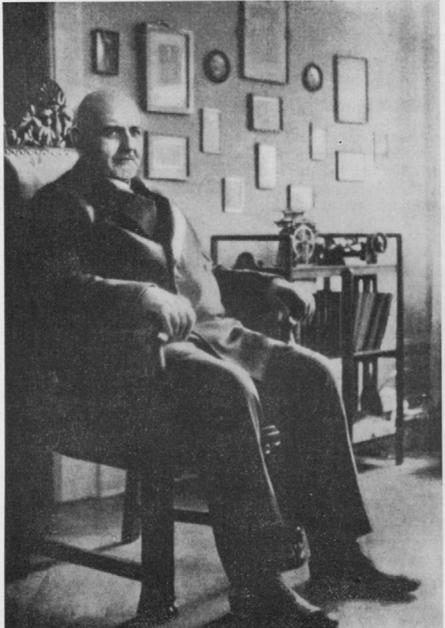


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HISTORY COMMITTEE – TOM MORGAN

“THE WAY IT WAS”



Capt. Max V. Stephanitz

1864 – 1936

The following is a quote from Capt. Max V. Stephanitz, taken from the August 1926, “Shepherd Dog.”

Line Breeding

In the so-called ‘breeding of lines’ the breeding couple are chosen from the same line of origin, and dogs not belonging to that line excluded. This strengthens the power of the strain considerably, and, if intelligently carried out, leads to certain success by fixing the required qualities and by perfecting and ennobling the stock. If, however, care is not observed and the choice of breeding animals is made only in a general way with regard to the strain and pedigree table, without regard to the individual qualities of the chosen pair, such pure line breeding can spoil the whole stock rapidly and entirely.

Novice breeders and the uninformed usually talk very strongly against close-relation breeding and this proves their lack of knowledge and judgment and comes mainly from their considering the merely human point of view.

Line breeding, or “close up” breeding, to the blood of a few dogs limits the possible characteristics of the resulting progeny to those possessed by the root stock, while hit- and- miss or outcross breeding brings in such opportunities for unknown quantities and great variableness in the offspring as to make impossible the building up of a racial type by the latter method.

All great sires and those who have been of greatest influence in the making of a breed, whether of horse, cow, hog, dog, or other animal, have sprung from carefully confined and limited breeding, and never from matings without a plan.

Close breeding strengthens the development of characteristics and makes the introduction of new characteristics possible, thus building up a strain or breed which will breed true to type.

It should be remembered, however, that close breeding not only strengthens and holds desired characteristics, but also those which are undesirable, and herein lies the danger to the uninformed and to those breeders who do not have a knowledge of the breed and the past generations appearing in the pedigree.

To submit any more information or if you have any questions - Please contact:

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