

13th IRO Rescue Dogs World Championship 2007 in Eisenstadt

A festivity for friends

The World Championship was planned down to the last detail for years. Even the weather had adjusted for the participants.

Not only signposts were by the roads even the members of the SVÖ-youth were standing at the street crossings and showed the WC participants the way to the Inner City of Eisenstadt, where the opening event took place. Simply charming – simply different – simply typical for this WC in the capital of Burgenland.

All participants came punctually with their dogs as with the team leaders to the gathering place and as the military band got into position even the last dog jumped out of the cold water of the fountain at the Schubertplatz. The raindrops got fewer and the sun came out as the long march proceeded through the pedestrian zone of Eisenstadt. Passing along with flags decorated streets, hundreds of spectators, photographers and TV-teams the march ended at Schloss Esterhazy where Governor Niessl and the guests of honour were waiting for the opening ceremony. It couldn't be nicer and more imperial.

The two leading organisers Mr. Eric Koczi and Mr. Karl Rittner brought the slogan of the WC to the point: "Here we want to give you all back what you have given the world during your missions!"

And everybody received something. During the drawing of the starter numbers, everyone became applause - it was a fantastic atmosphere. Before that the organisers discussed about the music what should be played and thought that the Empire-Hall could be too big for the crowd, but the hall was full and the crowd cheered and applauded the participants.

The first step was made – the "Happy Games" had started. A big family had met and celebrated.

Always present: the whole SVÖ-Board with its president Dr. Wolfgang Tauber and IRO-representatives from all over the world led by the president Dr. Wolfgang Zörner.

Now seriousness of the games began: while the area- , track- and rubble search was beginning, the first from the media highly respected demonstration in the water test.

The competition of dexterity and obedience were held on the sports field in St.Georgen/ Eisenstadt. In contradiction to other World Championships all participants stayed in the stadium and looked at the competitions and watched the broadcasting of the outposts on a

huge video-wall. Three camera teams of the Telekom Austria were permanently on mission and sent the DVDs into the stadium. There the films were cut in the Media-truck and brought on to the video-wall – a service which never was done for the participants or the spectators.

The companionship during the WC will never be forgotten, also the atmosphere in the stadium when someone - no matter of which nation - made a good result.

Unforgettable was the cheer when the oldest participant, Erich Schleier, got the honour trophy which was donated by the Austrian president Heinz Fischer who has taken over the patronage. Standing ovations and cheers followed the 84 years old man when he ran onto the site.

It was a very worthy award and final ceremony. After a fulminant demonstration of the Austrian Forces where dog handlers roped out of a helicopter with their dogs and simulated a deployment and the SVÖ-Youth showed their capability, all teams marched into the stadium. In front of each nation was a standard bearer and behind the dog handlers. It looked like a little Olympic good-bye ceremony – cheerful, unifying and amicable.

Of course a big event like this can only work with sponsors. First of all “Royal Canine” which already congratulated to the “tremendous World Championship”. But also the Austrian Forces, Softlab, Airport Vienna, ÖMV, Zuritel, Bayer Health Care, Intervet, Raiffeisen, the eye specialist Dr. Obermayer, Country of Burgenland and the City of Eisenstadt have to be mentioned.

At the end one thing has to be mentioned which was typical for the WC. The organisation team thought that about 150 persons will attend the final evening. For this amount a catering was arranged but more and more people came and at the end 350 people from all over the world celebrated – so the street in front of the restaurant had to be closed. This was just another symbol for the “Happy Games”, a festivity, a WC for all those who give so much effort to the world through their rescue dog missions.

Results:

Area:

1. Brigitte Versterre, Netherlands
2. Ana Viller, Croatia
3. Ghroum Mourad, France

Tracking:

1. Jan Fekar, Czech Republic
2. Jan Sramek, Slovakia
3. Pavel Sabacky, Czech Republic

Rubble:

1. Leczki Sarolta, Hungary
2. Patric Corpataux, Switzerland
3. Rudolf Klötzli, Switzerland

Water:

1. Michal Svoboda, Czech Republic
(Only one in the competition)

Team:

1. SZBK, Czech Republic
2. NRHB, Netherlands
3. C.S.P., France

All information, results and photos of the WC on www.rhwm2007.at