

TRANSFORMATION OF THE BOXER BREED OVER THE YEARS - in extracts

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Origin of the breed:

“It is reported that in the beginning the foundation stock of the Boxer breed originated from the crossing of lines of which the origin is unknown, of the *Small Bull biter and the English Bull dog*. We recognize what one required from the Bulldog to produce the Boxer type; the well-defined stop and the slightly turned up lower jaw. These characteristics had to be fixed which resulted in tight inbreeding to a few dogs only.”

Development:

“With the two legendary males *Sigurd and Lustig v.Dom FRIEDERUN STOCKMANN* had without a doubt the greatest part of the absolute high point in the breed in the 1930's. From the small, plump Boxer with dissimilar head a tall elegant dog evolved. It is due to FRIEDERUN STOCKMANN the Boxer breed achieved its most important development ever.”

“The extraordinary popularity of the Boxer in AMERICA can be ascribed to *Bang Away of Sirrah Crest*. The American Boxers have taken up a preferential place on the various continents, in South America, South Africa, Australia, in the Scandinavian countries and in England.”

“After the war three significant influences raised the breed in ENGLAND to its present day popularity. English breeders looked to America where the leading German stud dogs improved breed type and reputation to its best. While imports from America only gradually made an influence, German and Dutch imports shortly after the war had a much greater influence. *With Bang Away's full brother Texas Ranger* English breeders were able to combine the famous *Lustig-Dorian blood fusion, which is well known* as the “classic combination in our breed”.

“The breed of Boxers in GERMANY revived only very slowly after the end of the war 1945. Most of the classy dogs were sold to America, many inferior litters often lacked substance and looked strange.

“Four years after the end of the war FRIEDERUN STOCKMANN was the first German conformation judge to be invited to the USA and ENGLAND to judge. FRIEDERUN STOCKMANN played a big part in that not only a bridge was built in respect of better understanding among the nations but also that as a result of the war the love for our Boxer breed was maintained. “

“As a token of gratitude for her achievements the two American bred Boxers *Abra Dabra of Sirrah Crest and Mazelaine’s Czardas* with the lineage of *Sigurd, Lustig and Dorian v. Marienhof* came back to GERMANY with FRIEDERUN STOCKMANN. The most well known dogs that went back on *Abra Dabra* were *Godewind v. Dom* and *Bel Ami v. Wikingblut*.

At the ATIBOX Show 1963 in Giessen FRIEDERUN STOCKMANN experienced a lovely farewell gift when *Godewind v. Dom* became the first male ATIBOX winner in the history of ATIBOX. His correct croup and strong hindquarter which resulted from a half brother/half sister mating on *Abra Dabra* was obviously a fixed trait from his American breeding.”

“With *Erasmus* and his excellent sister *Elektra v. Nassau-Oranien* their breeder WILLIBALD WENDEL had a special litter in GERMANY, in which the lines of *Godewind v. Dom* and *Witherford Hot Chestnut* deftly were combined. This fusion recalls the famous union of the lines behind *Lustig* with the progeny of *Dorian v. Marienhof* which in America and England, was not for nothing referred to as “The classic combination of our breed”.

“I came to the No. 1 dog country, ENGLAND, with LEO HELBIG in the beginning of the sixties. I was very impressed by the type and great uniformity of the *Witherford Boxers*. Spontaneously I asked PAT WITHERS for a son of *Witherford Dawn Sky*, primarily for our own breeding purposes. *Witherford Hot Chestnut* came to Germany at an age of 14 weeks. After we had produced the first champions by him in our own kennels it took a number of years before his elegant appearance and the very noble expression were accepted. He finally became World Champion in 1965 and was used as stud “

“During the sixties two sons of *Witherford Hot Chestnut* proved to be of extreme value to the breed in EUROPE – *Eros v. Heideloh* and *Carlo ut Gütsel*. These dogs not only brought back style but also fine chiseled heads with typical expression.”

“In ITALY Boxers came into the limelight, after during the Second World War the pioneers MARIO CONFALIONIERI and Dr. TOMASO BOSI had paved the way for the first imports from GERMANY. The first ITALIAN bred winners in the fifties attracted attention all over Europe”

“The most important step for the improvement and strengthening of today’s breeding stock in EUROPE was taken when *Iko v Springbach* (from a half-brother/half-sister mating on Hot Chestnut) was used on a daughter of *Erasmus v. Nassau-Oranien* who himself stemmed from *Godewind* and a *Hot Chestnut* daughter.”

“The outcome of this mating was the greatest producer since *Lustig v Dom* and *Witherford Hot Chestnut* *Carlo v Henningshof*. “

“*Carlo’s* immense impact can be seen in his progeny which is spread all over Europe”

Top reference goes to his son *Carlino v Nassau-Oranien* and to the double *Carlino* grandson *Hoss v.d.Goldquelle*. Hoss especially in ITALY had a large influence, just like his great grandson *Xanthos v Bereler Ries* and the *Xanthos* grandson *Mirco v. Turmblick*.

During the eighties top producers were the FRENCH *Xanthos* son *Athos de l'Enfert Vert* and the double *Athos* son the GERMAN *Ibsen v. Sembacher Flur*.

"Ibsen stands behind one of the top stud dogs in the breed the FRENCH *Perico du Val d'Europe*. The classic line via *Ibsen* through *Ago Del Colle d'Infinto* his great sons *Ego De Joanxichcan* and *Ippolito Del Colle d'Infinto* gained outstanding reputation, thus increasing the top standing of ALESSANDRO TANONI's Boxer kennels in the world."

"There is no doubt that the largest contribution to the Modern European Boxer was made by Teck and his son David Del Colle d'Infinto. One of Teck's important sons was Fausto v. Santana with extra inheritance power from his mother Kosima della Talpa , the result of a half siblings mating of Carlo v. Henningshof."

"The exemplary input of the GERMAN Kennels v. German Dream, v. d Busch and v. Santana finally encouraged other GERMAN breeders to improve the breed quality by using well-bred dogs of ITALIAN origin. The outcome was Future and In-Petto v. German Dream."

Exaggerations:

“In the mid seventies when the breed after the Second World War boomed with records entries in stud registers and Best-In-Show successes I observed in the various countries that breeders, with their overwhelming enthusiasm, exaggerated specific characteristics, thereby pushing the breed into detrimental extremes. I have noticed trends in Boxer types which have obviously drifted away from the four prototypes *Sigurd, Lustig, Utz and Dorian.*”

“What are the reasons for this drifting apart in Boxers? “

ATIBOX (Association Technique International Du Boxer)

“The extension of ATIBOX is an important step in the direction of making international contacts regarding the Boxer.”

“At the earliest, however, one had realized the necessity of combining the training specialist judges in accordance with the basic criteria of the breed standard to ensure that an exchange of judges between the countries would bring about uniformity and progress in breeding and judging principles. The desire to amalgamate internationally in the interest of our breed found great acceptance, especially abroad.”

“In the interest of the healthy, agile Boxer, ATIBOX may not thoughtlessly close their eyes to this problem and give the impression that all is well. The time is now to start discussions.”

“I see the problems of the breed in many great Boxers where the general appearance has changed to meet the taste of breeders and judges – even though the breed standard has not changed.”

At the end of my career:

“In the meantime I have withdrawn from the show ring for different reasons. One decisive factor was that I did not find any fellow exhibitors and breeders in GERMANY that sought the type of Boxers that prevailed 30 years ago. Without any doubt, immense progress has been made in performing various health checks but unfortunately I have seen the endeavors to confirm to the actual standard in respect of the classic Boxer fall behind.”

“Clubs and breeders would be well advised not always to strive for more selection. It is an illusion and almost impossible to achieve a life without any disorders. More so the clubs should look at broadening the gene pool as well as the palette of judges. By following these steps, it is in my mind, the correct approach to improve the “normal” Boxer both physically and mentally.

After all quite recently the new Boxer generation through their inexperience and selfishness have created an unthinkable situation which was an enormous shock to me. I took note that the Committee of the BK Munich has given in to the pressure of this current generation to amend the Standard regarding Whites. Of course, Whites must have registration papers. However, as far as the typical standard like appearance is concerned, they have no place in the breed’s image because of their white color and lack of expression in head.

The pioneers of the breed at that time prudently declared the white color of these animals as a fault, as one not only feared that they were carriers of deafness or other genetic defects but also they were not to be part of the breed image. The reason for this rejection was especially, the absence of the dark mask that in accordance with the Standard must be in distinct contrast to the color of the head and because of the lack of expression in head which is part of the unique typical Boxer expression.

Quite rightly the VDH and the FCI have stipulated worldwide that the colors of the Boxer be fawn and brindle for more than almost one hundred years. For what reason does one have the audacity to change a breed that was established as a result of great sacrifices and efforts at one's own discretion?

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