



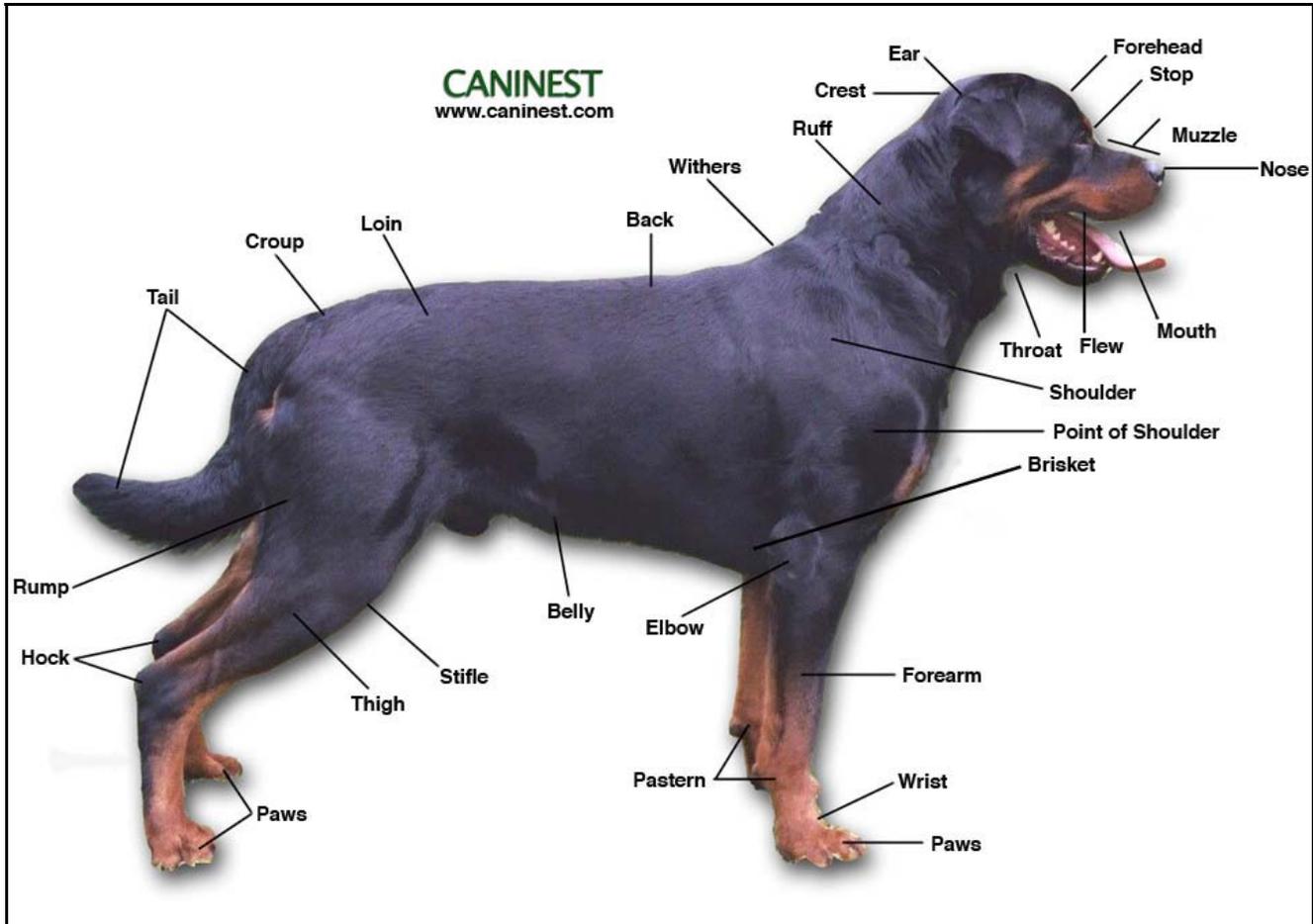
How to Pick a Stud Dog for Your Female

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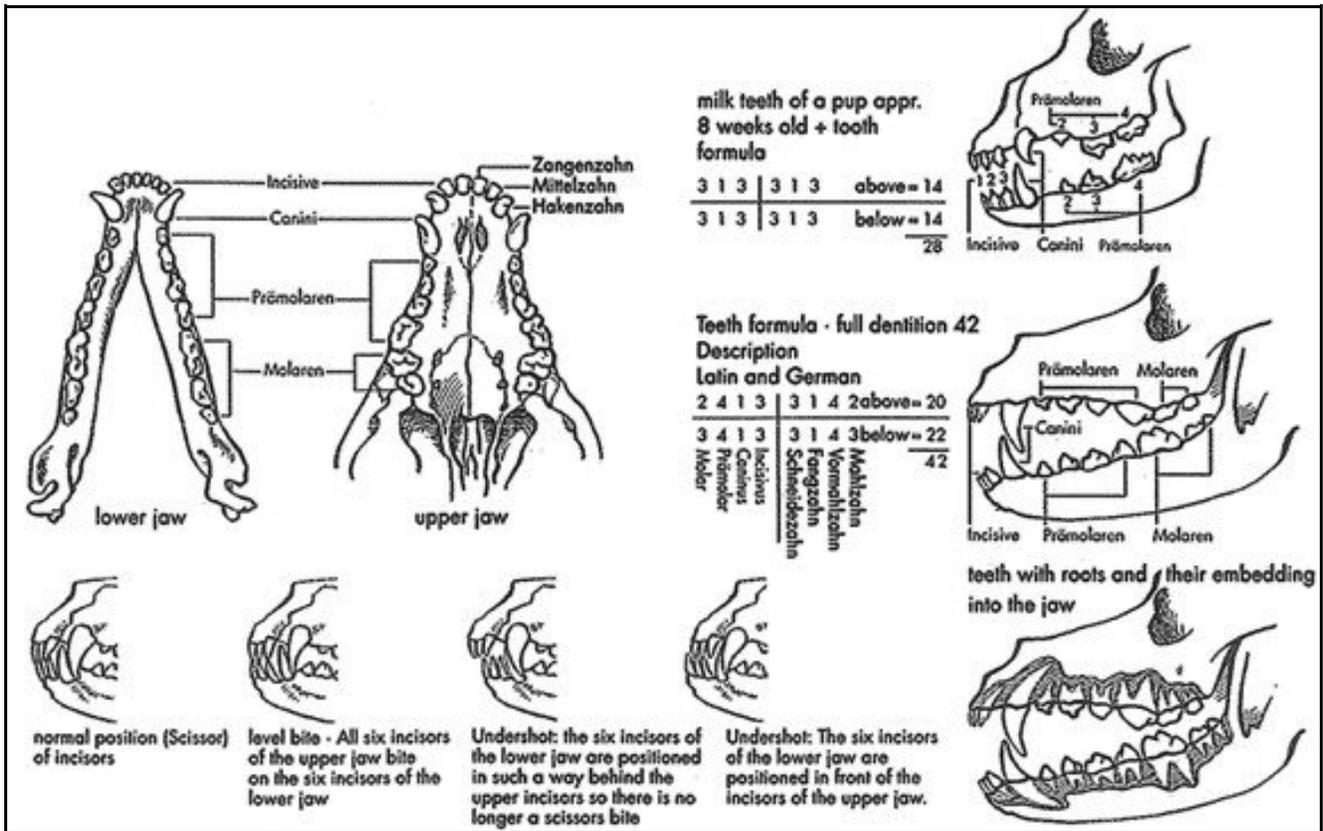
Over the last almost 30 years of me having Rottweilers, I have heard just about every imaginable reasons a bitch owner picked a particular stud that I think there is. Some of the reasons have made sense and some have left me scratching my head. Many bitch owners are drawn the top winning dogs, or the most famous, or most advertised stud dogs. Many bitch owners want to breed their bitch to the stud dog who is the closest to them, or who has the cheapest stud fee, or the stud dog who their friend has. Many bitch owners pick a stud dog to make the best Rottweilers of the next generation, or fulfill a specific goal of their breeding program, or to produce that next top show or working Rottweiler.

Hopefully, all breeders are trying for one of the last three reasons I mentioned; but, sadly, they aren't —not because of some negative reason—but, because they don't know any better. Yet, what is the best way to pick a stud dog for your bitch? Most breeders don't want to ship their bitch hundreds of miles, or spend what is an unreasonable price, or produce unhealthy ugly pups.

So what is the answer to picking a stud dog?

First, let's look at the three different plans a breeder can choose: (i) the outcross, (ii) line breeding, or (iii) inbreeding. I have chosen to use Muriel Freeman's definition that she wrote in her Best Selling book, *The Complete Rottweiler* to define the OUTCROSS as totally unrelated in four to five generations. So, what is the difference between INBREEDING and LINE BREEDING? Inbreeding, according to the Kennel Club of Great Britain, is a inbreeding coefficient 25% or more. What is that in simple terms? 25% would be the genetic equivalent of a dog produced from a parent to child mating, or the mating of full-brother/sister.

LINE BREEDING is what is in between the OUTCROSS and the INBREEDING, according to the Kennel Club of Great Britain, anything that has a breeding coefficient between 1% and 24%. However, the desired breeding coefficient is between 4% and 12.5%, which is roughly anything from 3rd cousins at 4% to grandparents with grandchildren or half brothers and sisters at 12.5%. I know that someone reading this is asking what is a BREEDING COEFFICIENT? It is the measurement of common ancestors of dam and sire, and indicates the probability of how genetically similar they are.



So, with knowing what inbreeding, line breeding and outcross breedings are—which one do we pick? To pick one, the bitch's owner needs to know what their goals are in breeding. Are they just going to have one litter? Are they trying to start their own line or kennel? With either of these two goals, let's say we aren't going to be doing any inbreeding. That leaves us with either the **OUTCROSS** or the **LINE BREEDING**.

With the outcross, choosing a male who has no ancestors in common with your bitch is an "outcross." This is a riskier breeding choice than staying within your dogs' line, because honestly, you have **NO IDEA** how the two genetic packages will combine. Even two fabulous dogs can have only mediocre pups when crossed. However, outcrossing is a vital part of sustaining genetic diversity within a line, and crucial in getting "new" traits into a breeding program.

With line breeding, the breeder is trying to sustain an already-proven bloodline. When choosing to breed to a stud with a similar genetic background, you have a much better idea of the pups you will get, and you can nearly guarantee that pups will not have any faults not already present in the line. So which do we pick? **OUTCROSS?** **LINE BREEDING?**

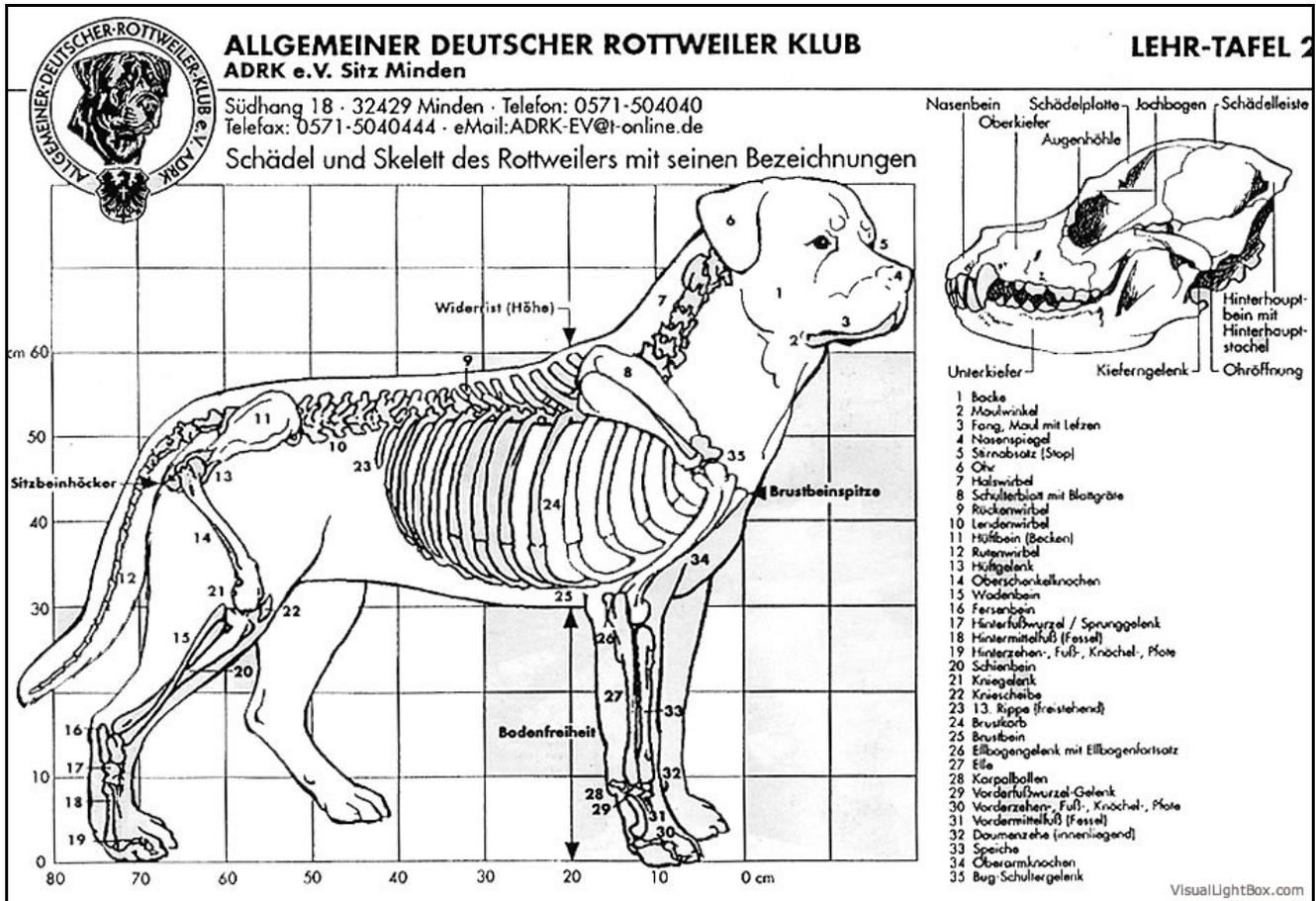
With either the outcross or the line breeding, the bitch owner needs to be objective about their bitch's good and bad points, and prioritize which are most important.

The chances of finding a stud that complements all of your bitch's weak areas is low; but, it makes sense to focus on dogs who don't share many of her faults and, more importantly, don't share her more-significant faults. Learn as much as you can about the inheritance of the traits you need to change. By looking at the stud dog's ancestors, you can gauge how likely it is that he might be able to fix that fault or weakness in the bitch. You can get clues about the genes the stud might carry by looking at his siblings.

Once you've narrowed down your choices, contact the owners. Be prepared to tell them about your bitch, and either show her to them or supply pictures. Explain what you hope to achieve with the litter and when you plan to breed. It's bad manners to simply assume they will say yes. Instead, ask them if they would consider a breeding. Not every stud dog owner will breed to every bitch who has the stud fee in cash. Years ago with my first stud, Soko von der Mauth, SchH 3, Ztp; I turned down a female who was owned by people who could easily pay the stud fee. However, the bitch was a long-coated Rottweiler. She was from a very successful and well-known kennel but I did not want to have pups out of Soko with their mom's shaggy Collie type coat running around. The bitch's owner was upset and rude about me turning his bitch down.

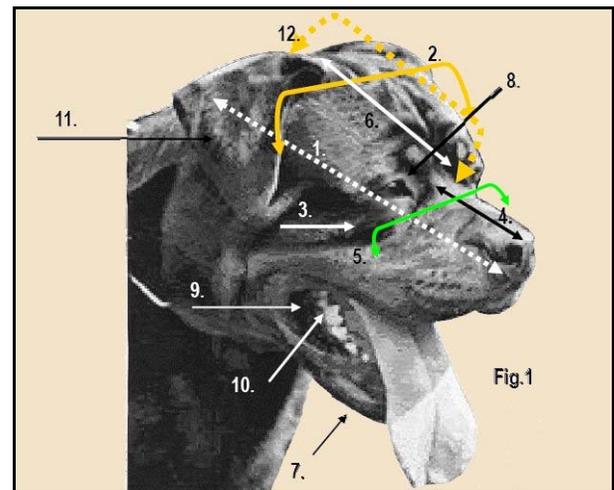
With all of today's health tests, ask to see the stud's health test results and every breeding Rottweiler should at least have their hips certified and have a JLPP test done. You should already be familiar with the hereditary problems in your breed and any available tests for them. In fact, your bitch should have already had the same tests you require of the stud dog. Ask about the health and longevity of the stud's siblings and ancestors. Give preference to a dog whose owner seems upfront about possible problems. Ask about breeding terms. Most stud owners will ask for either a fee or a puppy. If your bitch is to stay with the stud owner, does boarding cost extra? Is there a fee if she must be picked up from the airport? If the stud owner is to get a puppy, at what age will it be chosen? Ask about what constitutes a litter, and what arrangements are made in case no litter results. What sort of pre-breeding tests

are required? Both should be tested for brucellosis and the female for any vaginal infections that may cut down on the sperm's effectiveness. Through all of these questions be mindful of how the stud dog owner treats you and talks to you. Are they truly interested in helping you produce the best litter you can or are they simply trying to collect a stud fee. Make sure the stud contract is logical and clear.



Now it's time to be Choosing the Right Sire and we still haven't answered the question of should the breeding be an OUTCROSS or a LINE BREEDING. In the final analysis, the ideal stud dog should be one who can reasonably be expected to compliment the strengths of the bitch and off set her faults or weaknesses. Here is where I will offer my opinion, which is to do a line breeding. Why do I suggest doing a line breeding? Because I have looked at some very successful breeders and I have looked at the dogs who are winning in both the conformation rings and on the working fields.

I went to the www.working-dog.eu website which has an encyclopedia's worth of data and facts. The first thing that I looked at was ten of the top conformation winning dogs at the ADRK's Klub Sieger Show. I looked at the Sieger and Siegern from the last five years. I have listed the Rottweilers and if they were the result of an OUTCROSS Breeding or a LINE Breeding. In looking at the Rottweilers I have listed, if they had no common relatives as far back as their parents 4th generation, the parents great great grandparents then I listed them as an OUTCROSS Breeding. If the Parents were 3rd cousins or closer I listed them as being from a LINE Breeding.



- Boom vom Cherniy Kumir—KS 2017—Outcross
- Jule von der Holzhaussiedlung—KS 2017—Outcross
- Greif von der Crossener Ranch—KS 2016—Linebreeding
- Celine vom Schwaiger Rathaus—KS 2016—Linebreeding
- Judas von den Golan-Höhen—KS 2015—Linebreeding
- Harley vom Wilden Westen—KS 2015—Linebreeding
- Balou vom Norderdiek—KS 2014—Outcross
- Annabell vom Weissen Berg—KS 2014—Linebreeding
- Imperator vom Haus Zschammer—KS 2013—Linebreeding
- Kaisa vom Kümmelsee—KS 2013—Linebreeding



Boom v Cherniy Kumir
 ADRK KS 2017—Outcross
 Photo: Mario Montes Klaver



Jule vd Holzhaussiedlung
 ADRK KS 2017—Outcross
 Photo: Mario Montes Klaver



Greif vd Crossener Ranch
 ADRK KS 2016—Linebreeding
 Photo: Sarah Dahlgren



Celine vom Schwaiger Rathaus
 ADRK KS 2016—Linebreeding
 Photo: Sarah Dahlgren



Judas vd Golan-Höhen
 ADRK KS 2015—Linebreeding
 Photo: Mario Montes Klaver



Harley v Wilden Westen
 ADRK KS 2015—Linebreeding
 Photo: Mario Montes Klaver



Annabell v Weissen Berg
 ADRK KS 2014—Linebreeding
 Photo: Oliver Neubrand



Balou v Norderdiek
 ADRK KS 2014—Outcross



Imperator vh Zschammer
 ADRK KS 2013—Linebreeding
 Photo: Sasa Mihajlovic

As you can see, of the ten Rottweilers who won the title of ADRK Klub Sieger or Seigern, seven of the ten were the result of a linebreeding.

The Rottweiler is a working dog and so I also wanted to see how the Rottweilers who placed at the ADRK Deutsche Meisterschaft, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. To get over ten different Rottweilers, I had to look at the last six ADRK Deutsche Meisterschafts since many of the Rottweilers were repeat winners and placers.



Kaisa vom Kümmelsee
ADRK KS 2013—Linebreeding



Bambam vd Wichtelhäusern
ADRK DM 2017—Linebreeding aunt to nephew
Photo: Annika Flor



Onex v Türnleberg
ADRK DM 2017—Linebreeding
Photo: Jürgen Rixen



Boss v Kriegsdamm
ADRK DM 2014
1st place—Linebreeding cousins
Photo: Mario Montes Klaver

ADRK DM 2017

Onex v Türnleberg—1st place—Linebreeding
Bambam vd Wichtelhäusern—2nd place—Linebreeding aunt to nephew
Brooklyn vd Drachenhöhle—3rd place—Linebreeding cousins

ADRK DM 2016

Bambam von den Wichtelhäusern—1st place—Linebreeding aunt to nephew
Aki vd Wichtelhäusern—2nd place—Linebreeding aunt to nephew
Brooklyn vd Drachenhöhle—3rd place—Linebreeding cousins

ADRK DM 2015

Bambam vd Wichtelhäusern—1st place—Linebreeding aunt to nephew
Amigo v Sittard—2nd place—Linebreeding cousins
Emilio v Tanneneck—3rd place—Linebreeding cousins

ADRK DM 2014

Boss v Kriegsdamm—1st place—Linebreeding cousins
Amboss v Norderdiek—2nd place—Outcross
Elch v Heltofer Forst—3rd place—Linebreeding cousins

ADRK DM 2013

Elch v Heltofer Forst—1st place—Linebreeding cousins
Amboss v Norderdiek—2nd place—Outcross
Boss v Kriegsdamm—3rd place—Linebreeding cousins

ADRK DM 2012

Bulli v Türnleberg—1st place—Linebreeding uncle to niece
Yul ad Blumental—2nd place—Linebreeding cousins
Bongo vd Bodebrücke—3rd place—Linebreeding cousins



Bulli v Türnleberg
ADRK DM 2012—1st place —
Linebreeding uncle to niece
Photo: Mario Montes Klaver



Elch v Heltofer Forst
ADRK DM 2013—
1st place—Linebreeding cousins
Photo: Mario Montes Klaver

Over the last six ADRK Deutsche Meisterschafts, there are twelve Rottweilers and only one is the result of an OUTCROSS Breeding. The other eleven are all LINE Breeding's with three being close LINE Breedings of aunt or uncle to nephew or niece. With the conformation winners in the ADRK Klub Sieger Shows, all of the LINE Breedings were cousins, 1st cousins, 2nd cousins, 3rd cousins or the combination such as 1st cousin once removed or twice removed.

The last group of ten Rottweilers that I looked at to see if they were OUTCROSSES or LINE BREEDERS were some popular Rottweilers who are either from or living in the former Yugoslavia who are often referred to as SERBIAN Rottweilers although they are from Serbia, Croatia, and other some other countries now. I looked

at the *Most Visited List of Rottweilers* on the Working Dog website and I just went in order of their popularity on the day I was looking at the list.

All ten of these well-known and well-used stud dogs are all the result of LINE Breedings.

Popular Rottweilers from Yugoslavia

- Dzomba vh Drazic—IFR Best World Producer 2017—Linebreeding Cousins
- Lex vh Edelstein—IFR Baby World Winner—Linebreeding Cousins
- Astor v Junipera—IFR World Champion 2010—Linebreeding Cousins
- Rocky v Steintor Rott—Multi Country Champion—Linebreeding Cousins
- Kong v Quercus Wald—IFR World Champion 2015—Linebreeding Cousins
- Toti Black Allusion—IFR World Champion 2016—Linebreeding Cousins
- Burning des Princes d'Aragone—IFR World Champion 2009 & 2012—Linebreeding Cousins



Dzomba vh Drazic



Lex vh Edelstein



Astor v Junipera



Rocky v Steintor Rott

Xedor vd Alten Festung—Multi Country Champion—Linebreeding Cousins
Remy vh Kigen—ADRK Vice Ausland Jugend Sieger 2016—Linebreeding Cousins
TK'S New Yorker—IFR Vice Junior World Winner 2016—Linebreeding Cousins

In Muriel Freeman's book, she writes about the breeding system that an Australian named Bruce Lowe came up with for breeding Thoroughbred race horses. Essentially, the *Bruce Lowe Theory of Breeding* is to do close line breedings with uncles to nieces, aunts to nephews, and first cousins to each other. By looking at the data I found with ADRK Klub Sieger winners, ADRK Deutsche Meisterschaft winners, and some popular stud dogs, LINE Breeding is more successful than OUTCROSS Breedings.

Yet not all breeding theories believe in breeding animals that are related, some people like John E. Madden, who was also a very successful Thoroughbred race horse breeder, believed in OUTCROSSES. Madden's theory was to Breed the Best to the Best, simply stated Madden said, "The soundest breeding theory is the simplest one: "Breed the best to the best and hope for the best". Madden also went on to say that, "Studies have proven that, in general, good racehorses make the best breeding stock. While not all top male runners succeed as stallions, it is much more unusual for a poor racehorse to become a good proven sire. A poorly-raced mare does have a better chance to outbreed her own record on the track, especially when she has a good pedigree and is bred to good stock."

I am sure someone reading this is going to be asking what do race horses have to do with Rottweilers? Well, breeding animals, horses or Rottweilers embraces the same theories and questions about how to pick the best stud. I believe that by looking at some of the most successful Rottweilers breeders and by looking at the dogs who won the big shows and big working trials that LINE Breeding produces more winners than OUTCROSS Breeding produces. However, I believe that science proves we need to have OUTCROSS Breeding.

Farmers, who used to breed livestock in much the same way as we still breed dogs, have now changed the way that they breed their animals. In fact, farmers so recognize the benefit of hybrid vigor, OUTCROSS Breeding, that much of the meat we eat, milk we drink and eggs we boil are from crossbreeds. That's because the yield is likely to be more/healthier/disease resistant than that from purebred stock.

There are some very good reasons why a breeder would choose to make an outcross. The first is to bring into their line a characteristic that is absent and, to build on a strength and make a good trait. The second is that genes with faults or cause problems are recessive genes and but doing the OUTCROSS Breeding, new and dominate genes will not allow a particular fault or health problem surface. An example would be the JLPP gene that responsible owners now test for. If a Rottweiler is a carrier of JLPP they will never produce a puppy with JLPP if they are bred to a Rottweiler who is clear of JLPP because JLPP is a recessive gene.

Now I am sure many of you reading this are like so what do I do? I want a great looking Rottweiler who has outstanding working abilities who is super healthy.

Look at the female. Is she the result of a LINE Breeding or is she the result of a OUTCROSS Breeding? If she is the result of a LINE Breeding, try an OUTCROSS Breeding. If she is the result of an OUTCROSS Breeding, then try a LINE BREEDING.

Going back to the study or horse breeding where so many of the breeding theories have started, we

should look at the most successful race horse of modern times, Secretariat. Secretariat was the result of parents who were LINE Bred themselves but were OUTCROSSES when bred to each other and that OUTCROSS produced the best race horse of modern times. Yet, Secretariat wouldn't have been the horse he was if it wasn't for the LINE Breeding that produced his parents.

Also, the bitch owner needs to look at some that may surprise most of you reading this but it is this: How much help will the stud dog owner be to you? Will the stud dog owner include your bitch in their ads? Will the stud dog owner help you sell your pups? Will they tell people that Jane Doe or John Smith has a litter out of their stud dog?



Kong v Quercus Wald



Toti Black Allusion

I recently was talking to a new person to Rottweilers who had bred their 2nd or 3rd litter and they are very upset that the owner of the stud dog they used was now ignoring them since they had been paid and they had a nice sized litter. They were disappointed because they were including the stud dog in their ads to sell the pups but the stud dog owner wasn't helping at all.

In picking the stud dog, the bitch owner should look at the many things I mentioned earlier in this article but after they have narrowed down their potential list of stud dogs they should also look at a few things. Will the Stud dog owner help sell the pups and advertise the breeding? How much is the stud dog advertised? Is the stud dog well-known? What is the stud fee? A pick pup or cash? Over the years, I have heard of some well-known stud service prices being very high and even being two pups out of the litter.

One of the last things you may want to do before you pick the perfect stud dog for your bitch is to look at some of the pups the stud dog has produced. Has the stud dog been bred to any relatives of your girl? If so you may really want to check those pups out. If the stud hasn't produced any pups from a relative of your girl then maybe check out the pups he produced from bitches with similar body types and builds.

There are many things that go into making a pup genetically and even with littermates and repeat breeding's the DNA doesn't always line up the same so ultimately a breeding of two dogs is a gamble, I think that with some knowledge and research breeders can make the odds a little more in their favor than but just breeding to the top winning dog or the most advertised or the most bred to dog at that moment in time.

There are a lot of factors and things to consider when picking a stud dog for your bitch and hopefully this article will help you pick the right stud dog for your next litter.



Burning des Princes d'Aragone

VOM HAUS ZAFIROVSKI ROTTWEILER KENNEL



REBECCA
VOM HAUS ZAFIROVSKI
★★★★★



ZOE
VOM HAUS ZAFIROVSKI
★★★★★



KERBER
VOM HAUS ZAFIROVSKI
★★★★★

Rottweiler

VOM HAUS ZAFIROVSKI | METODIJA ZAFIROVSKI
ROTTWEILER BREEDER, FCI JUDGE

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