

Our sport #1 is a rescue training!

Do you think that Border Terrier was born to work by a side of a hunter without exception? It is not so! This little active dog can be a great rescue dog or tender canis therapy dog. You don't believe? Then please read the following article.



Marika Michajlová does not spend time with her Border Terrier Zarri and together they have tried more than one cynological discipline. But above all is the mentioned rescue cynology. However her empathetic Border Terrier Zarri does also well in canis therapy, hunting and show ring. That's simply where beauty and diligence meet in one amazing being.



Marika, tell us please, how did a Border Terrier got into your heart?

Border Terrier was never my intention. Getting Zarri was just a coincidence or faith or how to call it. In autumn 2016 my beloved American Pitbull Terrier girl Ája went over the rainbow bridge. And I was thinking about what next. At home they were not for having another Pit Bull, so I decided for a German Smoothhaired Pointing Dog for a rescue training. But I was working abroad at that time and it wouldn't be very responsible to buy such a big dog. Due to my older Cavalier girl Aimee, who was sad for loosing Ája, I started to think about having a smaller breed, who would be more suitable for Aimee and my life. It was a coincidence that during my visit of family in Czech Republic I met a Border Terrier at a dog show. The thought of having one did not leave me. And I eventually decided why not? It is a small breed, friendly...and as my time abroad was coming to an end, I began to collect information. Its breed standard

also says they are supposed to catch up with a horse and from my friends, who are hunters, I was told that 20km is no distance for them. And that's how the decision was made, may too headlong! I went though ads but all pups were booked. Nevertheless my friend sent me a photo of a puppy in Slovakia whose reservation was cancelled. That was my Zarri.



Could you therefore introduce us your charmer boy?

Zarri - Avico De Marco's Hunter – celebrated his 4th birthday in December 2020. He has ballanced character, strong nerves and he is very friendly towards people, a great companion dog and a true cuddler, who constandly looks for a human company. He is social also towards dogs. Since the last year he is also used as a lector at social classes for dogs when necessary. In ninety percent of cases he walks free without a leash and he is easy to handle. He has no problem to accompany me to restaurants, city or visits. He is fine with any way of transport, including airplane. He is socialised with other animals but with some species we have to be very cautious because he is a hunting dog.

Which activities are you both into? And which do you like the best?

We are into showing, where he also successfully took a part in junior handling with my friend. Hunting traing is a matter of fact. Zarri passed several hunting tests and he

also has a hunting certificate. So from time to time he is also used in hunting practice. We are also into canis teraphy, obedience and sport cynology, where we mostly practice a tracking. Very mildly we also train defence, coursing and tricks. But the sport #1 is a rescue cynology.

Sure a rescue, that's great. There are many specialisations. Which one is your favourite?

My initial thought was to train rubble rearch with Zarri. As I though it would be easier for him to avoid smells of wild animals. I wasn't sure his highest motivation would be looking for people compred to wild animals. But because Rubble Search training areas are difficult for me to get to and traing in area was more frequent for us, it appeared that my misgiving of motivation and handling in area was not correct. So AREAS, which is more natural for Zarris style, won.



We do the rescue traning „only“ as a sport!

Do you do rescue training „only“ as a sport or are you a team who is also used in practice?

The first option is the right one. We do the rescue „only“ as a sport! Since childhood I love to train dogs for competitions and tests. I like to train obedience so that the dog looks good. In order to become rescue team for real life we would have to pass a test, set by Ministry of Interior of the

Czech Republic, which would allow us to search people within Integrated Rescue System CZ. An owner of such dog needs to have perfect orientation in terrain, know how to use GPS and maps and be ready to work during any weather, day and night. Zarri is definitely ready, but I as his handler and owner need to have some self-reflection. I need to have suitable job, that would allow me to leave if we are needed and all above mentioned abilities. So I do not think I am a suitable adept to be a member of a real rescue team. But never say never.



Is it possible to highlight some specific breed advantages and disadvantages within the rescue discipline?

In case of area search I see as a big advantage of a Border Terrier as a hunting dog in its great nose and finding the source of a smell. It is so natural to them and they do not have to learn to use their nose like for example shepherds. Border Terriers and terriers in general do give voice very easily.

So learning to bark when marking the searched person is only a matter of training. So instead of giving voice on a track of wild animals, they do so with hidden people.

When searching in rubble their advantage is also their lower weight and small size, which allows them to go though obstacles more easily or to go under them.

As a disadvantage I see their low height and short legs. They have to run more and some obstacles are more difficult such as bramble, logs, low raw of spruce etc. A big dog can



easily jump over, but a small can crawl under or run around them. Rock overhang, which a big dog can again jump over, but a small one has to climb or find another way. Another disadvantage of Border Terrier just like any other small breed is the fact that they can miss a smell of searched person when in spreads above their head. For example in high thick grass. In rubble and area I see the same disadvantage and that are short legs and lower height compared for example with PRT.

Zarri is a young self-confident Terrier male, who knows his place in this world and when meeting other dog males, he expects mutual respect and bothsided communication!



I am sure you meet many other dogs during your training. Does Zarri have problem with them or he doesn't care at all?

I did my best to socialize Zarri properly, so he was meeting other dogs of different breeds, size and age regularly. But I am not sure if it was the socialisation or his own character that did the work. In common situations Zarri likes to be in contact with other dogs. He does not create conflicts nor does he escalate them without any reason.

He communicates with dogs from far distance and sends signals he is not here to fight. But I have to stress he is definately is a self-confident male terrier, who knows his place in this world and when meeting other dog males he expects mutual respect and bothsided communiation! He is able to leave from a very tense situations, he estimates situations very well and recognizes a stroger dog. I tought him that it is me who solves conflicts, not him and he trusts me with this matter.

But Zarri is not a “beating bag”, he is a Terrier in mind and body. If another male runs into him without any intention of communication and instead of saying hello, he places his head over his neck or wants to fight straigh away, he gives back. However he backs off when commanded and does not return back the attack.



The rescue traning must very time consuming. How does your schedule looks like during a normal month?

We normally have from three to four trainings a week. Two days in week are for training obedience and from time to time we also train rescue obstacles. Then we have traning of barking (area search) once or twice a week. Considering our weekend or week-long intensive camp I adjust training during the week. I set a longer rest etc.

It was very interesting to find out that Border Terrier can be used in canis therapy. How did that happen?

I am into canis therapy since 2008. I am also a CT judge. My three previous females (Cavalier Bessy, American Pitt Bull Terrier Ája and Cavalier Aimee) has all canis therapy dog certificates and all were used in practice. It was so natural for me to teach Zarri as well. He is very empathetic and perceptive so there was no problem. So far he passed ZMP a ZCP1 under CANTES, z. p. s.

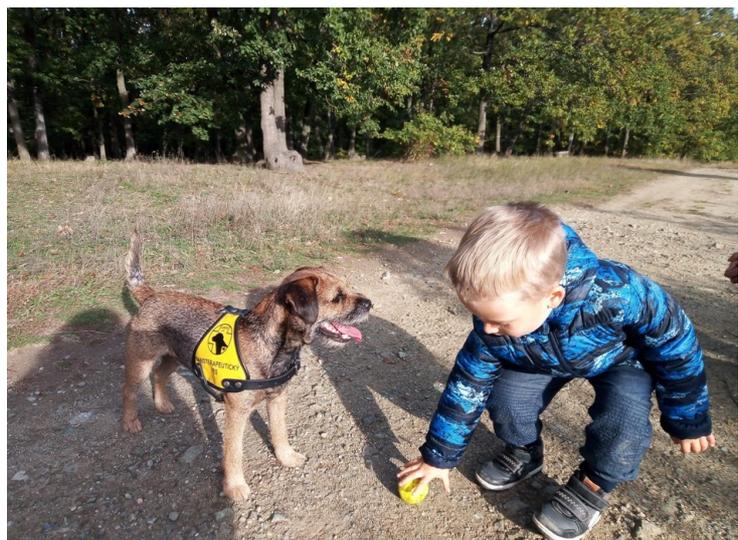


Do you think it is a breed in general suitable for it or do you have an exceptional dog?

That is question for experienced breeder. But I personally think that with the right leading most Border Terriers would be more than suitable. They are cheerful and contact dogs, who love people in general. Also their rough coat is amazing more invasive incentive for example for disabled clients. But of course it is the individual character that matters the most. There is no breed, where 100% percent of dog are suitable.

Which groups of clients to you visit together and how long does Zarri lasts to work effectively?

We were visiting hospital for adults. There were people with schizophrenia, Down syndrome etc. Another part of the institution was long-term hospital. We also attend educational programs for kindergartens. Our last canisteraphy before Covid started was individual work with three years old autistic boy. I try to do maximum of two hours of canisteraphy a week, out of which are max 30 minutes of positioning.



Zarri's biggest motivation are treats and specific type of balls!



How do you motivate your dog to work?

Zarri's biggest motivation are treats and specific type of balls. When we train obedience I have boxes with thick meat can ready, when we do obedience then dog sausages or cheese. At the end he is always rewarded with the ball, that he carries to the car. At home or while training tricks I use dry dog food or dry meat. My good mood and massive social praise is a matter of fact.

Is there anything more that you would like to try together with our four-legged buddy?

I'd love to do more of tracking and after Zarri's rescue carrier will come to an end I want to do more of hunting practice. Due to our rescue training we do not have so many opportunities to practice.

Will you tell us your cynological plans or your wishes for the future?

Last year we were ready to do tracking tests Fpr2, obedience OB2 and we were also training for the third level of both mentioned tests. We also intended to take a part at international tests in area search – “the top three” - RH FL – B, which was supposed to be a nomination for World Championship IRO. But unfortunately the pandemy came and all planned events were cancelled.



My huge dream is to be nominated for World Championship IRO and also succeed there. But my biggest wish is to see Zarri healthy and happily by my side. I hope it will be like so for many other years.

Thank you for the lovely interview.

STUD MALE - AVAILABLE FOR MATING



BIS, C.I.B., Multi.Ch., GrCh., Jch.

Avico De Marco's Hunter
(JCh. Inet Joseph Staff X. Ch. Caryx Skamika)

DOB: 23.12.2016
35 cm
FULLTEETH

HD A/A I ED o/o I PATELLA: o/o I CARDIO: NORMAL I SLEM & EYES: CLEAR

JUNIOR CHAMPION OF CZECH REPUBLIC JUNIOR CHAMPION OF AUSTRIA
JUNIOR CHAMPION OF BELGIUM CHAMPION OF ČMKU
GRAND CHAMPION OF SLOVAKIA CHAMPION OF SLOVAKIA
CHAMPION OF HUNGARY CHAMPION OF CZECH REPUBLIC
INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION

multiple CAJC, CCJ, BOJ, CAC, CACIB, BOS, BOB
BIS Puppy4 Belgian Junior Winner 2017 Benelux Junior Winner 2017
Belgian BIS Junior 2018 Benelux Winner 2018
BEST IN SHOW
BIG V, BIG 3
EuroDogShow 2018 - EX1, CWC
2x Cruft's qualification 2018
Cruft's qualification 2019
Cruft's qualification 2020
Cruft's qualification 2021

ZMP, ZCP-1, OB-Z, OB1	ZV (ability test) 1st merit
RH - FL V	BZ (blood tracking) 1st merit
RH - FL A	LZ (deer tracking) 1st merit & hunting
BH - VT	Hunting usable certificate
FPri	Therapy dog
Coursing licence	Search and rescue exams

Semen is suitable for freezing and insemination

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