

# Interview kennel van de Berkensingel

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**This kennel is owned by Henk and Jose van Dam and is stated in Lemelerveld in the Netherlands .**

- How long does “van de Berkensingel” exists now, in other words how long do you breed?

On 22-7-1987 we got our official kennel name, but before that when we started out. we bought a puppy out of a newspaper and trained with her for two years. We decided we wanted to breed a litter with her. Then there was a 1 1/2 year old male for sale because his owner had to go to hospital, this was Cesar van de Elen Mars. Out of these two dogs we got a litter but looking back that wasn't much. We kept a dog from this litter and Jose started training with this dog (Frits) and I (Henk) trained Cesar, we went to a club in Schalkhaar and that was our start in sports. This Cesar was a dog where I (Henk) did accomplish a lot with. But this start with this litter didn't have anything to do with our breeding program today.

When we started training at the club we saw the difference between several dogs. You observe, think about them, why they can or cannot do some things. (That observing and seeing differences came from the experience with horses) So we saw difference in qualities and by then we knew that our first litter wasn't what we needed and were looking for. (But we learned a lot from it)

- What was there first, the kennel or the pension (animal boarding house)?

We started with the kennel, later came the pension. In 1993 when Eline was born (oldest daughter) we still had a pig farm and breeding program, but we had to give that up because Eline was premature and we had a difficult time then with hospital visits etc. We thought we will see what the future will bring and started the pension later on.

- Did you always had Dobermanns or did you start with other breeds?

We first had a little mixed breed, she had a litter with us by the time she was 2 years old. But when the puppies were 4 weeks old she died in an accident. By then we already had Cesar and Laika our first Dobermanns

- How did the love for the Dobermann breed originate?

Henk's father had a Dobermann and he told stories about that dog and so I (Henk) liked that kind of dog. But back then I knew nothing about them, later on we learned more about the character of the Dobermann

- Did you two also meet trough dogs?

No, that had nothing to do with dogs.

- Where you both active in dog sports?

Yes, we started in Schalkhaar. Jose did BH and FH with Frits. This dog was a very good tracker but before you can do FH, you got to do BH. For the second part of the BH exam you have to go into a city and that was the most difficult part for him because this dog was very afraid. The judge wouldn't let a dog fail in the second part and that was our luck because otherwise Frits wouldn't have succeeded. José did FH with this dog and succeeded with 99 points and the points lost where because we had to go under a wire and I (Jose) couldn't do that so quickly, so the dog reacted to the little pulls on the line. That did cost me a point.

Henk did several IPO certificates but we started to see the difference ,and we wanted to start out more serious. So we started searching in the Netherlands within the kennels with more working bloodlines. Then we bought a bitch puppy at the "van de Grootte Maat" kennels. That was Paloeska van de Grootte Maat.By then we had already made contact with the "van de Eland" kennel from Iene Halsema.Later on we got a bitch puppy from Lima v.d.Eland this was Unique v.d. Eland. José started training with Paloeska and Henk with Unique and we did IPO3 and FH with them. and then we started breeding.

- At a certain point you started breeding ,what was the motivation for that and what is your goal in breeding?



The reason we started breeding was that we saw many dogs that weren't competent enough for the sport and that there was a significant difference between types, so we started searching for dogs that we liked. We wanted a dog that was suitable for sport but could also function within a family and where social. We always looked for this combination because a dog is most of the time within the family and not on the training fields. Our breeding goal is to breed a dog that can function on the field as well as in home.Basically we want to breed a dog that always knows what he's doing. That has a clear head.

- What makes your selection of dogs within the kennel, in other words what qualities do you want in a dog?

In the first place health, but if you have a dog that can perform on the field, that is clear headed and enjoys his work, than most of the time you have a dog that is well build. If you have this than most of the time you will also have a dog that has the right psyche. There has to be a stable mind and all the dogs we used in our breeding program we have seen in their homes. The first we used was Bo v.Estetal and his owner could whisper commands and the dog would just obey. This

also was a dog that could fully be in drive. So we search for high drives, the pleasure to work but also a dog that can control his drives. So it comes back to the mental capacity.



- Which dogs were of significant importance in your kennel and why ?

That was maybe Cesar because he was mentally not a strong dog but always willing to work, I (Henk) learned a lot from him. He showed me how a working dog must be but only with more mental strength.

We wanted to breed Paloeska and she was a large female (She was 69 cm) and pretty long in her back. So we looked for a compact male. We saw that the B-litter v. Estetal did well in the "Deutsche Meisterschaft" and we got the advice to look for dogs out of Ali v. Langenhorst because he gave compact dogs. This B-litter v. Estetal came out of Ali. We went to see Bo and his work on the field and that was very good. he proved that he could perform. We also used other dogs but when they can't handle their drives you see that in their offspring and that causes instability. Faro v. Grenzturm we saw him at the "DM" and we didn't know this dog but we noticed him in the obedience part, how he worked with pleasure and with the right state of mind, speed everything. In protection work we paid extra attention and he was one of the few dogs that bite full and hard on the long distance

Bo did 12 times Sch3 and had the average scores of: Tracking: 93,3 Obedience: 93,4 Protection: 97,8

- Do you also look for sharpness in a dog?

Henk: What is sharpness?

- A certain aggression towards strangers ?

**Henk: Behind aggression lies another thing and that's fear, so dogs that have a lot of sharpness also have some fear. So in sports you don't want too much sharpness.**

- **What if it wasn't a sport dog but a personal protector or protector of property?**

**Then also sharpness mustn't be the "quality" that drives a dog the most. I'm sure a good dog will do that (protect) A dog that has a lot sharpness shall begin to bark at a person within approximately 10 meters and you have to be able to talk to someone. If sharpness is the main drive in a dog that's not a good thing.**

- **What has to be the main characteristic that you want to see?**

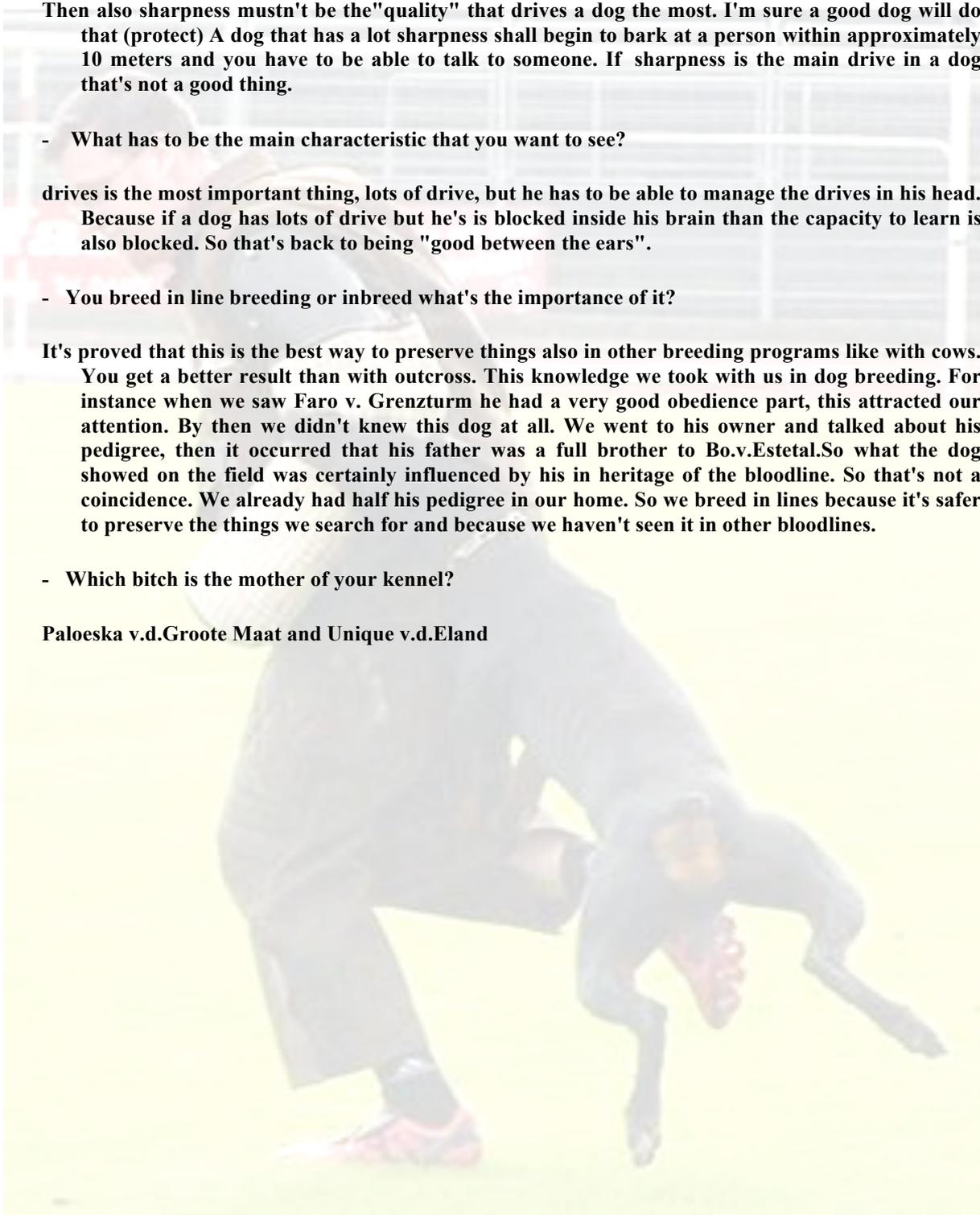
**drive is the most important thing, lots of drive, but he has to be able to manage the drives in his head. Because if a dog has lots of drive but he's is blocked inside his brain than the capacity to learn is also blocked. So that's back to being "good between the ears".**

- **You breed in line breeding or inbreed what's the importance of it?**

**It's proved that this is the best way to preserve things also in other breeding programs like with cows. You get a better result than with outcross. This knowledge we took with us in dog breeding. For instance when we saw Faro v. Grenzturm he had a very good obedience part, this attracted our attention. By then we didn't knew this dog at all. We went to his owner and talked about his pedigree, then it occurred that his father was a full brother to Bo.v.Estetal. So what the dog showed on the field was certainly influenced by his in heritage of the bloodline. So that's not a coincidence. We already had half his pedigree in our home. So we breed in lines because it's safer to preserve the things we search for and because we haven't seen it in other bloodlines.**

- **Which bitch is the mother of your kennel?**

**Paloeska v.d.Groote Maat and Unique v.d.Eland**





- So character is the most important thing in your kennel, but how does exterior fit in?

That's up to another to decide. No..it's like we already said in the first question, that we had a longer female and wanted a shorter male, so it's certainly a thing we keep in mind. If we found the perfect match for a bitch regarding exterior but the character didn't meet our standards we wouldn't make that combination. Character comes first. If a dog can run, jump and do his job right than is most automatically that his body has the right structure, maybe he won't get an excellent rating with a show judge, but that's also personal, but likely he will get a very good rating.

- at the end, how do you see the future of the Dobermann?

It depends on what kind of Dobermann you want to see, but how we like to see them it's :

Very dark, I'll say it's two minutes before midnight. Maybe even one.