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BREEDERS

VOM OEKONOM

One of the oldest still active Shar pei kennels in the World.....



Isolde Kohle-Brusis, Shar-Pei Kennel "vom Oekonom"



Our first litter, born 19.2.1984

Our Shar-Pei Kennel "vom Oekonom" was first registered in 1983 with the VDH, then in 1992 with the FCI. The kennel was started by both my husband, Hans-Peter, and myself Isolde Kohle-Brusis. We are living, together with an adult daughter, who supports us with the dogs, near Munich in Germany.

It was during the summer of 1982 that we went to a dog show with our Great Dane, when we saw a Shar-Pei for the first time. We had read about the breed and knew that it had arrived in Continental Europe. But never before had we laid eyes upon one of them. Destiny had its hands in it as by chance, the owner of this dog arrived at the show on the wrong date. He had heard about us, and told us that he had to give one dame away, as she did not get along with her sister. Would we want her? My husband was immediately enthusiastic, me less so. We already had two dogs (one Great Dane

and a Neapolitan Mastiff), we had just finished building our house, and had, at least in my opinion, no money left for a third dog. My husband had bred Great Danes and presumably hoped that I - with such a small (!) dog - might also want to enter the breeding business. We had always owned dogs and had attended shows as well. But never had I wanted to rear dogs. As I said, it was destiny. Hence, we bought our first Shar Pei Wong Tsch Hi of Kuku Hoto, called "Baerle" (bear cub as we say, where I come from). She was just six months old, when we got her. It turned out that she was very successful in shows and, as there were so very few Shar Pei. I let myself be persuaded and raised our first litter with her. However, that was easier said than done, as there was a general lack of good sires. In the beginning we were lucky though - the dog was not far away and was a horse coat variety. From this first litter we kept a male - our first-born:

Guojian de Nongren vom Oekonom, "Guo".

After that, it became more difficult to find sires, as most of the available males were related to Baerle. It was customary then, that each breeder had his own dog which was used for every litter. This meant that, although there was a growing number of Shar Pei, they were all siblings to the previous litters. We intended though, from the beginning, to expand the gene pool, and hence we did the sire with each of our 35 litters and will continue to do so.

Later on, as planned, we bought another bitch, founded a Shar Pei Club within the VDH and assumed working at the board. We regularly reared more litters. Beginning with two Shar Pei, we then had three, then four and finally nine dogs, which was our maximum. Our dogs are living, together with us, in the house, and our litters are raised in the living room. That is the reason why

we usually rear but one litter per year.

At the start, the puppies did not sell well. Those who knew the breed at that time, thought Shar Pei were disease prone, due to their many wrinkles. It was therefore our primary goal to show healthy dogs and to get rid of people's prejudices. But that was a long way to go. Even today many believe incorrectly that the Shar Pei is an unhealthy breed. All I can say is, that if one selects the right breeding partners, they will have a healthy offspring. Of course there are sick dogs occasionally, but there are sick people as well, dogs are living creatures, and one cannot control every outcome while rearing them.

In order to achieve healthy offsprings, since 1992, we had an autopsy performed on all our dogs. It was then that I first read about amyloidosis - a disease that can occur in Shar Pei often - and I wanted to know for sure, whether this condition would occur at our own



Isolde Kohle-Brusis with her Husband

kennel as well, so that we could take measures in order to control it. Since 1984, all our dogs were X-rayed for HD and, since 2003, for ED and PL, as well.

Next to good health, we were also pursuing longevity among our dogs. Baerle set a good example, she lived for 14.5 years. Two dogs from our kennel reached an age of 16 years, a rare life span among dogs. The average life expectancy of our dogs is 12 years.

Finally, the first Shar Pei were anything but easy to handle. Some were aggressive to the degree that they had a bad reputation among vets. Yet the aggression against people was less evident, than that against other animals. Many a hedgehog lost his life in the fangs of our dogs, even young birds... The Shar Pei has a strong hunting instinct, hence we soon stopped to let them run free. Once they were following a trail, we saw nothing of our dogs for hours and often had to wait anxiously questioning ourselves whether our dogs would find their way back. They always did, but only after some time, when the trail turned uninteresting. This did not do good to our emotional well-being. Alas, the Shar Pei character has changed due to selective breeding. Today most Shar Pei are friendly family companions that do not need to be on the leash all the time.

From the very beginning we have reared horse coat dogs, alongside with the brush coat variety. That was no easy task. There were hardly any good brush coat sires to be found, it was even more difficult with horse coat dogs. This fur type was hardly ever bred, although they are closer to the original Shar Pei breed in appearance. In shows, one would hardly ever win with them. Most judges just knew



Our first Shar Pai, a female "Wong Tsch Hi of Kuku Hoto"



"Bruna vom Oekonom", 12 years old

brush coat dogs, and therefore they did not like the horse coat. But all this is about to change gradually nowadays. Many breeders now have horse coat dogs.



Our last litter, born 28.10.14. The pups with their grandmother Erin vom Oekonom.

While planning our litters, there is one thing though we refuse categorically, a selection purely for colour. Any colour occurring randomly is acceptable. But selecting the sire just because of its fur colour is not an option in our view. We are firmly convinced that there are more important selection criteria, that is why we have bred fawn coloured dogs, red or black ones too occasionally.

As already mentioned, we founded the 1st German Shar-Pei Club in 1985. My husband was first Chairman until 2012, I am the breeding manager since 1995. I did create a database, currently containing entries of about 42.000 Shar Pei in Germany. <http://www.shar-pei-pedigree.org/>

It serves breeders to plan litters and avoid inbreeding. It is freely accessible on the net. Our efforts in the club were rewarded with the golden badge of

honour by VDH for both of us. In 2007 I received the Baron von Gengis Medal, the highest award of the VDH, as did, my husband in 2010.

Many a champion has originated from our kennel, also less beautiful animals, like everywhere else. Currently we have 6 dogs, but only one breeding female, Lale. All others are veterans - Bruna from Oekonom will be 13 years old in September. Then there's our little girl - Olga, a daughter of Lale, she is 6 months old, and we hope that she will successfully continue this line. We hope that we can continue to run our kennel "vom Oekonom" for some more years, because, despite some problems, watching puppies grow and meeting many interesting people, our customers, are always an important source of great inspiration for us.

VOM SINCE 1984 OEKONOM SHAR-PEI KENNEL

ONE OF THE OLDEST ACTIVE KENNELS WORLDWIDE

CHAMPION
Lale vom Oekonom



CHAMPION
Xenia vom Oekonom
GRANDMOTHER



WWW.SHARPEI-VOM-OEKONOM.DE