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**Merit Awards System**  
adopted at the 2004 General Meeting

(1) These merit awards are available:

1. The Versatile Dog Statuette with the “Sperlingshund” logo or the Tin Plate engraved with the Versatile Dog Statuette will be awarded to clubs for conducting increments of 25 Association Utility Tests (*VGP*) or equivalent utility tests.

When a club conducts one *VGP* of varying levels of difficulty on the same test day, the club will be credited for only one *VGP*.

Several neighboring member clubs (not to exceed three) may arrange to jointly conduct utility tests (*VGP* or an equivalent utility test). Only the sponsoring club will be credited with the test for accruing points towards the Statuette or Tin Plate.

The Statuette and Tin Plate become property of the club; the club has the right to use these for future awards.

2. The Large Gold Service Award with Oak Wreath may only be conferred upon an individual who has performed exceptional services for the benefit of the versatile hunting movement. A motion by the Executive Committee is required for this award.

3. The Plaque is available to:

- a) Breeders that have produced a minimum of five (5) Prize I dogs in *VGP*s or equivalent utility tests;

- b) Handlers who have trained themselves and handled a minimum of five (5) Prize I dogs in *VGP*s or equivalent utility tests;

4. The Honorary Pin is available to:

- a) Breeders that have produced the following number of Prize I dogs in *VGP*s, or equivalent utility tests, specifically:

- the Bronze Pin for 10 such dogs;

- the Silver Pin for 15 such dogs;

- the Gold Pin for 20 such dogs.

- b) Handlers who have trained themselves and handled Prize I dogs at *VGP*s, or equivalent utility tests, specifically:

- the Bronze Pin for 10 such dogs;

- the Silver Pin for 15 such dogs;

- the Gold Pin for 20 such dogs.

Breeders are honored with merit awards only once and only for one hunting dog breed.

5. Handlers of *Hannover'sche Schweißhunde*, *Bayerische Gebirgsschweißhunde* and *Alpenländische Dachsbracken* are eligible for Honorary Pins, when they have achieved

- a) 500 points: Bronze Pin;

- b) 1000 points: Silver Pin;

- c) 2000 points: Gold Pin.

Breeders are eligible for Honorary Pins when they have produced a number of dogs with a minimum of 500 points:

- a) Bronze Pin for each 5 dogs;
- b) Silver Pin for each 10 dogs;
- c) Gold Pin for each 15 dogs.

Points are accrued as follows:

- a) 10 points for each successful blood track under difficult conditions;
- b) 50 points for passing an advanced tests.

Breeders are honored with merit awards only once and only for one hunting dog breed.

6. Bronze, Silver and Gold Service Plaques and Pins for individuals may be awarded to:

a) Handlers

**Bronze** Plaque or Pin are awarded to handlers who have trained themselves and successfully handled **at least 5** dogs through a *VGP* or an equivalent utility test, or a versatility test of special breed clubs, blood tracking test or *VPS* (Association Test After the Shot). Credit will be given for any combination of these tests; 20-hrs and 40-hrs blood track tests count as separate tests. Only the first test successfully completed shall be counted, regardless of the Prize achieved.

A **Silver** Plaque or Pin is awarded for successful handling of **at least 10** dogs, utilizing the above requirements.

**Gold** Plaque or Pin is awarded for successful handling of **at least 15** dogs, utilizing the above requirements.

b) Individuals with an outstanding service record whose efforts have benefited the versatile hunting dog movement. Such individuals might be:

- Hunting land owners/lessees who have effectively and steadfastly supported the activities of the versatile hunting dog movement.
- Trackers of wounded game who have been readily available and assisted hunters in locating wounded game.
- Other parties who in an outstanding manner served the activities of the versatile hunting dog movement; such as chairmen of associations and clubs, members of executive boards, staff members of Association Commissions, members of the Executive Committee, directors of testing, instructors of seminars for future hunters, or instructors of dog handler seminars etc.

A motion by the Executive Committee is required to award the Gold Pin. The Pin will be awarded by the President at the next General Meeting.

The next higher level pin will be awarded only when the preceding level has been awarded, with the exception of awards to successful dog handlers, see a) Handlers, above.

7. The Bronze, Silver and Gold Performance Plaque, mounted on a Tin Plate, may be awarded to groups, such as hunting land lease communities, horn blowers, District Hunters' Associations, other small organizations of land owners/lessees within a State Hunting Association (*LJV*), miscellaneous small hunting organizations (*Hege-ringe*), and others.

Awards shall only be given in the following order: Bronze – Silver – Gold.

(2) Member clubs shall submit motions for merit awards to the Association Office. The motion shall include information pertaining to the persons to be awarded and the respective dogs (Studbook number, date and location of test).

(3) The General Meeting or the Executive Committee may grant merit awards to individuals for special services to the benefit of JGHV.

