

# Caucasian Ovcharka

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## **(Caucasian Ovcharka, Caucasian Mountain Dog, Kavkazskaya Ovcharka, Caucasian Shepherd, Caucasian Volkodav, Caucasian Wolfhound)**

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This writing is dedicated to Caucasian Ovcharka, one of the best breeds of dog in the world. In Russian language, this breed uses to be called Кавказская Овчарка or Кавказский Волкодав. This ebook gives you many useful information, although it does not deal much with such things like a breed standard or training tips.

As for the inception of this breed, Caucasians were used not only on the Mountains of Caucasus but also in other All-Russian regions to protect flocks, premises and their owners against wolves and hostile strangers. Later this breed has also been used in wars, for example between Russia and Turkey, and to guard factories, storehouses, but also laagers and prisoners in jails.

Today's Caucasian Ovcharka is more or less the original Wolfhound, but already little changed (this change uses to be called a modification by "The Red Star", which was a large Russian kennel "Красная Звезда"). Apart from it, its shorter-coated form still lives on the Caucasus and is most often called Caucasian Volkodav (that exists there together with longer-coated aboriginal Caucasian Ovcharkas, of course).

A couple of words on the Caucasian Ovcharka history by О. Красновская:

Полвека назад, когда после Великой Отечественной войны для нужд армии и различных ведомств, использовавших кавказских овчарок для несения караульной службы, начали завозить собак с Кавказа, основные закупки племенного материала были произведены в республиках Закавказья - Азербайджане, Грузии, Армении... С этих собак и началось заводское разведение кавказских овчарок в СССР.

Half century ago, when after Great Patriotic War the dogs from the Caucasus began to be imported for needs of army and various authorities using Caucasian Ovcharkas to carry a guarding service. The main purchases of breeding material were made in the republics of Overcaucasus - Azerbaidzhan, Georgia, Armenia... From these dogs also started the "factory breeding" (заводское разведение) of Caucasian Ovcharkas in the Soviet Union.

Большинство кавказских волкодавов имеют коротко купированные хвосты. Делалось это на Кавказе истари и вовсе не для красоты или большего удобства в бою с хищниками. Наоборот, в бою, если собака поднимается на задние лапы, хвост помогает удерживать равновесие, являясь своеобразным балансиром. Все гораздо проще - зимой кавказский волкодав спит, прикрывая от мороза нос пушистым хвостом. Чабаны считали, что так собаки хуже чуют хищников, и хвосты удаляли.

The majority of Caucasian Wolfhounds have shortly-dropped tails. It used to be did on the Caucasus since time immemorial and not because of a beauty at all or a higher comfort in a fight with beasts. Oppositely, in a fight, if the dog rises on its back paws, the tail helps to keep balance, being a distinctive counterpoise. All is much simpler - during the winter, the Caucasian Wolfhound sleeps, covering up the nose from the frost by a hairy tail. Sheepmen assumed that the dogs smell the beasts worse that way and they were removing the tails.

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On the following pictures there are several Caucasian Wolfhounds. First goes a Georgian type, then long-coated and shorter-coated aboriginal Caucasian Ovcharkas (also called Caucasian Volkodav) of kennel [Хранитель гор](#) and the last two pictures is the Caucasian Volkodav of kennel [Пять гор](#):



How the story described here began? Years ago, I have had a male CO, but finding this breed of dog too dangerous to people, I had switched to different breeds that are more suitable for life in a modern human society, especially in bigger cities.

After I have gained a lot of experiences and info about diverse breeds of dog, I have been comparing them with one another. Then I have reappraised the hierarchy of all the important values and I have realized, that there is nothing like the Caucasian Ovcharka, who has the most important qualities listed bellow in the highest possible extend:

- 1) Distrustful and aggressive behavior toward strange people.
- 2) Resistance against colds and bad weather to be kept outside all the year long.
- 3) Height 70 cm at withers and above to be higher than most of the other breeds of dog and to be able to easily reach the upper part of the human enemy's body and his head to bring him down quickly.
- 4) Weight 50 kg and more to have a sufficient mass in order to overpower both other dogs, wolves and people.
- 5) Swiftness similar to that of German Shepherd to be capable to use its mass quickly and effectively.
- 6) Sense to hit the enemy on his weakest and most vulnerable place.
- 7) Good coat that would protect the dog in a fight.
- 8) Little tiredness to be able to go ten miles without exhaustion.
- 9) Not much demanding as far as its need for food\* concerns.

There are two main and most important things:

1. **Protection work** - Dog's ability to protect its owner, his family and possession against human enemies.

2. **Dog fighting** - Dog's ability to protect its owner, his family and possession against wolves and endeavor to dominate the other dogs.

I have found out, that the above-mentioned qualities are mainly presented in large Wolfhounds (also sometimes called wolfdogs). These "livestock guardians" (so-called LGDs) are Akbash, Caucasian Ovcharka, Central Asian Ovcharka, Kangal and other.

(By the way, there is a proverb by Рамазан Алибекович: "Есть отечественный волкодав, включающий в себя крови лучших собак регионов России и в том числе казахских, молдавских, украинских и туркменских собак."

Approximate translation runs as follows: "There is a native Wolfhound, including in himself the blood of the best dogs of the regions of All-Russia, including Kazakh, Moldovan, Ukrainian and Turkmen dogs."

I have mentioned this proverb, because it indicates, that in spite of some differences among the particular big Wolfhounds, all of them are excellent.)

However, considering their ability to fight human enemies, too, one of these breeds (out of which mainly two are trained against human enemies – Caucasians and Central Asians) is better at that than all the other and it is the Caucasian Ovcharka!

It is used both by security services and by army against human enemies, and not rarely as a true Wolfhound against wolves as well. The CO is more or less the original true Overcaucasian Wolfhound, whose aggression against people, however, has purposely been evolved. One way or the other, this breed of dog needs both protection work training and dog fighting experience.



We can read about the Caucasian Ovcharka's dominance in the defense tasks in a book entitled "Дрессировка отечественных волкодавов" (Training of Native Wolfhounds) by Mr. Валерий Высоцкий:

**Кавказец - лучшая охранная собака в мире.**

С этим не согласиться очень трудно. Территориальность, неприхотливость, недоверчивость к посторонним, ярость и бескомпромиссность в борьбе - это не похвала, это действительность!

Однако не следует думать, что сама породная принадлежность может гарантировать безукоризненное решение охранных задач любой сложности. Специальная подготовка необходима, и нет ничего более вредного, чем мнение, будто бы кавказца дрессировать не нужно. Еще как нужно! Просто эти собаки предрасположены больше других именно к этой работе.

**Caucasian – the best protection dog in the world.**

To disagree with this is really onerous. Territoriality, modesty, suspiciousness toward strangers, ferocity and intransigence in a fight – it isn't a praise, it is a fact!

However, it isn't good to think, that the appurtenance to this breed itself can guarantee errorless solution to defense tasks of any difficulty. Special training is necessary and there is nothing sicker than the opinion, that there is no need to train the Caucasian. Still, how necessary! Simply, these dogs are destined more than the other mainly to this work.

### Кавказец или Азиат?

Мы уже писали, что в большинстве случаев азиат более покладист, кавказец отличается более взрывным характером. Но кавказец более эффектен внешне и более надежен как охранник.

### Caucasian or Asian?

We have already written that in the majority of cases the Asian is more perviewis, the Caucasian distinguishes by a more explosive character. But the Caucasian is more effective externally and more endued as a protector.

Caucasian Ovcharka is a Wolfhound used against people more than all the other Wolfhounds (and therefore better at that than they). Every proper Caucasian should be aggressive toward strangers including even a referee on a dog show, too, when he tries to touch the dog.

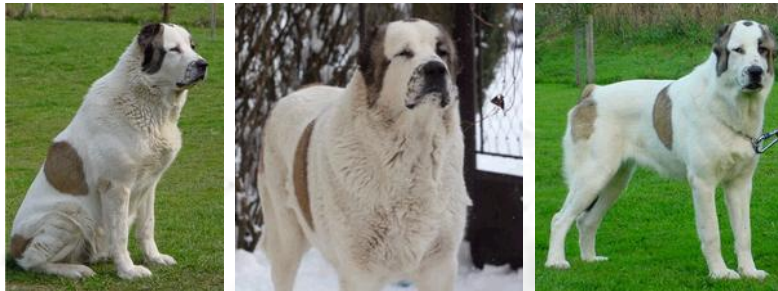
It seems, that the Central Asian Ovcharka is a more "reasonable" breed of dog than the Caucasian Ovcharka. The CAO can have a better-balanced or calmer character, whereas the CO isn't that well-rounded. And considering the cases when the owner could not handle his dog that even attacked him, then out of the two breeds, the Caucasian Ovcharka is the more problematic one.

The Caucasian Ovcharka we speak about is "заводская кавказская овчарка" (shortly "заводская КО"), a newer form of the old Overcaucasian Wolfhound (a so-called Transcaucasian Ovcharka).

Ancient types of the All-Russian Wolfhound like Central Asian Ovcharka, aboriginal Caucasian Ovcharka and Caucasian Volkodav are steady breeds having a very long tradition and their character is said to be stable. The modern Caucasian Ovcharka we deal with is not so stable, but usually it is more aggressive toward humans than all the other wolfhounds. However, they can also be extremely explosive toward strangers, and excellent protectors and defenders.

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The pictures of this female Central Asian Ovcharka originate from kennel [Rusky medved](#):



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The following table originates from [Varlay](#). It shows the results of comparison of Caucasian and Central Asian Ovcharkas in protection work. As we may see, the Caucasian Ovcharka stands on the best positions. However, it also occupies the last positions. Older and well-balanced breed of the CAO occupies the medium positions, the center. It will never be as best as the CO, but it will always stably be very good. However, every examination has different results, but this one is a good example of what I have said.

место в л/п	порода	кликка	проводник	№ родословной д/рождения	навыки					
					1	2	3	4	5	всего
1	кавказская овчарка	Kavkazskoy Nationalnosti Ohta	Федоренко В.П.	03.07.2005 УКУ.0001518	18	20	19	20	20	97
2	кавказская овчарка	Akbar	Псков А.В.	17.02.2007	20	20	15	20	20	95
3	кавказская овчарка	Жрица Аакс Плюс	Шинкаренко С.П.	30.07.2004 УКУ.005454/05	20	20	16	20	17	93
4	среднеазиатская овчарка	Gyurza Bagrinskaya Staya	Резник Е.Ю.	07.01.2008 УКУ.0007617	20	20	9	19	20	88
5	кавказская овчарка	Ешкан Аякс Плюс	Шинкаренко С.П.	02.06.2004 УКУ.004121/05	18	20	11	20	18	87
6	среднеазиатская овчарка	Abay Troyan Plus	Виноградов В.Г.	12.01.2006 UA.UKU.002238/07	16	20	11	19	20	86
7	среднеазиатская овчарка	Babay Bagrinskaya Staya	Резник Ю.К.	19.03.2006 UA.UKU.002546/07	13	20	11	19	20	83
8	среднеазиатская овчарка	Батыр	Шляховый Л.Л.	29.06.1905	13	18	11	20	20	82
9	среднеазиатская овчарка	Barmaley	Бортнык И.И.	21.10.2007 УКУ.R.0000660	20	20	11	11	20	82
10	кавказская овчарка	Zhak Charan-Gordolan	Федоренко В.П. и С.А.	26.03.2005 UA.UKU.006098/06	11	20	11	19	20	81
11	кавказская овчарка	Ataman Iz Slavnoy Legendy	Шапошник С.	08.03.2007 УКУ.0001117	19	20	10	14	18	81

Average height of male working Caucasians is 72 - 75 cm at withers and usual weight 50 - 60 kg. Ideal weight is about 55 kg by 74 cm, 60 kg when a more massive skeleton. If a higher dog, then even more. However, we speak about a working dog that is more or less slim, oppositely the weight could reach 70 kg.

The height and weight of Caucasian Wolfhounds is well explained in book "Кавказская Овчарка" by О. Красновская:

"Вес взрослых особей колеблется от 40 до 80 килограммов, половой тип выражен хорошо. Высота в холке у кобелей от 64 до 84 см, у сук - от 62 до 75 см. Слишком легкие и мелкие собаки, так же как и чрезмерно крупные и тяжелые, не соответствуют основным задачам породы, ибо проигрывают и в турнирных боях - тренировках, и в схватках с настоящими хищниками. Большой рост и вес нецелесообразны, т.к. такие собаки требуют большего количества пищи для поддержания жизнедеятельности, кроме того требуется большая прочность скелета и связок, и, главное, у тяжелых собак ухудшается способность управлять в бою своим телом, выдерживать длительную нагрузку. Все известные на Кавказе лучшие волкодавы имели среднюю высоту в холке от 70 до 76 см."

The weight of adult individuals vary between 40 and 80 kilograms (most large Wolfhounds weigh from 45 to 75 kg - comment), sexual type expressed well. Height at withers in dogs is from 64 to 84 cm, in bitches from 62 to 75 cm. Too light and tiny dogs in the same way like excessively big and heavy ones do not correspond to the primary tasks of the breed, since they are losing both in tournaments - trainings - and in brawls with real beasts. Big growth and height are unsuitable, because such dogs require large amount of food in order to keep viability, apart from it a big strength of skeleton and connective tissues is needed, and, most importantly, the ability to operate with own body in a fight, to bear a long-lasting load, worsens in heavy dogs (for example, famous warrior Габо had allegedly weighed 55 kg - comment). All the well-known Wolfhounds on the Caucasus had an average height at withers from 70 to 76 cm.

Appendix: Do you wanna buy a Caucasian puppy? If yes, then there is a question for you: Will your future Caucasian live on a premise with sufficient space, will you let him display aggression toward strange people and other dogs and will you let him materialize in this respect? If your answer is negative, then please don't buy the puppy. You would spoil him by the suppression of the two things most important to him.

I would like to discourage you from the purchase of any puppy originating from "bulk breeders" having famous kennels and excellent pedigree, who raise more dogs at once often nicely-looking, but with lowered individuality and affected character, which were tested neither in fight with a human nor in fight with some other dog. Many bulk breeders are accepting much money for puppies descending after spoiled dogs, which is however sick. I recommend the purchase of a puppy originating from small kennels having tested dogs, living in a natural environment.

\*This breed should preserve its modesty in physical requirements of food and stay somewhat less-demanding in contrast to most of the other breeds of dog. From this reason, modern fodders full of vitamins seem to be less suitable with the exception to those, having a lower amount of artificial food supplements. Many authors of dog-related books advertise this or that modern artificial food, mainly because its producers use to be the sponsors of their books or their partners, so the financial aspect can be the main reason, why some authors propagate some fodders so much, although sometimes they themselves do not believe in them any much (but they pretend that they do).

I believe that a smaller amount of dry food (given to the dog such as it is), a medium amount of dry food (which was put into the water or into a bouillon before given to the dog) should alternate with a normal food (cooked meat with some pasta, exceptionally an egg, bread, milk, now and then a raw meat). However, one famous Russian breeder said, that on the Caucasus there these dogs are fed by corn (steamed by hot water) and milky whey. They eat also mouses that they dig up on

the pastures and sometimes they are given a fallen sheep or its tripes. In conclusion, I believe that better is to top up a lower-nutritive and usually also cheaper types of dry food with the normal food, than to use a high-nutritive dry food only.

## Protection Work

I have to mention here another excellent book, also written by Mr. Валерий Высоцкий, which is "Собака сопровождения" (The Dog of Accompaniment). There you can read about the world of difference between the modern sporting dog training (practiced in the Western world, above all) and the training of a real dog-defender. Here goes one comparing table:

	<i>Телохранитель (СС)</i>	<i>Спортивная собака</i>
1	Агрессивное отношение к посторонним	Контактность
2	Человек – объект атаки	Рукав-добыча
3	Атака в наиболее уязвимое место противника. Перехваты и уклонения от ударов. Обход любых помех (дресс. снаряжения) в работе	Работа на удержание рукава при полном игнорировании стека
4	Работа «до конца», в т.ч. по лежащему противнику	Сход с рукава по команде. Облаивание
5	Агрессивность доминирует над тормозящими навыками	Доведенные до автоматизма навыки по разделу «Послушание» («В»)
6	Апорт – помеха в работе	Апорт – стимул, мотивация в работе. Один из профилирующих навыков
7	Узкопрофильный специалист	«Специалист широкого профиля»
8	Агрессивная реакция на выстрел или внешний вид оружия	Равнодушное отношение к выстрелу

(This table compares a "bodyguard" with a "sporting dog" and tells us the difference between the two of them. For example, the bodyguard has aggressive behavior toward strangers, considers a man the object of attack, he attacks on the most vulnerable opponent's place and alternates the places he bites into and also dodges the strikes, works to the end on a lying opponent and has aggressive reaction to a gunshot. On the contrary, the sporting dog has a biting sleeve as the object of attack, works to keep the sleeve with full ignorance of the opponent's strikes and has a calm reaction to a gunshot. So it is obvious that the sporting dog cannot be considered the bodyguard, since he is more or less unprepared to stand a real chance against a really dangerous human opponent.)

In previous years, I had tried to see the best protectors in highly civilized utility breeds of dog, due to their adequate defense, above all. Mainly in the Rottweiler thanks to its alertness in almost any environment even among many people in the white day, both on the streets and in the conveyances like a tramcar, trolley-bus or train. I had noticed, that some untrained Caucasians were not so attentive in such places in the sense of the owner's defense. On the other hand, when they were guarding some premises or during an obvious attack on their owner, they seemed to be the most effective ones.

But later I have come to believe that when these dogs are properly trained (= when they experience regular teasing by as many strange people as possible since their young age and later several naturally-looking attacks on their owner in neutral territory and public places, where they have to defend him), thanks to their general excellent endowments and the best instincts they possess, they can become the best defenders, even better than all the utility breeds of dog.

Bite work pictures from the school of [Varlay](#):



How it was proven in practice, when these Wolfhounds were trained also in the streets as well as in other environments, then they have extended their defensive aggression to such places too. Therefore Mr. Высоцкий said, that: *"Special training is necessary and there is nothing sicker than the opinion, that there is no need to train the Caucasian."* Yes, this breed has some excellent inborn endowments, but these must be developed and widened by the proper training (or by regular experiencing of real situations, of course). However, please train only on a body bite suit and not on a "classic" biting sleeve!

Bite work pictures from kennel "Pravo tesaku":



I can only support this opinion that has turned out to be right also with my personal experiences. Yes, the training or experiencing of real situations develop the Caucasian.

My CO Gero began to be sharper than ever before after I had let him be teased on a leash. He almost tore the helper's throat, since he had suddenly released the biting sleeve given to him by the helper like a biting roll and switched on a deadly attack on his throat, the result of which was the torn collar of the helper's jacket. If Gero wasn't leashed, if I wasn't slowing him down and if the helper did not dodge quickly, the result could have been the helper's death (he was strong and a professional in this field, but he said that he had never seen anything like it before, knowing only the utility breeds of dog and not the Caucasians). And having some opportunities to get into real situations, which happened on the premise that he was guarding, he became so efficient, that he was able to beat a man down when muzzled (the result was a lying human body on the ground without any movement) – such powerful was his pushing on the human opponent! He also managed to damage by his claws the leg skin of a thief that was climbing up, also when fitted with a muzzle.

However, to let the dog fight with a muzzle is not any good idea from the viewpoint of the dog's chance to win, because the dog is handicapped, since he cannot bite his opponent. However, when Gero was "unmuzzled", the result used to be quicker – one bite and that was all. Through this he had one time "paralyzed" a big guy by biting his belly who wanted to fondle him (Gero was tied on a leash). That's why I recommend to keep the dog without a muzzle all the time, because one never knows when the dog will have to fight some enemy.



Few pictures of my Gero:



Excerpt from a poem entitled Кавказская овчарка – моя душа (Caucasian Ovcharka – My Soul):

Характер взрывной и ярость в атаке,  
Решенье всегда принимает сама,  
Свободолюбива, сильна на захвате,  
Неприхотлива и кладезь ума.

Explosive character and anger in the attack,  
decision she always makes for herself,  
freedom-loving, strong in the seize,  
modest and the well of wisdom.

One more very important thing has to be mentioned here, which is "самостоятельность" - the dog's "self-reliance". It is ability to "act by itself" independently without any specific command. And I am afraid, that the utility breeds of dog don't possess this Caucasian's merit in any higher extend. When the dog is at home alone without its owner or if its owner is near, but he was suddenly paralyzed by the enemy somehow, the dog has to be able to act without any support of its owner or without any command given by him!

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Why I consider the Caucasian Ovcharka a somewhat better protector than the Central Asian Ovcharka? Instead of explaining it myself, let it be explained by the following proverb:

"Если лезет через забор человек, то кавказец эго сразу убьет, а азиат сперва подумает секунду, а потом убьет."

"If a man is climbing the fence, Caucasian will kill him immediately, but Central Asian will firstly think one second, and then he will kill him."

This proverb says, that the Caucasian uses to attack the human enemy without any hesitation, which makes his chance to win higher. Moreover, this breed of dog often attacks the throat and face of the human opponent.

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To increase the dog's readiness to deal with hostile strangers, it has to be learned to never accept any food from any stranger, no matter how the food is submitted. When the helper is submitting a food to the dog and at the same time is teasing it, the dog will learn to ignore the food and will only be attacking the helper.

However, any real bite work should only start at a later age in view of the fact, that Caucasians become mentally adult somewhat later than most of the other breeds of dog. But firstly the dog should bite on the territory that he guards and only later on a neutral territory, except for regular teasing by strangers since his "puppy age", which can be arranged everywhere.

"Нет ничего более глупого, нежели привести кавказца на чужую территорию и совать ему дрессировочный рукав."

"There is nothing stupider, than to take the Caucasian to a strange territory and to force a training sleeve upon him."

Although best is to train the bite work using a body bite suit, more precisely a hidden body bite suit, the fact is that the dog is not taught to attack the helper's face or throat - a thing which many Wolfhounds naturally do. Because the majority of trainers of pastoral breeds "teach" these dogs not to attack the face and throat (or simply the head) of the helper, through this they are taking away

the Wolfhounds' most effective way how to destroy a human enemy. If the human opponent has strong clothes if not straightly the protective ones and the dog will not attack his head, he has a larger chance to defeat the dog.

This is an example from [tak31005](#) of how a Caucasian Ovcharka releases the sleeve given to him and tries to bite the upper and more vulnerable place of the helper's body:



And this example is from [vladdcollect](#) of a Central Asian's attempt to attack the protected helper's head:



(Please remember one thing: More breeds of dog can attack the throat or head of their human opponents, but large Wolfhounds will do that both with a big force and with a big quickness at the same time. Their entire behavior in the fight is more effective than that of all the other breeds of dog.)

I believe that if the dog fitted with a muzzle and kept on a leash is repeatedly teased by the helper having normal clothes, who however wears a protective helmet and leans forward toward the dog, so that his head is the nearest and easiest target that can be attacked, the dog will soon start to attack it (but such an exercise can be dangerous for the helper, of course). I am convinced that such a Caucasian that will never attack the human enemy's head at no circumstances, ever, is a spoiled Caucasian. Therefore do not train on the body bite suit too often in order to prevent your dog from being spoiled by skipping the so-important attack on the head. However, it is necessary to add, that to teach the dog to attack the head can be illegal. But many dogs will do that naturally without any training, which was the case of my dogs (CO and BMD), too.

We start the first "protection training" at a young age. Little teasing by the helper can do good to a puppy, but only if the helper runs away every time, as soon as the puppy displayed aggression toward him, to support its self-confidence.

Good rule is to never make your Caucasian familiar with your friends or neighbors, because later they could abuse it to break into your house (some bad neighbors can be even so clever, that every time you walk your dog about them, they will try to start some conversation with you or even touch your dog to make it become familiar with them). Your Caucasian should be kept distrustful and aggressive toward them all the time.

By its nature, this breed is a so-called «охранник», which is a protector of premises, but when we widen its aggression toward people to make it work behind "the zones of protection" as well, it is obtaining one more title – «телохранитель», which is a bodyguard.

One interesting thought from "Кавказская Овчарка" by О. Красновская:

"Правильно отдрессированный по защитной службе кавказец сохраняет свои рабочие качества пожизненно. С ним нет необходимости регулярных повторений, ибо естественный фоновый уровень агрессивности достаточно высок, недоверие к постороннему и территориальный комплекс у взрослой особи определены генетически, а опыт борьбы с человеком был получен в ходе занятий."

Caucasian correctly trained in protection work preserves his working qualities for life. With him there is no necessity of regular repetitions, since the natural foundational level of aggression is sufficiently high, in adult individual distrustfulness to strangers and territorial complex are determined genetically, and the experience of the fight with a human was gained during lessons.

Explaining quotation from my book "Degenerace psiho rodu aneb Nejlepsi psi bojovnici":

"Vseobecne vzato, nekterym pastevcum chybi jedna jedina vec: Trenink ve sluku lidi za bileho dne. Ve vsem ostatnim jsou nejlepsi."

Generally, some Wolfhounds are only missing one thing: Training in the cluster of people in full daylight. They are best in all the other.

Several thoughts on a special and more advanced training of the protection work:

It is necessary to make the dog be on alert in other environments than only on the premise that it guards. The owner walks his dog along the street in the town (in the middle of the white day), when more people are around him. One of them is a helper in normal clothes who behaves normally. But all of a sudden, he attacks the dog's owner, and his (muzzled) dog (on a leash) has to defend him. After several of such exercises the dog will begin to be on (a higher) alert all the time and always ready to protect its owner even on a neutral territory (outside of its premise) like in the town streets and similarly.

The helper can also put the hidden body bite suit under the clothes (that are the same like that) of the dog's owner. The dog will jump in front of the helper, it will smell at him and then attack him as soon as the first scent differing from that of its owner entered its nose (one time Gero did it exactly that way).

Eventually, the dog can also be tested & trained to be aggressive even toward such strangers, who will take a bitch in the heat with them (from this reason better is to have your premise secured by two dogs - both male and female) or a recorded voice of the dog's owner. Firstly the stranger having the bitch is teasing the dog and is attacking its owner so loudly and so much that it makes the dog fight the stranger, forgetting the bitch during it (but when the dog is to mate her, it must be done without the immediate proximity of her owner, ideally when he is away). The helper also lets the dog listen to the recorded voice of its owner and then he will provoke the dog that will attack him, ignoring the recorded voice of its owner that is heard.

I believe, that it is good to train (with a muzzled and leashed dog) the protection work also in such environments like a railroad train or a trolley-bus (some stupid dogs are totally unobservant in these places), where the helper will be among the other passengers and suddenly will attack the dog's owner.

One way or the other, the dog-bodyguard should be taught to devote its attention to the defense of its owner, even if there are some other objects of interest like cats, for example (in given case the owner with his dog can be attacked by the helper from behind just in the moment, when the dog is observing several cats in front of it).

By the way, it is useful when the dog is aggressive toward the other dogs including small ones, since the enemy can approach the dog's owner with a small dog if he knows, that the dog is friendly with small dogs.

Another training can be a helper in a car that will suddenly stop near the dog's owner, the helper will storm out of it and he will attack him. The dog must immediately attack the helper.

All what I want to say is that that I find it very useful to try, now and then, some exercise like these ones to increase the dog's attention and readiness to fight for its owner anytime and at any circumstances. I also believe that no too-often training is necessary. Several perfectly arranged and naturally-looking situations can do a better work than some stereotypical bite work that is always-repeating in the same way round and round.

## Dog Fighting

Apart from being a top protector, every proper Caucasian has to be a good fighter, too, to be able to fight wolves, which is one of his original qualities – the inherent part of his character. But he should also be able to fight the other dogs to preserve his tendency to dominate over them.

We have seen many exemplary dog fighting videos of how Caucasian Ovcharka (and Central Asian Ovcharka) can defeat or at least successfully defend against various breeds of dog, considered to be best in dog fighting like AmStaff (American Staffordshire Terrier), Bullmastiff (Bull Mastiff), English Bull Terrier, Great Dane, Neapolitan Mastiff (Mastino Napoletano), Pitbull (American Pit Bull Terrier), Rottweiler, Tibetan Mastiff and Tosa Inu.

If the Caucasian was to compare his fighting power with the most combative breeds of dog in natural environment, where all the participating dogs would be tired from long walkings, only given a lower amount of food, if it was in a cold weather and similarly, the Caucasian would win in the absolute majority of times. And even if the most combative breeds of dog fight the Caucasian in the conditions most beneficial to them, despite this they are often losing.

Generally, these fighting breeds are missing almost all the important qualities, which the Caucasian owns: the sense to recognize and then hit the opponent's weakest place, good and thick coat that protects well, both heavy and extremely quick body, ability and willingness to defeat not only wolves but also human enemies, resistance against bad weather, good social feeling to stop the fight in time without killing the other dog etc. Have you already understood the difference that makes the Caucasian superior to them all?

Caucasian Ovcharka must preserve its dominant tendencies and its ability to fight the wolves. From this reason, it has to participate on such events like "Тестовые испытания волкодавов" (The Testing Examination of Wolfhounds), where every young Caucasian is allowed to fight the other Wolfhounds to test (and thereby also train) his fighting ability and to display a behavior that should be typical to a Wolfhound. It makes possible to choose the best dogs to participate on breeding.

In case of the CO, the TE (testing examination) is little less topical than in the case of the other Wolfhounds (since this breed is mainly used against human enemies), nevertheless still topical at all times (since it is a Wolfhound and often used like one too).

These dogs need fighting tests to preserve their ability to fight and to test their character (Caucasian Championship 2007 by Utro-2):



(Because protection work [fight against human enemies] is the first-place merit of this breed, so even though it also needs some dog fighting [fight against other dogs and wolves], we let this dog fight only two times - because of the effect of a repeated fighting experience - when he is at least two years old [in order to test him before he will start to breed the bitches]. Please avoid often participation on this event since then your dog could develop his aggression toward the other dogs too much at the expense of his aggression toward strange people.)

As for this fighting test and laws, the testing examination is banned in many countries. Even in the Russian Federation it is banned in quite a few regions, too, whereas in others it freely continues and is kept as a tradition, which has its right for life.

The fighting test is one of the best and irreplaceable means how to prevent the Caucasian Ovcharka from its degradation:



It is said that on the West the fighting spirit of Wolfhounds faded away long time ago already. Please never forget that the word Wolfhound consists of two words – Wolf and Hound, and the original Russian name is волкодав, which is he who strangles a wolf = such a dog that is able to fight and strangle a wolf. To be capable of this, he must be allowed to fight the other Wolfhounds in order to test and also develop himself in this "dog fighting", or better to say wolf fighting aspect.

Here goes an excerpt from "Дрессировка отечественных волкодавов", describing the degradation of the Caucasian Ovcharka in modern countries without the fighting test:

"Эти духовные скопцы, сохранив внешний образ горной породы, могут выигрывать сколько угодно каких угодно выставок. Но в поединке с соперником сразу же проявится их неполноценность и уродство. Поэтому - да здравствуют испытания!"

"These mental castrates, keeping the external appearance of the mountain breed, can be winning as many dog shows as you like. But in the fight with the opponent, their insufficiency and crippledness will immediately display itself. Therefore let's greet the test!"

Above all, the Western world is against this type of dog testing and through this attitude it spoils almost all the Caucasians that live on its territory. If these dogs won't be allowed to undergo the fighting test, the breed will start to degenerate. It is perfectly described by two well-known proverbs ("Дрессировка отечественных волкодавов"):

"Тестовик - это от Бога. Не пытайтесь его заменить!"

"The test is from the God. Don't try to replace it!"

"Охранная работа и «тесты» являются той опорой, на которой держится кавказец (и азиат). Убери ее - и с лица Земли исчезнет волкодав!"

"Protection work and «tests» are the support, thanks to which preserves Caucasian (and Asian). Remove it - and a Wolfhound will disappear from the surface of the Earth!"

## Poem

He stayed in the first line when Gods were giving away the power,  
celebrate that beautiful work of Nature.  
His glory reaches the sky's tower,  
he is the art of Gods, the Caucasian Volkodav.

They are a terror that teeth of his:  
I saw him beat with them not only people,  
but also beasts, other dogs and gamebred Pits.

I lived with one of them and fell in love with him then,  
he was as strong as a dragon from Heaven.

And when our minds joined in the deep forest,  
I thought like I was him for a short moment,  
the only idea of his,  
given to him by the wildest Nature:

*"There is but us!  
We'll kill anybody who'll enter between us,  
it is our earth, now the time is ours.  
There will be nothing left out of our enemies,  
they'll never again dare to go against us."*

(We'll kill anyone who will interfere with us or will be somehow in our ways,  
or who would want to prevent us from loving each other always.)

Bloody anger was carrying out through the valley,  
and all were running away, only I was allowed to stay.  
For I was a master of him,  
who managed to take the others' lives so quickly away.

I am a mighty CO, I am a Volkodav,  
I will tear up alone the crowd of human enemies.  
The earth shakes before me,  
say, the forest, how dangerous I can be.

Big mountains, the wind is blowing,  
a thick coat protects the Winner.  
It's him that's the large plain entering,  
who within him carries the age-long power.

The mountains of Caucasus are those,  
which the true king originates from.  
The Creator gave a giant power unto him,  
to be able, when in a fight, always win.

Pair of eyes was seen shining in the darkness,  
big and white teeth lightened with glance.  
Faithful heart beats under them,  
a Caucasian goes for a prey to distance.

Caucasian Ovcharka, it is the pride of the dog family,  
it possesses the Mastiff's power,  
the best mountain breed, I can tell honestly,  
after the wolf, it took rapidness and instinct of a killer.

Who can be equal to you when in fighting,  
you are the number one of doggy and human fights,  
you know no fear of nothing,  
having the spirit of terror, merciless.

Protect us, a love, the highborn knight of wilderness,  
chase away our enemies far from us,  
stay with us till our death.

The life beside you is like a flower,  
you are the safety and the best guard,  
your presence heats us up like the honey in a tea that is warm,  
a nimbus is around your head, dark.

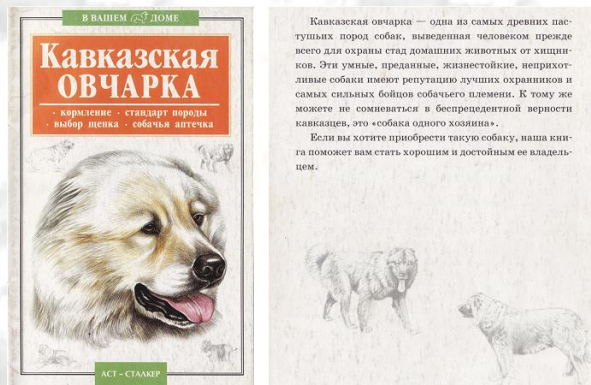
Be our god, a brother, a sister,  
even though only a big and strong dog.  
Accompany us in the meadows and forests under the sky,  
be a beautiful dream that came true.

Live, the King of kings!  
Never let cease the beating of your heart,  
do not let fade away that full-blown red flower  
of your wildness and power.

## Books

As an introduction to several bellow-posted books written by [Валерий Высоцкий](#), I have to say that after I have read them, I ceased to buy all the bullshits from the Western World and European Union, and began to use them only to make a fire in the oven. As a rule, these books are missing several most important things, which are how to train and test your Wolfhound in the proper way, how to understand him and by which attitude approach him, his psychology and other things. However, the information posted in the following books is much more valuable (although it still is not everything), especially for the people who wish to educate their Caucasian Ovcharkas properly.

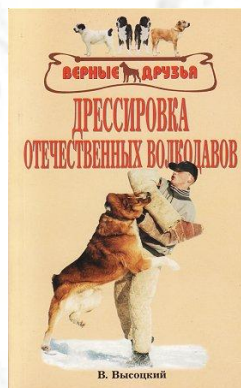
### Кавказская Овчарка (Caucasian Ovcharka)



[Publisher ACT](#)

[Buy this book online at Ozon.ru](#)

### Дрессировка отечественных волкодавов (Training of Native Wolfhounds)



[Publisher Аквариум-Принт](#)

[Buy this book online at Ozon.ru](#)



## Собака сопровождения (The Dog of Escort)



[Publisher ACT](#)

[Buy this book online at Ozon.ru](#)

Here is one more book, from a different author, which describes the history and standard of the CO very well.

## Кавказская Овчарка (Caucasian Ovcharka)



[Publisher Аквариум-Принт](#)

[Buy this book online at Ozon.ru](#)

# BONUS

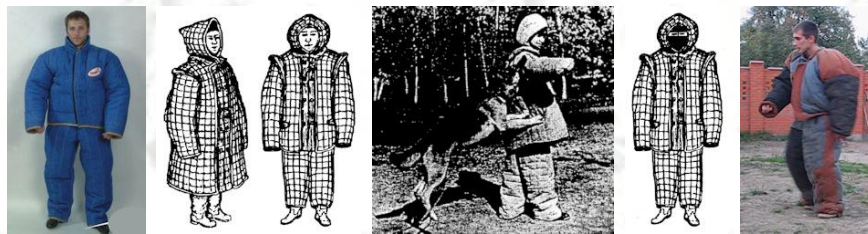
Source: <http://shepherds.volkodavshchik.ru/>

Its disclaimer: The text placed on this educational web site only represents private opinions that can be wrong and it is no official instruction how to handle these dogs or how to train them.

## Training of Protection and Defense

All the breeds of big shepherd dogs, if correctly trained, can be excellent protectors and defenders (bodyguards). They all are "dab hands" at what is called guarding service. Generally, the shepherd's breeds of dog have the best endowments for many types of work in the disciplines of protection and defense (but during the training better is to never use a protective sleeve, but a body bite suit only).

Know that because the wolfhounds that are not spoilt and who have good instincts will try, if there is a suitable situation for it, to attack the throat and head of the helper, better is to use such a bite suit that protects the helper's throat and head (but protection like a hockey-helmet is not fit for this, because the dog cannot safely and naturally bite it). The following comparison between the particular suites speaks for itself.



Good body bite suit and a Caucasian attacking by the proper way:

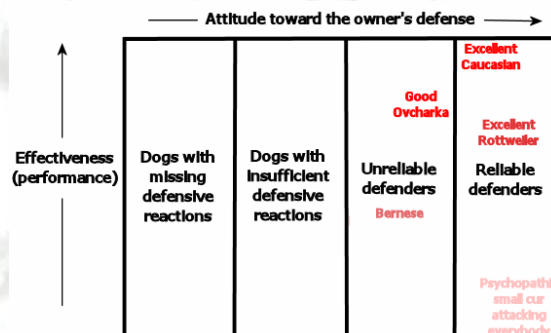


Central Asian Ovcharka Rusha - defense (with a try to bite the head):



As a bonus for this web page I have placed here several excerpts from "Dog related example":

Here is my graph of doggy defenders:



Attitude toward the owner's defense and performance in the fight are two different things. Psychopathic small cur attacking everybody will be for no use since it is too weak, and the strongest dog will be for no use if it will not defend its owner & will not attack the strangers.

Dogs with missing defensive reactions do not have any even if they were provoked for them, dogs with insufficient defensive reactions already show some endeavor to defend, which is however too low and does not result in active attack on the enemy (there is only some barking and endeavor to snap a bit after the enemy once in a while).

It is rightfully said, that attack is the best defense, therefore defenders are attacking strangers. Unreliable defender attacks strangers only in some types of situations that he was trained for, but he is supposed to be passive or tricked in the other types of situations that he does not know. Reliable defender attacks strangers in as many types of situations as possible even if tricks are used to divert his attention from the attack or even if it deals with the types of situations that he was not trained for.

Please note: Truly people-aggressive dog (= reliable defender) should have aggressive reaction to a referee on a dog show when he or she wants to check its teeth (either a direct attack or the dog should minimally stiffen up and growl), to a policeman that wants to control its owner, to a veterinarian that wants to vaccinate the dog, to every stranger that will come too close even if he had a small dog or bitch in the heat with him (it is necessary to teach the dog to be aggressive even against such persons who have a dog with them and approached its owner), to a large number of human opponents instead of one or two only (some dogs "get cold" or retreat when they see more people entering their territory) etc.

My philosophy is simple: Dogs (as well as almost all the normal people) are not able to recognize, which of other people has bad intentions about their owner. It is said that attack is the best defense, therefore the best defense of the owner is to attack all the strange people that are too close to him or her. Normally trained dogs do not react to a lot of small impulses and they are dull, but only such a dog that reliably reacts to a mere closeness of the stranger will not fail. By other words: *"The mere closeness of a stranger is a reason to attack."*

Advice: It use to happen (and in my life I have encountered it several times) that some guys (either individuals or, more often, curious Special Service) enter the home of people, when they are away (at school, at work, in the shop, at their friends' place and similarly). Then the only member of family, who is present at home, is the dog.

If the intruders have the knowledge of dogs and various means how to confuse and/or defeat them, it is very bad. Especially in young dogs that are trained for protection and such a situation of the encounter with the stranger(s), even if it was only one time in the dog's life, is something what will affect its training.

No dog is able to defend your home fully, when there is some bigger interest to get inside of it when you are away (the neighbor won't say anything to you, if they will pay to him and/or threaten him). My personal experience is that that one only factor, in given case the dog, can always fail somehow. Best are three factors together, in particular human being + the dog + some motion sensor.

Above all, I want to say that **you should never let your dog at home alone** (ignore fully that your friends are doing so). Always let one member of your family at home together with the dog. And never, not a single time in your life, let your dog without any supervision. And this is also valid for the case that your dog is chained & tied somewhere and somebody asks you to move away to a place, from which you would not have your dog under control any more (even if your best human friend asked you to go a few steps aside, where the dog would disappear from your sight, refuse it).

### Closing lesson:

It is obvious, that the endeavor to get the best dog – bodyguard and/or protector of premises – is correct. But all the time we must not forget the fact that no such a dog is able to reach 100% results every time and to manage to deal with all the possible situations. Any dog can be tricked somehow or defeated. And it is the reason why we cannot (and I understood it only after long years) expect everything of the dog.

From the viewpoint of Astrology, only a small number of individuals have such endowments, that they can become the best bodyguards, attacking all the potential enemies of their owner in all the types of situations.

A practical attitude to it is very simple: We try to obtain a dog of the best inborn endowments for the protection work (in our case we prefer the wolfhound to all the other). But we know that it alone cannot deal with everything.

Therefore we should be helping it. We observe the reasonable rules of safety; we can have a gun; we live in the way not to have too dangerous enemies; if the dog fights more enemies at the same time we help it, and similarly. But in this case the dog should get used to the gun in our hands and that we also fight the enemies, not only it.

### There are two main options:

1. If everything depends only on the dog, meaning that it won't get any support and it has to do everything alone, it must be best at the protection work. We speak about the most people-aggressive Wolfhound with the best inborn endowments and training. But such a Wolfhound, say, is one out of hundred.

2. If only one part depends on the dog and the other is in reliable hands of its owner with other positive and helping factors, it will do when that dog will "only" be good at the protection work, although not best. And such can be one out of ten, for example.

When the owner knows some martial art and/or possesses a gun, his house with the backyard are safely situated with the other positive circumstances (for instance, a dog and a bitch, shortly several dogs at the same time), a good dog is enough and it is not necessary to have the best one. I add that not only Wolfhound is sufficient for this purpose, but also some excellent individuals of various "utility breeds of dog".

After you have read the previous lines, I give you a question, the answer to which is not simple and easy every time: *"What is better, a Caucasian Ovcharka alone or a German Shepherd Dog and a gun?"* But if I gave you a question *"What is better, a Caucasian Ovcharka and a gun or a German Shepherd Dog and a gun?"*, it would be easier to answer it.

Just as a matter of interest: I was thinking about how it would turn out, if I had let's say 10 dogs and after our death the soul of every one of them had met that of mine in the Heaven. Every one of the dogs would jump to me like to its only owner and would want to have the whole of me for himself, which would not be possible.

Let's say that I would live one million years instead of several tens. Of course, from the viewpoint of eternity it is still nothing. But I won't discuss it for the moment.

I love dogs and some doggy friend is always needed. I would be with them "all the time" and during this million of years I would have a lot of them. And if every one of them would live 10 years, then if we divide the million by ten, we get one hundred thousand. So many dogs I would have. And to stay a bit faithful to them all, every period of time I would want to devote one day to the remembrance of every one of them. But it means one hundred days of remembering, which is almost 274 years!

Of course, the capacity of human brain is insufficient for the (regular) remembrance of all the dogs and is not capable of storing the information from such a long life like that of mine would be.

It would be capable of it only in the case if I had a different brain, but it would not be I any more and I would not experience my love for dogs the way I do. Shortly, no matter how I think about it, there is always the conclusion that to live as a human being and very long is not possible. Man's life is short.

And the life of dogs is even shorter. The dog gives us its whole life, but we give it only the minority of that of ours. It means that the dog is more faithful to us than we to it.

Question: How a dog after its death could be happy in the Heaven, when it is there without its owner?

You have loved your four-legged friend and he died. Do you want to know when you will meet him again?

If you do not believe in any Heaven and you want your dog exactly the way it was here on Earth when you two had lived together, just wait for it. It will come itself, since all the stories we are experiencing are repeating all the time. Excerpts from book "Nekonecny pribeh" (= the never-ending story) by Pavel Kastl:

*"It is an eternal process. A story without beginning and end. The never-ending story. It has always been like that and it will always be like that. Do you want to see the one who had invented this story? Then the space opened and it was seen beyond the border of all the borders. And the soul of Kasius saw an endless face with endless look of endless eyes. Somebody mightier than all the mighty and wiser than all the wise. And then it had finally understood, why this story has to be the way it is and why it must repeat eternally."*

*"During the whole endless period of time, in the course of which this story is going on, its events are observed by someone's cold and endless face. It has already seen it endless number of times and it knows it by memory. The eyes of that face have an ice-cold look, missing all the human emotions."*