



*Mary Standiford is a member of KIM-GNA and the first breeder in North America who has bred a litter with dogs which have fulfilled the German breeding requirements. In the interview she speaks of her enthusiasm for the Kleine Münsterländer, her expectations from the future Landesgruppe and about hunting in the U.S.A. Further information and photos can be found on her homepage [www.huntwithamunster.com](http://www.huntwithamunster.com).*

**“Hello Ms. Standiford, please introduce yourself briefly.”**

“My name is Mary Standiford. My husband and I live in a small North Eastern Iowa town in the US. In the fall and winter we enjoy hunting deer, turkey, and pheasants together with our 3 Munsterlanders. During the summer it is my job to train and test the dogs and keep them in good shape for the hunting seasons. My husband and I purchased our first Kleine Munsterlander, Abby, in 2005. We had intentions of hunting her, but because of declining bird numbers we did not. In 2008, we lost our home and land in a flood and were forced to move to a very small trailer house. It was then that I began to seriously train our dog. I found out just how smart the KM is when, in just 2 short months, Abby was ready for her Utility test. In 2010 our search for a new home began. With that came our first imported Kleine Munsterlander. Max vom Schützenknapp came to us from Mr. Willi Geisman and was a wonderful addition to our home. In 2012 we added Baja vom Wamsbach, from Mr. Mario Wamsbach, to our family. It wasn't until 2011 that I would say we really got serious about bird hunting. Now we hunt 3-4 days a week during our pheasant hunting season from Oct 26th- January 10th.

We also use our dogs to hunt early season doves and ducks, and on occasion they are needed to track a deer.”

**“What do you especially appreciate about the KIM?”**

“The intelligence of this breed fascinates me. You need to be on your toes when training these dogs. I have told people that while retrieve training you must be careful or this smart little dog will have you on the table with the buck in your mouth! Their ability to be calm and quiet in the home and very hard driving hunters in the field is also fascinating to me. There are so many other hunting breeds that are just not able to “Turn it off” in the home.”

**“Is it difficult to establish the KIM within the hunting community in the U.S.?”**

“I would say so, but it will come. The dogs are

starting to get more and more exposure and I am seeing owners popping up in all parts of the US.

We have a pretty large concentration of Kleine Munsterlanders with in the Midwest, but that is because more people hunt in this area and there are several breeders. Every time we take a dog out and it performs well in a test or in the field it is another feather in the cap for this breed.”



Mary Standiford with Max vom Schützenknapp



Mary Standiford with Baja vom Wamsbach

**"What motivated you to start breeding dogs which have fulfilled the German breeding requirements?"**

"To answer this I have to tell you why I wanted to import a dog from Germany. I am very strongly drawn to the traditions that you share on the hunts. I love the culture of honoring the animals that were harvested. The sounds of the jag horn playing before and after the hunt raises the hairs on my arms and neck. Sadly, I think this has been lost here. This is what drew me to import these dogs. I wanted to feel a part of the culture.

I also recognize that the years of conformation shows and JGHV testing that Germany has required is what has produced the breed that I have come to adore."

**"What do you expect from KLM-GNA?"**

"In a country as large as the US there will always be many different hunting styles. There will be those that will want to try to change the breed to suit their own hunting needs.

I look to KLM-GNA to protect the classic standards of this breed. I look to our club to help breeders make sound breeding decisions, keep accurate health records, and educate the public on the breed and its value as a hunting dog, game recovery dog and companion/family dogs.

The formation of KLM-GNA is something that I never thought I would see happen, let alone as quickly as it has. I want to thank the board members of KLM-D, KLM-I and KLM-GNA, for dedicating the countless hours it took to make this a reality."

*Interview und Editing: Thomas Kupfer*