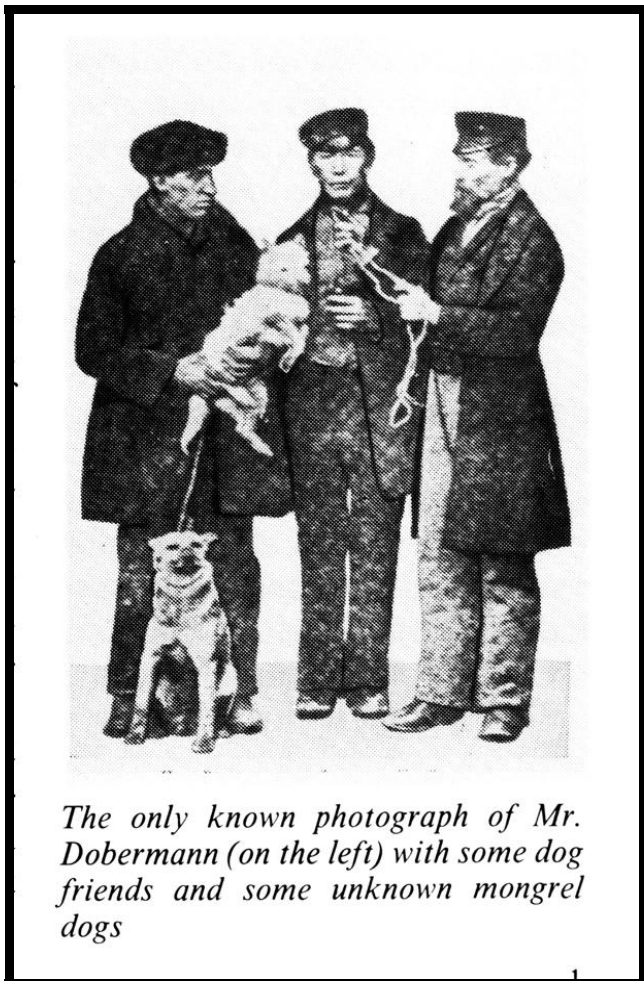


The History Of The Doberman Pinscher 1897—2005



The only known photograph of Mr. Dobermann (on the left) with some dog friends and some unknown mongrel dogs

In the town of Apolda, Germany there lived a man named Karl Freidrich Louis Dobermann. Born in 1834, Karl was the night watchman and dog catcher for Apolda. He was also the tax collector. Karl had an interest in dogs as a breeder, and wanted to breed a dog for his own use and protection while he did his rounds. He kept those dogs that had a sharp and strong temperament that he found in his job as dog catcher. These dogs would be service dogs for protection. Around 1880 he owned a sharp bitch named Bissart. This bitch was bred to males with the same sharp temperament, and whelped dogs that had black and tan markings, with a grey undercoat. These are the first breedings for which we have any record from Karl. Other people in and around Apolda feared and admired Herr Dobermann's dogs. They began to call these dogs, Dobermann's Pinschers.

The vision Karl had for these dogs was taken up by others, as the interest grew in this new breed. An important advocate was Otto Goeller, Von Thuringen kennels, an influential man with the means to take the breed to a new level. With another man, Goswin Tischler, of Von Gronland kennels, these men took the Doberman into history.

The Doberman Pinscher is a compilation of many breeds. The following is list of breeds thought to be the predecessors of the modern Doberman. These

animals contributed to the Doberman over a period of 35 years.

The old German Shepherd dog:

These shepherd dogs were crossed with Pinschers to produce a Thuringer type butcher dog that was common in the area. In the early part of the 1870's, it was told, Herr Dobermann crossed the progeny of a blue-grey Pinscher type bitch and a black and tan butchers dog, with a German Pinscher. This may be the first indication of the breeds used in the development of our breed.



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The Butcher Dog, who was the ancestor of the Rottweiler as well as the Doberman, shows very strongly in this dog, Graf Belling von Gronland, shown below.



At one of the first shows, in 1899, there were 12 Dobermans including the winner, Graf Belling, in a ring. It was said that those 12 dogs were so similar to Rottweilers that you could not tell the difference between a bad Rottweiler or a good Doberman, apart from the cropped ears!

The Beauceron : Their link to Dobermans can be made in that the Beauceron was brought to Prussia in 1806 with Napoleon's army. The Beauceron, shown below at the turn of the century, were known to have interbred with the local dogs.

The German Pinscher:

The legacy of the German Pinscher addition is very little. It may be deemed that this addition was not a goal, but a stepping stone, and not as harmful as a breed with a more distinct type than the Doberman, would have been. The dilution of German Pinscher blood has been complete many years ago as this was not the direction the originators of the breed were wanting to go. The head, size, and body shape were not in our blueprint, and so were eliminated over time with selection.



In 1939, Herr Gruenig, (in his book, *The Doberman Pinscher*, 1939), said, "The German Pinscher contributed little to the head type. The Rottweiler, or old Butcher's dog, sporting dogs, all added traits like heavy jowls, and thick skulls in which earlier specimens bear testimony.

In 1902, a Gordon Setter was crossed in, with the purpose of improving the coat color. As the short coat proved dominate, no harm was immediately seen. The color of the coat was not improved, but generations later, the long coat would show up, when the genes inadvertently were doubled.

This is a picture of 2 early dogs, circa 1899. The size of these early dogs was around 25 inches for males. The first standard was written in 1899, upon the formation of the first Doberman Club. As soon as this blueprint was set down, the breed changed rapidly into the dog we know today.



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At the turn of the century , the Manchester Terrier was added. As the German Pinscher, Manchester Terrier, Rottweiler, and Beauceron have certain similarities, these crosses did not *change* the appearance of the turn of the century Doberman, as much as it enhanced it. Phillip Grunig stated in 1939, of the dogs of that period, “Under these circumstances it would be difficult to distinguish a coarse Doberman from a refined Rottweiler. It would be equally difficult to distinguish a small and delicate Doberman from a coarse German Pinscher, etc.” The Doberman of today owes his present form to the many crosses done in the early years. Below is a picture of Fedor V. Arpath, born in 1906. This dog is 1/4 Manchester Terrier.



FEDOR v. APRATH-1906†-DZ244

The Manchester was added to get the smooth, short coat that we desired. The hair is also very thick, with many hairs per square inch.

Alarich v. Thuringen , born 1897, is an excellent example of what the breed was like at the turn of the century.



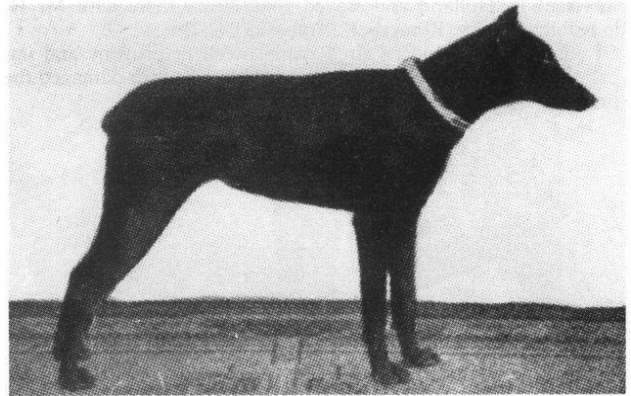
ALARICH v. THURINGEN-1897†-DZ

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Greyhound:

A black Greyhound male from England was the sire of a bitch named Stella, a stud book entry in 1908. The picture to the right is Stella's daughter, Sybille, born in 1908. Sybille is 1/4 Greyhound.

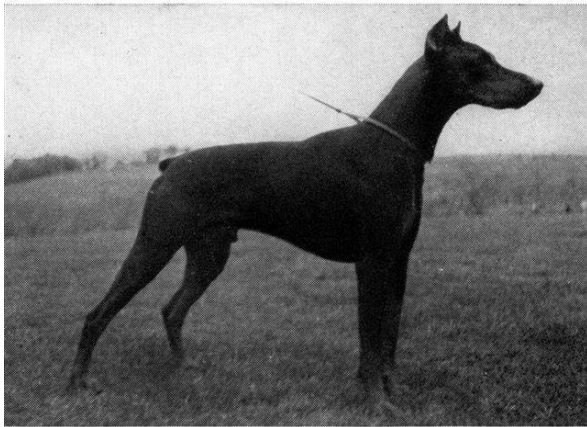
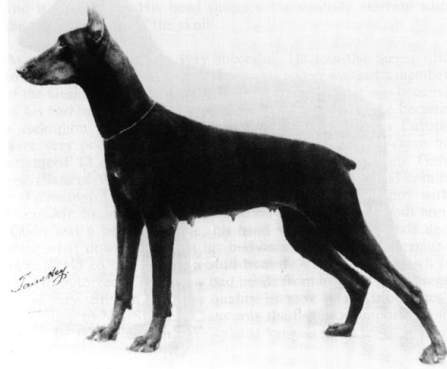


Rival's Adonis, best of his day, 1914, and a great stride forward. You can see that with the concentration of both breeders and bloodlines, the shape is already in sight.



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Ilisa v.d, Koningstad imported to
Westphalia kennels in U.S. in 1925



CH. BLANK V. D. DOMSTADT
(Muck v. Brunia — Cora v.d. Ruppertsburg)
Owner: John F. Cholley

The Doberman Pinscher Club Of America was formed in 1921, when the fanciers attending the Westminster show decided to band together to promote their then relatively unknown breed. The official German standard was adopted by the DPCA on Feb. 13, 1922.



1940's Dictator von Glenhugel owned by Peggy Adamson

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1950's
Rancho Dobes Storm twice BIS at
Westminster, 1952 ,1953



1960's
Am. Can. Mex. Ch. Sultana v. Marienburg Top
Doberman 1966, 1967. Owner, Mary Rodgers.



1970's
Am. Ch. Marienburg's Sunhawk Cd,
owner, Mary Rodgers.



1980's:
Ch. Electra's The Windwalker
owner, Judith Bingham

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1990's:

Am. Ch. Brunswig's Cryptonite, owners,
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. & Mrs. Murray



2000's

Am. Ch. Darwin's Dance Of The Hour,
Owners: Marilyn Altheide, Darlene Young

Breeders, remember, you have been given, by your predecessors, the torch and a blueprint to follow. As the breed is only a little over 100 years old, it could be set back seriously in only a few generations of short-sightedness.

Judges must recognize that although our breed has many breeds in its make-up, it must not look like anyone of them. You must see those breeds only as threads in the fabric. The making of the Doberman Pinscher is not over, but we hope you have enjoyed the story of the first one hundred years.