

Matt Arpano

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as a USCA Performance Judge. My journey in dog sports began in my teens when I joined my first Schutzhund Club in Luxembourg. From that early beginning, I have embraced my passion for sport dog training by sharing those experiences with other likeminded dog sport enthusiasts, trainers and handlers. Along the way I was able to achieve SchH/IPO/IGP title success with my dogs I am looking forward to seeing you all on the sport field, wishing everyone the best along the crazy journey of dog sport.

I am a retired Captain from the Massachusetts Department of Corrections. My exposure to Schutzhund began in my youth as I worked at a large working dog facility in Sterling, Massachusetts. The kennel imported Schutzhund, Ring Sport, Dutch Police, Polish/Czech border patrol and Brazilian guard dogs. My passion for training lead me to the USAF where I Served as a K9 Officer. Since being stationed in Germany, until today, I have had an opportunity to travel and train extensively with top IGP clubs in Belgium, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Luxembourg and the USA.

Through sport and the military, I've had the privilege of training/titling/certifying with a number of dogs including Malinois, German Shepherds, Dobermans, Rottweilers and Dutch Shepherds. I have trained/handled or provided the protection training for IGP World, International, National, Regional champions and club level. A few examples from puppy to adult, many others not listed.

A) Protection foundation and training helper:

- World Champion Iron von den Wolfen (GSD)
- New England Regional Champion Baron Le City Boston (MAL)
- Rottweiler National Champion Atomic Nitro Jet

B) Foundation Training/Titles: Belgium/Holland Inter-land and Belgian National Champion Yente Romanishal (GSD)

C) Trainer/Handler: Doberman 2x National champion Ha'ras Brenna
Northeast Champion Gato Barnero

D) Military: 17th Air Force "Iron Dog" champion with K9 Robby (Mal).

Additionally, I had the honor of deploying with numerous Military working dogs (various breeds), providing explosive detection services for the U.S. President and the Secretaries of State and Defense. With K9 Ringo (Dutch Shepherd) we earned an Air Force Achievement metal while deployed to Bosnia.

Despite placement at any level, I believe success is defined when the dog and handler, as a team, maximize their potential. I am looking forward to the new challenges of being a performance judge. I am grateful for all of the bittersweet experiences dog sport has provided. I wish to pay it forward, by assisting others in reaching their goals.