

Michael J. Caputo
USCA Performance License #11
USCA Member #1494
United Schutzhund Clubs of America



Michael has been a member of United Schutzhund Clubs of America since 1979. As a trainer/handler/competitor he earned membership to the SchH3 Club in 1985 and was awarded the SV Masters Sports Medal in Gold in 1987. Michael personally titled 6 of his dogs to SchH/FH/IPO/IGP titles and 2 dogs (one male and one female) to "V" ratings in the conformation ring. He is a former three-time regional champion and won the USCA National FH Championship in 1987 with Ingo vom Horsatal (97 points). He began his Judging career in 1985 as an apprentice, then received his USCA license in 1987, a UDC license in 1992 and was affiliated with the SV from 2009-2015. As a Performance Judge, he has presided over thousands of performances, hundreds of trials, and dozens of Regional and National events in all three performance phases. Professionally, Michael enjoyed nearly 50 years as an executive in the healthcare industry before retiring in 2022.

Throughout his nearly 40-year judging career, Michael has enjoyed most his seminars on teaching trainers and handlers the various standard requirements and performance elements of showing their dogs in a performance (Schutzhund/IPO/IGP) working dog trial. This classroom and practical field training seminar "*How to Maximize Your Points*" – *IGP Performance Trials: Considerations and Scoring*" has been attended by hundreds of dog sport enthusiasts and kept them updated on the various changes in the performance rules and the judging expectations that are built into those guidelines. This practical classroom session offers important tips and training considers for all handlers from the novice to very seasoned level. Driven to continuously learn and improve and assist the USCA Judges Program, Michael continues to serve as long-time member of the USCA Judges Committee, Assistant Director of Judges, and actively participates in the continuing education process for the USCA Judges College.

Quote from Michael:

"It is both an honor and a pleasure to have been invited and given the opportunity to evaluate all breeds of working dogs as a USCA Performance Dog Judge at the Club Level, Regionals, and the Nationals big stage. There have been many rules and regulation changes over the past 40 years, but my single observation that remains constant is our collective effort to preserve the working characteristics of our canine companions along with my personal commitment to evaluate with fairness and consistency."