

Origin of the Dobermann

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This is a mere extract of the information found, in hope to give an overview of the origin of the breed Dobermann and its development up to the time of 1st WW.

Foundation of the Dobermann is the female “**Wattenrock**” – a crossbred dog and a combination between “Butcherdog” & German Pinscher – The “Butcherdog” consisted of various breeds, like the Stoppelhopser and Beauceron, just to mention 2 breeds of dogs known to be represented in the “Butcherdog” – The Stoppelhopser, also known under the name Thüringian Shepherd, is now extinct, but was a founder of several dog breeds with origin in Eurasia.

“Wattenrock” - was a Pinscher-like female with greyish under wool.

“Wattenrock” was bred to a German Pinscher and produced the female “**Bisart**” - also known under the name Bismarck – “Bisart” was known to be a large female for her time, and with yellow markings, plus sharp temperament.

“Bisart’s” first litter, contained blue puppies, and the Sire to this litter was most likely a sibling or a crossbreeding containing Beauceron and Pinscher ... as for “blue” to have occur, is not a surprise, as both the Stoppelhopser and Beauceron carried & carry respectively this trait – just as the Stoppelhopser was known to have carried the genetic disposition for natural bob-tail.

It is also known from historical records, that the heritage back to the Stoppelhopser was strong, and not overruled before the introduction of the Manchester Terrier – from this it is possible to deduct, that the breeding’s up to around the addition of new blood through the Manchester Terrier, primary was concentrated on German Pinscher and back breeding’s to Wattenrock. However, there are no preserved records which will be able to confirm this.

There has also been various speculation into the introduction of the Rottweiler – but again, this

cannot be confirmed – and if the Rottweiler should have plaid a part in the development of the Dobermann, it is more likely, that this breed of dog has come in through the Butcherdog, but not as introduction as a purebred Rottweiler. Similar can be said about the postulation with reference to the Dogge / Great Dane –

Many breeds of dogs have been mentioned, but none with certain confirmation, aside from the Gordon Setter; which was used in hope to improve the richness of the tan colour – this failed, and the attempt was abandon.

On the other hand, it is fairly certain, that the Beuaceron has been involved, and even before 1890, which is seen not only in the phenotype of the dogs, but also explain why wolf claws on the hind feet can occur. Researching the Beauceron of the very same time – the genetic heritage shared between these 2 breeds of dogs is highly evident – especially after year 1900 these shared traits cannot be ignored.



*dog sitting in front in the photo is known as “Schnupp”

The breeding which took place from around 1884 and up to around 1890, is more or less, a limboland – but it is highly likely, that the dogs noted in history as the founders, are directly linked to the female “Wattenrock”

Background of the Beauceron

The origin of the Beauceron, contain of crosses between different breeds of dogs, and the “primitive” type consisted of several qualities

- overall size smaller than the present, and with an expressive head
- herding skills, especially larger livestock
- hardness
- intelligence

there were given less attention to selection of general type of the dogs, hence less so-called consistency in the type of the breed.

The standard type which was agreed on in 1896, when the breed was recognized:

- size, height – males from 60 to 70 cm / females from 60 to 65 cm
- weight – males from 28 to 35 kilos / females from 22 to 28 kilos
- preferred size – middle sized dogs due to the better agility within these dogs
- chest deep
- straight back
- strong and wide hip section
- croup, slightly descending
- neck, gently arching
- shoulders, oblique
- head, long and flat, with not too much stop

- muzzle, strong
- jaws, strong and powerful
- nose, always black coloured
- eyes, medium sized, not round, and of dark brown colour – lighter colour accepted in non black dogs
- ears, partly erect, not directly hanging, but still placed closed to the head or directly erect
- coat, hard but not too short (partly long)
- colour of the coat/fur, black with clean tan colour, other colours also accepted, like dark grey, brownish and pattered
- tail, length – different length, but also often docked, and natural bob-tail was common
- double dewclaws on the hind feet (wolf claws)
- natural defence and guard dog
- supple and obedient, trainable

To increase the richness of the tan colour the Gordon Setter was introduced, and the results were seen at shows as early as 1887/1898, where the presented dogs were with a short coat and a richer tan colour – sized had at the same time increased . Crossing between Beauceron and Dobermann was common at this time, not with reference to type or structure, but to uphold diversity in the breeds.



LADY, berger de Beauce, appartenant à M. Léger.

As breeding recommendations, and with reference to the standard of that time:

- long and flat heads, not too much stop – arch above the eyes, not too pronounced
- skull not too large/wide/high
- tight skin
- not much lip
- nose, not too large
- parallel shape of the head (noted in Beauceron with foreign blood)
- dark eyes, avoid getting lighter colour of eyes
- so-called normal length of tail
- coat, hard and as black as possible and dry
- medium size

As litters can be large, it is recommended to reduce the numbers of offspring in a litter – like 6 offspring per litter – give preference towards double dewclaws on the hindfeet.

The Beauceron is a working breed, and should be preserved as such.

Source: M. Boudonneau & M.A: Straudin -

According Phillip Grünig – Dobermann-like type of dogs were known in the area of Apolda before Karl Dobermann started to breed around 1880. When these dogs appeared at the yearly dog market of Apolda, more people were attracted to them. They gained a certain popularity and were mentioned in newspapers and magazines, being described as typical "Thüringer breed" - created by a workman out of crossbreeding between German Pinscher and Shepherd dogs (likely crosses between Beauceron & Stoppelhopser) – The breed known as Dobermann was entered at shows in 1897 (Erfurth) – 1899 (Berlin) – 1900 (Apolda) – this "new" breed of dogs were readily accepted by dog fanciers, which were surprised

by the uniformity of type seen in this "new" breed of dogs.



Beauceron

Paternal ancestor of the Dobermann is said to be that of the Butcherdog – but also several places referred to as the Thüringer Shepherd, and as some of the traits the Dobermann was known for at this early upstart was equal to that of the Beauceron – herding and protection – it seems highly likely, that this Butcherdog was either a Beauceron or a mixture between the Beauceron and the Stoppelhopser (Thüringer Shepherd)

Traits which can be traced back to the Stoppelhopser (Thüringer Shepherd)

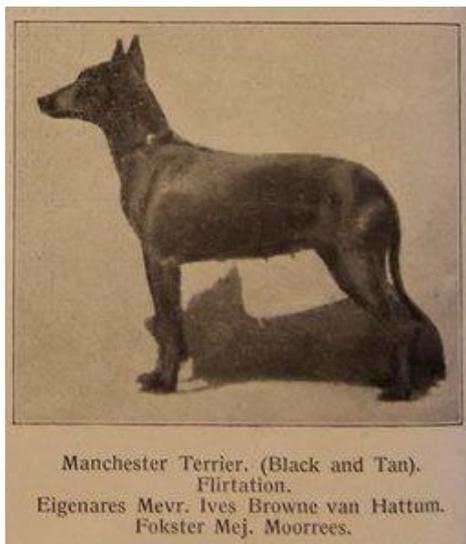
- dilute colour is possible
- natural bob-tail occurred

traits not only seen in the Beauceron and the Dobermann, but also in the present German Shepherd.



Junno v Frankfurt - 1900

Available photo material of the time, gives evidens of extreme similarities between the phenotypes of the breeds – whether this being Beauceron or Dobermann – and as there, according to written statements, are evidens of these 2 breeds of dogs being crossed even after year 1900, there now also is an additional ancestor to take into account – the Manchester Terrier. First officially known dog with heritage back to the Manchester is Ada v Apolda, and through her daughter Lady v Ilm-Athen, which was born in 1899, and had huge success among breeders of that time. According to Phillip Grünig, Ada v Apolda had doubtful parenthood, but with known influence from the Manchester Terrier. The influence from the Manchester Terrier is seen in the coat and the tan colour of the dogs, but also in head type. Traits which are seen in both the breeds Beauceron and Dobermann, especially after 1900. Additional infusion of Manchester blood is seen through the use of the purebred Manchester Terrier – Lady v Calenberg, born 1901, and again through the use of the female Lady Bittner, as her mother was partly Manchester too and after the introduction of the GreyHound in the Dobermann.



Manchester Terrier

published in the Christmas Magazine year 1900

First known introduction to the Manchester Terrier took place through 2 females – Lady v Ilm-Athen & Lady v Calenberg, born in 1899 and 1901 respectively – with reference to:

Lady v Ilm-Athen:

Here the historical records tells us, that the Manchester Terrier influence came in through her maternal line “Ada v Apolda” – quotation from Phillip Grünig: her daughter Lady Ilm-Athen carried the blood of Manchester Terrier – so Lady v Ilm-Athen was at least 25% Manchester Terrier.

Lady v Calenberg:

this female was a 100% Manchester Terrier offspring, as both parents were Manchester Terrier’s Both females had large influence on the development of the breed, not only through their own direct activity, but also that of their offspring – and it is at this historical time, the heritage back to the Stoppelhopser is highly reduced.

We are still in the early years of the development of the breed, and in 1904 a black GreyHound is born – his name is Max. Max becomes the next new blood infusion to the new breed. Through German stud records it has been possible to find some of his descentants – especially those which were used in future breeding; like:

Stella v Hessen (Max & Flora v Ried)
 Draga v d SedansRuh (Max & Flora v Ried)
 Caro v Nijmegen (Max & Norma v Friesland)

these 3 females were used in breeding, but in different countries within Europe

– Germany, Chez Republic and Holland –

some with more success some with less. Offspring from these females, were exported to various countries in Europe but also to USA.

So aside from the direct influence by Max, his direct offspring also had a large impact on the breed. Some of the traits which are normally seen in GreyHound was thrown in the first generations – like offspring without tan makings, sable / merle coat – traits which according to the records were easily corrected

– too pointed heads, nose part too long and ended up with incorrect dentition, were more difficult to get rid of. To this, the mentality, which especially has been described by Gerhard Schüler and Phillip Grünig, and as a huge set back.

Due to the described problems, the breeders of the past, started to back breed to the Manchester Terrier. As late as in 1914, there seem to have been a direct infusion of Manchester Terrier – which has been documented through the book by Phillip Grünig.

In 1933 the Germann Dobermann club investigated the origin of the Dobermann, and after careful deduction the outcome of this investigation was, that the German Pinscher was one of the primary founders of the breed. This is in accordance with the documentation stated by Karl Dobermann's sons, as the female known as Wattenrock was a product of a German Pinscher female.

Pedigree:



From the found documentation, it seem highly likely to state, that the origin of the Dobermann clearly is that of:

- German Pinscher
- Beauceron/Stoppelhopser
- Manchester Terrier

The information's and details are based on historic data and pedigree information from various studbook entries which gives verification on one another.



Dobermann 1919

References:

- Phillip Grünig
- Simon Rietveld
- Gerhard Schüler
- official German studbooks
- Historic documentations of the Beauceron
- Published photos of the various breeds