History of the Ysterberg dogs

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Some people know him as Klaas, well most people know him as Klaas. Others know him, as Niek or Nieklaas but what does it matter? If you speak about him as a dog breeder you are only touching one of the many facets of this animal lover. Whenever you arrived on his farm you will find everything there, just like that, around the house. Dogs and ostriches and Impala and Drakensbergers and sheep and ducks and and and… just to name a few. It is no wonder my children constantly want to go visit. They don't talk about uncle Klaas they call him uncle Plaas.

But here I want to tell you about him and his Boerboels. Where do I start? I can only start from where I've known him and that is many years ago, since 1940, if I remember correctly. Back then he was a young man still visiting Sarie and today they are happily married with 3 sons of which Niekie passed away at a young age and the other two are now staunch businessmen.

When I met him in 1940 he rode motorcycles. In front of him on the motorcycle was Wagter. Wagter went everywhere with him. This Wagter is, in my opinion, probably the ancestor of the Boerboel breed as we know it today. Back then a Boerboel was just another mutt and it would take a long time before it was recognized as a breed.

I remember his dogs from those years very well. There was Gyps. He could catch hare like no other dog could do. And Bella. Klaas recons his dogs stared with her. She was a big dog. Something of a bulldog type and not exactly what is acceptable today, but that was back then. She was piebald. From her he bred Mollie and Luce, my first Boerboel. And off course Leeu. Leeu was oom Jan's dog, oom Jan is Klaas's father. Even still in his 80s he would ride long distances with his bike and wherever he rode, Leeu jogged along. The other one was Oubaas. These where all dogs that would leave their mark along the way.

Klaas always said he wanted to breed Boerboels. And if he spoke about a Boerboel he knew exactly what he wanted and how the dog should look. Because he knew then already what he wanted, he planned and took care and with his breedings. He went and searched for the qualities he wanted in a dog and when he found a dog that could give him that he would arrange a mating. Mollie was one of his dogs. She was bred to a Bullmastiff type dog from Acornhoek – from this litter, Vaaltyn and Rubi was born. Rubi was then bred to a Boerboel from Mr Rabie. At the Selatiriver he saw Nero. And that was the origin of Vegter. Vegter was as strong as an ox with the heart of a lion. One day he killed a donkey and that is no joke! If you know anything about a donkey you will know how impressive this is!

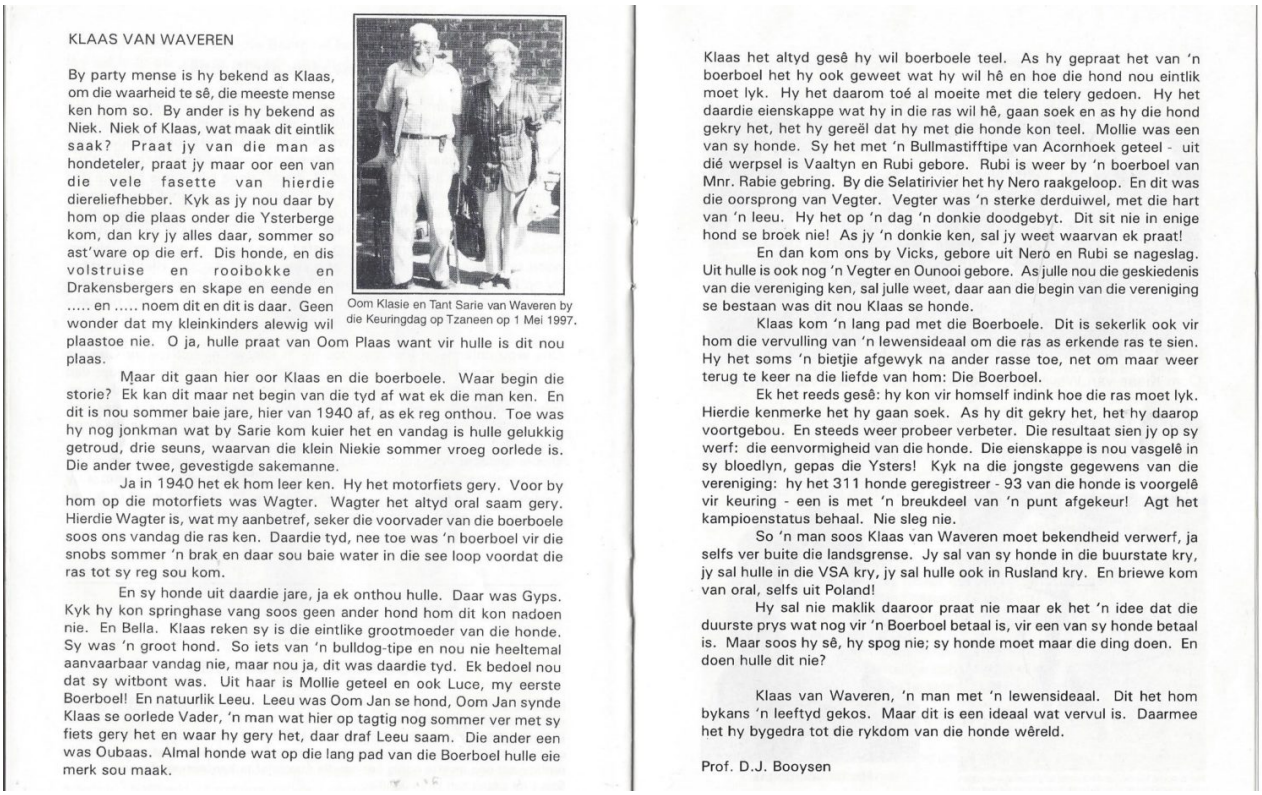
Vicks was born out of Nero and Ruby's offspring and out of them were another Vegter and Ounooi born. Looking at the history of the SABT you will know that these were the dogs Klaas joined with.

Klaas walked a long road with the Boerboels and it is probably for him a dream come true, to see the Boerboel as a recognized breed. He also bred other breeds, but always returned to his first love, the Boerboel. I have said it before, Klaas could envision what the breed should look like and he went looking for those qualities. When he found it, he would build on it and always try and improve on it. The results were evident when you looked at the uniformity of his dogs. These qualities are now fixed in his bloodline, proper Ysters! Look at the most recent results from the Association: he registered 311 dogs, 93 were brought forward for appraisal and only 1 was disqualified by a fraction of a point. 8 received championship status. Not bad hey.

A man like Klaas needs to be recognized, even in other countries. You will find his dogs in neighboring countries, USA and even Russia. He regularly receives letters from all over, even Poland.

He doesn't talk about it nut I have the idea that the highest price paid for a Boerboel was for one of his dogs. But as he says, he doesn't brag, his dogs are the evidence of his hard work and breeding, they do the talking.

Klaas van Waveren, a man with a vision. It took him almost a lifetime but it is one dream he fulfilled. With that he contributed to the canine world.



KLAAS VAN WAVEREN

By party mense is hy bekend as Klaas, om die waarheid te sê, die meeste mense ken hom so. By ander is hy bekend as Niek. Niek of Klaas, wat maak dit eintlik saak? Praat jy van die man as hondeteler, praat jy maar oor een van die vele fasette van hierdie diereliefhebber. Kyk as jy nou daar by hom op die plaas onder die Ysterberge kom, dan kry jy alles daar, sommer so ast'ware op die erf. Dis honde, en dis volstruise en rooibokke en Drakensbergers en skape en eende en ..... en ..... noem dit en dit is daar. Geen wonder dat my kleinkinders alewig wil plaastoe nie. O ja, hulle praat van Oom Plaas want vir hulle is dit nou plaas.

Oom Klasie en Tant Sarie van Waveren by die Keuringdag op Tzaneen op 1 Mei 1997.

Maar dit gaan hier oor Klaas en die boerboele. Waar begin die storie? Ek kan dit maar net begin van die tyd af wat ek die man ken. En dit is nou sommer baie jare, hier van 1940 af, as ek reg onthou. Toe was hy nog jonkman wat by Sarie kom kuier het en vandag is hulle gelukkig getroud, drie seuns, waarvan die klein Niekie sommer vroeg oorlede is. Die ander twee, gevestigde sakemanne.

Ja in 1940 het ek hom leer ken. Hy het motorfiets gery. Voor by hom op die motorfiets was Wagter. Wagter het altyd oral saam gery. Hierdie Wagter is, wat my aanbetref, seker die voorvader van die boerboele soos ons vandag die ras ken. Daardie tyd, nee toe was 'n boerboel vir die snobs sommer 'n brak en daar sou baie water in die see loop voordat die ras tot sy reg sou kom.

En sy honde uit daardie jare, ja ek onthou hulle. Daar was Gyps. Kyk hy kon springhase vang soos geen ander hond hom dit kon nadoen nie. En Bella. Klaas reken sy is die eintlike grootmoeder van die honde. Sy was 'n groot hond. So iets van 'n bulldog-tipe en nou nie heeltemal aanvaarbaar vandag nie, maar nou ja, dit was daardie tyd. Ek bedoel nou dat sy witbont was. Uit haar is Mollie geteel en ook Luce, my eerste Boerboel! En natuurlik Leeu. Leeu was Oom Jan se hond, Oom Jan synde Klaas se oorlede Vader, 'n man wat hier op tagtig nog sommer ver met sy fiets gery het en waar hy gery het, daar draf Leeu saam. Die ander een was Oubaas. Almal honde wat op die lang pad van die Boerboel hulle eie merk sou maak.

Klaas het altyd gesê hy wil boerboele teel. As hy gepraat het van 'n boerboel het hy ook geweet wat hy wil hê en hoe die hond nou eintlik moet lyk. Hy het daarom toé al moeite met die telery gedoen. Hy het daardie eienskappe wat hy in die ras wil hê, gaan soek en as hy die hond gekry het, het hy gereël dat hy met die honde kon teel. Mollie was een van sy honde. Sy het met 'n Bullmastifftipe van Acornhoek geteel - uit dié werpsel is Vaaltyn en Rubi gebore. Rubi is weer by 'n boerboel van Mnr. Rabie gebring. By die Selatirivier het hy Nero raakgeloop. En dit was die oorsprong van Vegter. Vegter was 'n sterke derduiwel, met die hart van 'n leeu. Hy het op 'n dag 'n donkie doodgebyt. Dit sit nie in enige hond se broek nie! As jy 'n donkie ken, sal jy weet waarvan ek praat!

En dan kom ons by Vicks, gebore uit Nero en Rubi se nageslag. Uit hulle is ook nog 'n Vegter en Ounooi gebore. As julle nou die geskiedenis van die vereniging ken, sal julle weet, daar aan die begin van die vereniging se bestaan was dit nou Klaas se honde.

Klaas kom 'n lang pad met die Boerboele. Dit is sekerlik ook vir hom die vervulling van 'n lewensideaal om die ras as erkende ras te sien. Hy het soms 'n bietjie afgewyk na ander rasse toe, net om maar weer terug te keer na die liefde van hom: Die Boerboel.

Ek het reeds gesê: hy kon vir homself indink hoe die ras moet lyk. Hierdie kenmerke het hy gaan soek. As hy dit gekry het, het hy daarop voortgebou. En steeds weer probeer verbeter. Die resultaat sien jy op sy werf: die eenvormigheid van die honde. Die eienskappe is nou vasgelê in sy bloedlyn, gepas die Ysters! Kyk na die jongste gegewens van die vereniging: hy het 311 honde geregistreer - 93 van die honde is voorgelê vir keuring - een is met 'n breukdeel van 'n punt afgekeur! Agt het kampioenstatus behaal. Nie sleg nie.

So 'n man soos Klaas van Waveren moet bekendheid verwerf, ja selfs ver buite die landsgrense. Jy sal van sy honde in die buurstate kry, jy sal hulle in die VSA kry, jy sal hulle ook in Rusland kry. En briewe kom van oral, selfs uit Poland!

Hy sal nie maklik daaroor praat nie maar ek het 'n idee dat die duurste prys wat nog vir 'n Boerboel betaal is, vir een van sy honde betaal is. Maar soos hy sê, hy spog nie; sy honde moet maar die ding doen. En doen hulle dit nie?

Klaas van Waveren, 'n man met 'n lewensideaal. Dit het hom bykans 'n leeftyd gekos. Maar dit is een ideaal wat vervul is. Daarmee het hy bygedra tot die rykdom van die honde wêreld.

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