network of friends and breeders to help others in finding someone to train or show their dog, in all areas across the U.S. She helps put folks in touch with other respected breeders when they are looking for puppies or stud dogs. She makes herself available to help evaluate other breeders puppies structure from photos and is able to give both a gentle and honest opinion when asked.

Love and Care of Her Dogs

Most importantly, Anita's dogs are always treated as family members with full access to the house, fun activities and an exceptional amount of love. Many are surprised at how well socialized her dogs are and that they get along so well in the house and outside. She ensures that her dogs get ongoing veterinary care and never hesitates to provide appropriate veterinary care even if it means driving hours to a specialist.

Anita has had an incredibly successful career as a breeder, owner and handler of German Shorthaired Pointers both in the field and in the show ring. She has carefully planned her breedings to produce GSPs according to the breed standard and worked hard to reach and maintain both the health and working excellence of her dogs. She is an especially ethical breeder who has taken advantage of new health tests as they became available, and who does not hesitate to share the results of tests with others. She has carefully planned her breedings to maintain their natural hunting abilities while also producing dogs that excel in the conformation ring. She does all this with fairness and the encouragement of others. Because of these many reasons, we feel Anita Weiss deserves the Sportsmanship Award for 2017.