

Top Scoring German Shepherd Dog For the Year 2010

By Dalene McIntire

We have another new winner for the Top Scoring German Shepherd Dog Award this year...the second-place dog in the 2009 tabulations.

This year it is Barbara Buettner (pronounced Bitner) of Cullman, Alabama, and her dog 2006 Agility Victrix, PAM, OTCH, MACH Emma Buettner von Cullman, VCD2, UDX5, OM3, VER, RAE, OAP, OJP. Boy, that's a mouthful of titles! Eleven plus the Top Scoring GSD Award. These two have obviously been more than busy between training and showing in all these venues.

Barbara bought Emma eight years ago as a companion after losing her previous German Shepherd. She states "Emma was just this cute, furry, little thing who looked like a baby Ewok (from Star Wars)."



As Emma grew and matured, it became evident Barbara felt she needed help learning to control this bundle of energy. So they began obedience, agility, and tracking lessons. Little did Barbara know Emma was just a proverbial sponge to all that knowledge. They began as Novice A competitors in every venue, and ended up winning not only a tracking title, but an OTCH and a MACH as well!

Emma was also awarded the 2006 Agility Victrix award by the GSDC of America. And then this year added the Top Scoring German Shepherd Dog for 2010 from the GSDC of America. That little, furry puppy had talent!

Barbara says Emma is always ready to train and thinks jumping and retrieving is a huge game and will work forever if asked. It has been very easy to train her.



Now on to her retirement. Like many human retirees, Emma is not content to sit back and rest on her laurels. She goes to work with Barbara every day and spends time under her desk (and will not leave until allowed), snoozing and waiting on someone to play with - kids and toys to run up and down the hall with are the best. Emma gladly jumps in the car for work every day and is never late. Her job is to fetch the newspaper and bring it to Barbara's desk. Hard work, but someone has to do it, right?

Barbara and Emma also live on a farm and is Barbara's shadow everywhere she goes, and even heels beside the tractor and horses! An occasional swim in the pond, and life is good for this retired canine. Says Barbara, "I only hope others get to enjoy the company and presence of a great dog at least once in their lives as much as I enjoy Emma."



To recap how the points are tabulated according to the scores earned by all German Shepherds in AKC Obedience Trials, in Novice, Open, and Utility, the chart below shows how the points are awarded. Again, a big thank you to Cynthia Van den Berge for sharing the AKC Obedience Rankings information and a double thank you to Gina and Steve Grossman who once again came to my aid with their computer program and knowledge to tabulate the winners.

Score	Points
200	8
198-199.5	7
195-197.5	6
190-194.5	5
185-189.5	4
180-184.5	3
175-179.5	2
170-174.5	1

The list below shows the top finalists for the 2010 competition year.

Placing	Dog's Name	Owners	Score
1	OTCH MACH Emma Buettner Von Cullman VCD2, UDX5, OM3, VER,	Barbara Buettner	255

	RAE, OAP, OJP		
2	Great Oak's Jaz It Up, UDX3, OM3, VER, RAE	Anne Morrison	201
3	Yorktowne Von Konigsdorf, UDX2, OM1	Jodie Johnson	196
4	OTCH OV Zita Vom Krummenhager See, UDX3, OM4, RN	Shannon Shepherd	187
5	Genesis Brenna, UDX7	Susan Holland	180
6	Sydney Von Mystique, UDX, NA, NAJ, NAP	Karen Hagensen	148
7	Maxmillion Von Bonhed, UDX3, OM1, VER, RAE	Sheryl Froehle	144
7	CT Nando Von Sontausen, VCD3, UDX3, OM1, GO, VER, PT, MXJ, NF	Dee Gajda	144
8	Joecarr's America's Cowgirl, UDX, RE	Joseph Carroll	133
9	Misha Vom Olberding, UDX, MX, MXJ	Mary Denigan-Macauley	107
10	J-Mar's Ticket To Ride, UD, VER, OA, AXJ, OF	Jean Rodoski	101

In the ratings this year, Barbara moved up from her second place ranking last year. The largest jump was Anne Morrison who was ranked number 10 last year and worked her way up to number two this year. Shannon Shepherd and Susan Holland both moved up one rung this year to fourth and fifth. New people on the top ten this year were Jodie Johnson at third, Karen Hagensen at sixth, Sheryl Froehle and Dee Gajda who tied this year for seventh, Joseph Carroll at eighth, Mary Denigan-Macauley at ninth, and Jean Rodoski at tenth.

You can see by all the titles the dogs on this list have won that they and their owners have put in a lot of work and attended a lot of trials. They range from 11 titles to two, and all are advanced titles that many of us, including me, will never earn.

Barbara and Emma plan to attend the 2011 National in Topeka, Kansas, and will receive their gold Shepherd head medal for Top Scoring German Shepherd Dog for 2010 at the Saturday morning awards ceremony.

Congratulations to all the exhibitors who work so hard with their *German Shepherds*, giving the breed a good name by all who see them, and proving once again that our breed is the BEST!