

## Uno the Hero

### Crisis Response Dog

The December 2001 edition of our National magazine "The Quarterly National Review" carried the brilliant story of Uno the German Shepherd Dog. Uno was involved with helping out after the tragedy of New York September 11 2001. He was nominated for a 'Dog of the Year' award.

The article is reprinted on the following pages kind permission from the Editor of the GSDCA Quarterly National Review.

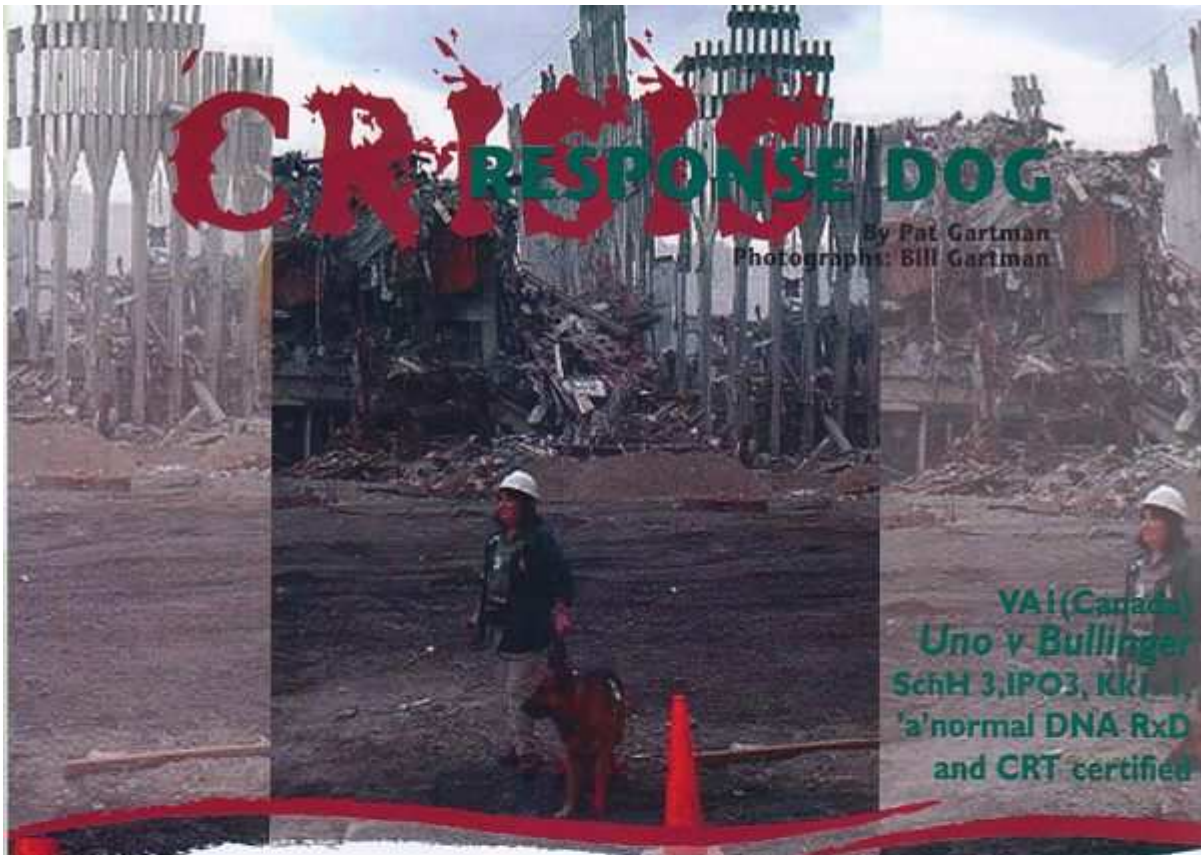
We have recently made contact with Uno's owner Pat and she gives us this update: "Uno was the grand Marshall in a parade which we discovered that he is quite the 'ham'; he loved the float, the crowds of people. He waved at the crowds and smiled the whole time! He has been nominated as 'Dog of the Year' for the American Kennel Club ACE Awards. We feel very honoured by this award nomination".



Source: December 2001, The Quarterly National Review

# CRISIS RESPONSE DOG

By Pat Gartman  
Photographs: Bill Gartman



VAI (Canada)  
Uno v Bullinger  
SchH 3, IPO3, KKI 1,  
'a'normal DNA RxD  
and CRT certified

Uno was sired by World Sieger, VAI Ulk v. Arlett SchH3, and his dam, V Tampa von Bierstadter Hof SchH1, daughter of World Sieger VAI Zamb von der Wienerau SchH3.

We had purchased Uno, as first male pick, before he was born and was with him when he took his first breath. Even at seven weeks old, we knew that he was special and we were determined to do the best we could for him. Uno has fulfilled every expectation we had of him and we have loved him and supported his career.

We believe that German shepherd puppies are little 'sponges', so we started puppy obedience i.e. sit, come, down and the ball retrieve with a lot of praise and food at seven weeks old.

Uno was socialized from that early age; we took him everywhere from the front of the grocery stores to feed stores, anywhere that we could give him new positive experiences with different surroundings and people. Uno was shown exclusively in the German show ring, where he completed his show career as the 2000 Canadian Sieger and one of the top in the United States. After we retired him from the show ring, Uno still wanted to work, so we discovered Pet Therapy and became certified. Uno and I are partners and go to orphanages, hospitals, nursing homes, and hospital mental wards where he has always shown the ability to go to the person who needs him, nothing seems to bother him, he always is there when you need him. At the orphanage, the children love him and he loves the children; in fact, before we left for New York ground zero, we had Uno's fifth birthday party there. He is equally patient and loving to the elderly and the mental patients. Uno has gone on to become a certified Crisis Response dog, one of four in the world. To become a Crisis Response Dog, Uno and I



as a team had to pass 21 tests under high stress environments. (This took four twelve hours days).

Crisis Response Therapy is animal assisted Crisis intervention and counseling I hold my degrees in counseling from University of Texas, Southwest Medical School. In response to a request from the American Red Cross, our team which consists of Uno, Katie (a Labrador), and Tekva (a Keeshound) proceeded to New York to assist with the disaster relief. From the beginning, it was evident that Uno was ready. Crammed into the space between the passenger seats in the airplane, Uno performed a four and half hour down stay without complaint. Upon arrival, we proceeded to the American Red Cross headquarters for processing and received our security badges for full access and ground zero. Yes even Uno had his own picture badge.

Each day began at the Vet M\*A\*S\*H unit where Uno received an extensive medical work up and was fitted with boots to protect him against the many tons of debris and broken glass at ground zero. The first fifty feet from the M\*A\*S\*H unit, Uno would go into his "Tennessee Walker Horse" imitation, but soon accepted them.

At the end of a long, exhausting day, we returned



to the M<sup>A</sup>S<sup>H</sup> unit where the procedure was reversed, boots removed, decontaminating solution followed with a bath. This sequence was repeated each day. All of the Vets were volunteers from all across the United States and were wonderful to us.

When we first walked into Ground Zero, no pictures could have prepared us for the enormity of the devastation. We heard that just the World Trade Center area was approximately 19 acres. The area is huge, the smells, the debris is enormous. The skeletons of the surrounding buildings draped with occasional American Flags stood over the continuously smoking mountains of debris, a mixture of concrete, glass, steel, furniture and the 5,000 plus humans. The rising smoke cast images of souls rising to heaven. At one area a small monument of badly damaged Scott air packs had been assembled by the firemen to serve as a constant

reminder of the bravery of those men who raced up the stairs into the smoke, so that others might live. The firemen were of the greatest need at Ground Zero; they had shared their lives with the men who had perished at the World Trade Center. I met a fireman who had been at Ground Zero since the disaster happened and was told that they would not leave until everyone was accounted for. One told me that he would only leave when his son was removed from the rubble. Tired and in a state of numb shock, he seemed to take great comfort in the hugs that he gave Uno and Uno responded by burying his head in the man's chest. If only for a few minutes. Uno made a difference to this man, transporting him to a better time and place while he told me of the German Shepherd puppy he had brought home one day for his son. For a



few minutes, a smile replaced his blank stare at the rubble. This scenario happened over and over again with firemen, police, construction workers and the National Guard and countless volunteers, as they were still very much in shock, tired and really numbed by what had happened. Many times people would hug Uno and bury their head into Uno's

back and when they were finished Uno's back was wet from tears. When Uno and I were not at Ground Zero, we were at Pier 94 where all the agencies were housed together to help the victim's families. Uno's and my assignment was to escort the families to Ground Zero. Under heavy guard we went via Boat to Ground Zero. The families were solemn, talked to me about their lost loved ones, but when we arrived at Ground Zero the shock of seeing it made them realize that their loved ones could not have survived. Uno and I would go from group to group to give emotional support. The people would respond to Uno nudging their hands and he would comfort them. I remember one mother of a young man missing from the World Trade Center in particular. When we were saying

goodbye back at Pier 94, she got on her knees and hugged Uno as he was nuzzling her back and said that she felt her son had sent Uno to comfort her. One day, Uno found a stick at Ground Zero.



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It was covered with a layer of what appeared to be powdered concrete. I picked up the stick, but could not throw it because I knew that on the stick were the remains of some of the 5000 victims who died at the World Trade Center. Each day, Uno rose to the occasion, but he and I became depressed. In New York, I could not find a place to let him off lead to play his favorite game retrieving a ball, or a stick. Later we were able to play but the location was quite bizarre. A kindly priest had offered the fenced cemetery behind St. Paul's Church located one block from Ground Zero. This was one of the few times in our days at Ground Zero that I saw Uno smile. The location although safe for Uno did little to relax me since it was a

continued reminder of the despair and death which hung over us all. On our last day out at Ground Zero, I was consumed by guilt for not being able to continue helping those we had to leave behind. For weeks to come I was plagued by all the images, acrid smell, and sounds that comprised Ground Zero. Our last walk out took us past the last security checkpoint. At this check point there was always a group of people which waved and cheered all who passed. I noticed one sign which read, 'You are our heroes'. It's strange, but I do not feel like a hero. I had left behind thousands of heroes, the living and dead at Ground Zero.

Pat Gartman

#### Editors note:

Uno, Bill and Pat returned home and took a well-deserved rest, as they were emotionally and physically tired, as all the workers were. Then it was off to Idaho for his lifetime Koering under the SV judge and Koermeister Daniel Thibaut.

And the latest from Pat and Bill is that Uno gained his Koerklasse I title for life at Idaho. The Judge praised and described his protection and fighting drive as "pronounced."

Pat & Bill believe that Ulk v Arlett gives his progeny the ideal temperament for working both in protection work and as a therapy dog "Beauty and Brains". Naturally Pat and Bill are very proud of their wonderful G.S.D, as every G.S.D enthusiasts in the world should be. His next venture is Sheep Herding!

We wish him well.

Pat & Bill will be happy to answer any questions that readers may wish to ask them, and they can be contacted by Email at: UNOULTI@cs.com

Ed.

**If we ever needed proof of the versatility of our breed, this is it!**

