



## NEWSLETTER 2/2013

Dear EALC Member and Catahoula Friends,

after our inaugural year we can look back on two successful EALC events

The Working Traits Test of our Catahoula where tested in the cattle herding and the Catahoula Search and Rescue Workshop. This took place in the Czech and Austria.

The following is a summary of those events:

### *Working Trait test: Cattle Droving in Mitrov/Czech*



The cattle herding took place on the Mitrov Farm in Czech. Karel Kalny, the proprietor of the farm, had opened his gates to us and shared his experience with us. We thank him for his support!

The cattle themselves, as we found out, were accustomed to being herded by dogs and provided a tougher test for our dogs than expected.

A total of 18 Catahoula participated in this event. Their aptitude for the work was impressive with some outstanding performances. On the first day, it could be seen that the younger were dogs a little unsure of themselves with respect to the much larger cattle.



Camano Islands Elmo, the experience Catahoula Sire from Mitrov was able to show the young dogs how they were to do their job with impressive style.

Camano Islands Bandit and Arwen Besavej (Zofie) were also able to impress our rookies.

There were some Catahoula that participated that brought some experience with them and they got straight to work.

Elmo proved to be a good teacher as the young dogs plucked the courage to have a go at herding the cattle.

It was interesting to see that after only one day of working with Elmo, how the Catahoula got the grasp of their task some more, some less.



On the third day the dogs were so involved in their job that the occasional dog tasted the occasional hoof. This surely led to stories being told at home and memories that will be cherished.

There were a few dogs that were a little more hesitant but they got into the swing of things on the 3<sup>th</sup> day. Only individual dogs did not show any interest in herding.

As is often the case, most of the dog's problems could be traced back to the handler. This is where Karel showed his experience with good coaching that would be helpful to any dog and handler also in everyday life.

On Saturday, Hana Koutkova arranged Character tests and other exercises. The majority of participants took part in these and reported how beneficial these were.



Something for everyone to enjoy, and they did was the training of the Western Style Horse rider Event. This took place amid Sales stands and Music.

Overall, the 4 days were spent gathering good experiences, networking and storytelling and the entire stay was filled with positive feedback.

## *The Catahoula-Search and Rescue Dog Workshop of the EALC*



This event took place on the premises of the IRO (International Rescue Dog Organization) in Schöneben/Austria.

We are aware of many Catahoula throughout Europe that either are in Training or are currently working as SAR dogs. This is a role with which the Catahoula can show all of his aptitudes and bloom as a working dog. This could be one of his tasks in Europe.



Every owner of a Catahoula knows that it is not enough for these dogs just to be sweet! They are passionate workers and need to be kept occupied. However, unlike the States, there are very few farms around upon which cattle can be herded and there are radical differences in the style of hunting here compared to the States.

We were very excited to be able to see what would happen during the Workshop and its three disciplines of Area and Rubble search and Man trailing. We had 13 Catahoula and 9 other raced dogs.



For 4 days, we were able to intensively work our dogs, talk shop, share Training methods and for those Catahoula owners that do not actively work with their dogs, they were able to test the waters. They also could get an idea of what SAR Dog training is.

On Saturday evening there were two presentations regarding SAR Work.

We saw impressive work from the Catahoula in the free and trailing searches. There were many young dogs that performed their work to an excellent standard at their job. We also saw that just because it is a Catahoula does not mean they are destined to be a good SAR Dog. Even a Catahoula has to be trained in a right way and needs discipline and leadership, at work and in every-day situations.

The workshop also allowed the SAR Dog and Handler to experience kinds of search work that they generally do not get to do.

Those Catahoula that came to try a few things out managed to learn very quickly and after a few trial runs could show off their Talent for searching and finding.



It was a very interesting and enjoyable meet with a very good group dynamic, both human and canine. The dog walks and the playtime that the dogs were able to enjoy amongst themselves showed how important it is for dogs to be amongst their own and socialize.

The feedback was conclusive: this event must be repeated next year!

## **News**

- 1.** The EALC (European Association of Louisiana Catahoula) currently has **32 Members with 31 Catahoula** in total

We have members out of Austria, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Australia and Germany

- 2.** A few changes have occurred within the **EALC Organizations:**

Geri Wiesinger has stepped down due to time constraints. He remains as a member of EALC.

Marion Fenner will support us in the future. Marion's background is on Dog Sport and Scent work. Marion has two Catahoula and last year raised a litter of eight Catahoula pups.



We welcome Marion Fenner's support in the EALC Team.

Further members are also supporting the EALC Organization:

- Beatrice Rosenthal is responsible for membership administration
- Sylvia Klausen and Stu Jones in Merchandising

- Stu Jones as English translator.
- Helena Synkovaas Czech translator
- Christian Spenner as Website administrator

We thank you!

### 3. The next events have been planned for 14.11. until 17.11.2013 in Krakow at the sea/ North Germany:

We will be planning a Companion Animal workshop as well as tips to Basic Obedience and Commands with the experienced Trainer Dietmar Jörß. Further on we will do nose work at a special area, walks and socialization.

The Event location is Holiday Resort Kiefernain: <http://www.kiefernain.de/>

Further information will be released under: <http://www.ealc.info/de/events/>

As usual at every EALC-Event, there will be time for change experience and advice. Also these meets are an opportunity for those interested in the Catahoula to learn more about these dogs.

During this event, the Cash Report will be delivered.

### 4. News of Tests/Seminars/Competitions:

- The Catahoula dog **Country Strong's Ayman** passed the aptitude test on the 08.06.2013 for Search and Rescue dogs. Congratulations!



Ayman is a member of the USAR unit of the JUH RV in Cologne. He is being trained to be a Man trailer.

- Both Catahoula Dams **Cataloochee's Ari Kara (Nele)** and **Cataloochee's Ginger (Mahi)** completed the Cani Cross in Reingers in Austria. Over a distance of 60km with a time of 12h 51min, they with their handler Gritta Goldammer won! Congratulation on the first place!



- **Cataloochee's Ginger (Mahi)** passed the Search and Rescue test for Area Search on the 03.08.2013 according to DIN 13050.



Mahi is now a fully-fledged USAR dog with the JUH Mittelthüringen

- The Catahoula dog **Country Strong's Aragon (Amok)** passed the aptitude test for Search and Rescue dogs according to DIN 13050. Congratulations!



Amok is a member of the USAR unit of the ASB Herzogtum Lauenburg. He is being trained in Area search.

**Updates of Tests, Seminars, Competitions, Workshops etc** as well as general Experiences with the Louisiana Catahoula may be submitted to the ELAC at any time. These will then be uploaded on to the Website and published in the Newsletter. Our goal is to promote the breed as a working dog. Seminar suggestions are also welcome.

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5. **Pictures of your Catahoula** whilst working or portraits are also welcome for submission. Please submit these in the highest possible resolution possible.

## 6. Health/Breeder

For the members of the EALC, that wish to have a Merle test done we have put together a package of information with Contact Details for you. This can be found at:

<http://www.ealc.info/de/links/>

Any queries can be submitted to the EALC per Email and telephone. The details are listed below.

## ➤ Information regarding HD-Evaluation of the Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog

There are currently two methods of evaluation the hips of the Catahoula:

### 1. Evaluation in accordance with OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) from the USA:

<http://www.offa.org/>

In the States and for the Catahoula, the OFA is the primary Organization that evaluates HD. They require suitable X-Rays, clearly labeled with the dog's details and an information package also needs to be filled out. For further information, Cost etc:

[http://www.offa.org/pdf/hdedapp\\_bw.pdf](http://www.offa.org/pdf/hdedapp_bw.pdf)

The Evaluation results will then be, with the owner's consent, logged in a database that can be accessed over their website.

The OFA gives a final evaluation when the dog is 24months old. If the dog is younger then the results are preliminary only.

In case you require assistance, please let us know.

### 2. The Rating system of the VDH/FCI

This is the typical system used throughout Europe: HD A1/A2, B, C etc. The organizations that run their own Breeders Club tend to have a certified Vet who specializes in their breed of choice. This ensures that the evaluation is constant and to the same standard. It is suggested that the dog be at least 15months old for an evaluation.

We know of only one certified Vet who has extensive experience with Catahoula stretching back years. Dr. Peprick, in Ostrava, has worked for the Czech Catahoula breeding club CCEU for many years and has a thorough knowledge of the Catahoula breed.

ELAC-Members who wish to have their dog evaluated can do so by contacting us. The pricing is approximately 30€. An ED-Evaluation is also possible.

The following Table shows a comparison between the OFA Scores and the VDH/FCI scores:

OFA-FCI: Quelle: <a href="http://www.offa.org/hipgrade.html">http://www.offa.org/hipgrade.html</a>			FCI-OFA: Quelle: HD-Internationals Zertifikat der FCI	
OFA	FCI		FCI	FCI
Excellent	A 1		A 1	Kein Hinweis für HD
Good	A 2		A 2	
Fair	B 1		B 1	Übergangsform
Borderline	B 2		B 2	
Mild	C		C 1	Leichte HD
			C 2	
Moderate	D		D 1	Mittlere HD
			D 2	
Severe	E		E 1	Schwere HD
			E 2	

- **Some advice for those interested** in owning a Catahoula and are looking for a reputable breeder:

On our Website is a Breeder List:

<http://www.ealc.info/en/breeders-check/>

We are happy to help you, please forward your questions to us per Email or over the telephone.

**EALC Member Breeders** will also be listed in the Website.

We will also publish **current litters and planned litters of our members** in future (once the membership period exceeds 8 weeks).

We reserve the right not to publish material from questionable breeders. We thank you for your trust.

As usual, we still have the „Catahoula Rescue“ page active. We urge our visitors to look here; it is possible that you can help with the rescue of these poor dogs.

## 7. The EALC T-shirts and Caps are here!



Please place your order per Email. We will send products after payment in advance.

Selection:

**T-shirts** Sizing XS, S, M, L, XL

in Green, Khaki, Ash

**Caps**

One Size fits all design in Khaki with or without black piping and grey with black piping.

Stickers will be available later this year!

**8. Feel free to use the EALC Logo on your own homepage.** The file is attached to this mail.

**9. Contact:**

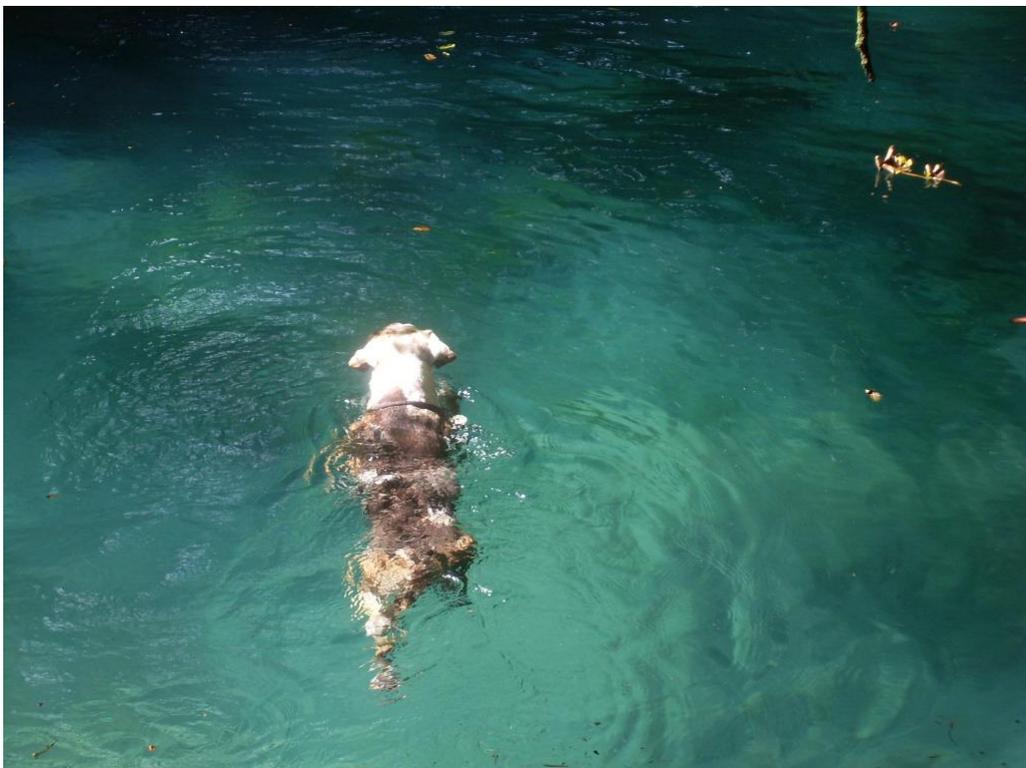
[catahoula@ealc.info](mailto:catahoula@ealc.info) or

Stephanie Lang von Langen	+49 178-462 3000
Anke Boysen	+49 151-1410 1907
Marion Fenner	+49 178-8366 366

Any questions regarding the Training and raising of Catahoula can be made over the telephone or per Email. They can also be submitted over the Blog, which can be found on the EALC website.



We wish you all the best and hope you enjoy the summer.



**The EALC Team**