

AGAINST THE DISQUALIFICATION OF THE BLUE WEIMARANER

Dear Maurine:

What is this nonsense about the "Blue Weimaraner"? I hear people saying that we destroy them in Germany, and the American Weimaraner Club is against them, some people work against it without knowing what they are doing. Only one thing I don't understand, why people have such a great dog and don't understand anything about them.

I think, as a German coming from an old aristocrat family, and had all their life Weimaraners as hunting dogs, and own now top Weimaraners including a "BLUE", it is time that I say something, and I like to teach and explain to some people something about our Weimaraners.

Of course, our Club is much more strict than the American Weimaraner Club, especially in breeding. You can't breed without permission from our Club. So, as a result we have top quality. We have three kinds of Weimaraners:

1. Silber-Grau (silver gray in America) (preferred color in Germany)
2. Maus-Grau (correct translation mouse gray) in America registered "BLUE" or "BLUE GRAY." (very good as a field dog)
3. Reh-Braun (deer brown) (Not preferred in breed, but we don't destroy them.)

All other colors we don't accept. Since we control the breeding there are no other colors, except by accident, then we destroy them.

Sit down for a little while and think, is the Blue Weimaraner really blue? I don't think so. He has the mouse color. Certain people, of course, don't have any idea what mouse-gray is. They think a light color. We have a legend in Germany about a city and a field mouse. (I don't want to go into details), but the fact is that these two mice have completely different colors. Since our Weimaraner more or less is a field dog we gave him this color and the name of mouse-gray and we are very proud to have such a fine dog. If they would register him here in the States "GREEN" if somebody should be colorblind still it remains the same dog.

A copy of this letter will go to the German Weimaraner Club, of which I am a member. Hope this is the last time I have to explain something like this.

Sincerely yours,
Aliyah von Nussbaumer
Houston, Texas

Dear Mrs. Barnett:

I am not an expert on the Weimaraner breed, but I am a breeder of the Whippet, Greyhound, and Great Dane. My mother and I had a kennel in Germany for 30 years. We went to all the European shows and so I saw all breeds of dogs.

The Weimaraner as I saw it in Germany was the grey, or the same color as the blue Great Dane or blue Whippet. We called them gray.

I have seen your Ch. Wetobe's Blue Brutus, and he is the same color as these Weimaraners that I saw in Germany. Whether he is called blue or gray, it is the same dog. They were not destroyed only when too many in the litter.

I now import the Harlequin Great Dane because this color is so difficult to get here.

Baroness Marianne v. Watzdorf
Wylie, Texas

MARCH, 1970

From Warren Fulks,
Director, Weimaraner Club of America, Dallas, Texas

Having read published statements by fellow directors of the Weimaraner Club of America, I now feel compelled to state my reaction to an emotionally-charged issue of disqualification of the blue Weimaraner. My qualifications are not those of a breeder or historian. I write only as an observer who lives in an area of the country labeled by some as a "Blue Belt," suggesting that we have hundreds of blue Weimaraners in Texas. We don't. I am an owner of two silver-grays. It's a matter of color preference, not of quality.

The blue Weimaraner is a fact of life. It is a pure-bred Weimaraner; it is not something else and most certainly it is not a mongrel. Some contend that breeders of blues are out to make a buck on a dog they describe as "rare." Equally relevant, I have heard silver-gray sellers describe the breed to a prospective buyer as something so versatile and excellent that hardly any other can approach it. Aren't they, too, out to make a buck? And the preponderance of breeders buy and sell silver-grays.

As an observer at the show ring and at the trials, I see the same faults and the same qualities regardless of color. I see the same temperament, the same beauty, and in each one, those personality quirks which make each dog an individual within the breed.

Memory recalls a pheasant hunt two years ago outside Oberlin, Kansas. Walking the draws behind the finest hunting Weimaraner I had ever seen, admiration for both the dog and its owner forced me to recall mediocre performances under similar conditions by so many others of the breed—note-worthy individuals notwithstanding. This hunter was a rough-coated blue, a thorny burr perched indifferently on his hunter's nose. I remember another blue; his topline was perfect, his coat sleek as a circus horse, and he gaited like a spirited colt in the show ring. I never knew his won-loss record, but he looked magnificent, winning or losing.

Now the entire WCA membership is called upon to judge whether the blue Weimaraner (which I confess I regard as no different from my own pets) is to be disqualified from the show ring. The outcome will no doubt affect its participation in the field.

So don't tell me about striped dogs, or long-coated dogs. Don't tell me about the supposed hazards of someone's crossing a Weimaraner with an Irish Setter. And don't tell me about breeding for color alone—to make a buck. Tell me what is truly wrong with the blue Weimaraner.

And while we're at it, consider breeding generally. Why is it that the Weimaraner, with all its admitted versatility, need so much upgrading both for ring and field? This is the real breeding problem. What has this to do with color?

* * * * *

From Mrs. H. B. Barnett, Joshua, Texas

In summarizing all the statements in favor of disqualifying the blue Weimaraner the point stands out that the statements against the blues are personal opinions. Everyone has a right to his personal opinion, however, in a situation like this, one should not be swayed by personal opinion, but by facts. So, the facts all add to the blue being a pure-bred, and given the chance will prove to any one that he is every bit as lovable and qualified as his counterpart.

In closing, it is our sincere wish that this Club join together in harmony so that we might produce a better Weimaraner.

FOR THE DISQUALIFICATION OF THE BLUE WEIMARANER

The following questions and answers are presented by the WCA Board of Directors in an effort to present facts and clear misconceptions. They have been checked by the Board and verified by experts where necessary.

- Q. Does signing a petition require a person legally or morally to vote in favor of that petition?
- A. For example, one might want to see a question voted on even though he is against it.
- Q. Do we have any truly authoritative information on the German Club's color position?
- A. Yes. Mrs. Helen Schulze:
—has visited Germany and attended their Fall Trails 11 years of the past 16.
—is a voting member of the German Club's Board of Directors.
—has visited every major kennel in Germany.
—has, with her family, owned Weimaraners for 50 years.
- Mrs. Schulze states:
—Mouse Gray is not Blue. It is a darker shade of Gray.
—There is no blue dog recognized in Germany.
—Everything darker than gray is disqualified for breeding.
—Everything not gray is destroyed.
- Q. Does any incontestable German definition of "mousegray" exist?
- A. Yes. Ronamax Ringo v. d. Reiteralm was sent to Germany for other purposes and has just returned. While there he was examined by the German Breed Warden who stated—
". . . usefulness that Ringo brings is that he is a living document of a color that here in Germany is called Mouse Gray. Maybe by this we can achieve a clear definition of judgment between us and the United States."
Ringo is a gray dog—and is AKC registered as "Gray."
- Q. In the leaflet being circulated by blue fanciers, is anything deleted **without notice** from Mr. Carr's article?
- A. Yes, the following:
"Personally, I do not care for the blue color. It is brilliantly beautiful in the puppy stage but as the dog matures, the early color becomes darker (as it does in the grays) and, to me less attractive. For this reason alone, in my own breeding, all blue puppies are now destroyed. I do not breed any of my gray males to blue bitches without an agreement that all resulting blue puppies be destroyed."
- Q. Does AKC registration of a dog with a stated color (mouse-gray, blue, etc.) mean that the dog is that color, or that the AKC agrees that mouse gray is blue?
- A. No. AKC only records whatever statement the breeder or registrant makes. AKC passes no judgment, nor does it check the color statement against the dog.
- Q. Has the blue ever been accepted in Germany?
- A. No.
- Q. Aren't a handful of gray dog people trying to force their will on all?
- A. No. The situation is the reverse. A handful of people are trying to tell the majority that they must accept a color other than gray. Remember, standards calling for gray have existed longer than any blue proponent has owned a blue.

- Q. Some blue fanciers have stated that the blues should be allowed because the public prefers them to the grays and will pay higher prices for the blue. Is this a valid argument?
- A. No. A moment's thought will demonstrate that that is the reasoning of the puppy mill. "Give the public what it wants and will pay high prices for." This always harms the breed.
- Q. Was the ballot mailed early to favor the grays?
- A. No. The timing of the ballot was suggested by Mrs. Barnett.
- Q. Has a blue dog ever placed in any National or Sectional Trial?
- A. No.
- Q. Has a blue dog ever won or even placed in a local Field Trial?
- A. Probably a few.
- Q. Did the WCA Board initiate the present action?
- A. No. It responded to continued pressure from both blue and gray fanciers to do something to settle the question.
- Q. Aren't there a great number of blues?
- A. No. They are conservatively estimated at less than 1% of the total.
- Q. Is the claim true that the blue is superior in the field?
- A. No. A moment's thought will answer this. Rest assured that if it were true, blues would have been campaigned heavily in the field.
- Q. Will show disqualification hurt a dog's chances to place in Field competition?
- A. No. Dogs are judged on **performance** only. Field judges do not take off for show faults whether they be color, structure or whatever.
- Q. Will breeding a blue to a light gray produce a medium gray?
- A. No.
- Q. Is the claim true that blues come only in one shade?
- A. No. They vary in depth of color.
- Q. If the blue is disqualified, can it be registered?
- A. Yes. Registration **ONLY** certifies that both parents were registered.
- Q. If disqualified, can the blue compete in field trials, obedience, and retrieving?
- A. Yes. It is only disqualified from shows.
- Q. Can the offspring of registered blue parents be registered?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Barring mutations, will two blue parents always produce blue pups?
- A. No. The color does not necessarily breed true. Grays can and do appear.
- Q. Barring mutations, will two gray parents always produce gray pups?
- A. Yes.
- You will certainly find statements which are in direct opposition to some of the above. You will have to decide who to believe.
We suggest that you look to the source.
For example, blue fanciers say "mouse gray means blue in our Standard." To members of the Committee **who wrote the revision** of the latest Standard (Mrs. Schulze and Cdr. Collins) state that mouse gray does **not** mean blue and was **not** intended when the Standard was revised. Who can you believe?
In the same leaflet, a key conclusion (see above) was deleted from Mr. Carr's article which was quoted as if it were complete. Who can you believe?
The blue-gray controversy has raged over a decade and has been harmful to the Breed. It has diverted time, money, interest, and effort from breeding an improved dog. It has created division, animosity, and has driven excellent owners away.
Our predecessors tried several solutions toward solving the problem. It

didn't go away. Then they tried a Standard that didn't disqualify. That failed. It is time to stop this harmful dilution of our effort and concentrate on breeding better Weimaraners, and enjoying them together. This can only be done with the recommended disqualification.

Respectfully,
Board of Directors
Weimaraner Club of America

TO: All Weimaraner Owners

FROM: The WCA Board of Directors

The decision of the Board to propose a vote on only two alternatives—to disqualify the blue dog, or to leave the Standard unchanged was based on some very straightforward points.

1. It has been a relatively short time since the whole WCA membership voted to disqualify the blue dog. (Overwhelmingly 432 to 153)
2. Nothing substantial has changed since that vote.
3. While a lot of turmoil has been created, the number of actual promoters of the blue dog and actual number of blue dogs is felt to be very small in proportion to the gray. Small interests are trying, perhaps successfully, to swing the actions of the majority.
4. A Standard should be a very stable document, changed only infrequently for very important and excellent reasons.
5. We could find no advantage to the Weimaraner breed in adding a blue color or a new variety.
6. So many of the arguments or beliefs advanced in favor of the blue dog are so thoroughly refutable that it casts a question on the validity of the rest. Examples are:
 - a. The Germans allow blues.
 - b. Blues are better hunters.
 - c. Blues do not vary in color as do the grays.
 - d. Blues are registered by AKC which means they are of high quality.
 - e. The WCA Board is trying to impose its will on the membership.
 None of the above are true.
7. We did not initiate action on the blue question. A definite campaign with letters, telegrams, and phone calls requested that something be done. Members of the Board also received reports of blue dogs being sold and advertised as desirably "rare." New owners often did not realize they were faulty until first showing them or after becoming attached to them. We agreed that something had to be done. We did not agree with the blue fanciers as to what should be done.
8. All of the Board Members present at the meeting felt that the gray color is one of the very basic things that made the Weimaraner a Weimaraner.

9. We felt that the time had come to finally take a stand to protect our Breed Standard and our traditional gray Weimaraner from constant attack by a vocal minority of blue proponents.
10. We have learned that some of the support for the blue dog comes from supporters of the disqualified longhaired Weimaraner. Their theory is that if the blue is accepted, then the question of the longhair can be raised again with hope that it too will be accepted.
11. A vote to disqualify will not bar the blue dog from any activity except shows.

The vote at our meeting was unanimous that the blue should be disqualified. One Director disagreed as to procedure. A subsequent poll of the Directors who could not be present revealed a count of nine (9) for disqualification and one (1) against.

The Board feels that it was elected to lead, advise, recommend, and use judgment, and feels that it would be avoiding its responsibility if it only rubber stamped.

We respectfully recommend to the membership that they keep the Weimaraner one color, and recommend a vote to disqualify the blue dog.

The Board of Directors
Weimaraner Club of America
T. W. JARMIE

TOP TEN WEIMARANERS THRU NOV. 9, 1969 PHILLIPS RATING

(January Gazette)

by Dorothy Driggott

	T. pts.	BIS	G1	G2	G3	G4	SS	B pts.	BOB
1. Ch. Doug's Dauntless v. Dor	3918	0	9	14	6	5	4	1206	69
2. Ch. Gwinner's Sportwheel	3436	1	7	3	9	7	3	619	45
3. Ch. Rum Runner v.d. Reiteralm	461	0	3	1	1	1	1	203	12
4. Ch. WC's Thunderwheel of Marquez, CD	450	0	0	1	0	5	1	175	13
5. Ch. Baron Dan Silver of Seattle	444	0	1	2	0	0	0	73	4
6. Ch. Castor v. Eschenfeld	413	0	0	3	1	4	1	211	21
7. Ch. Halann's Gustav, CD, NFD	328	0	0	1	0	0	1	227	8
8. Ch. Sportabout's Boeser Bengel	310	0	0	0	3	0	0	132	11
9. Ch. Ronamax Rajah v.d. Reiteralm	303	0	0	1	0	0	1	207	4
10. Ch. Landbee's Upland Tiger	292	0	0	1	1	1	0	122	15

THE ABBREVIATED HEADINGS ON THE NUMBERED COLUMNS ARE:

T. pts.—Total Phillips Rating System Points

BIS—Best in Show

Gr. 1 2 3 4—Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, Group 4 number of wins

SS—Indicates Weimaraner Specialty Show wins

B pts.—Total Weimaraner Breed Points in current year

BOB—Number of Best of Breeds in current year