

Who says that dog won't hunt?

by Jeff Govednik

This month's member spotlight is on Sondra Rolison, who earned a SchH1 on her German Shorthaired Pointer, Blitz. Sondra has been a USA member since 2001.

*What do you do
with a German
Shorthaired
Pointer that has
excellent nerves
and strong
prey drive?
Schutzhund!!!*

What first got you interested in the sport?

I was working for Andres Aportela as a groomer, and I was doing some AKC obedience at the time with Blitz. Andres was helping me with some obedience, and I was watching them work dogs in Schutzhund. One thing led to another, and we started working Blitz with a puppy tug. He has high prey drive and strong nerves, which made training a lot of fun. The more we worked Blitz, the more I became hooked. We got an SG score with pronounced protection work. He is a special dog, and I still hunt with him.

Any problems using him for both Schutzhund and hunting?

He sometimes can break his point early, but other than that not really. I'm not sure the Schutzhund training affected the pointing—that might just be his nature. Tracking was very instinctive. He is very trainable, and his rock solid nerves are a big help.

What have you achieved as a USA member?

I have gotten a few titles, but the most valuable asset from Schutzhund is an enhanced knowledge of dogs' drives and instincts and how they react. That knowledge



has helped me as a trainer and also as a groomer. I have an understanding of why a dog might react to different situations.

What is your favorite memory of Schutzhund?

I think that your first dog is always special. Everyone wants the best dog, but your first dog opens you for new experiences. You are learning. You are meeting and overcoming new challenges. I have had a really good time with Blitz

What are your short term and long term goals in the sport?

I would like to learn as much about Schutzhund, and achieve as much, as I can.

What do you like most about your dog?

The dog keeps giving athleticism and love without asking for anything in return. I like spending time with my dogs, either just working or hanging out.

Anyone you would like to acknowledge?

I would like to thank Andres Aportela for taking me under his wing, our helper Brian Hendricks, and all of the members of the North Jersey Schutzhund and Police Association. I would also like to thank those people who were supportive of me with an alternative breed in the sport, and the many friends I have made.

△ USA

