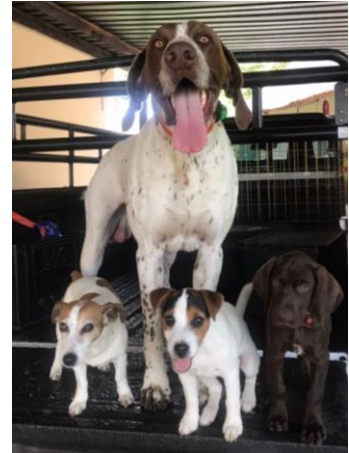


### Here is my experience with my dog, Askari, by Wimpie Theart:

I was looking for a hunting companion as I do a lot of game hunting and a little bit of bird hunting (however this changed ☺).

I started to do homework on what type of breed would be suitable – I went and read a lot on the GSP's on the internet and the versatility of these dogs gripped my attention. Then I started to look for a GSP, at first I looked on Gumtree then I realized rather to look for a reputable breeder. I came across a very nice website which had very informative info and beautiful GSP's and this looked like a very great breeder as on the website the feedback and response of the puppy owners had such great comments. So I decided to contact Dagbreek Kennels, and the owner said there is a litter that has just been born and she will have pups ready in 8 weeks, so I booked my pup.



I asked a couple of times if they hunt with the dad and mom and maybe if I could come through to Marble Hall to maybe join or see how they work but the breeder kept on refusing as she is a teacher and husband is very busy. She gave promise these dogs work very well and that she has a specialist trainer at Tru K9 Academy that she uses and they hunt and do human tracking and train to search for dagga and snares. So I got very excited about my new pup.

The day arrived, 8 August 2014, and I went to fetch my pup and I smiled from ear to ear. I even received a very nice file with all the "registration papers" and form that need to be completed to be send to the registration place called SACBR [www.sacbr.co.za](http://www.sacbr.co.za) . I was under the impression that this is part of KUSA but then she said to me SACBR broke away from KUSA. I asked Karolien if the pup is microchipped but she said no, I need to do it myself if I want to. I took my pup to be chipped and send the information to the SACBR.

I was really enjoying my pup, I contacted the TVL HPR club to join and was welcomed with open arms so I completed the application form and became a member. I went to a couple of puppy training classes and participated in the Natural Ability test and Puppy stake - but that was very confusing as no one tells you what they look for or what must happen, so I trotted along and enjoyed the walk!

Askari, my "pup" was now a big boy, and he nailed and passed everything in the Natural Ability test on the day. I had put a lot of training into my pup ☺ The conformation judge was Ray Taylor.

After months I was waiting to hear when my Askari would get his NA certificate and after a couple of phone calls and emails I was informed that they can't issue the certificate due to the fact that he is not correctly registered. This is where I got the shock of my life as according to

me and the breeder he is registered! The Tvl HPR club came up with an excuse that Askari was bigger than the breed standard , me and Slang had a couple of hard words, and they refunded my money for the NA test. I resigned and joined the SAFTC instead. Here I was welcomed and participated in Field Trial events. I also joined SAVHDA as well in 2016 where I was welcomed.

**This is where I want to get to my point: when you buy a pup go look at the parents and insist that you want to see the parents and join for a shoot or go to a field trial and have a look how they work! Make double sure the breeder registers their dogs with KUSA. Also, ask the breeder to must provide hip and elbow certificates and the microchip numbers.**

I had a lot of up and downs as I tried to register Askari correctly on an Appendix register with the NFTA, as a last resort to having a registered dog that I can enter various events with. I took Askari to Boavida to the CFTC training day in 2016, where I completed the form to register Askari on the NFTA Appendix. I was requested to take Askari for another conformation exam at the TVL HPR, which I did. Ray Taylor examined Askari (and he remembered Askari from the first NA test) and said that although Askari is 2" above breed standard and can't be used as a show dog, he confirmed that he is a GSP.

So I got happy until I received a letter from the NFTA that stated Askari is confirmed but he needs to go for socializing classes and this in French pissed me of totally as I'm involved at Field Trials , Mike Hunt training days, GSP Rescue days, even at the CFTC day and I was very upset as Askari is the most gentle big dog that likes to play and socialize with other dogs and other breeds.

This whole process I'm going through is a very bad experience.

BUT I can vouch that I love my Askari and he is loved by many people and he is very hard working hunting dog, he is maybe not as fast as the "Ferraris" but he normally can find the birds quicker, he can also do game hunting with me and track wounded game, and he passed the Novice Hunt Test first time. Now we start to prep for the Advanced Test and hope that one day he will be registered.....

My advice to anyone looking for a gundog puppy is to make sure the breeder registers pups with a recognized registry (KUSA or NFTA), make sure the parents work and are proven to work if you cannot see them, ask to see proof of any claims that the breeder makes, and ask to see proof of hip testing. You can then avoid the unpleasant experiences I am going through.

Regards,  
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