

Interview with breeder Outi Vilkuna

Kennelname: O'zone
www.ozone-dogs.net
Dalmatian owner since: 1999
First litter in: 2001

I've been an animal lover my entire life, with special interest to dogs and horses. My first contacts to dogs were with Finnish Army's German Shepherds and Airedale Terriers when my family lived on Army grounds due to my father's work. My relatives' have all had and have dogs: Finnish Hounds, Labrador Retrievers, Krohmfohländer Terriers, German Shepherds, Airedale Terriers and St. Bernards and my great-uncle bred horses... but I had to wait until I was 13 years old before my parents let me have my first own dog, a red Cockerspaniel, Nouchka de Vellan, from France. With her I attended Working Dog's trainings and some shows. When she passed away, I couldn't live without a dog... and preferably from a working breed. Kriegerhof Apache Yanka was my first Dobermann. I've been a member of the Finnish Dobermann Club since 1993 and I've also been involved in the activities of the Finnish Dobermann Club. My brother got his first Dalmatian, Chatterly's Matador, in 1993 and in 1998 I took a female, Dalmira's Agile-Macy. Dalmatians are very versatile and enjoy e.g. agility and obedience as well as search & rescue work. As breeds and characters Dobermanns and Dalmatians go together well; both are very active and enjoy different tasks and training. They can both be just as "stubborn" that is have a very strong will of their own.



me and Oz. Unna 7 weeks

Our first dalmatian-litter, O'zone A, was born in 2001 and our first dobermann-litter, O'zone B, was born in 2002. We are aiming at healthy and sociable dogs with whom it's a pleasure to work and live. All our dogs live as loved members of the family and we have litters occasionally.

I have passed the Breeder's Examination by the Finnish Kennel Association. In my breeding I follow the rules and guidelines for breeding by the Finnish Kennel Association (Breeder Agreement), the Finnish Dobermann Club's Breeding Programme and the Finnish Dalmatian Club's Breeding Programme. I also try to get more information and learn more on various themes; in order to do this I've taken e.g. a course on Canine behaviour and the psychopathology of canine problem behavior, and participated e.g. to lectures on Genetic Variation in Dog Behaviour and Selective Breeding for Mental and Physical health in Dog populations and a courses as on Evaluation of the results of breeding (Working breeds) through Working Trials and their results.



O'zone Starrider



Oz. Shalimar

I have passed the Dog Trainer Course in spring 2003 and Training Instructor course in spring 2005. I obtained the Working Trials Assistant Certificate (specialized in Finnish Charactertest) in early 2008.

I was awarded the Finnish Working Breeds Association bronze medallion in 2006 and already in 1999 the FDC (Finnish Dobermann Club) bronze medallion, the silver medallion was awarded to me in 2008. I have been invited to receive the Gold medallion this spring 2020.

I have also received eg. Finnish Dobermann Club Breeder of the Year 2013 Award (based on overall results in trials, shows, health and character testing) and Finnish Dalmatian Club Breeder Award nro 18 was handed to kennel O'zone in 2016 for merits in Dalmatian breeding with special mention on the thorough health testing of dogs from our breeding.



Blanco Solar Gabriel & Oz. Starrider



Oz. Urho & Oz. Shaman



Oz. Starrider & Blanco Solar Gabriel



Oz. Shalimar

Dalmatians have always been my mother's beloved breed. I myself was at first more oriented towards traditional working breeds and especially the Dobermann but quickly understood the great potential there is in the Dalmatian breed for not only great companion and showdogs but also for versatile dog sports.

Dalmatians are very clever and fast learners, they are agile and are curious about the world around them. They are playful and devoted to their owner if they are given the attention and the companionship they deserve. If not, they will find things to do by themselves to satisfy their activity level both mental and physical...maybe to the displeasement of their owner as humans and dogs do not always agree upon things that are "fun-to-do" such as tearing up a couch. Dalmatians combine many qualities to them from companion dogs to utility and sport dogs in an athletic and eye-catching outlook.



Oz. Shaman



Oz. Starrider



me and U-litter puppies



U-litter puppies outdoors age 4.5 weeks

I started showing with my first Dalmatian but only really got into it years later with our first own-bred Dalmatians. I started breeding both Dobermanns and Dalmatians because I wanted to have dogs from these breeds for myself being bred with the ideology I had and reflecting the image I had of these breeds.

We have presently 10 dogs at home: 3 Dobermanns (CIE MultiCH FinJW-14 MH O'zone Phaedra 6.5 years, Latvian import BaltJW-18 TLNJW-18 EE JCH Ligrant Land Geneva Gold 2.5 years and LT CH RU JCH LT JCH LV JCH EE JCH BALT JCH RKF JCH HejW-19 EUJW-19 O'zone Valhalla 17 months) and 7 Dalmatians (FI CH EE CH EE VCH LV VCH LT VCH BALT VCH Lacrima Christi Close To Ozone soon 13 years, sister and brother C.I.B FI CH DE VCH (VDH) EE VCH EE CH LV CH LT CH SI CH BALT CH LV VCH LT VCH HR CH BALT VCH BALTVW-17 LVVW-17 DEVW-17 WWV-17 BALTVW-18 O'zone Ilmarinen and C.I.B FI CH EE CH LV CH EE VCH LT CH BALT CH LV VCH LT VCH BALT VCH BALTW-12 TLNVW-17 LVVW-17 TLNVW-18 O'zone Indira 11 years 3 months, C.I.B FI CH SE CH EE CH LV CH EE VCH LT CH BALT CH LV VCH LT JCH LT VCH LV JCH EE JCH BALT JCH BALT VCH TLNJW-12 TLNVW-19 ATWV-19 EUVW-19 O'zone Lemminkäinen 9 years, FI CH EE CH LV CH LT CH BALT CH BY CH EE JCH TLNJW-15 EEJW-15 O'zone Qommander 5.5 years, our Ilmarinen's son C.I.B FI CH SE CH EE CH LV CH LT CH BALT CH RU CH BY CH EE JCH FIW-18 Blanco Solar Gabriel and C.I.B NORD CH FI CH SE CH NO CH EE CH LV CH LT CH RU CH BALT CH EE JCH EEW-18 O'zone Starrider who are both 4.5 years. We also have 3 Dobermanns and 3 Dalmatians in placement (owned by us but living in their own family) or co-ownership. Dogs from our breeding have numerous champion titles from various countries and International champion titles but I guess I am especially proud of the ones who have working titles to go with, also in Dalmatians. What makes me most happy is to know that the dogs from our breeding are loved and well taken care of by their families. For most, we are in contact from cradle to grave.



Oz. Ilmarinen



Oz. Oma

I am aiming at dogs that are sound in exterior and type, not exaggerated in anyway, moving with long easy stride, well angulated, level topline, typical head with good muzzle, deep pigmentation, clear gender mark and sound character. I have been very lucky in having met and lived with many great specimen of the breed but I will not name one over others. We all have our little flaws, so do great dogs and that is alright as having met absolute perfection....what would there be to see or live for after that?

A great show and working dog is at its' best also a great breeding dog...but not necessarily. One must remain honest and true to oneself eg. on character and health issues. I have eg. not bred from an imported Dobermann female who had all necessary champion and working titles but was quite hectic in character, nor from a Dalmatian male who had beautiful outlook, champion titles and health issues ok but was too soft in character. Every breeder should first have good experience of the breed, from many years and several dogs, before even planning becoming a breeder. It is also

most important to have a clear vision of the "ideal dog", study breed history and dogs, remain objective when evaluating dogs (also one's own!!), accumulating knowledge of the breed from literature and people who have been involved with the breed for a long time, try to see specimen of the breed from different countries and remember that quality is more important than quantity. Also I would emphasize the importance of an excellent dam -line, maintaining balance of sires and dams, paying attention to the trend in COI (coefficient of inbreeding), conserving sire- and dam-line diversity, ensuring sibeling contribution ... and many of the other breeding advice mentioned and explained also in this article I warmly recommend as food-for-thought:

<https://www.instituteofcaninebiology.org/blog/twenty-key-elements-of-a-successful-breeding-program>

One of the many important things when choosing a male for mating a female is not to double the same fault. Here I also repeat again that one must remain objective and honest also to the faults in your own dogs, acknowledge them. Also, probably due to being a Dobermann breeder also, I prefer using older males who have proven their health and character and possibly have progeny from different females. I do not approve using too young males, I consider 2 years of age being minimum for a male to mate but would myself avoid using such a young male or approve that he would be extensively used. Females should be respected and not abused as breeding stock. As stated before, an excellent female line is most important to the breeder. One should also pay strict attention to the reproductive health of the dogs that is the heat cycle, litter size (from one mating), gestation and giving birth as well as the male reproductive health and related issues.

I have had two litters from a LUA-male but not because I would have been looking for a LUA. I was looking for a male who would be a complete outcross thus trying to decrease the possibility of a possible genetic defect (not related to crystal formation – those have been extremely rare in our experience) and was looking for a male who would present the "Nordic" type in outlook, have well and reliably documented health and preferably progeny. I found AM GrandCH AKC IntCH MXP MJP2 NFP CA BCAT Proctor's Sundial NU Revolution and agreed with his owners to import frozen semen from him. Our U – and W -litters are from this sire and am very happy with them. I am however no advocate for LUA Dalmatians. They represent one possibility of genetic variation that in its' own restricted focus is beneficiary to the breed. They do no salvage the breed from other health, character, type or bad breeding practices related issues. As to other issues raised I am a little worried that some traits in outlook and character that are not fit to breed type are being more generalized and accepted in show ring or explained to newcomers in the breed as being "typical" when they are not (eg. missing pigmentation, lippyness that is having loose lips, hanging eyelids, bear type head with wide skull short muzzle, growing height and heaviness, exaggerated rear angulation, sound and/or soil sensitivity, ...).

I wish all You Dalmatian enthusiasts an excellent year 2020 in the company of our very best friends; the Dalmatians. :-)

Outi VILKUNA



Oz. Lemminkäinen & Oz. Phaedra



Oz. Shaman