

Wendell M. Nope Working Dog Sport Resume
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Personal Information

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Synopsis

I have been involved in the Schutzhund/IPO/IGP sport for over 40 years. I have functioned as the Training Director for three Clubs, been the personal trainer of two Schutzhund national champions, have been an SV Foreign IGP Trial Judge 2012-2024, and am currently the GSDCA SV Programs Director of Judges. I have judged multiple national Schutzhund championships in the USA and judged twice at the Police Bundessieger Trial in Germany. I have been in law enforcement for 41 years and the last 32 years as K-9 Training Supervisor at the Utah Police Academy K-9 Program. I have testified in numerous US Federal Courts regarding Police Dog issues. The combination of my Schutzhund/IPO/IGP experience and my professional career supervising the training of 3000+ Police Dogs/Handlers in the DPO and PSP protocols have resulted in me becoming a knowledgeable yet personable IGP Trial Judge.

Schutzhund/IPO/IGP Experience

I am well-versed in the theme and concept of Schutzhund/IPO/IGP. Whenever it has been possible, I have utilized my 40 years of law enforcement experience and connections to further the Schutzhund/IPO/IGP movement in America. I have personally been instrumental in the formation of three Schutzhund Clubs in three different states.

1. The Calcasieu Canine Corps in Lake Charles, Louisiana.
2. The Tuscaloosa Schutzhund Club in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
3. The Twin Peaks Schutzhund Club in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In each of the above-named clubs, I have served as Training Director. I have always used my law enforcement background to assist handlers or dogs who might benefit from my experience. As a result, numerous have been successful in Trials, especially among the unruly or difficult to control dogs. I have functioned as a Trial Helper in numerous Trials. The Judges in these events have predominantly been American, however, this list includes several SV Judges. From these men I became further indoctrinated in the overall standards requisite for evaluating performance in a Schutzhund/IPO/IGP Trial. I have unique experiences which benefit my involvement in the Schutzhund/IPO/IGP sport.

1. I have functioned as a Judge at the GSDCA National Specialty in Beaumont, Texas, along with other National-, Regional-, and Club-level Trials. To-date, no incident of “appeal” or

“disagreement” with my judging assessment has ever occurred. Conversely, I have been informed at every Trial that my assessments are fair, that my demeanor is professional, and that my people-skills are commendable. I have never been the subject of any disciplinary investigation by the GSDCA or the SV.

2. A great many Schutzhund/IPO/IGP enthusiasts take pride in the fact that they have trained a dog to the level of FH; this is a worthy achievement. I have trained two dogs to the level of Police FH, which is more extensive and difficult. One of these dogs was deployed at a grisly homicide scene in the early 1980's. The dog tracked footstep-to-footstep over a distance of almost 2-1/2 miles, leading to the arrest of the killer. The subsequent investigation proved that the dog was exactly step-to-step throughout the entire escape route. As a result of the dog's performance and my courtroom testimony regarding the nature of the dog's training, the shooter received the death penalty and an accomplice received a life-sentence, without benefit of parole or probation. To-date, I am the only Police Dog handler in America whose dog's performance has produced this result. This may be considered a real-world application of the concepts upon which Schutzhund/IPO/IGP tracking is based.
3. In the law enforcement and civilian canine community, I am recognized as one of the leading authorities of obedience training. I am solely responsible for developing an obedience standard for SWAT Dogs, which is employed throughout the United States and Canada. In 1996, I created a new training format for obedience which is an evolutionary leap forward from the conventional master-slave format used for decades. This system has proven to be extremely successful in the law enforcement and Schutzhund/IPO/IGP communities.
4. Due to my ultra-conservative views regarding dogs being utilized to physically capture criminal suspects, I have been labeled as one of the most civil-rights-oriented Police Dog trainers in America. These views also apply to the civilian sector as well. Schutzhund/IPO/IGP-trained dogs are indirectly associated with civil rights and their owners face potential litigation if the dogs ever respond in real-life, even appropriately, in their manner of training. I have an in-depth awareness of common litigation factors and am able to eloquently relate those factors to those whom I may judge at a Schutzhund/IPO/IGP Trial. In this way, handlers and owners of these animals may not be naive regarding their dogs' value and also liability. Any person judged by me may certainly call upon my expertise in their defense in a civil action relating to the actions of his/her dog.
5. I have unique experience relating to the Trial procedures within Schutzhund/IPO/IGP. As an example, I functioned as personal trainer for Ms. Inger Olavson of Salt Lake City during a period of time which she was actively competing in Schutzhund. Under my tutelage, Ms. Olavson won the Schutzhund National Championship twice - with two different dogs. She went on further to participate in the WUSV Championship competitions and represented the United States of America in a most commendable fashion. Although Ms. Olavson deserves total credit for her dedication, I provided the training technology which facilitated her success. I go to great lengths to be sure my training tips and critiques are not only accurate, but also “Handler-Friendly” in that the handlers easily understood my suggestions and critiques - plus leave the field with ideas how to enhance their performance next time.

6. I am conversationally-fluent in the German language. I have functioned successfully in a Schutzhund/IPO/IGP training environment and also in a social/community environment in Germany. I have served as translator for multiple German-language-only Judges during Trials. Lastly, I functioned as the German-speaking commentator at the USCA Sieger Show held in Utah.
7. I have been actively involved with Police Dogs my entire adult life. I became a police officer in 1976 and, almost immediately, began to train and deploy them according to the German police concepts. Although my efforts were police-oriented, my philosophy has been totally compatible with Schutzhund/IPO/IGP. In fact, some of my early mentors were veteran Schutzhund competitors.

In 1981, I was invited by the German Police to attend their noted training facility in the Province of North Rhine - Westphalia. This facility, known as the Landespolizeischule fuer Diensthundfuehrer (State Police School for Service Dog Handlers) has been recognized as one of the most progressive canine training centers on the planet and, to this day, is heralded for its accomplishments. The commander of the school at the time was EPHK Alfred Maciejewski, who also held a position with the SV as Police Liaison.

In 1983, I was invited by the Congress der Diensthundhaltende Verwaltung (International Congress of Police Service Dogs a.k.a ICPSD) to assume a position as the sole delegate from the United States of America on that council. This is the entity that created and oversees DPO, PSP, and WPO. I was told by the ICPSD Chairman, Alfred Maciejewski, that the reason for recruiting me was that I was perceived by the German Police and the SV as a positive influence for German-oriented training in the United States. One of my main functions as the US delegate was to form the "Polizei Amerika" team which competed annually alongside the Schutzhund III and German Police Dogs in conjunction with the SV Bundessiegerpruefung. On 12 April 1984, I was certified by the German Police (Polizei Nordrhein-Westfalen) as a Police Dog Judge. This certification included DPO, PSP, and WPO and I was immediately recognized by the SV, meaning Titles I awarded could be entered into the SV pedigrees. Since that time I have judged in excess of 2000 DPO/PSP/WPO Police Dogs. This includes twice participating as a Judge at the Internationale Deutsche Meisterschaft fuer Diensthundfuehrer (IDM), which was held in conjunction with the SV Bundessiegerpruefung for many years.

I would like to clarify at this point that judging DPO or WPO is nearly identical to judging Schutzhund/IPO/IGP, except that the Police Dogs are judged more strictly. So, if one cared to make a comparison, it could very honestly be stated that I have judged over 2000 "Schutzhund-like" dogs and judged twice at the World "Schutzhund-like" Championship.

On December 26, 1989, I assumed a position as the K-9 Training Supervisor at the Utah Police Academy. I function in this capacity by virtue of the certification as Police Dog Teaching Judge, which was awarded to me in 1986 by the German Police (Polizei Nordrhein-Westfalen). My work there positively impacted the Police Dog profession in America. I am called upon to testify in courts across the USA on critical Police Dog issues. All my testimony is centered around the German Police ideology. Remember, it was also the German Police who provided the foundation technology for Schutzhund training originally. Therefore, another honest statement might be that I

am one of the strongest proponents of “Schutzhund-like” training in America and also that my efforts are producing totally favorable “Schutzhund-like” court rulings across America. In fact, The International Association of Chiefs of Police has recently published a recommendation that all agencies across America utilizing Police Dogs embrace the “Hold & Bark” practice for their dogs.

8. On June 1, 2012, I was appointed to be an SV Foreign Judge. I aged-out of this position on December 31, 2024. For a number of years, I was the only SV Foreign Judge in the German Shepherd Dog Club of America. This is an incredible honor, as the creation of SV Foreign Judges had ceased, but was re-instituted to award GSDCA with this honor. I have been informed that my evaluations are accurate and my critiques are world-class. I have created and presented multiple PowerPoint Apprentice Judge training presentations, consisting of 650-850 PowerPoint slides.

I esteem the honor of being an SV Foreign Judge to be a validation of my earnest efforts and the pinnacle of my dog sport career.

9. I have functioned as the GSDCA Director of Judges for almost a decade now. My efforts have been recognized as not only beneficial, but also efficient and personable. I have provided guidance for and mentored multiple Apprentice Judges in their pursuit to become full-fledged IGP Judges.