

Volume 50, Issue 1

Winter 2023 Issue

THE COURIER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PORTUGUESE WATER DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

2023 Performance Issue

PWDs Do it All!

Agility

Barn Hunt

Dock Diving

FastCat

Obedience

Rally

Water Work

Scent Work

Tracking

Lute

DOB 2/12/2020
OFA Hips EXCELLENT
OFA Elbows NORMAL
PRA CLEAR/NORMAL
EOPRA CLEAR/NORMAL
GM1 CLEAR/NORMAL
JDCM Probable NORMAL
MO CARRIER
CDDY N/N
IC CLEAR/NORMAL



BIS BISS GCH Watersong Pouch Cove Resolute

BIS BISS CCH Marinella's Smooth Criminal At Arkangel x CH Watersong Amethyst Charmer

Bred and Owned by Milan Lint, Mary Oldham and Peggy Helming
Presented by Michael and Michelle Scott

North Shore

PORTUGUESE WATER DOGS

Breeder Owner handled by Cindy Petrey

The real joy is not found in the points or ribbons...

it is found when you step into the ring with the dog you love!



Revel

Champion
North Shore Revelation
CD CDX RA MXJ MX OF WWDX
WS503B5401

Earned 8 performance titles in 2022

- 10/20/2022 CDX Obedience
- 2/6/2022 Excellent Agility Jumpers and Agility Excellent 4
- 5/21/2022 Agility Fast Novice
- 8/23/2022 Agility Fast Open
- 8/2022 WWDX
- 11/5/2022 Master Ex Agility Jumpers
- 12/17/2022 Master Ex Agility

Ricochet

UKC BIS Champion
North Shore's Back for More
CD CDX BN RA XF MX AXJ TKN WWDX
WS55630001

Earned 6 performance titles in 2022

- 4/30/2022 Excellent Agility Jumpers
- 6/25/2022 Agility Open Fast
- 8/21/2022 WWDX
- 8/23/2022 Agility Excellent
- 12/10/2022 Master Agility Excellent
- 12/17/2022 Agility Fast Excellent

MBIS MRBIS GCH/AM GCH CH BAYWOOD GOT SOME SPLAININ TODO CD RN CGN CGCA TKA MAC-2
(CH BAYWOOD NORSE LEGEND VCD1 BN RE TDX FDC AX AXJ OF T2B SIN CGC TKA CWDX X CH BAYWOOD JOY TO THE WORLD AGIJS AGIS RN)



Ricky

America's
#17

PORTUGUESE WATER DOG
ALL BREDS

#20

PORTUGUESE WATER
DOG BREED

in 2022



©HAN '22



PROUDLY BRED & OWNED BY: BAYWOOD PORTUGUESE WATER DOGS - BRENDA BROWN & KATHY BUTKOVIC - BAYWOODDOGS@GMAIL.COM
PROFESSIONALLY HANDLED IN THE USA BY: CLINT & KAREN LIVINGSTON, LIVINGSTONDOGS.COM
PROFESSIONALLY HANDLED IN CANADA BY: CONNIE KROHN & TRINA NEIL, CPHA FAYE UNRAU PHOTO

Work and look good doing it!



'REMI'
GCH Baywood Reminiscent RN CGN
(Ricky x Libby)
Owned by Baywood
Portuguese Water Dogs



'MAZ'
CH Ascent I Like That Wookie Maz
RN CGCA CGCU
(Ricky x Buca)
Owned by
Chad Koenegstein
& Dr Rachel Eken



'RIOS'
CH Marinella Kokomo At Chigal
(Ricky x Hula)
Owned/Bred by
Lisa Wright & Kristle Marangon



'GIA'
TDCH Baywood's Got It All
AGIJ AGI JT WWDX DN ATD-M
CCF2 SDN TC1 AtoZ 2K9 20:1
(Ricky x Blanca)
Owned by Karen Massner



'VIOLET'
CH Baywood Midnight Violet
R AGN AGNJ NP JT RN RI DN AWD
(Ricky x Libby)
Owned by
Pat Belliveau & Baywood



'TIGE'
CH Baywood Penny For Your Thoughts
(Ricky x Penny)
Owned by Cindy & Brian McCue

- 'KNOX'** CH Baywood OpportunityKnox CGN RA ATD (Ricky x Penny) Owned by Marj Tory
 - 'MICAH'** CH Marinella Wouldn't It Be Nice TKN (Ricky x Hula) Owned by Dixie Matson/Kristle Marangon
 - 'RICKEY'** Baywood's Meant To Be CGN ATD JWW (Ricky x Rosie) Owned by Pam Doiron
 - 'JOSIE'** Baywood Seaside Josie R CGN RN (Ricky x Penny) Owned by Kyra Illnitsky
 - 'REBEL'** Ascent The Force Is Strong With This One RN CGCA (Ricky x Buca) Owned/Bred by Dr. Rachel Eken
- We are happy to welcome Jenna Bullis, Judy Berger & Cathy Tinaglia to the Ricky family. (Ricky x Cardi)

Ricky is available at stud to approved bitches.
Fresh chilled semen available via Fedex Overnight Delivery

Baywood Portuguese Water Dogs - Since 1989

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WEB DESIGN BY NIOME

Slice

CH Ascent Do You Wanna Pizza Me?!

RN CGCA CGCU

A Smolder Son



Available For Stud



*“Dedicated to Protecting and Preserving
ALL Facets of the Portuguese Water Dog”*



BREEDING FOR BALANCE

Abby

Ascent Dear Abby's Latest Edition
AX OAJ NF CGCA

Onion

GCH Ascent Don't Believe Everything You Read
RN NAP NJP TKA

Maz

Co-Owned By: Chad Koenegstein
CH Ascent I Like That Wookiee Maz
RN CGCA CGCU

Wallace

Ascent Monitor Wallace Gromet
RI CGC TKA

Oopsie

CH Ascent No Mistakes Only Happy Accidents
CGCU

Rebel

Ascent The Force Is Strong With This One
RN CGCA

Mesa

Co-Owned By: Barb Crouther & Shelley Plucker
Ascent To Afortunado Unexpected Mountain Blessing
RN FDC BCAT SCN CGC TKN AWD

Mona

Co-Owned By: Carrie Millbrath Zimmer
CH Ascent's Masterpiece At Mon Reve
SCN SIN CGC TKN

Page

GCH Marshview Xtraxtra Read All About It
CD BN RN FDC OA OAJ ACT; TKI WWD

Janiero

CH Marshview Ringed In Gold
BN RA FDC ACT; ACT; CGCA CGCU WWD

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ascentdogs@gmail.com

an extension of their Lewis

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Winter 2023

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On the Front Cover:

"O'Neill"
MACH Lakeshore Surf's Up O'Neill MXS, MJG, XF

Owned by: Kevin Keeshen

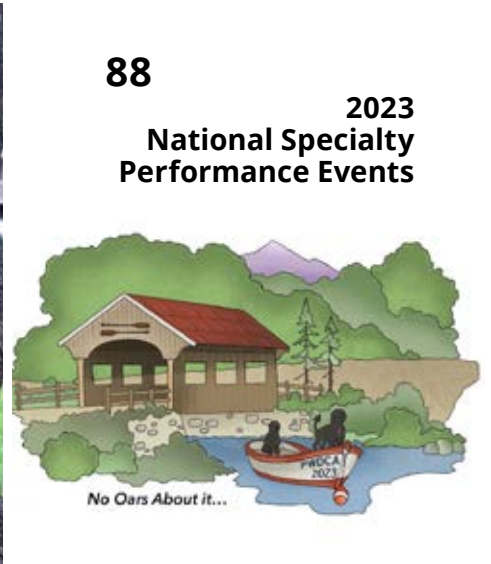
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Editor's page



We are excited to focus on performance dogs in this issue. It was a fun issue to pull together, and we want to remind our members to do fun things with their dogs!

We all get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of life that sometimes we forget to have fun with our furry friends. This is why we want to focus on our performance dogs for this issue.

Performance events involve having fun with your dog while teaching them obedience and tricks. It is a great way to bond with your dog while also getting some exercise. So, in this issue, we are featuring articles on how to get started in different performance sports, some tips and tricks for training your dog, and some fun ideas for things to do with your dog.

We have great ambassadors in our breed that have shared their stories with us. We hope you enjoy this issue and get some great ideas for having fun with your dog.

Our next issue is our Spring Family Dog Issue. The submission deadline for content and advertising is March 20, 2023. We welcome and encourage you to submit your stories and photos to share with the membership.

Get out and have some fun with your dog!

Bonnie Hill

PWDCA Committee Chairs

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Contact information can be found on the PWDCA website under Committees.

www.pwdca.org/activities-committees



President's Letter

By: Jane Freeman

Welcome to the performance edition of *The Courier*.

WOW! Our dogs and their humans participate with enthusiasm and much success in many dog sports, which is wonderful to see. My initial foray into dog sports was Agility because my first PWD, aka the Devil's Spawn, REALLY needed a job. Agility led to Water work, Obedience and Rally. I love that this Breed can do it all. Our dogs also excel at Tracking, Scent Work, Fast Cat, Freestyle, and Barn Hunt, among others. I'm looking forward to reading the Parkour article, a sport I had yet to hear of.

Kudos to our Breeders who produce these dogs who can do it all. You've achieved this without bifurcating the Breed, which is no small accomplishment.

The PWDCA recognizes our dogs' versatility through its Owner/Handler Awards program, the Register of Merit Awards, the Multiple Achievement Certificates, the Outstanding Breeder Achievement Award, and the Producer of Merit Award. The Club also awards pins for a dog's first title in Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, Water, Scent, Agility, and Service. We are a very competitive group.

As I write this, the new Health and Litter Log database is being Beta tested. Many hours have gone into the transition. Thanks to everyone for helping to get the new database up and running. We look forward to a smooth rollout.

Although outside it is snowing, August is just around the corner. Kicking off performance events and the 2023 National Specialty week will be the Water Trial held at Lowell State Recreation Site. Many of you will be attending, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Those who attended the 2013 National Specialty in Albany, Oregon, will remember the Linn County Expo Center. The Expo center will again be our home for all conformation, performance, and people events. Not new to recent PWDCA National Specialties but new to this venue will be Scentwork which will be conveniently located to all the other events.

Please plan to attend Friday's Awards dinner to finish the week of activities. Some surprises are planned for the evening, and it's a fun way to celebrate the week.

Please remember, *The Courier* is your magazine. It can't exist without content and ads from the membership.

Jane



PWDCA Rescue

Rescue Update

by Barb Crowther

PWDCA Rescue has been blessed with the addition of several new representatives and volunteers this past year. Judy Percival joined Rescue recently as our Representative for North and South Carolina. Her first intake was a sweet dog and it took a village to assess and place her. Jelly was posted on Facebook by her family looking to re-home her

so she definitely garnered a lot of attention and discussion. It took work to organize a lot of people and Judy managed all of it with grace and joy.

I cannot tell you how amazed I continue to be at all the volunteers who work for our PWDCA Rescue. We should all be very grateful they give so freely of their time and talents to help our breed!



Jelly's Rescue

by Judy Percival

In mid-December, I received a surrender call from a family with a female dog named Jelly. They hoped to have her placed in a new home before Christmas.

Approximately 3 ½ years ago, the couple had rescued then six-month-old Jelly from their church where she was abandoned and covered in ticks. They took her to the vet - there was no microchip.



Jelly was micro-chipped, given appropriate vaccinations, and eventually spayed. She got along well with her family which included two other rescue dogs and a cat. Their first baby was three weeks old and, unfortunately Jelly's energy, enthusiasm, and need for attention became too much for the family to manage.

I asked for a photo, hoping a picture of a typically adorable PWD would help in finding her a home. The quick answer was "sure" followed by a photo that took me aback. She slightly resembled a PWD. Her multi-colored markings and mixed coat type were unlike anything I'd seen. She was either not a PWD or she had a very improper coat. When I asked about her appearance, they said she'd been DNA tested and was 100% PWD. The timing of the surrender and the appearance of the dog presented a challenge for both fostering and adopting.

PWDCA member Martha Ruskai went to the home and took Jelly to a training session to better evaluate her temperament. She was an energetic dog and quick learner. Martha recommended a family who had experience with the typical PWD temperament and the ability to work with Jelly on basic training.

Enter Letty Afong, who is known to many in our National club. I met Letty when I lived in Iowa and she was in Minnesota. She was a force in PWDs with her Neolces Kennel. She went on to be a judge and retired just last year. Letty saw Jelly's rescue post and referred her to a close friend. This person owned

several Portuguese Water Dogs in the past, going back to Deyanne Miller's Farmion line. Jane Harding (a valuable representative in the PWDCA Rescue organization) assisted him in securing his first dog when Deyanne passed. He now has rescue dogs from other breeds and contacted me about Jelly. His response to her photo was that she was a textbook improperly coated PWD.

We corresponded, and his last question was if Jelly was good with cats. When he saw her interacting with the surrender family's cat, the deal was clinched, and he agreed to adopt her. He lives a long distance from Jelly's surrender home and Martha once again came to the rescue, driving several hours with Jelly to meet him. Martha said Jelly's new owner is "delightful" and the first thing Jelly did was to give him a kiss.

We've seen a video of Jelly playing in her large, fenced-in yard with her new family of dogs who are much better trained than her – an inspiration and goal for Jelly's future. I cannot imagine a happier ending for a surrender.

It took a village of Movers and Shakers members to accomplish so much in so little time. Though challenging, this is a rewarding position and I look forward to more happy endings for Portuguese Water Dogs who are surrendered to PWDCA Rescue.

Ancient Mariners

A series of Courier articles featuring Portuguese Water Dogs that have lived past the age of 15.



Dash

January 24, 2006 - February 2, 2022

By Sara Franzese

Dash came to us for the American Dream. He traveled from Canada after losing his home and almost his life.

On October 19, 2014, the Great Lakes Portuguese Water Dog Club sent out an urgent email seeking a foster. Without hesitation or discussion, we decided I was going to drive from Cleveland to Detroit to pick him up. We wanted him forever and that hope turned to relief and joy when PWDCA Rescue told us a month later that we were Dash's new family. He was a couple months shy of his 9th birthday and we never anticipated that he would be with us for over seven years.

Our girl Pearl instantly welcomed Dash into her home as if he was always meant to be there. He also had the companionship of three other female Portuguese Water Dogs on my side of the family. Being a humble gentleman amongst a bunch of divas made him even more endearing.

Whether in public or our own circle, everyone was drawn to Dash—adults, children, cats, and dogs. There really was just something about him. One of our cats thought Dash was the coolest guy in the world. The adoration only went one way but Dash was exceedingly tolerant of this little weirdo who was obsessed with him.

Dash was sweet, charming, gentle, and playful. It was clear that he had been exceptionally trained but he was polite almost to a fault. As he grew accustomed to his new home and people, he learned he could be more free. It took awhile for him to understand that he didn't need to be invited on the furniture. He never pawed or jumped on anyone but in time he would become energized by the attention-seeking Pearl and



cheerfully join in on demands. He was only serious and worried when it came to mealtimes. Precisely an hour before it was time to eat, he would stare for that whole hour at whoever was going to feed him, lest they forget.

Dash loved walks and river romps in the metroparks. He took a few day trips to the GLPWDC parties. He loved going out to bars and restaurants, especially the ones where he was able to order off a dog menu. Every time we were at a restaurant, he would face the direction of the kitchen while waiting to be served.

His 14th birthday party was in a well-known bar and brewery. We took family outings to pick out pumpkins and Christmas trees every year. He competed in events at a yearly local dog festival and won prizes. Our little town of Chagrin Falls was one of his favorite places most likely because of the occasional custard he would gleefully devour from the historic Popcorn Shop. He was a perfect angel in pet friendly stores.

He went on a couple oceanside beach vacations and loved day trips to Lake Erie. He was delighted by water more than the others. He was the only one who knew how to cool down from the sun by enthusiastically digging a hole whilst throwing up sand upon us and in our cocktails. He attended four National Specialties and was the oldest dog in the 2021 Parade of Seniors.

Dash was strong and durable. He made fools out of everybody, including many veterinarians, multiple times when he came out of several health scares smiling like nothing horrible had happened. One time, after being hospitalized for two days, we were told that he was in kidney failure and only had a month at most. We took him home and did everything possible to support him.

A couple weeks later, we thought he was crashing but bloodwork showed that his kidneys were almost back to normal. The vet who had told us we were close to losing him was in shock.

Dash went back into the ER on a stretcher and after another ultrasound, was diagnosed with severe acute pancreatitis. The vet tending to him was extremely concerned. Two days later, Dash came out with a little bounce to his step, sitting up smiling the whole way home and ready for a night on the town. It happened to be April Fools' Day.

I naively came to believe that simply old age would be what took him from us. Then came a time in December 2021, when everything started to go so wrong so fast. In the end, lymphoma was the primary culprit that took him swiftly from this side of the world.

Dash was always so happy. He was our old man, who for most of his years, wasn't old. He was our dude. Sixteen years is an incredible accomplishment for any dog. We are so fortunate that he spent almost half of those years loving us so purely and being loved and cherished by us, our extended families and friends. He brought an immense amount of joy to our lives and while we hope we did the same for him, it will never feel like we could give back enough to a dog as extraordinary as Dash.



Ancient Mariners

A series of Courier articles featuring Portuguese Water Dogs that have lived past the age of 15.



Theodore Jasper Klingler

Seashell's Steppin' Out In

by Joan M. Klingler

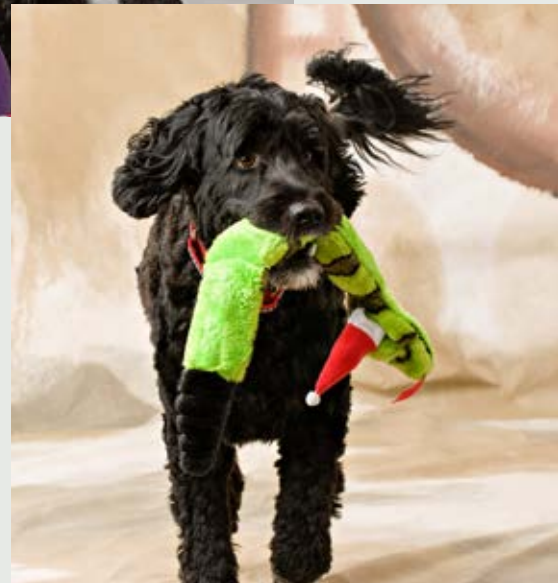
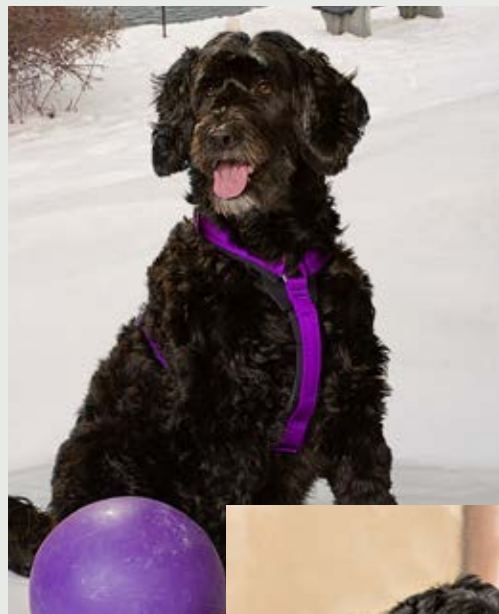
Theodore Jasper Klingler, commonly known as TJ, was adopted by me 13 years ago when his current owners decided he had too much energy for them. I always wonder how a dog bred to swim 1-2 miles in the ocean between fishing boats would not have a lot of energy. Anyway, I gladly adopted the dog who climbed into my lap at his foster home and put his head on my shoulder. I was told that he had just picked me.

TJ lived to be 15 1/2 years old and died on September 22, 2022. His energy was channeled into obedience, rally, water work, scent work, barn hunt, and therapy work. He and I travelled up and down the East coast - me judging and him competing - and met hundreds of other dogs and their handlers, making friends every trip. School kids had grown to love TJ as they read to him in their classrooms with his head in their laps. The PWD rescue gave me a much-needed companion, friend, and partner. I thank them all the time and have even volunteered on occasion to transport dogs.

TJ had lost much of his hearing but luckily we trained with hand signals so we were good to go. His eyes were a bit cloudy, but it did not stop him from retrieving dumbbells and jumping low jumps. He had both ACL's repaired and so suffered from arthritis in both rear knees. Getting old is tough. The problem is that PWDs do not admit to having body issues. TJ still did Barn Hunt - falling between bales of straw and totally not caring. When he did his last Master Container AKC scent run, he took second place and the judge gave me a high five when I told him TJ was 14 years old. He thought he was amazing the way he ran around the ring looking for the hidden odors. My chiropractic vet told me that in her opinion PWDs can do anything and excel at all venues they enter. Other breeds can do well in some things, but PWDs do well at anything they try. I totally agree with her!

TJ began having nose bleeds and radiographs showed left sinus was totally clouded - something was growing in there. Add to that bloody stools occasionally and then the last week of this life he could not keep any food down - even all the meat and pasta I was

cooking for him. He had spent most of his life at 60 pounds of muscle and was now down to 47 pounds. Again - that PWD attitude was still there and he went for a last swim in the morning and then ran around the yard retrieving his toy. He left me the afternoon of the 22nd and I am still missing him terribly - especially his sense of humor that always had me laughing. I cry myself to sleep at night but know that he will send me another dog to entertain me.



Ondakina

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while breeding to the standard

Seamus

CH Ondakina's Divine Comedy BN RE CGCA
CGCU TKI WWD



Keats

CH Ondakina's Spirit Of A Winter's Night RN CGCA
TKI ATT JWD

Eden

CH Ondakina's Take It To The Limit RI CGCA
CGCU TKI WWD



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#614-507-9336

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PROUD OF THE WORKING PERFORMANCE OFFSPRING



The Sister Act

Cashea

Torrid Zone Eagles Cashea CGCA TKI
First time PWD owner Spencer Joyner
WS63927001 DOB 2/21/19

Juno

Torrid Zone Queen of the Heavens
CGCA TKN ACT1 ACT2J
AWD First time PWD owner Terry Revak
DOB 8/27/20

Shasta

HiBisKiss It's Got to Be Shasta CGC TKN
JWD at the specialty
first time PWD owners John & Cathy Rodenburg
WS71703204 DOB 2/4/21

Coke

GCH HiBisKiss And a Smile CGC TKN
WS71703201 DOB 2/4/21
Breeder/owner

Cherry

CH HiBisKiss Black Cherry CGC TKN JWD
WS71703203 DOB 2/4/21
Breeder/owner

HiBisKiss

Champions

CURRENTLY IN THE RING

Cherry

Cherry Bred by Exhibitor Championship with 2 BOW for 5 BIG point majors in Brooksville, FL and the first time in the BOB ring won the Breed!

DNA profile V10048469
PW-EYE 4418/18F-VPI
CDDY N/CDDY NCD 201768
JDCM & MO ID 38289 NORMAL
WISDOM PANEL DWZSKXH EOPRA
GM-1
PRA-PRCD CLEAR



Coke

Finished her Grand Champion owner handled in Brooksville with Best of Breed!

AKC DNA V10048468
PW-EYE 4417/18F-VPI
CDDY N/CDDY NCD 201766
JDCM & MO ID 36290 1-1 NORMAL
WISDOM PANEL DWYFBYM
EOPRA
GM-1
PRA-PRCD CLEAR

Meg DeFore
HiBisKiss Portuguese Water Dogs
MegD4@aol.com

A Busy PWD is a Happy PWD:

Award Programs for PWDCA Members and their Dogs

By Barb Crowther, Amanda Ford, Verne Foster, and Kari Lavalli, PWDCA Awards Committee

If you are new to the PWDCA, or new to performance events, or simply aren't familiar with the various PWDCA Awards programs, we'd like to offer a rundown of several of the PWDCA awards offerings.

The Pin, MAC, and ROM programs are our way to provide positive feedback to our members and offer incentives to keep your working dogs busy and happy. These programs were devised to motivate you to develop that special bond with your PWD that comes from working as a team.

Every step you take to learn new skills makes for a happier and more fulfilling relationship with your dog. From the first pin you earn for your very first title, through the most elite Platinum Register of Merit, we hope you will find inspiration to keep building the bond with your active dog. The pins, certificates, and medals are wonderful, but the relationship is what it's all about--that is the ultimate reward!

These PWDCA award programs are designed to encourage your participation in performance and conformation, and the title and awards databases will help you keep track of your accomplishments. Each of these will be discussed in greater detail later in this article.

- **The PWDCA Pin Program** was designed to congratulate owners for succeeding in their first efforts. A reward of a small pin is given to the dog for their first titles.
- **The Multiple Achievement Certificate (MAC)** is awarded to the dog and is designed to motivate owners to be competitive to work and train their dogs in any activities beyond a single sport.
- **The Register of Merit Awards (ROM)** are the club's highest cumulative awards. These are given to dogs who succeed in multiple AKC and PWDCA sports and attain a special degree of excellence for their endeavors throughout their life.

- **The AKC and Water title databases** are administered by the Awards Committee to keep track of the breed's accomplishments. All AKC and water titles are available to search in the Members-Only section of PWDCA.org. These databases also archive annual top 10 lists in conformation and agility, as well as PWD group placements.

The PWDCA also has several additional programs listed here for your information. These won't be discussed in this article, but full information can be found on the PWDCA web site.

- **Superdog** is a National Specialty award given each year to the dog who excels in the most areas of competition at the Specialty.
- **The Producer of Merit Award (POM)** is given to sires and dams who produce outstanding offspring.
- **The Outstanding Breeder Achievement Award (OBAA)** is given to the breeder who produced the most accomplished dogs in a calendar year.
- **The Owner Handler Award (OHA)** is given to the handler who has achieved excellence in conformation and performance events in the calendar year. (The OHA is a stand-alone program not administered by the Awards Committee but included here for your information.)

Complete information on each of these programs is available at PWDCA.org. Look under the Activities and Events tab and select Awards Programs. The title lists, award recipients, top ten lists and group placements are available in the members-only section of PWDCA.org (log into the Member Center and select Titles and Awards from the list of Member Center options).

PIN PROGRAM

This program was started in 2002 to reward PWD owners who participate in AKC dog sports. It is a token given to a dog for its first title earned in a given sport. Initially pins were sent to PWDCA members



whose dogs earned their first title in Conformation, Obedience, Agility, Waterwork, and Tracking. A Service pin was added in 2004 and required each owner to provide paperwork to show work in Therapy, SAR, or assistance. Today, the AKC has various service titles that we recognize. With the addition of AKC Rally in 2005 and AKC Scent Work in 2018, there are now eight pins total to be earned in this program. These small cloisonné style pins are custom designed by Verne Foster to feature PWDs in each sport/activity. They are sent out automatically and free of charge to the first PWDCA member owner listed on the dog's AKC registered name. This program is unique to our breed and quickly became a wildly popular, encouraging owners to start to dabble in additional dog sports. Each month the pin program administrator goes through the official AKC title report for first titles and new dogs are added to the PWDCA pin database and pins are mailed out. Member owners of dogs with CKC titles can submit their first titles for pins as well. Today we can all be proud that close to 5000 of our working dogs have completed their first titles in a sport and earned their pin. As AKC adds more dog sports, even more pins may become available.

Pins are sent out automatically each month and no application need to be submitted. The pin program was administered from the beginning by Verne Foster, and Shelley Plucker has recently taken over from her.

MULTIPLE ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE (MAC)

The MAC program started in 2014 to recognize the many PWD owners and dogs training and competing in dog sports, regardless of registry, area of competition, or title. This includes a huge variety of activities, from traditional AKC sports and water trials to unusual events like weight pull, parkour, and anything in between. Most nationally recognized dog sports that award titles can be used towards the MAC requirements, to recognize and encourage all of our dogs' achievements.

The goal of this program is to reward breadth of participation by requiring multiple areas of competition with little restriction on what events, registries, or titles are eligible. The Level 1 Multiple Achievement Certificate (MAC-1) is awarded to a dog for earning seven titles in a minimum of three areas of competition. The MAC-2 and higher will be awarded for each

set of six additional titles earned from three areas of competition. These areas need not be the same as those used for MAC-1, but there must be six titles in at least three areas of competition for each additional MAC level.

At its inception, we were excited to see so many dogs performing at AKC events across the United States. Now, we are seeing more dogs doing a multitude of performance events across numerous venues and tilting organizations. In its first year, 2014, the PWDCA Awards committee approved 32 MACs to 18 dogs. In 2022, 108 Multiple Achievement Certificates were awarded to 50 different dogs. To date, over 650 certificates have been issued.

It is easy to participate in this program. Novice through advanced titles in most any activity are eligible for the MAC. Certificates are available by application by the owner, and printed certificates are sent periodically throughout the year. This program is managed by Barb Crowther and Kathy Souza with oversight by the Awards Chair. The Awards Committee is pleased that the MAC program is so popular. Enjoy spending time with your working dog!

REGISTER OF MERIT AWARD

The Register of Merit Award (ROM) is the premier awards program that celebrates the versatility of Portuguese Water Dogs at the highest level of challenge and achievement. It was started in 1999 and has run continuously since that time. Over the years, the Awards Committee and PWDCA members have discussed which of the many areas of AKC or CKC competition are eligible for these awards, and we regularly review the various titling sports for rigor.

Since the ROM is specifically designed to recognize those dogs that are both special and versatile, this program doesn't include titles that require minimal training and are relatively easy to achieve (e.g., FastCAT), or those where the qualifying rate is extremely high (e.g., Rally).

There are 4 ROM levels, each with more exacting requirements. Titles accepted for the program come from five areas of competition - PWDCA/PWDCC Water, and AKC Conformation, Agility, Obedience, and Scent (this includes both Tracking and Scent Work). Only certain titles from these events are eligible. Most equivalent CKC titles are also eligible (with some limitations for Scent Work).

A variety of awards can also be used at certain ROM levels. These include awards such as AKC Obedience High in Trial or High Combined, AKC All Breed Best in Show, and any of the National Specialty Awards (Best of Breed, Best of Opposite, Award of Merit, Select Dog/Bitch, Obedience High in Trial or High Combined, Agility High in Trial, and Superdog).

In addition, there are several annual AKC national rankings and championships that are ROM eligible, such as the #1 Obedience or Agility Dog or #1 Conformation Dog Breed or All-Breed, or National Obedience or Agility Champion.

To understand the eligibility requirements of the ROM program, applicants need to be aware of the differences between the various levels of the ROM. For those wishing to earn these awards, knowing the requirements can help dictate a training program for your dog.

The Bronze level requires four titles from at least three different areas of competition - agility, obedience, scent (tracking/scent work), water, or conformation. Because this is the easiest level to achieve, 573 BROMs have been awarded.

The Silver level requires five titles or awards from at least three different areas of competition. One of these five must be either a PWDCA water title or an award. Thus far, 479 SROMs have been awarded.

The Gold level requires a minimum of six titles or awards, including two water titles. It also requires that two of the titles earned be advanced titles. If the dog has not earned an award, then a fourth area of competition is required. For example, a dog could have an AWD and WWD (2 water titles, one of which is advanced), a CD, a Novice and Open Agility title (the Open title is advanced), and an AOM from a National Specialty (or any other award) or a Scent Work Novice Level title or a Championship. To date, 243 GROMs have been awarded.

The Platinum level is the most arduous to achieve and celebrates the truly exceptional dog and handler team. It requires 10 titles/awards from all of the areas of competition: obedience, agility, scent, water, and conformation. Four of the titles must come from water and the dog must have earned two awards. To date, only 16 PROMs have been awarded.

Please note that the ROMs are a cumulative award – the titles used for SROM can include those used for BROM, plus the additional titles required to meet the

SROM requirements. This is unlike the MAC where each level must be a new set of titles.

ROM awards are given by application from the owner. Owners have the option to apply for a single ROM level when they have earned the required titles, or they can wait until they and their dog earn enough titles/awards to be eligible for multiple levels and then apply for all of them at once.

The awards are celebrated with a slideshow presentation and delivered at the annual National Specialty awards dinner, so some owners opt to wait to apply until they can attend the Specialty. Paperwork for those awards is generally due to the ROM administrator 30-45 days prior to the date of the Specialty. If an awardee cannot attend the Specialty, the awards are mailed out after the awards dinner at the Specialty.

If an eligible dog passes away before the Specialty, the award can be given posthumously. For each level of ROM awardees receive a certificate, a large neck medallion, and a small pin. Pins can be worn on the handler's clothing or hat, and neck medallions fit around the dog's neck. Kari Lavalli is the ROM program administrator.

The Awards Committee is proud of all of the handlers and dogs that have participated in and earned ROMs since the program's inception. We look forward to celebrating your dogs in the future!

ONLINE TITLE RECORDS

One big benefit of PWDCA membership is online access to our online collection of title, ranking, and award lists. This information is available to view as fully searchable spreadsheets so you can look by dog name, registration number, title, etc. There is a huge variety of information available:

- All AKC titles earned by PWDs dating back to 1985
- All PWDCA (and most PWDCC) water trial results compiled from the very first water trials held in 1991
- AKC Breed, All-Breed, and BOS top 10 from 1999
- AKC Group Placements from 1999
- AKC Agility Top Ten from 2003
- PWDCA Obedience rankings from 2006
- Recipient lists for PWDCA Awards programs – ROM, MAC, OBAA, and POM

- Current OHA rankings

If you want to check what year your dog earned Apprentice Water Dog, make a list of all titles your dog has earned, or see what a particular stud dog has done as far as performance events, you can do that and more with these online resources.

To access this online information, go to PWDCA.org, log into the Member Center and select Titles and Awards from the list of Member Center options. Then select the specific information you are interested in to open the searchable spreadsheet.

Each page has a number of simple filter buttons to use to search the data, and there are also instructions for using filters to search for a specific dog. You can print your search results if you want to keep the lists you generate. If you are applying for a MAC, ROM, or POM, a printout from these online spreadsheets will suffice for proof of titles. The online title, ranking, and awards records are maintained by Amanda Ford.

Note from Amanda Ford, Awards Committee Chair

As you can see from this article, the PWDCA Awards Committee is quite busy keeping these numerous programs up and running. I want to thank our tireless committee volunteers who make all of this possible. Each of them spends countless hours of their own time throughout the year making sure that every PWDCA member can enjoy the recognition they deserve for work with their dogs. Please thank these incredible volunteers: Shelley Plucker and Verne Foster (Pins), Barb Crowther and Kathy Souza (MACs), and Kari Lavalli (ROMs.) None of this could happen without them!

AKC Titles and Programs You Can Do From Home

By Sassafras Lowrey, CTDI | Used with the permission of akc.org

So many parts of our daily lives have changed in the past few years. While our favorite dog activities — from classes and seminars to shows — have resumed safely, there are now some permanent virtual training options that you can do from the comfort of your home or on vacation. You and your dog can have fun training together, working on your favorite sports and activity, and even earning titles!

Trick Dog

The AKC now has the Trick Dog titling program to be accessible via submission of videos that are reviewed and approved by CGC evaluators. If you don't know a CGC evaluator you can easily search for one. This time of social distancing is the perfect opportunity to get your dog involved in the Trick Dog program. Under the new rules, AKC trick titles can be observed and earned digitally. Full rules and requirements for video submissions and each level of Trick Dog Titles (Novice through Elite Performer) are available online.

If you are someone who is unable to attend training classes every night and every weekend at dog shows, the AKC's Trick Dog program is a fantastic way to channel your energy by earning titles at home. Even if you and your dog have never competed at a dog show, Trick Dog titles are a wonderful introduction to dog sports.

The program has also led to the AKC Trick Dog National Competition being entirely virtual, allowing dogs from across the nation to easily compete.

Virtual Home Manners

The Virtual Home Manners tests assess ten skills that well-mannered pet dogs need in the home setting. The Virtual Home Manners tests are evaluated online by CGC Evaluators in the same manner that is currently used for Virtual Tricks. There is not an in-person VHM testing process. Virtual Home Manners is a natural lead-in for AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen (CGC) in-person training.

FitDog

If you like to get out of the house regularly to walk your dog each day don't forget about the AKC's Fit Dog program. Check your local regulations and maintain at least six feet of distance between anyone else you may pass on your walk. For the program you and your dog commit to walking each day either:

Walked at least 30 minutes 5 times per week for a total of at least 150 minutes per week for at least 3 months. For dogs and people in good shape.

Walked at least 15 minutes per session at least 10 times per week (e.g., two 15-min walks per day) for at least 3 months. For dogs or people who would benefit from a walk that is a shorter duration, e.g., senior dogs. When you and your dog have achieved either of these benchmarks you fill out the AKC FitDog form and will be sent a free FitDog program magnet!

AKC Rally

The AKC Rally Virtual Program, which is now a permanent program, will provide exhibitors an opportunity to stay at home and enter an AKC Rally® event.

This program is designed to have a Rally Novice, Rally Intermediate, Rally Advanced, or Rally Excellent competitor set up a pre-designed AKC Rally® course in the safety of their own yard, record the performance, and submit it to AKC. In turn, AKC will assign a pre-selected AKC Rally Judge to virtually review and score the team's Rally performance.





There are several pre-designed official rally courses on the AKC website to choose from. To participate, follow the setup instructions provided, video record the performance, upload the video to YouTube, set the required YouTube viewing options, and submit the video link with the entry form and fee to AKC.

You can download and print every Rally sign at home and learn each skill through instructional videos.

Agility Course Tests

Now you can get started in Agility Course Test (ACT) from home! The AKC has provided those with dogs that are ready to test their agility skills a way to try the sport of ACT Agility locally.

The AKC Agility ACT 1 & 2 Virtual pilot program will provide exhibitors an opportunity to stay-at-home or use their local training site and enter an AKC ACT 1 or ACT 2 event. You can buy equipment online.

The AKC Agility Department also expanded the virtual ACT program to include the new ACT Jumpers classes. ACT Jumpers will include two levels. ACT 1J which will be jumps and possibly a tunnel and ACT 2J which will include six weave poles.

Virtual Obedience Test

In the AKC Virtual Obedience Test, two levels of virtual titling obedience classes are offered, with an expansion of the program to be released over time. The first two levels in the Virtual Obedience Test program are Virtual Beginner Novice and Virtual Novice classes. There are five different ring setups for each class to choose from. You and your dog are judged the same as you would be at a regular trial. However,

some of the exercises are different than what you will see at in-person trials.

Virtual Scent Work Test

The Virtual Scent Work Test (VSWT) is a basic way for owners to bond with their dog or to get started in Scent Work. Teams can work incrementally at their own pace while developing skills and confidence. When a team is ready, they can demonstrate basic competency in locating an item based on scent by taking the VSWT and capturing it on video. The VSWT consists of three levels: Beginner (VSWB), Intermediate (VSWI) and Experienced (VSWE). Each level has its own set of testing criteria and titles must be earned in order. It takes two passes to earn a title at each level.

Virtual Water Test

Several pointing breeds are required to pass the AKC Water Test in order to be awarded field trial or hunting test titles. The Virtual Water Test is a convenient option for owners to demonstrate their dog's ability to retrieve over water. The owner or handler submits a video of a dog performing the water test. The dog's performance is then evaluated by two field trial or hunting test judges. The owner will receive an e-certificate proving their dog passed the test.

At-Home Practice For Every Sport

If you can't be at your regular training classes, there are aspects of nearly every canine sport that can be practiced at home, even if you live in a small house or apartment. You can always book private sessions with your favorite trainers and get homework specifically tailored to your dog. Even if you don't work

directly with a trainer remotely you can create your own training plans and games for whatever sports you are involved in. You might need to get creative, but there's a way to work aspects of every sport from home. I've even seen home videos from fellow Newfoundland owners who are involved in Water Test/Rescue as a sport working on send-outs and line tosses on dry land in their backyards.

Ideas for Training At Home

AKC Rally

For AKC Rally practice, you can print signs online or hand-make your own with notecards — even sticky notes will work! Pick some of your dog's favorite signs and a few signs you need extra practice on and put together a course in your yard if you have one, or even in your living room to create your own at-home Rally course.

Obedience

In Obedience, you can practice focus as well as cleaning up any crooked sits or messy positions. You can also work on small heeling patterns in your home or yard. This is also a great opportunity to work on stays and other obedience skills like "Go Outs" and scent articles.

Agility

To keep up with agility training, set up one or two jumps using a stack of books and a broomstick and work on more technical handling skills like jump wraps. Just make sure to not jump your dogs on slippery or hard flooring. If you have weave poles you

can also practice tricky weave pole entries. There are several affordable at-home agility sets you can buy on Amazon.

Scent Work

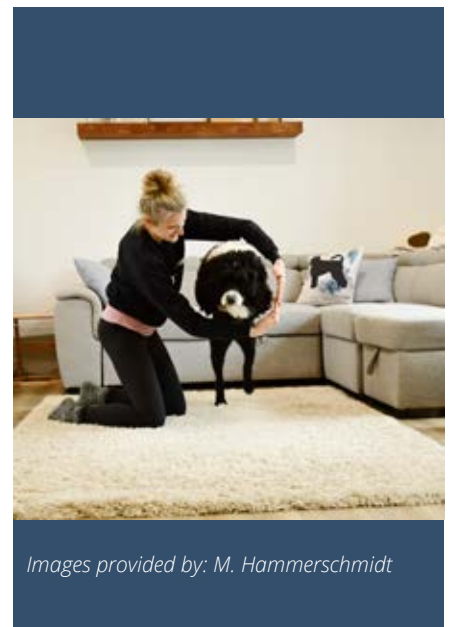
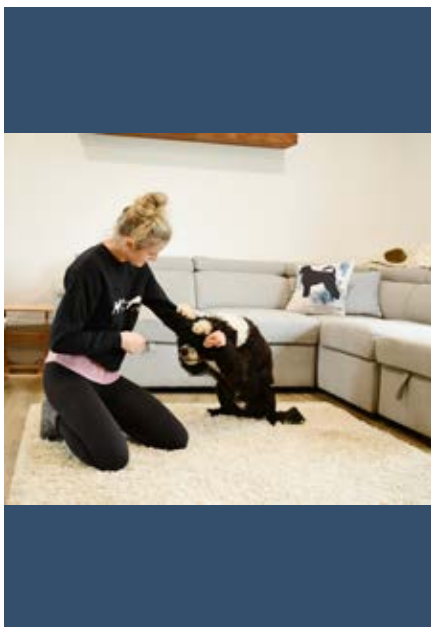
If you and your dog are experienced in Scent Work, you can set up practice searches in your home and/or yard. If your dog hasn't tried Scent Work, this can be a fun opportunity to play some introductory indoor scent games together.

Working Toward the Future

Setting and working towards training goals is a great way to add structure to the day for you and your dog. You can set a goal to teach your dog a new trick each week, finish up a title, or practice Scent Work every day. Whatever sport(s) you and your dog play, try to carve out a few minutes of each day for training. Not only will this give you something to focus on, but it also will help you and your dog stay polished and ready to return to classes and competition when there is no longer a need for social distancing.

If you're someone who thrives on competition or a sense of comradery in addition to earning trick titles from home, you can connect online or by phone with your friends from your local training club or in groups on Facebook. Challenge each other every day or share course maps for Rally courses, Scent Work exercises, or Agility sequences that can be practiced in small spaces. Share videos of your progress and cheer everyone on as we train our dogs at home.

The AKC is here to help owners with questions and concerns about COVID-19 and dogs. Find answers to your questions, plus at-home activity ideas, training tips, educational resources, and more on our Coping With COVID-19 hub.




Images provided by: M. Hammerschmidt








HORSESHOE LAKE

Training Gang



*The better you train,
....the luckier you get* 

Proud of our 2022 Water Titles...

-  **New JWD** Deana Allen & Shimmie - Baywood Shakin' Down the House ADP-L1 JWD MF/E R-FE/NS TKE
-  **New AWD** Darlene Brushwein & Ziggy - C-Lion Ziggy Stardust BN RN CGC AWD
-  **New AWD & WWD** Suzanne Malick & Kodi - Seaworthy's Lookout Here We Come NA NAJ
-  **New JWD & AWD** Suzanne Malick & Koll - CH Lookout's When the Smoke Clears TKN AWD
-  **New WWDX** Dixie Matson & Cora - MACH Eauchien's Corazetti VCD2 BN RA FDC MXS MJS MFB TQX T2B CA BCAT CGCA TKA, WWDX
-  **New AWD** Debbie Tubbs & Gabby - CH Asta's Northern Nyte Star NA OF TKA CGC
-  **New CWDX & 2 Master Qs** Stevie Viaene & Bandit - CH Lookout's Captain Lucky CWDX NAP OJP OFF TKI

Proud Members of the Pacific Northwest Portuguese Water Dog Club

Pictures provided by: Angie Robinson

Dog Parkour: Fun for Pups and People

By Gemma Johnstone | Used with the permission of akc.org

Images provided by: Tammy Hibberson

After taking part in the fast-growing, fun, and accessible sport of dog parkour, you're not likely to look at park benches, tree stumps, or playground equipment the same way again.

It's an ideal activity if attending Agility or Obedience classes isn't possible or practical. And, with a bit of imagination, any neighborhood offers boundless opportunities to safely train for dog parkour.

What is Dog Parkour?

You might have seen the impressive parkour viral videos of daredevil human athletes (called traceurs) climbing, leaping, and rolling from one high wall to another. Dog parkour (sometimes called urban agility) is the canine version of this. You'll be asking your dog to do various tricks and behaviors on and around an obstacle, often involving balancing, jumping, and crawling. It's still enriching, exciting, and challenging, but forget the nerve-jangling extreme stunts—the safety and enjoyment of your dog is paramount.

Parkour Points For You and Your Pup

This non-competitive sport has been around for about a decade, but its popularity grew amid the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. Dogs and their owners, stuck at home, couldn't travel to clubs or classes and were searching for other fun challenges. It's easy to practice parkour in and around your home, and instruction and virtual titling are available online.

This proved attractive for IDPKA Championship titlists Sophie Penson, 18, and her Collie mix Ducky. "The online learning, with Ducky's dog reactivity, opened up a lot for us. It got us training and being able to practice and still set goals, despite our own personal challenges," she says.

Karin Coyne, co-founder of the International Dog Parkour Association (IDPKA), says there are other great benefits. "First, it's highly accessible, requiring only a harness and leash to get started. As you and your dog are working together to explore the environment, it really helps build teamwork and a bond between both of you as well as opening up some wonderful opportunities for communication." She



explains that "the nature of parkour, when done correctly, helps to build a dog's confidence and ability to conquer fear."

And the low-impact sport allows dogs of any age or ability to participate. Coyne's own dogs love it. "The younger ones are working mostly on body awareness and control, while the older ones are working on more complex and challenging movements and those that involve a bit of height." You can adjust elements to accommodate puppies, senior dogs, and disabled dogs.

Penson says adventure dog Ducky loves it too. "Obviously, she likes the rewards, because we're all about positive reinforcement. But she also likes the activity, getting out and interacting with the obstacles. I think she likes to learn and train things that stretch her a little bit."

And they've clearly built a strong, enthusiastic partnership. "I can just point to an obstacle, and she'll go and guess what I want her to do on it. It doesn't take much to coax her. She's pretty fearless and definitely likes the fun of it, showing off."

Mastering the Basics

One of the most impressive-looking behaviors is the tic tac (also called a round up). The dog makes a tight jump turn on a wall or other angled obstacle (similar to a Flyball box turn). But you don't want to ask your dog to perform challenging tricks like this right off the bat. Building things up with simpler behaviors on less

intimidating obstacles helps with body awareness, conditioning, and confidence building.

Getting your dog to put their two front feet on a low obstacle is a great newbie option. Initially, you might have to shape or lure the behavior, rewarding when your dog offers what you're looking for. Be patient, build things up using lots of positive reinforcement, and always keep it enjoyable for your dog.

Penson says that once you get the hang of things, the possibilities are endless, as long as you do it safely. "Early into the journey, I would look at a bench and be like, okay, I guess Ducky could get on it. But now I'm able to say she can also put two feet on it, back up on it, run around it, go under it, and I can send her to it."

Have Fun and Stay Safe

As with any dog sport, making sure your pup is safe and comfortable (mentally and physically) is key. You want to set them up for success, keep them injury free, and nurture your bond as a team. "That means building a strong foundation of confidence and communication instead of simply pushing your dog to do the next harder thing," says Coyne.

"Always be ready to spot your dog (using a harness and leash), avoid jumping down from tall objects onto smooth surfaces, and reward them for communicating their choices about their ability to do a movement, even if it wasn't a success in your eyes." The harness needs to fit well, with a clip on the dog's back, and the leash should be six feet long or less.

Penson explains that there are lots of great resources to help ensure you're supporting your dog correctly. The IDPKA crafts the title requirements around safety. But she reminds newbies to be mindful of their dog's abilities. "You know what their strengths and weaknesses are. I don't choose behaviors I know will push Ducky too much. Anything that makes me a little nervous, I trust my gut."

How to Learn More About Dog Parkour

The IDPKA website is a great place to start. "There you will find a list of IDPKA certified instructors, the safety rules, educational webinars, and information about Dog Parkour titles. The Facebook group 'Dog Parkour Training' is also a wealth of information," says Coyne.

And the top tip from both Coyne and Penson? Remember parkour is a journey! "I'm happy that I didn't just try to push through it and get it done. Instead, I rode the ride and really found a lot of joy in it," admits Penson. Even with Ducky's natural love for learning, her previous trick training title skills, and Penson's infectious enthusiasm, it took them two years of work to achieve their Championship title. Still pretty impressive, especially considering Penson was an Advanced Placement student with a full-on school schedule for much of the time.

And the journey doesn't end there for Penson. Her love for the sport and her partnership with her "very special and smart heart dog" Ducky are obvious. She is also on the way to becoming a certified IDPKA instructor.



Delmarva's 2021 Water Season was a Success

22 passes, 9 titles, 2 certificates, 3 Senior Challenge performances—

Mike Mobley (1944-2021) would have been proud



Jen Mobley and Sizzle MWD2, four Master legs (#7-10)



Diana Schaub and Perry MWD, five Master legs (#5-9)



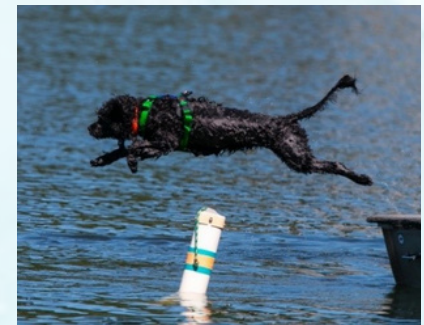
Ashley Cook and Cher CWDX, two Master legs (#1-2)



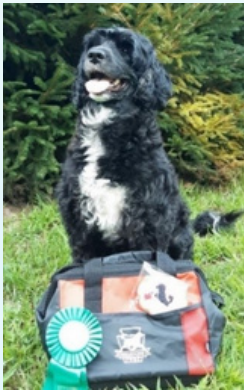
Elle Ringwalt and Lola CWD and CWDX



Sue Augat and Tally CWD



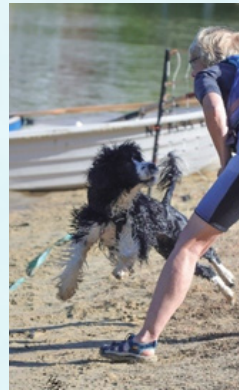
Anne Paige and Dazzle WWDX and Senior Challenge



Linda Strauch and Dreamer WWD x2



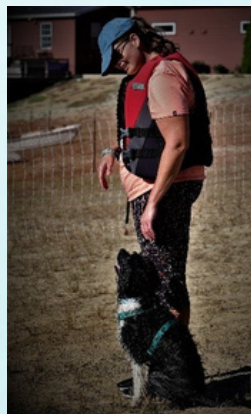
Louann Tracy and Woodford AWD



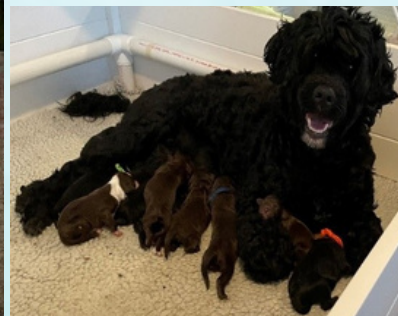
Diana Schaub and Zora JWD



Jen Mobley and Hannah SC



Kelly Polan and Jinxy SC



Carol Mattingley and Rita JWD



DelMarVa Portuguese Water Dog Club

www.delmarvapwd.org/

Perry: CH Cutwater Here There & Everywhere
MWD3 MAC-5 CD MX MJB MFB RE TKA
SIN SCN SBN PKD-N SROM CGC
Sizzle: CH Windruff's Splashpoint MWD2
CD OA NAJ GROM CGC
Cher: Riverbend Hi-Jinx All Or Nothing MWD
WWDX CD BN RE NA NAJ NF OAP OJP
OFP SCA SIA SEA CGCU TKA
Lola: MACH Miraval Lola Booboo Bean
CWDX WWDX MXG MJC MF TKA RN
SCN SIN CGC
Tally: Cutwater Sailors Sweet Justice CWDX
AX OAJ MF AAD RATN CGC
Zora: Cutwater Zoom Zoom Zora CWD
WWDX BN RA TKN SIN SCN SBN CGC
Dazzle: Baywatch Dazzle Them With Style
WWDX THDA TKN CGC
Dreamer: Windruff Dreamweaver WWD NW1
RN CGCA TKI
Woodford: Classea's Woodford Wonderdog of
Western Waters WWD HCN TKN FCAT2
DJX DS CAA CGC
Kiki: Searworthy's Love That Notorious RBG
WWD BN RI CA FCAT2 ACT1 ACT1J
RTN TKI CGC
Rio: Searidge's Be Young Be Foolish Be
Happy WWD BN RI CGC
Rita: Windruff Riverbend Margarita AWD
Rico: Windruff Riverbend Diamond AWD
Lulu: Searidge's Honolulu Baby JWD
Hannah: Windruff's Jump on Board CWDX
NA NAJ CGC
Jinxy: PACH2 Bantry's Hi-Jinx By Hetty CD
BN RM RAE MXP8 MXP9 MJP9 MJPG
PAX2 MFPS TQXP T2BP2 BCAT SIN SEN
RATO CGCA CGCU TKA

**PORTUGESE
 WATER DOG**
 in BREED

11
**PORTUGESE
 WATER DOG**
 all BREED



GM-1 NORMAL
 PRA NORMAL
 EOPRA NORMAL
 JDCM NORMAL
 MS NORMAL
 CDDY NORMAL
 OFA ELBOWS NORMAL
 OFA HIPS EXCELLENT
 Carries Brown
 Available at stud to approved bitches

WALTER

GCHS CH
SALTYDAWG THE COURT JESTER
 DCAT CGCTKN AOM AOE JWD

BRED AND CO OWNED BY KAREN KIRBY ASH | AKC SILVER BREEDER OF MERIT
 BRINGING YOU DNA HEALTH-TESTED CONFORMATION, PERFORMANCE, & COMPANION DOGS SINCE 1998 | 603-845-7070
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Obedience By The Numbers:

Obedience is arguably the most valuable training you can do with your dog. It will provide life-long skills, and each time he does something you ask him to do, you will burst with pride (and your family will be super impressed!)

Though competitive Obedience isn't one of the most popular canine events, it is very highly respected. The first obedience test was created by Helen Whitehouse Walker in Mt. Kisco, New York, in 1933. By 1936, the AKC had adopted standards and a few trials were held across the USA. Since that time, many dog owners have been chasing that precision heeling, accuracy of exercises and an obedient nature.

Based on our Breed's standard & explanation of Temperament, Obedience work should be the perfect dog sport for you and your Portuguese Water Dog: A dog of exceptional intelligence and a loyal companion, it obeys its master with facility and apparent pleasure. It is obedient with those who look after it or with those for whom it works

In 2022, Portuguese Water Dogs were busy showing their Obedience title earning skills in American Kennel Club events:

- 26 dogs earned a Beginner Novice title (BN)
- 1 dog earned a Virtual Beginner Novice title (BN-V)
- 26 dogs earned a Companion Dog title (CD)
- 2 dogs earned a Preferred Companion Dog title (PCD)
- 1 dog earned a Virtual Companion Dog title (CD-V)
- 2 dogs earned a Graduate Novice title (GN)
- 5 dogs earned a Companion Dog Excellent title (CDX)
- 2 dogs earned a Preferred Companion Dog Excellent title (PCDX)
- 1 dog earned a Graduate Open title (GO)
- 6 dogs earned a Utility Dog title (UD)
- 2 dogs earned a Utility Dog Excellent title (UDX)
- 1 dog earned a Obedience Master 1 title (OM1)
- 1 dog earned a Obedience Master 2 title (OM2)
- 1 dog earned a Obedience Master 5 title (OM5)

77 American Kennel Club Obedience titles earned by Portuguese Water Dogs in 2022.

IN THE CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB EVENTS:

- 4 dogs earned a Pre-Companion Dog title (PCD)
- 6 dogs earned a Companion Dog title (CD)
- 1 dog earned a Companion Dog Intermediate title (CDI)
- 8 dogs earned a Companion Dog Excellent title (CDX)

19 Canadian Kennel Club Obedience titles earned by Portuguese Water Dogs in 2022.

If you're interested in learning more about competitive obedience with your Portuguese Water Dog check out AKC.org

There were three Portuguese Water Dogs who achieved AKC Obedience Master titles in 2022 including:

Obedience Master 1
CH Bayswater's Gulliver's Tails UD PCDX OM1 CGC & Owner Judy Bruch

Obedience Master 2
MACH Allyn To Swim The 7 Seas UD PCD OM2 BN GN RN MXB MJS OF T2B TKN & Owners Cristi Fogus Wetherholt, Susan Curfman & Cliff Curfman

Obedience Master 5
CH High Winds Surfer Girl UDX3 OM5 AX AXJ SWN CGC & Owner Patricia Joan Heinzelman

Bella

October 2012 - January 2023

WS42298702
Fishbay's Isabella
CD BN RE OAP AJP
XFP THD CGC Bella



AT AGE 6 BELLA WENT FROM A PORTUGUESE WADING DOG TO A TRUE WATER DOG. SHE EARNED HER JWD CERTIFICATE AND WAS WORKING ON HER AWD.

HER LASTEST LOVE WAS NOSE WORK.

MOST OF ALL SHE WAS A CHAMPION IN OUR HEARTS. SHE GAVE US JOY AND MADE US SMILE EVERYDAY!

SHE IS MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW HER.

Sakonnet Seridor do Neptuno CDX TD OA OAJ (VCD2) BN RE SWN RATO
CGC TKP NW2 CD-C OAC OJC TN-O HP-N WV-N WWDX MAC-6 GROM

Darwin

Beloved companion of Kari Lavalli & Sam Tarsitano "Houdini" was loved by his breeders, Mimi & John Karlsson

He was a patient dog who taught us so much about dog sports and is sorely missed.

First Improper Coat to earn Register of Merit Awards and MACs; part of the litter that gave us the IC test



Photo: Karen Hocker Photography

March 26, 2009 - July 31, 2022



Musical Freestyle Obedience

By: Deana Allen

Similar to the experience of many others, my first introduction to musical freestyle was a video by Carolyn Scott and her Golden Retriever, Rookie. They performed to the song, "You're the One that I Want," from the movie Grease.

I was intrigued by the performance. "Was this really something people did?" I wondered. The pair seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves, each other, and the crowd they were entertaining. There were so many layers of the performance to pull apart; the concept, the behaviors, the music, and the choreography.

It was fascinating to contemplate everything that went into the performance. As someone who was a professional service dog trainer at the time, I felt most dog sports were too similar to what I did daily, I wanted something completely different as a hobby. Musical freestyle looked like a fun, alternative way for me to get into dog sports and spend some quality time with my dog.

Musical freestyle, essentially choreographed behaviors to music, allows handlers to be as creative as they wish. Pretty much anything goes as long as handler and dog safety is observed. Each routine is a unique artistic expression. Since there are no set behaviors that must be used in musical freestyle, the handler can incorporate behaviors that their dog enjoys and excels at. People who have worked in trick, obedience, and parkour venues will find that many of the behaviors can be translated into a routine.

Skills such as heelwork, leg weaves, circling behaviors, and jumps are often used as foundational skills with more individualized behaviors rounding out a routine. Behaviors that incorporate props offer more opportunities to display a handler's originality. Choreographed routines generally run between two to four minutes, depending on the class en-



tered. More advanced routines can include upwards of sixty behaviors (mostly choreographed, however sometimes your partner can surprise you by throwing in an "improvement").

Organizations have several divisions such as youth, alternative (dogs/handlers with age or health considerations), and provisional (allows for the use of reinforcers during a performance). Handlers can even start with their dog on a leash to build confidence when they begin in freestyle. Criteria for judging include content, execution of moves, level of difficulty of behaviors, musicality and interpretation of music, transitions from one behavior to another, the overall flow of routine, and quality of teamwork and engagement between handler and dog.

Although my first freestyle dog was not a Portuguese Water Dog, I made the switch when the opportunity arose. What clinched it for me was a team I saw perform at another club's event. I admired the energy, confidence, and athleticism the dog displayed and concluded it was the perfect freestyle dog. What I didn't realize at the time was how the breed's sense of humor and zest for life would elevate the sheer joy in my routines.

Julie Flanery, champion freestyler and founder of Rally Freestyle Elements, an international freestyle titling organization, said of the breed, "The combination of their athleticism, smarts, and cheery attitude make the Portuguese Water Dog a natural for freestyle! They are always a crowd favorite!"

Michele Pouliot, a champion freestyler and my mentor shared, "I have had the pleasure of knowing over 7 friends with Portuguese Water Dogs that they train for canine musical freestyle and other dog sports. The breed impresses me with their common unbridled love of life! They often are dogs that show such joy in life and in work that onlookers can only smile. This trait, of unbridled joy, is a huge positive in a sports competition dog and is tailor-made for musical freestyle performance."

I am lucky enough to be located in the Pacific Northwest, a veritable freestyle hub in the States. Many champion freestylers live here and I was fortunate to begin my journey with several talented and patient mentors, along with an active and supportive club. For those interested, classes are offered, both online and in person. And several international organizations have regional clubs. Rally Freestyle Elements, Musical Dog Sports Association, and Paws 2 Dance are a few international freestyle organizations worth investigating. Many organizations offer video competitions so you don't need to be located in an area with a club. YouTube offers access to amazing routines; I highly recommend you check out Crufts if you want to be blown away.

I currently have two dance partners. Dervish is a 7-year-old male who has received his InSync championship (similar to freestyle but with more focus on



heelwork and precision in alternative positions) and is currently working towards his freestyle championship. Shimmie is a 2-year-old female who has just started her journey by earning her entry title in December with her rendition of "Under the Sea" from "The Little Mermaid." She's a water dog, how could I resist. She enjoys singing along to her song during performances although she's a bit off-key.

And although it is sometimes called dancing with dogs, don't let that scare you off. Building in a little flourish here and there does the trick. I also learned from experience that no one is watching me anyway, they are watching my dog.



2021 PWDCA National Specialty Fast CAT

Virginia Beach, VA

Trial Chair, Tracey Dearborn

The 2021 PWDCA National Specialty featured the debut of one of the fastest growing dog sports, Fast CAT (Coursing Ability Test). For those not familiar with this sport, Fast CAT is a timed 100-yard dash where dogs run one at a time chasing a lure. Based on the dog's speed (MPH) they earn points toward a title (150 pts for a BCAT; 500 pts for a DCAT; and 1000 pts for an FCAT).

The 2021 National Specialty offered four Fast CAT tests over two days, Sept 28th and 29th. A total of 65 PWDs many of them new to the sport entered one or more of the tests. Thanks to our volunteers we were able to instruct those new to the sport about the basics of Fast CAT and then watch them have a blast encouraging their dogs to catch that "bunny"! Note, no bunny was used...the lure was a white plastic trash bag.

Now, Onto The Bragging Rights ... Who Are The Fastest Pwds Of The 2021 Specialty?

Test 1 (9/28)		Test 2 (9/28)		Test 1 (9/29)		Test 2 (9/29)	
DOG	TIME	DOG	TIME	DOG	TIME	DOG	TIME
Oscar	7.99	Oscar	8.00	Oscar	7.93	Oscar	7.84
Epic	8.34	Kiki	8.32	Kylo	8.19	Epic	8.28
Kylo	8.36	Epic	8.36	Epic	8.30	Kiki	8.29
Woodford	8.46	Harvey	8.38	Kiki	8.32	Tie-Kylo & Bodie	8.31

*To calculate a dogs speed: $204.545/\text{time in sec} = \text{MPH}$ For example, 7.84 seconds works out to be 26.09 MPH
In addition to our top four finishers in each test, a number of title ribbons were also awarded.*

Fast CAT was held at Providence Park, just 1 mile away from the headquarters hotel, the Founders Inn. Special thanks go to our amazing Lure Operator and Trial Secretary Ching-Yao Yu. Flexibility was the key to holding two days of Fast CAT. Because other specialty events were being held on the 28th and 29th, many entrants were juggling their schedules. Ching and our volunteers were quite flexible in accommodating people, basically if people could make it over to the park while the trial was going on, we fit their runs into the schedule as quickly as we could.

We also owe a huge thanks to the flexibility of our volunteers who jumped in to help release dogs, give quick instructions and encouragement to people new to the sport, help man the start line and catch pen, etc. It was truly a group effort!

Finally, finding a trial site that is flat and has enough space for a 100 yard course plus enough room for a starting box and a run-out area for the catch pen can be a challenge. Special thanks to Louann Tracy who worked with Scott Warren, the Convention Sales Manager for Virginia Beach to identify the site and

with Mike Parkman who made sure the park and grass was mowed to specifications for the test runs.

Thanks to all the volunteers and participants who helped make the first ever National Specialty Fast CAT a huge success!





OWNER	DOG'S NAME	AWARDS
Barb Novak	Bodie	BCAT
Christie Kello, Emma Kello, Brian Kello	Ella	BCAT
Jamie Carr, Tom Carr	Dazzle	BCAT
Jamie Carr, Tom Carr	Reign	BCAT
Jamie Carr, Tom Carr, Brytt Boyle	Becuna	BCAT
Julie Asbed	Risky	BCAT
Karen Kirby Ash	Glowworm	BCAT
Karen Neymark	Raven	BCAT
Linda Correia	Riot	BCAT
McKenna Lane	Wellie	BCAT
Phyllis Zusman	Xena	BCAT
Shelby Morawiec	Epic	BCAT
Ken Melson	Jett	BCAT
Sandy Melson	Neta	BCAT
Wendy Gibbons	Emmy	BCAT
David R Parker	Rui	
Colleen Bragg	Armada	DCAT
Colleen Bragg	Trek	DCAT
Kris Cofiell	Chicken	DCAT
Patti Cleary, Kris Cofiell	Bash	DCAT
Tracey Dearborn, Audrey Hiebler (2,000 points)	Kylo	FCAT 3
Lucinda Miner, Dorothy Hankinson (1,500 points)	Kiki	FCAT 2



FastCAT 101

by Maureen Nowak

Are you amazed by how fast your Portuguese Water Dog can run when it's chasing a squirrel? The Coursing Ability Test—better known as FastCAT—is a fun way to find out. FastCAT is a timed 100-yard dash where dogs run individually in a straight line, chasing a lure. It's fun and intuitive; with its simplicity and emphasis on drive and fitness, FastCAT doesn't require significant training to participate. Although it's a relatively new sport, FastCAT is quickly gaining popularity at AKC competitions.

Each dog entered into the competition has the opportunity to run twice each day. Judges record the 100-yard run time in seconds using electronic timing devices, then convert the number to miles per hour. For Portuguese Water Dogs and other canines 18" and taller (as measured at the withers) this MPH number is used to calculate ranking and title points. Smaller dogs receive a handicap and their MPH number is multiplied by 1.5 or 2.0, depending on their height.

AKC titles are earned by accumulating points. A dog earns the BCAT suffix title when it earns 150 points, the DCAT title for 500 points, the FCAT title for 1,000 points, and FCAT followed by a number (i.e., FCAT2) for each additional 500 points earned. Dogs are ranked annually in their breed, based on the average of their best three runs per year. The Lifetime ranking combines all ranked dogs to ever run in a breed over the years.

Here's what you need to get started:

- Dogs must be at least one year old to run officially (some clubs offer shorter introductory runs for puppies.)
- Dogs must be AKC registered (or have a PAL number for mixed breeds)
- Each run requires two handlers and two leashes—one to release, one to catch.
- Be sure your dog is healthy and fit to race.
- Find a local event through a dog club or via the AKC event finder online.

Excerpts from "The FastCAT Diaries"

Woodford's FastCAT Adventure, Louann Tracy

"Woodford the Wonderdog" earned an invite to the coveted AKC competition when he ranked as the fifth fastest PWD in 2021. We were excited to be in good company with his FastCAT friends, Oscar, Kylo and Kiki. Together our Maryland-Virginia group has trained, assisted, traveled and enjoyed endless hours together. While super exciting, the two-day drive for a few seconds of running was anything but practical. But I packed my dog, two leashes, tailgate banner and trading cards and we hit the road together to Orlando. Good friends, happy running dogs, a sprinkle of warm weather and a little competition made for a very good time!

"Woodford" is Classea's Woodford Wonderdog Of Western Waters CAA, FCAT3, DS, DJX, HDN, CGC, TKN

Google Maps says its 900 miles and 13 hours to get to Orlando for the AKC Invitational from our home in Maryland to let Kiki chase a plastic bag 100 hundred yards two, maybe three, times. Most people say that's crazy, but I say that it's an incredible opportunity to represent PWD's among so many great and fast breeds. I loved watching the wide variety of dogs having such fun running after the lure: the amazing sight hounds and their smooth-running style, the little toy breeds giving it their all, the basset hounds with ears flying were all totally invigorating! While Kiki missed the finals by 0.002 seconds, she did earn her FCAT3 title at the Invitational and we got to cheer on our dear PWD friends in the finals. It was an experience we'll treasure for a lifetime!

"Kiki" is Seaworthy's Love That Notorious RBG BN RA CA FCAT3 ACT1 ACT1J CGC TKI RATN WWDX MAC3

Oscar's FastCAT Obsession: Alex Korab and Steve Makrancy

One day, our friend Chase, a former NCAA track star, took our boy Oscar for a run. He reported back "We were cruising along at a good 5-minute/mile clip, then Oscar saw a squirrel. I realized he had a whole other gear I don't have." We entered FastCAT and discovered that Oscar runs an average speed of nearly 27 MPH, a pace that placed him first on AKC rankings for PWD's and earned him invites to the AKC Invitational where he won Best of Breed three years in a row.

For the straight line 100-yard run, Steve releases him at the start, while I catch at the finish. Waiting his turn and seeing the lure zip by, we can feel Oscar's excitement. He approaches the start line with his "game face": quiet, intense and hyper-focused, hind quarters quivering with anticipation. From my finish-line vantage point, there is nothing quite like watching him coming at me full throttle, the force of speed and wind blowing his hair back and ears up. Its sheer joy for him – and us!

"Oscar" is Glenwood's Chesapeake Chewbacca CA FCAT3 DM DSX2 AS TKI FITB

Don't Blink or You'll Miss It: Cindy Miner

Kylo's Once in a Lifetime FastCAT: Tracey Dearborn

Never did I ever think I would have one of the fastest PWDs when my friend introduced Kylo and I to the sport of FastCAT. He didn't like the show ring, so I just wanted to do something with him that he enjoyed, and, boy, did he love running! We were thrilled to be invited to the AKC Invitational in both 2021 and 2022, and I couldn't imagine more fun than making the trip with my FastCAT friends and our awesome dogs! And it surely was an amazing experience ... the actual running may have lasted mere seconds, but the joy and camaraderie lasts forever.

"Kylo" is CH Glenwood's Master Of The Knights Of Ren CAA FCAT4 DJA DN TKN



Diving Dogs 101: How to Compete in Dock Diving Step-By-Step

By Miranda Carney | Used with the permission of akc.org

Ready for a splash? Diving Dogs is the perfect sport for water-loving canines and is fun, exciting, and easy-to-do. There are a few simple rules:

You throw your dog's favorite toy into a pool while he waits on a dock about 40 feet long.

On your command, he runs along the dock, launches himself off the end of it, lands in the water and grabs his toy.

The goal? To have the longest jump possible.

Like many dog sports, all dogs including mixed breeds (6 months and older) are eligible to compete in Diving Dogs (other than females in season.) Titles earned through North America Diving Dogs (NADD) will be recognized by The American Kennel Club. To apply, simply complete the Title Application.

Diving Dogs is a sport with two different disciplines:

Distance Jumping: dogs compete for the farthest jump

Air Retrieve: dogs compete to knock a bumper of an apparatus at the farthest distance

Watching Diving Dogs for the first time is fun and exciting — but what are all the rules? The action happens so fast that it can be hard to keep track of who wins and why. We're here to break down the sport of Diving Dogs.

What Dogs Can Participate in Dock Diving?

All dogs six months of age or older are allowed to compete in the sport of Diving Dogs other than females who are in season. The sport is open to all breeds from Chihuahuas to Cane Corsos to mixed breeds.

What Makes Up a Dock Diving Team?

Unlike Flyball, which is a team sport where four dogs compete on one team, Diving Dog teams are comprised of only one dog and one handler. Some teams chose to have one additional handler to help restrain the dog. A handler may use one or two toys to help encourage the dog to jump into the water.

How Big is the Pool and Dock in Diving Dogs?

While swimming in your pool or lake at home is great practice, dogs can't dive into just any pool when it comes to competition. A diving dock must be at least 40 feet long and 7.5 feet wide. The pool must be at least 41 feet long and 21 feet wide.

How to Compete in Distance Jumping

In distance jumping, a dog is simply scored on how far he or she jumps into the water. The distance is measured from the end of the dock to the base of the dog's tail when it breaks water.

How to Compete in Air Retrieve

In air retrieve, dogs must jump for a bumper, which hangs in the middle of the dock's width, two feet above the dock. The goal is for the dog to either grab or completely remove the bumper from the apparatus. Each dog will get two attempts at knocking down the bumper at each distance. The dog to knock down the bumper at the farthest distance wins.

Divisions and Classes

Five distance Divisions

- Novice
- Junior
- Senior
- Master
- Elite

Two placement Classes:

- Open (16" tall and over)
- Lap (under 16" tall)
- Veterans is for dogs over 8 years old.

How Do I Earn Titles?

One Qualifying score jump per Splash or Air Retrieve entry counts toward NADD Titles and AKC Titles if the dog is registered with AKC.

How Do I Get Started in Diving Dogs?

If watching dogs jump into the pool has you thinking your dog would be perfect for the sport, chances are you're probably right! This sport is great for energetic, water-loving dogs.

The AKC and NADD have several instructional videos to help you get started training for Diving Dogs. You can also reach out to clubs near you to see if there is anyone you can train with. A good basis for understanding the sport is to read the NADD Rulebook.

If Diving Dogs isn't for you, there are many dog sports that are suitable for dogs of all ages and abilities.



Images provided by: Karen Massner



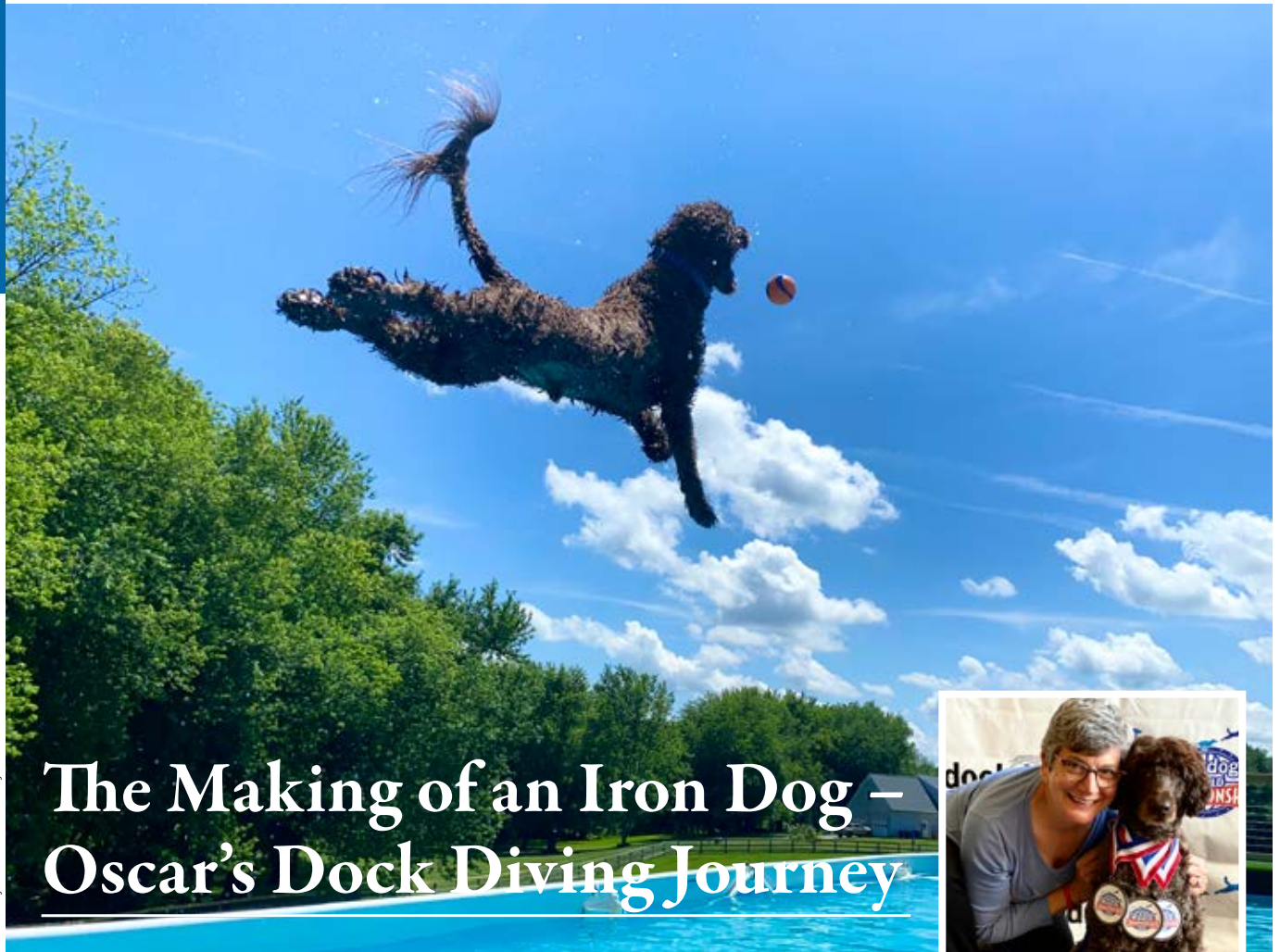


Photo by Steve Makranczy

The Making of an Iron Dog – Oscar’s Dock Diving Journey



Submitted by Alex Korab and Steve Makranczy, owners of:

Oscar The Flying O, Glenwood’s Chesapeake Chewbacca CA FCAT3 DM DSX2 AS TKI

Only hours before Oscar made his way into the world, his mama-to-be was crossing the finish line of Ironman Arizona.

Looking back, my husband Steve and I, both multiple Ironman finishers, should have known that Oscar would one day compete in the canine version, Dockdogs Iron Dog. But we didn’t even know such a thing existed at the time.

From day one, true to his breed, Oscar needed a very active job. As a puppy, he never stopped moving. We kept waiting for him to settle down, but unlike our other PWDs, he just didn’t. We noticed he loved being airborne, flinging himself across the floor from a run as if trying to win a gold medal in the long jump. He took to swimming naturally, learning to love it very early. And, as a typically mouthy PWD puppy, we trained him from the start to get his toy, quickly building a very strong toy drive.

Then one day, our neighbor invited us to his pool. Oscar went nuts, flying off the edge after his toy with wild abandon. After the first few jumps, he voluntarily ventured to the diving board and flew off the end, landing a beautiful long jump. The next day we showed the video to our dog trainer, Nancy, who knew Oscar’s kinetic high energy very well. “You should look into Dock Diving,” she said, to which we replied, “What? That’s a thing? That sounds amazing!” “Yes,” Nancy said, “There’s a local club, and they compete at a winery.” What’s not to love, we thought.

That weekend we went to our first practice at the winery with Chesapeake Dockdogs, and within a couple of weeks, we headed out to an official competition. Oscar’s first jump was a solid 14 feet. By the last day, he was hitting over 16 feet, qualifying for finals, and winning third place in the Contender division. We were instantly hooked.

the bumper hangs two inches above the water at the end of the 40-foot pool. Like a drag race, the handler sets the dog in the start box 20 feet back on the dock. When cued by lights, the dog is released to run, jump and swim to grab the bumper and stop the timer. In Extreme Vertical, the bumper is hung on an overhead rig, 8 feet out from the end of the dock, starting at 4'6" high. Much like the human high jump, it goes up in 2-inch increments until teams miss twice and are knocked out. These two games are quite challenging to train due to the bumper's unusual placement, but with Oscar's strong PWD work drive, we were optimistic and excited to play.

By our second season, Oscar officially became an Iron Dog competitor. We also learned the NADD versions of these games, Distance, Air Retrieve, and HydroDash, earning several titles there. In 2021 we qualified for DockDogs World Championships and joyfully completed in the Iron Dog on the world stage!

Our dock diving journey has been fun, rewarding, and sometimes even frustrating. We've made lots of new friendships and had many incredible adventures. The most precious gift has been the deep bond I've built with my teammate, Oscar The Flying O.



Photo by Tina Strausbaugh

By the end of that first season, Oscar consistently hit jumps in the high 18-foot range. There was much to learn about the various competition leagues, formats, and timing for the best throws. But Oscar was a natural. His rock-solid sit-stay and beautiful air position quickly earned him mad respect from our competitors.

We gravitated to Dockdogs, versus North America Diving Dogs (NADD), due to the festival atmosphere with announcers, music, and finals with awesome prizes! Plus, Dockdogs has one handler and dog competing as a team, giving teams with a solid sit-stay a strong advantage. We named our team Alex and The Flying O. When we learned about Dockdogs Iron Dog as Ironman triathletes, Steve and I instantly knew this was something to aspire to.

Iron Dog combines each of the three disciplines, Big Air (Long Jump), Extreme Vertical (High Jump), and Speed Retrieve (timed run, jump, swim). Already solid in Big Air, we set out to learn the other two. In both disciplines, the toy is a white bumper that hangs from two strings connected to magnets. In Speed Retrieve,



Photo by Steve Ruben

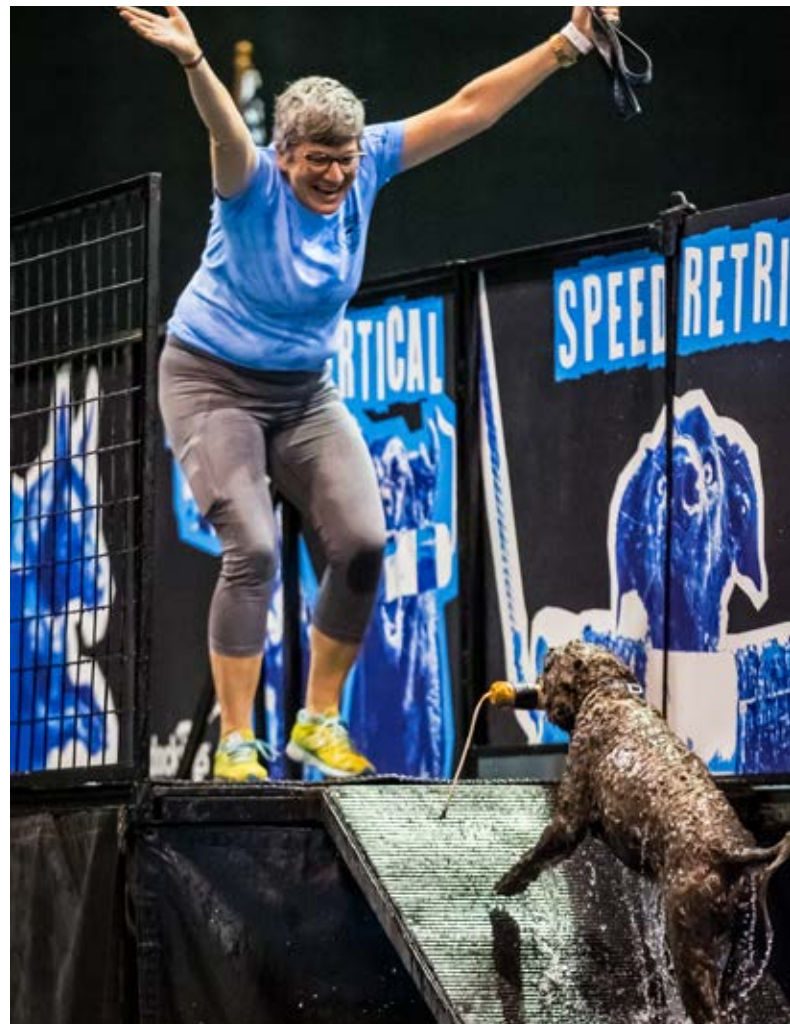


Photo by Kevin Johnson Photography

Canine Bodywork for Your Performance Dog

Dr. Rachel Eken BS DC CVSMT Anticipated CCAT

Bodywork is important for any performance dog. Just as it is for any human sports athlete.

Regardless of degree of activity, maintenance of some sort is necessary to not only keep your dog feeling good, but also to fine tune movement, stay ahead on health concerns, and staving off injuries.

Canine Bodywork comes in many forms: chiropractic, massage, acupuncture, or even laser therapy!

The purpose of these therapies is to maintain mobility and healthy joints and muscles. Think specific, not global. An old dog may still be able to get up and move, but perhaps not as comfortably as they could. A conformation show dog may move well around the ring, but they could cover more ground or move cleaner. An agility dog may have great course times, but keeps dropping bars.

Elite human athletes use body workers to maintain their body's ability to perform at their best. Obviously, our performance and conformation dogs deserve and need the same with the degree of training and showing they do. But don't leave out the senior dogs, the crazy puppies, and the weekend warriors. They too, need a little extra support.



How often should you have your dog worked on by a canine body worker?

Well, the schedule for each dog is going to be different.

Recommended body work schedule depends on:

- The type of activity (or lack thereof!) your dog is doing
- The frequency of that activity (agility, hiking, showing, fetch)
- The predispositions of the dog
- Your dog's health history. Does he have an old injury of concern?
- How much self-preservation the dog has. Some Portuguese Water Dogs are not known for their self-preservation, they are all out/all the time kind of dogs.
- We even consider the type of flooring in the home they live in. Carpet, hard wood, marble or tile flooring all affect foot fall and stability differently.



For example:

Westminster Reserve Best in Show Winner Old English Sheepdog "Swagger", Bugaboo's Picture Perfect owned by the Johnson Family gets adjusted every 8 weeks to keep his 11 year old veteran

body feeling good!

On the other hand, actively competing agility dogs get tuned up at least every 4 weeks depending on the trial schedule and the footing they've been training on.

Or even puppies, where basically we do "damage control" as they grow and learn to use their bodies so a small injury doesn't haunt us later! I do check ins every 8 weeks for most puppies to manage the "puppyhood crazy injuries".

All this to say, I have canine chiropractic patients that come every other week for appointments and those that come for maintenance appointments every 4 months.

What's the easiest way to find a canine body worker?

Often asking for a referral is your best bet, or an easy google search or even a Facebook post in your locale will offer many great options from people who use those practitioners. When looking for a canine body worker, please utilize someone who is trained specifically for animals. Not a human practitioner that tries to apply human techniques to dogs without specific & accredited animal training.

Do you have a water trial or dog show coming up? Are you trying to prepare for the Super Dog competition at the National? Building a plan for your dog with your team of canine professionals is going to

help increase success! More pressure, training, travel impacts a dog more than we often know! Contact a canine body worker to build a plan to make sure



you're setting your dog up for success! Make sure you discuss concerns and specific goals with your dog!

Your dog may not be a dock diver headed to the worlds competition, but your dog DOES deserve to be worked on by a body worker!

*Dr Rachel Eken
Owner of Hand & Paw Chiropractic LLC
Ascent Portuguese Water Dogs and Central Asian Shepherds*



PWD Noses Know!

By: Kathy Souza

So you've heard some talk about "scent work" and have wondered what's that all about but didn't know who to ask. Let's look into a relatively new sport, recent to AKC, that your dog will love to jump into.

The sport evolved from the desire of pet dog owners to teach their own dogs to search for specific odors similar to professional bomb or drug detection dogs. Obviously not every dog, nor handler, is suitable to become a professional detection team. Enter scent work.

You know how much your dog loves to sniff...everything. Well imagine a new game for the two of you where you encourage him to sniff and reward, yes even during competition, with toys or food, when he is successful at finding the hide. This is a whole new relationship for you and your dog. You've probably done obedience, rally, agility, water work; all where you direct the dog to perform tasks. In nose work, you will progress to searches where you as the handler have no idea where the hide is. So you have to do the really hard part of nose work...learning to trust and understand your dog! Best of all, no dog-training experience is necessary for the handler, and no prior dog obedience training is necessary for the dog.

AKC offer competitions and titling opportunities for those interested in competing with their dogs.



Teams start out at the Novice levels in Containers, Interiors, Exteriors, Buried, an additional option, Handler Discrimination. From there they advance through the Advanced, Excellent, and Masters Levels. Dogs who qualify 3 times at each element and level achieve a title. AKC rules are found at <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RSW001.pdf>.

If this sounds like something you would like to try with your dog, you can contact your local dog training club to see if they offer classes. You can go to www.nacsw.net/instructors and look up names of local National Association of Canine Scent Work certified instructors in your area. Or you can explore some of the on-line learning opportunities such as offered by <https://fenzidogsportsacademy.com>.

If you have questions you are welcome to contact me at pwdlover@pacbell.net or talk to one of these successful teams in your area who've jumped into this sport. Your PWD will thank you and the two of you will have a lot of fun learning, and if you're interested, competing!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE DOGS AND OWNERS ON THEIR 2022 TITLES!

Sister Power:

DANI, GCH CH Redwoods n Legado Daenerys Stormborn, RN, BN, CGC, TKN, on finishing her Grand Championship
Owner: Rebecca Morin

MADDI, CH Redwoods n Legado She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain, MACI, ORT, BN, RN, SWN, SEC, SEA, SBA, CGC, TKI, on finishing her Scentwork Excellent Containers and her ORT.
Owner - Jan Shirreffs and Pam Barnett

WINDY, Redwoods n Legado Any Port in a Storm, RI, AX, MSJ, XF, DCAT, CGC, AWD, TKA, #10 PWD FastCat on finishing her Agility Excellent, Masters Jumpers, Excellent FAST, DCAT, and her AWD.
Owner - Mary Nottingham

GABI, Ch Redwoods n Legado of Thor Peak, CGC, TKA, CD, RE, BN, RI, FDC, NWI, BCAT, SWA, SCE, SIE, SEE #14 PWD FastCat on finishing her Rally Excellent, Scentwork Excellent Containers, Scentwork Excellent Interiors, Scentwork Excellent Exteriors, NoseWork 1, and USCSS Sr. Container, Sr. Exterior, Sr. Vehicle, Master Container, Master Interior and Master Vehicles
Owner - Sue Robinson

Siblings:

FENWICK, Redwoods Seven Masted Schooner, CGC, TKI, WWDX, BCAT on finishing his Working Water Dog Excellent and his BCAT.
Owner - Janet Kutner

LILY, Redwoods Rockin the Seven Seas, RA, NAP, NJP, TKN, C-ATCH 2, and Std, Jumpers, Colors, Fullhouse, Snooker, and Wildcard Championship, on finishing her Novice Agility Preferred, Novice Jumpers Preferred, CPE Jumpers Champion, CPE Snooker Champion
Owner - Nancy Dooley

SYDNEY, Redwoods Seventh Edition, CGC, TKA, SCN, SEN, SIN, RN, on finishing her Scentwork Container, Exterior and Interior Novice titles and her Rally Novice
Owner - Melinda Harvey

Redwoods Portuguese Water Dogs

Mamma Ruby:

Redwoods Click Your Heels, AWD, ORT, NWI, SWA, SIE, TKI, RA on finishing her Scentwork Interior Excellent, Rally Advance and her ORT
Owner - Melinda Harvey

Grand Daughter Ramona:

GCH, CH Redwoods Ramona The Brave, CLR-1, ACT-1, SIN, TKI, RN on finishing her CLR-1, ACT-1, Scentwork Interior Novice and Rally Novice
Owner - Melinda Harvey





Barn Hunt

BASICS

BY WILLIAM GIVEN

The canine sport of Barn Hunt is still relatively new to the conformation dog show community, but has grown substantially in popularity the last decade. Barn Hunt is a timed event designed to test a dog's ability to locate the quarry (a rat) and to signal the find to his handler. Just as with most AKC performance events there are multiple skill levels: Novice, Open, Senior and Master, with titles awarded in each. Each test level is made increasingly more difficult with the addition of tubes containing used bedding material and more rats. There is also a basic level, the Instinct test, that must first be passed.

Although some clubs hold Barn Hunts outdoors, the vast majority of these events are held indoors. The tests are conducted in an enclosed area that is made to look and feel as though one is in a barn. Bales of hay serve as the foundation of the testing framework and more are stacked to create tunnels for the dogs to move through and form obstacles that the dogs must climb over or across. Hay is then strewn about over the floor to complete the setting.

Barn Hunt was created to give dogs the opportunity to use their magnificent scenting abilities in a simulated hunt for the rat hidden somewhere in the hay. Historically, the rat catcher was a small Terrier. Quick and agile, he was able to squeeze into tight spaces in pursuit of his prey, but Barn Hunt is open to all dogs who can fit through the 18-inch opening of the tunnel.

Most dogs have an innate desire to hunt, regardless of what they were originally bred to do. Even companion breeds from the Toy Group often possess a healthy prey drive, and some breeds are good ratters. Miniature Pinschers were originally bred to hunt rats and small prey.

It is teamwork that wins the game in Barn Hunt. There are no do-overs; you need to be able to read your dog's signal and call it the first time.

An Inclusive Sport

Barn Hunt is an organized sport recognized by the American Kennel Club. The Barn Hunt Association, which owns the rights to the sports, has a lengthy but nicely detailed set of rules and regulations. The Barn Rules establish a real desire to be inclusive. Bitches in season, and dogs that are deaf or missing limbs may compete. Blind dogs and dogs in wheeled carts are allowed to participate in a line drive class. Lamé dogs and those with stitches or open wounds are not allowed to compete due to safety concerns.

There are also rules about not discriminating based on breed or temperament. As long as a dog is not aggressive toward other dogs, he or she is allowed to participate. Raised hackles and vocalizations (barking and growling) are not necessarily interpreted as signs of aggression. The rules demonstrate a thorough and well-thought-out approach to canine temperament and behavior.

The Hunting Instinct

Scenting ability and prey drive are crucial components to the making of a successful Barn Hunt dog. If your dog has demonstrated to you that he has scent discrimination abilities and a prey drive, he might be a natural at the sport.

Every dog must first pass the "Instinct Test" before making an attempt to earn the Novice title. In this test, your dog will find three tubes out in the open: one contains a rat, one contains the rat's bedding material, and the third tube is empty. You take your dog to the release point and then you see what happens. It generally does not take a dog very long to find the tubes and begin working.

Training for Barn Hunt

The first time you watch a dog compete in a Novice test at a Barn Hunt trial, it might seem a simple test for a dog possessing a good nose and even the smallest amount prey drive. However, there is

more to the sport than what you might think.

Some dogs are able to progress pretty quickly through the different test levels on their desire to find the rat. This is especially true if they have a handler who is good at reading the dog and the dog has a natural ability to discriminate between the rat, used bedding and the empty tubes. I am told it is not at all uncommon for a dog that starts out like the perfect Barn Hunt dog to have his interest in the sport wane and his signaling behavior become nearly non-existent once they reach the Open, Senior and Master classes where multiple rats must be located.

Without good training, both dog and handler may find moving beyond the Novice level can be difficult. There is much to learn. The dog that has had to locate one rat, then has to find two in the Open class with only thirty extra seconds to complete the task. Then at the Senior level, the dog is expected to find four rats with the addition of only sixty seconds to hunt. Good training can help dog and handler make the transition from one level to the next, so that as soon as your dog earns their title, you are both ready to move up.

Training is not just for the dogs. Handlers have their share of learning to do, as well. I was told by veteran Barn Hunt enthusiast and judge, Jennifer Giacchi, that, "If handlers take the time to learn how odor ebbs and flows in and around the bale complex, the handler can better understand how their dog works to find the point of origin."

"IF HANDLERS TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN HOW ODOR EBBS AND FLOWS IN AND AROUND THE BALE COMPLEX, THE HANDLER CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW THEIR DOG WORKS TO FIND THE POINT OF ORIGIN."

The Guided Search

A dog does not have to be taught how to use his nose to find the rat. The dog (and handler) can simply follow his nose. What a dog sometimes needs to learn is to complete a guided search. For some dogs—those with a strong prey drive—this is easier said than done. The dog that can be taught to follow just a few commands during the hunt will negotiate the obstacles more quickly, find the rat much faster and is more likely to earn one of the first through fourth place ribbons.

Teach the Obstacles

Once a dog moves beyond the Instinct level, Barn Hunt Association rules require that the dog complete the two obstacles to achieve a passing run. Each dog must successfully negotiate the tunnel and place all four feet upon a hay bale. The rules simply state that the tunnel and the climb must be completed before the end of the time limit. So, there is a certain amount of strategy that comes into play here. It does not take one long to notice that the most successful teams complete the obstacles at or very near the beginning of the run and there is sound logic in the practice.

Tunnels and Climbs

Once a dog has passed the instinct test and begins his quest for

the Novice title, the dog must, at some time during the test, pass through the tunnel (tunnel) and put all four feet on at least one hay bale (the climb). Sounds easy, I know. However, many handlers have watched their dogs rapidly locate the rat and then, only moments later, finding themselves horrified because they were spending precious time pleading with their dog to shoot the tunnel or complete the climb.

The dogs learn quickly that there is never a rat inside the tunnel; so, some dogs just see no point in doing the tunnel. Senior and Master level tunnels have portions that are totally dark inside, and the dogs have to use their sense of smell and hearing to navigate the 2-5 turns. The many bales of hay magnify the sound of their movement through the tunnel and the dogs have little to no scent to follow, so it is a much different environment than they are used to inside these tunnels.

Come Means Come

"Come," is quite probably the most neglected training exercise and it is, I believe, especially true for the conformation exhibitor. Why, you might ask? This is because it has nothing to do with what we ask our dogs to do in the show ring. However, in the sport of Barn Hunting, the clock is always ticking.

It can be extremely frustrating for a handler trying to get their dog's attention by shouting or whistling when the dog has no concept of what is being asked of him. A dog must understand that "Come" means to stop what he is doing and return to you.

Some Major Concerns

What some dogs learn by participating in Barn Hunt is that hunting is great fun, but telling the handler where the rat is located gets the rat removed from the course as quickly as possible. And the higher the level, the more often that happens. It doesn't take long for the dog's desire to let on about the location of the rat to become suppressed. And, NQ runs can start to occur.

Some dogs experience great difficulty telling the difference between the tube that holds the rat from the tube containing the bedding. My dog failed his first Instinct test because he fixed on the tube with the used bedding. Their nose tells them, if it smells like a rat, it must be a rat. However, if they alert on a tube containing litter during the test and the handler calls "Rat," the result is an NQ. Since the handler has no way of knowing which tubes holds the rat—which contains used bedding and which is empty—the handler must rely on the dog's signal.

Another important aspect of Barn Hunt is for handlers to learn they are not so very good at scent discrimination and the most they can do is talk a dog into alerting on the wrong tube. A dog has the nose designed to give them the ability to succeed in this sport. They do need to learn to have enough confidence to ignore the handler's insistence that the rat is in this or that place on the course, and continue to ignore.

The Human Factor

Barn Hunt is one of the sports that teaches shows dogs that hunting is a fun activity to share with their human. They also learn quickly that showing their handler where the rat is always gets it removed from the test area. At the high levels there are more rats

to be found and their removal is going to happen faster and more often, so the dog can continue his search. Sometimes this decreases a dog's motivation to alert on the rat and a handler may see an increase in NQ's. It was explained to me that this can adversely affect a dog's level of confidence. And, on rare occasion, the first time the rat gets taken a dog can give up on the whole idea of searching for another.

The handler must be able to read his or her dog, and that their dog is signaling a find. Some dogs work fast, others will work much more slowly. A dog may need to spend more time scent probing a tube to determine if the rat is inside. So, just because a dog locates and remains on a tube longer, it does not mean he is signaling a find. Some dogs can be excited and rather vocal upon finding their prey while others may give only a hint they have located their quarry. If a handler is not paying attention, they can easily miss the signal. There are no do-overs in Barn Hunt. You need to be able to read your dog's signal and call it right the first time.

Courses are always different except at the Instinct level. Dogs simply do not have a great deal of time to spend returning to an area they have already searched. It is important that handlers learn how to help their dog search efficiently. At the Master level, the handler does not even know how many rats (between one and five) have been hidden on course), but they must tell the judge when the dog has cleared the course of rats. The higher-level tests require focus and a winning strategy, and remembering what areas have been searched and which have not will help. It is teamwork that wins in Barn Hunt.

Each level has a time limit, and they certainly are not generous. A dog has to be quick and determined to complete all of the required elements of the run within the time limit or it is an NQ. It helps if the handler can develop some type of internal clock because you don't want to take your eyes off the dog to look at your watch.

Good training and knowing your dog are critical, and effective time management adds to a winning strategy. A winning strategy can be different for each dog and handler team. Do you want to have your dog complete the tunnel and the climb before sending him to find the rat? Do you ask him locate the rats and then shoot the tunnel and do the climb? With time always being such a limited commodity, I think, many handlers have found it wiser to get the tunnel and the climb out of the way and finish with the call of "Rat," rather than have the dog find the rat and wait for it to be removed before sending the dog through the tunnel and complete the climb.

The handler also has to spend some time learning the rules of the sport—the rule book for competitors is 25 pages. Knowing the rules helps to avoid handling errors. Reading the rulebook and watching the goings-on at a trial are good, but most people learn better by doing. So, joining a training group or finding Barn Hunt classes in your area can really give you a leg up. There is nothing more embarrassing than doing something that causes your dog to get an NQ after he completed a great run.

Not everyone who participates in the sport has a place to train or access to rats. There are those committed individuals who purchase

hay bales or straw and rats to work with their dogs between trials. However, training on your own is not a fair substitution for training with a person like Ms. Giacchi, who has a keen eye for dogs and a keen understanding of what dogs need to succeed at the sport.

Since handlers have no idea where the tubes are hidden or which ones contain the rats, they must wait for their dog to locate the correct tubes. The challenge for the dog and handler is to find the rat within the specified time limit. It is a test of scent discrimination, yes, however, speed is the crucial factor in the Barn Hunt equation.

The Do's and Don'ts

A quick review of the Barn Hunt Association rules will show you that there are quite a few do's and don'ts. Here are some things to remember.

Don'ts

- Do not bring anything into the test area. No treats, no toys, etc.
- Do not touch the hay. There will be loose hay and hay bales stacked about. You can point to where you want him to search, but don't touch the hay.
- Do not touch your dog. You can use voice commands, but you can't touch your dog to direct his search in any way.
- Do not permit your dog to soil the test area. It will result in an NQ.
- Do not use any profanity.

Do's

- Teach your dog to navigate the tunnel. The tunnel must be completed to qualify.
- Teach your dog the climb. A dog must jump up and plant all four feet on a hay bale.
- When your dog signals he has found the rat, shout out, "RAT"!
- Give your dog plenty of praise upon finding the rat.
- Have some fun.

Takeaway message

Barn Hunts can be great fun; and not just for the dog, but for the handler as well. Some of the people participating in the sport will be some of the nicest people you will ever meet. You will, in all likelihood, make at least one friend. And, although there are placements awarded, Barn Hunt is largely non-competitive since it is scored on a pass-fail basis. That, I believe, enhances the camaraderie. Some of your competitors will be as happy your dog passed as they would be for themselves. So, enjoy the Barn Hunt experience and add a couple of Barn Hunt titles to your Champion's name.

I think you and your dog will have a blast. If you are looking for something exciting to do with your dog, Barn Hunt doesn't require a lot of running on your part or extensive training for your dog. A dog needs exercise for a healthy body and the mental stimulation of Barn hunt will keep his mind sharp. Barn Hunt is a great outlet for excess energy and provides stimulation for the mind as well.

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The Annual Issue, page 172 | caninechronicle.com*

Cutwater Zoom Zoom Zora

zoomed to Courier Water Dog at 21 months of age



JWD, August 21, 2021, Keystone (7 months)



AWD, July 16, 2022, Southern Splash (18 months)



WWD, July 17, 2022, Southern Splash (18 months)



WWDX, September 17-18, Keystone (20 months)



CWD, September 30, 2022, Delmarva (21 months)



Zora is loved and trained by Diana Schaub and Lauren Weiner. Our little spitfire was bred by Jane Harding and beautifully raised by Denise and Sandy Ratner. Her papa Perry (CH Cutwater Here There & Everywhere MWD3 SROM MAC6 CD BN RE MX MJB MFB T2B SIA SCN SBN TKA PKD-N CGC) and mama Kayla (CH Cutwater Lady Kate JWD CGC) are very proud of her. In her first two years, Zora also earned her BN RA SIN SCN SBN TKN MAC2 and CGC.

MARSHVIEW

Kennels

Pat DeVries & Julie Vanderbush

Dyna

CH Marshview
This Gem Glides AWD



©Caprise Adams



©Shawn Rossman

GCH Marshview Number 1 Seed
CD RN OA OAJ BCAT
SWN SIA SEA CGC TKN
WWDX SROM

Nova



©Phyllis Ensley
Photography



©Shawn Rossman



Smolder

MBISS GCHP MACH Marshview Great Ballz of Fire
RA MXG MJG MXP2 MJP2 MJPB OF T2B CA DCAT
RATO CGC WWD GROM



Baloooga

MBISS GCHS Marshview
Whale Of A Good Time RN MX MXJ
XF DCAT RATS CGCA WWD GROM

Photos on the page by
©Phyllis Ensley Photography

Celebrating 50 years of the PWDCA



WATER TRIAL HISTORY

by Cynthia McCullough on behalf of the PWDCA Water Trial Committee

In 1989 the water work committee for the PWDCA was formed. Early chairs were Cynthia McCullough, Julie Madderra (Hayes) and Kathy Olson (Monroe); the board liaison was Beverly Rafferty. The goal was to produce a set of rules that would become the foundation for future water trials that could be sanctioned by PWDCA. The challenge was to develop exercises that emphasized useful work, safety and performance that captured the unique working abilities of the PWD and had relevance to the historical tasks the breed may have performed. The Newfoundland Club of America first started developing their program in 1971 and their tests were up and running.

Three PWDCA clubs: Fairfield County (Nutmeg), The Dixie club and PWDC of the Twin Cities (PWDCTC) all submitted proposals to be considered. The plan was to make them available to the membership so that owners could practice with their dogs and mock tests could be conducted. After feedback from the membership a fourth and final proposal would be submitted to the board.

All three proposals had merits that were considered. The Dixie club had been working on exercises since 1986. They proposed one trial level and allowed a pool to be used so long as a small dinghy could be used and a 25 foot swim could be accomplished. Those Dixie members lived in the land of alligators hence the pool seemed like a wise idea. Some of their exercises became the foundation of our current Working and Courier levels. They also proposed towing a person, typical of Newfie trials.

The Fairfield club offered 3 levels as did the PWDCTC. The first level was closest to what eventually became the Apprentice level. Fairfield's second level called Working Water Dog required the dog to pass basic obedience skills on land prior to attempting the water exercises. The Newfie club still requires this at their first level. If the dog does not pass it does not trial.

To quote Fairfield, "Handlers should not have to chase their dog for a hand delivery as this is an example of poor training and control". Their manual specified the dog would be failed for leaving the test area. Fairfield introduced the underwater retrieve, the measured swim and boat rides and taking an article to a steward.

The PWDC of the Twin Cities (PWDCTC) developed the most comprehensive manual and today's manual is arranged much the same way. They initially met with Newfie owners to discuss exercises and equipment. The PWDCTC manual included background, purpose, permitted and not permitted behaviors, score sheets, club responsibilities and more. They actually had 2 distance swims, one being 3 minutes at the Working level.

Early Fairfield members included Deborah Lee Miller (Miller-Riley), Evelyn Durant, Esmee Grauer, Beverly Jorgensen and Angela Kalmanash. The dedicated PWDCTC members were Joe Fouts, Dorothy Jackson, Kathy Olson, Peg Thomas, Jill Gilbert and Helen Burg. The Dixie club members who gave their time included Sue Ann Pietros, Tom Taylor, Laura Stroman, Ellen Allen and Linda Fowler. Today's trials also owe their existence to the unnamed members who with no rewards, titles, or accolades to be gained, gave their time for the love of the breed and the sport.

The first water test was in July 1989 in CT sponsored by Fairfield PWDC. They invited Elaine Lehr to judge. She had been breeding and training Newfs for 11 years and had chaired the Newfoundland Club Working Dog Committee that oversees the program, rules, judging requirements to this day. In Aug of 1989 PWDCTC held their first water test with Newfie judge Ann Hoverson. The final water trial format was voted on by the PWDCA board on Dec 19, 1990. The first sanctioned water trial was held July 21, 1991 hosted by Fairfield with PWD owner and AKC obedience judge Ed Whitney doing the honors. The second sanctioned water trial on Aug 11, 1991 was hosted by PWDCTC with AKC track-



Tex encourages Sally Waltrip in her retrieve. c.1992



Mari gives the gear drag task her all. c.1992

ing judge Joan Telfer. Lone Star PWDC had AKC breed and obedience judge Alaine Gomez officiate their trial in Texas. The first PWDC national specialty in 1992 asked Jill Gilbert to judge Junior and Ed Whitney judged Apprentice and Working levels. The Courier level did not get developed until later. As you can see there were no PWDC sanctioned judges at the time. The tests and trials gravitated to AKC judges who were required to have knowledge, experience and education of how to conduct all aspects of dog sport trials.

The exercises have changed some over the years but are basically the same today. Some of the changes are noted here. The gear bag drag used to have a 10 pound weight in the bag, not the equipment. The net was originally 10 feet long by 6 feet deep (they would be dragging the bottom at many of our sites today). The underwater retrieve required the dog to sub-

merge the head to the back of the skull. The double directed retrieve required the dog be sent off from the middle of the stern then the judge would direct which bumper to take.

Members had to travel long distances to trial and got few opportunities every year to test their summer of practice! Now we have multiple trials on competing weekends, multiple sites over 3 days. Our trials now have 5 levels with the Master Water Dog level. The future of our water trials is bright and will continue to require the same diligence of our many members to move it forward with dedication to preserving the history of the breed and the bond that is formed from the training and time spent with the dog. May we remember it is the journey and not the destination that fulfills our lives and that of our every adoring PWD's.



Left:
Rick Hirsch and Tina
with AKC Breed and
Obedience Judge Alaine
Gomez judging at Lone
Star Trial

My Journey to Apprentice Water Dog

By Terry Revak

I love Great Danes – and then I met a PWD! I've raised Great Danes most of my life, plus a few other wonderful breeds, but never a Portuguese Water Dog.

A few years ago, my husband, Mike, met a young PWD at an auto repair shop and was enthralled by the size, color, wavy coat, and overall disposition. He came home and talked about the possibility of this being our next four-legged family member after our Great Dane matured.

During COVID, we were ready to add a second dog to our family. We visited shelters, but nothing worked for us. Our dog trainer, PJ Lacette of Best Paw Forward, Inc., reminded us of Mike's PWD encounter and said we had one of the absolute best, trustworthy breeders in our backyard – Meg DeFore.

I reached out to Meg and said I had limited knowledge of the breed but was willing to learn and train. She invited us to water training, and I was hooked! The dogs were amazing, and the people were wonderful and welcoming to us.

Luckily, in October 2020, Meg had a litter, and after much interviewing, we brought Juno home. She was a sweet little wavy girl who immediately dominated our Harlequin Great Dane.

I was excited to start her puppy class. We quickly moved on through basic manners, manners plus, obedience, and agility.

In the Spring of 2021, we started water training at the DeFore Pond in New Smyrna Beach, FL. Meg gave me the best advice for our first year of water training – enjoy training and water work - don't worry about trialing. Wow! That relieved the pressure, and I felt I could truly enjoy this learning experience with Juno.

Fast forward to 2022.

We are continuing our obedience, agility, and water training at the DeFore Pond. Juno and I worked hard on land DeFore Pond. Juno and I work hard on land and water training, and I'm thankful for how

the obedience and agility skills intertwine with the water work. Juno has such great drive and is always eager to please. After some encouragement from the New Smyrna Beach group, I decided to attempt a trial. With our schedule, we could only trial for her Apprentice Water Dog title at Senaca in October 2022. But then she came into season – yikes. We went to the trial anyway.

Since Juno was in heat, we were requested to keep



her away from the trial area until all of the other dogs were finished for the day. Shortly before we were called down to the water I did some obedience training with LOTS of treats. A concern we all have is when to cut off the treats before a trial. I rewarded her tons beforehand and hoped for the best.

Being the last dog trialing was a challenge. The water conditions were changing, and the sun was setting. The first exercise of splunky retrieval was fine. Juno's sit/stay was beautiful for the 60-foot bumper toss, although when the steward threw the bumper into the water, the sun was glistening on the water. Honestly, I could not see it – Juno smelled the beach, took her look, and went in after the command of "take it" ... she brought it back beautifully. On the "walk to the boat," I recalled Meg's caution of not letting the dog



The final exercise was the two-minute swim! How was I going to do this without treats? I called Juno out in the water to her swimming depth and told her how wonderful she was and "you got this girl." Longest two minutes ever!

When we were called back to shore, I could only look at this little girl with so much love and understanding that she had done her best. Then the judge yelled - APPRENTICE WATER DOG! My little girl did it - first trial and in season - Juno, you rock!

We are so grateful to all the participants, volunteers, and judges who made this trial happen and to the people who have helped train us, especially P.J. Lacette, Lizette Wagoner, Karen Childers, Tom & Judy Leather, and Meg & Bud DeFore. Also, thank you to Provisional Judge Susan LeFebvre (under the supervision of Judge Cindy McCullough). Most of all, a special shout-out to my amazing husband - I am so thankful for your patience and support.

By the end of 2022, Juno earned her ACT1, ACT2J, AWD, CGCA, and TKN. We continue to enjoy our obedience and agility training and cannot wait to get back on the water for the WWD. Come train with us in New Smyrna Beach, FL!

Best quote from one of the first PWD people I met, Chuck Bubert, "It's just dog stuff," ... and I love it!

dump the bumper in the boat. We worked on this part a lot, and gratefully, Juno delivered the bumper to my hand and boarded. (I have a song from Elvis that I sing as we go out and back - "Rock a Hula" - it is a stress reliever for me, but I feel bad for our rower.) Next came the float line retrieve - the current was running pretty fast, but she still got it!

M
A
R
I
A
H



THEY CALL THE WIND MARIAH

SHE WAS MY WINDSTORM, MY LOVE, AND MY PARTNER IN LIFE
NOTHING IN MY WORLD WILL EVER BE THE SAME.
WORDS CANNOT DESCRIBE THIS LOSS WHICH IS HELD CLOSE TO MY HEART ELICITING TEARS OF SORROW AND PAIN.

AM/CAN CH SALTYDAWG'S BOOGIE WOOGIE BABY
CD BN RE OA OAJ AX TKI CGC MWD GROM AD
AGI AGJN RAT
05/31/2008-12/03/2021

SIRE: CH SWEETMEADOWS BUGLE BOY
DAM: CH SALTYDAWG DREAMS COME TRUE NA
NAJ NAP NJP NF NEF

SALTYDAWG PWDS REGISTERED
KAREN KIRBY ASH
SALTYDAWGPWDS@GMAIL.COM

Trial Set up and Implications for Trialing and Training

Submitted by: Cindy McCullough

Trial Setup

Your club decides to hold a water trial, so the first big decision is what site you will use. Some clubs have few options, and others opt for a familiar site. The PWDCA Water Trial Manual has specific requirements that must be met for a site to be approved (see pages 17-18).

Once a trial is approved, is your club prepared for the “what ifs” that can occur at the trial? The following were all actual events.

1. You set up your markers on Friday and Saturday and find that they have sunk or floated down the river. A Good Samaritan out-of-state participant loaned you his. (**Lesson: Carry extra markers!**)
2. You set up the site, and 7 inches of rain overnight has your markers way underwater, and your gates swamped. Fortunately, you were lucky and found them! (**Lesson: Attach a floating line and buoys to find them.**)
3. You notice that your markers have moved the next day and are bobbing in the water. Someone had stolen one boat anchor off each marker! (**Lesson: Carry extra weights for your markers and boats.**)

Other Things To Consider:

- Do you have an extra oar?
- Do you have enough weight on your markers for those waves and boat traffic?
- Have you secured your boats on shore so they don't float down the lake overnight?
- Also, the drought this year has affected many water site depths. The manual states, “a required swim of 40 to 42 feet must be made to that 60-foot marker.” At your site, if the dog isn't swimming until they get 35 feet out, the marker must be 75 feet from the 3-foot line.

- Did you bring enough rope for your anchors and markers? It could be much deeper out there than usual. Consider moving the site left or right, as it may be deeper in a slightly different location.

Training

Different sites present unique challenges for handlers and dogs. Have you trained for them? If you don't have boat traffic and waves, try rocking your boat while training, so the dog gets used to that action. Big waves make it difficult for dogs to find the objects.

Is your equipment easy enough for the dog to see? When training, place an object a lot farther away on land, partially hide it behind a tree, and put it out with other distractions in the yard.

Work on the dog looking for the object. Throw the three articles overboard at different distances; they don't always stay close to the boat. At some sites, the public is literally right next to the site.

Any time you can, set up distractions to proof your dog. Try putting a life vest or pool float out in the water. Have a person on a raft on another boat not currently being used. Ask people to walk the shoreline.

Don't forget those markers 75 feet out. Have you practiced throwing that distance, sending the dog farther than need be? Are you sending your Courier and Master dogs more than 60 feet back for the shore objects? Have you set up distractions on shore since you are far away now?

On the swim exercises, consider practicing walking and swimming with your dogs as conditions can change overnight.

Has your dog ever retrieved their bag or float line in the sand? Take your gear bag to different parks so they can practice dragging it across different surfaces (sand, wood chips, grass, rocks, etc.).

Lastly, remember the manual states, ‘dogs and handlers are expected to perform in a natural environment, which may include wind, rain, sun glare, tides, and currents.’ Happy training, and come prepared!

Approved Water Trial Judges

Asbed, Jules**	Williamston	NC
Brock, John**	Cumming	GA
Bubert, Charles	St. Augustine	FL
Crouch, Lorie	St. Catharines, Ontario	Canada
Etscheidt, Tammy**	Newhall	IA
Ford, Amanda**	Coupeville	WA
Gadd, Catherine**	Dieppe, New Brunswick	Canada
Illchuk, Greg**	Nanaimo, British Columbia	Canada
Kahn, Sarah**	Seattle	WA
Malick, Suzanne**	Beaverton	OR
McCullough, Cynthia**	Houston	TX
McDermott, Lauren**	Phoenix	AZ
Murray, Judy**	Media	PA
Pratt, Karen**	Colleyville	TX
Reilly, Janice	Cary	NC
Reisdorf, Alan**	Athens	GA
Ruskai, Martha**	Winston-Salem	NC
Schroeder, Mary-Kay**	Cicero	IN

** Signifies the judge is a Supervisory Judge



From Shaky Sea Legs to Seaworthy: Our First Water Trials

by Robert Newcomer

The past two years have pretty much sucked, thanks to the pandemic. However, some good things came out of it. One such thing was that my job transitioned to full-time virtual, meaning I was home and available to raise a puppy. (It'd been three years since our PWD, Ariella, had passed away, and we hadn't had a dog since). I brought Jaco (Lookout's Forged in Smoke & Fire) home in November 2020. He is my COVID baby.

Since bringing him home, we have achieved AKC Virtual Home Manners (Puppy), Canine Good Citizen, and Trick Dog (Novice) titles. However, this past year I felt no greater sense of achievement or success than when Jaco received a passing grade as a Junior Water Dog (JWD).

I was asked to write this article to share our story and how, as newbies, we managed to "succeed" thus far at Water Trials. So, sit right back and hear a tale of how Jaco and I embarked upon our three-trial water journey to JWD.

Jaco was ten months old when we attended our first water trial. We were spectators only. We were trying to get a feel for how these things worked. The trial was relatively close to home and sponsored by our local PWD club – the PNWPWDC. At the end of the weekend, a long-time PWD owner and club member asked if we'd be back to participate in water trials. My response was: "I dunno. There seem to be a lot of up-

tight people around here. Don't know if it's our vibe." His encouragement was that we at least consider it. Over the next several days, I did consider the idea and figured why not give it a try. If it sucks, we don't have to do it again.

We had two months until the next water trial in our area. We were going to have to cram for the exam. Unfortunately, I was not aware of any water trail training classes, so we'd have to figure this out ourselves.

CAN HE SWIM? This was a pretty intuitive first step: determine if Jaco could swim. Actually, more of a "will he swim" as opposed to a "can he." I didn't want to assume that he likes the water just because he's a PWD. (He certainly isn't thrilled with bath time). We answered this question by putting a life vest on him, attaching a 25 ft. lead, and jumping into the lake.

I jumped in and began swimming while my wife handled Jaco from shore. There was no hesitation on his part. His desire to be with his "papa" drove him into the water almost without thought. There was, however, a brief moment of shock and panic when the realization occurred that solid ground was no longer underfoot.

He didn't turn around though. Instead, he swam more rapidly to me and the safety of my arms. From here, it was just a matter of reinforcing that swimming was fun by tossing around some earlier introduced water toys that he liked and being in the water with him. Step one is complete. Now what?

READ THE MANUAL. I'm a bit of a "rules" guy. I like to know how to play the game, what I can and can't do,

and what I can get away with. The only way to know these things is to know the rules. I downloaded the most current version of the Water Trial Manual from the PWDCA website. We would start at the most basic level – Junior Water Dog – and go from there.

I read and re-read the manual, primarily focusing on each level requirement we would be tested on. I highlighted key things I had to remember: "the handler must remain behind the three-foot line at all times except during the underwater retrieve exercise," and "the dog is at the handler's side under control." These provided the basis for developing our training plan. I also peppered our breeder – a seasoned Water Trial trainer and judge – with questions. She was (and is) so very gracious, helpful, and patient with me and my "newbie-ness."

DEVELOP A PLAN. One of my tours in the Navy was as an instructor. There's a saying when it comes to military instruction: "Train like you'll fight because you'll fight like you train." It's true. Training develops habits – good or bad – which also leads to instinctive behavior. So, the body will revert to instinctual action when under stress, and the brain gets overloaded.

In order to train like we'd fight (trial), I had to get the necessary equipment for our level. After acquiring a harness and retrieving dummy for Jaco, training commenced. As much as possible, with regard to the things that I could control, I tried to keep it consistent.

Consistency in verbal and visual commands was practiced as well as the "look" of things. Whenever we'd do some water trial training, even if on land, Jaco would be in his water harness. I used a designated lead, and only that lead, for water training. During training, even on land, I wore my life vest – the same one every time.

Also, Jaco was only permitted controlled access to his retrieve dummy, which he loves to play with and wishes he could have all the time. We treated it as a fun toy but moderated how we played with it.

FIRST TRIAL – FAIL. Our local PWD club hosts a water trial at Flowing Lake Park in Snohomish, WA, every fall. September 2021 was the first water trial that Jaco and I would enter.

Two months went by quickly. Unfortunately, Jaco and I didn't get as much training as I would have liked. We fit what we could into a hectic time of selling our home, moving into another, etc. But I was confident we would do well because Jaco is smart and willing to please his "papa." He excelled at the practice/rehearsal, and we accomplished the dummy retrieve from shore. And he was always keen to be near my side, so swimming to the boat with the handler shouldn't be an issue. My biggest concern was the

30-second boat ride. He'd only ever been on a boat once to go fishing with me.

We were self-taught newbies. We didn't know anyone or how the whole thing worked. We were figuring it out as we went along. (How does registration work? Where do we go? "Oh, things must be inspected... well, wait while I get them." "What, you want to inspect my water shoes too?") And on and on. It was just shy of completely overwhelming for a first-timer. We were registered to run on Saturday and Sunday. Two attempts to succeed at the JWD level.

WE DID NOT. Jaco got distracted coming out of the water on the very first exercise. He retrieved magnificently, but as soon as he hit the shore, off he went to investigate something in the out-of-bounds area. Non-qualifier right at the beginning. We finished the remaining exercises for the sake of experience. Boat ride – pass. Swim to boat from shore – pass. Swim with handler – fail. (At 45 seconds, he felt he had swum enough and headed for shore).

Sunday was an exact repeat of Saturday, except we did manage to pass the one-minute dog and handler swim.

Although Jaco didn't succeed at earning JWD, we learned so much from our first attempt. And we did have fun. It was great just seeing him do PWD things. To my utter surprise, we received the "Team Spirit" award, which meant more to me than a title because it reflected our relationship. And there would be next year, after all.

SECOND TRIAL – FAIL. In the Pacific Northwest, our summers start late, and the water stays cold. Jaco and I didn't start "in-water" training for the 2022 trials until June, when we were invited to train with some PWD owners/friends who lived on a nearby lake. Over the winter, we kept sharp by taking some training courses like Intro to Agility and the Canine Good Citizen course offered by a local facility. Although not water trial specific, these classes kept sharp foundational obedience skills and strengthened our bond as handler/canine.



That training weekend, at our friend's house, we practiced the basics - reintroducing the exercises we would need to perform at the JWD level, focusing on the handler swim. Saturday's training session went great. It was like we had been doing this all along. Jaco didn't hesitate to jump in the water to retrieve his dummy. Same with sitting on the boat and swimming to the boat. So, we focused on the handler swim and getting him to build his stamina.

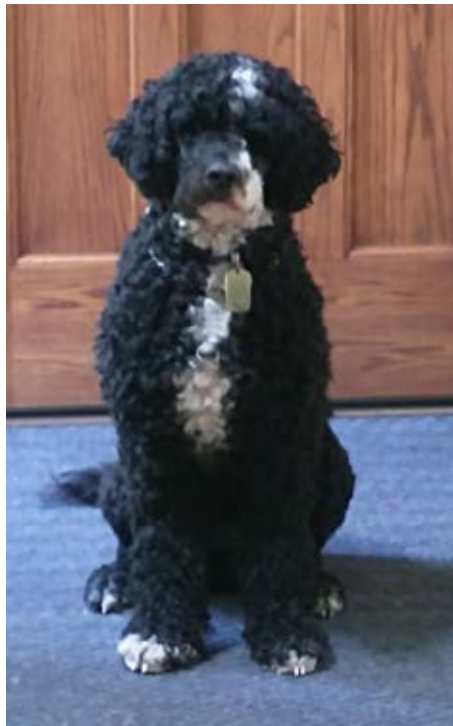
Sunday came, and we learned what acute caudal myopathy is, aka swimmer's tail. (That's a story for another time). Suffice to say, no training for a few weeks.

July came, and our club sponsored a trial at Nolte Lake State Park, WA. Like the previous year's trial, we registered for Saturday and Sunday at the JWD level.

Our performance on both days was almost a carbon copy of the previous year's trial. Jaco retrieved the dummy fine but blew right past me when exiting the water, distracted by activity occurring outside the ring. I couldn't get his focus back, and we timed out of that exercise. Bwaaap...fail! We finished the remaining exercises for the experience, which he performed quite well.

Clearly, we have some issues. I had to ask myself: What is it about the trial environment that causes him not to bring the dummy to me? He does it consistently in practice at home or when it's just the two of us. I was very frustrated. This should have been an easy accomplishment, I thought. I whispered to Jaco that I was considering getting a "real" PWD and that he was merely a PWD in name only. (Okay, I wasn't ever going to replace him. But we did have to get this sorted). Maybe water trials weren't for us. I figured we'd try once more at the annual fall water trials, and if we didn't get it, we'd give up and find something else.

FIGURING & FIXING. My analysis of our failure was that we had two key areas that required attention; the first was the failure to return the retrieve dummy to me in trial environments. Secondly, was maintaining focus & stamina in the swim, keeping Jaco from deciding, "Enough... I'm outta here."



In trying to figure out a solution, I can't point to any single, definitive source I referred to. I did a lot of "googling," reading books I had on hand, such as "Diving into Water Training for the Portuguese Water Dog" by Cynthia McCullough and asking my breeder and other experienced handlers for advice. One other thing that proved to be a most helpful analysis tool was a video of our swim exercise that our breeder took and shared with me.

To address the first problem, I had to learn about "proofing." Proofing is practicing a behavior in different environments and situations until your dog generalizes the desired behavior and can do it anywhere, even with distractions.

So, that's what we did. The next two months consisted of going back to basics on the retrieve. Using our standard retrieve dummy (purple-colored), we played fetch. In our yard. At the local dog park. At a nearby lake. Anywhere and everywhere. I incorporated a whistle as a tool to regain his focus back on me if I observed him getting distracted. Correct retrieval was heavily rewarded, including responding to the whistle and ignoring distractions.

As for the swim stamina and focus, I didn't have any particular "trick" to keep him with me for the full 60 seconds except to keep a treat in my outstretched hand, stay ahead of him on the swim and command him to "touch" my hand.

A long-time PWD owner and friend said she uses pork rinds for water training because they float. What a great reward idea!

Jaco loves them, too. So, I would occasionally toss one out from me and have him chase it. It kept his mind off being bored with the swim.

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM. It's September 2022. This year's water trial at Flowing Lake is a three-day event. Those entering get to trial two of three days if they so choose. We picked Friday and Sunday.

Juniors started the day on Friday. We were toward the bottom of the queue. When our turn came, Jaco was enthusiastic, as always. I was more nervous than usual. We kept warmup brief as I didn't want to "waste" a possible good retrieve, etc.

Sadly, this day's trial ended in a non-qualification. But not for the reasons we worked on. The screw-up this time was entirely mine. His retrieve was good, and



he didn't get distracted. Jaco dropped the dummy right at my feet just as we'd practiced. I bent over and picked up the dummy – elated that we had succeeded. But, sadly, no. I was so nervous about the exercise that I encroached on the 3-foot line preventing Jaco from fully crossing it. As soon as I touched the dummy and all his paws weren't over the line...Fail.

Then, a new challenge manifested: Jaco got bored on the 30 second boat ride and prematurely leaped from the platform. What the heck!? He's never had an issue riding the boat before.

Arrrgggghhhhh!!!! It seemed to be shaping up to be another trial filled with disappointment and defeat.

We had approximately 48 hours to "fix" things. Fortuitously, the judges that weekend were very gracious and took the time to coach me a bit. Judge Amanda Ford spoke with me at length at the end of that first day's attempt. Later that day, I met the weekend's other judge: Janice Reilly. I explained our challenges on the retrieve and my earlier goof. Janice, too, provided me with some excellent coaching. Her explanation/view of the 3-foot line was an "ah ha" moment. (Thanks, Janice!)

LAST CHANCE. Going into Sunday, I thought that I'd probably not continue with water trials if we didn't pass this time. We were the second to last competitors of the whole day. All other levels were complete. Folks were beginning to pack up their gear in preparation for return to their homes or wherever.

RETRIEVE FROM SHORE – PASS. Using a technique suggested by Janice, I backed away from the 3-foot line so Jaco could come all the way across. It worked. He got all four paws across the line before dropping the dummy and, more importantly, before I touched it.

30-SECOND BOAT RIDE – PASS. My solution was to hold my hand in front of Jaco and machine-gun a barrage of "wait, wait, wait" commands at him for 30 seconds. (I concluded this newly manifested issue

because we didn't practice sitting still on a stationary boat near shore. Jaco was accustomed to us being on a boat that goes away from the shore, and when we come near the shore, it is time to disembark).

SWIM TO BOAT FROM SHORE – PASS. Jaco has always excelled at this, as he wants to be wherever I am. (Our future challenge for this exercise, at the AWD level, will be for him to wait on shore without being held by a steward).

60-SECOND SWIM – PASS. We hit the water and swam to the left marker. Then we turned to swim to the right marker. I discovered that having me actually "swim" with Jaco works better than me walking while he swims.

Additionally, a tip that was shared with me was to keep myself between the dog and the shore. Doing this helps limit the dog's view of the shore and reduces their temptation to abandon the swim and head for land.

Jaco beat me to shore, but I was able to catch up, so we crossed the 3-foot line together. We walked up the slope from the water's edge to where the judge stood. My eyes were locked on Judge Janice, awaiting the verdict. It seemed like an eternity. Then I heard: "Pass. We have a Junior Water Dog!"

Oh, the elation, relief, joy, etc. We did it. Jaco did it. He's not just a PWD in name.

TAKEAWAYS. It's not always the dog's action that leads to an exercise failure. It can be the result of handler action, too.

Our success, or lack thereof, is definitely more attributable to my skill as a trainer/handler than his abilities. Jaco is an intelligent, confident, enthusiastic dog who wants to be with me doing whatever I am.

While there are all kinds of classes I can enroll Jaco in which teach him (us) various skills like agility or rally, etc., I'm not aware of any train-the-trainer classes to teach handlers how to train their dogs for water trials. There are a lot of nuances and "tricks of the trade" to being successful at water trials. One doesn't learn them all in a season, nor can they be learned solely from reading books or watching YouTube videos.

To date, I've learned everything I know through trial and error, testing things I've picked up from my fair share of reading and watching videos and putting the advice from experienced owners/handlers to practice. It's meant making many mistakes and learning how to recover from them.

We're looking forward to 2023 and achieving the Apprentice Water Dog title.

Swimmer's Tail – What it is and how to treat it

By: Deb (Gross) Torraca DPT, MSPT, Diplomat ABPTS, CCRP | Wizardofpaws.net

Chances are if you have any type of water dog, you have witnessed swimmer's tail. Swimmer's tail is also known as dead tail, cold tail, limber tail, limp tail or sprained tail.

There are many causes of swimmer's tail inclusive of swimming, jumping into water, confined and prolonged crate time, exposure to cold weather and/or cold water, and climate changes. Swimming and jumping into water repetitively are the most common causes of dead tail. This is especially true if the water is chilly and the activity in the water is new to the dog or new to the sport for the season. For example, in colder climates, the water is often cold when water training begins. This is the perfect time for tail issues to occur.

SIGNS OF TAIL ISSUES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Limp tail – from the base (where the tail attaches to the body) to the tip or end of the tail
2. Partially limp tail – the tail is held out straight or horizontally from the base and then hanging limply down
3. No wagging of the tail
4. Licking or chewing of the tail
5. Pain with defecation or urination
6. Reluctance to sit

Dogs with this condition are thought to have strained the muscles in their tail. The tail is quite a muscular component of the dog's body at the attachment to the body. The straining of the muscles in the tail may result from overuse of the tail.

This may happen if the dog has been swimming more than usually and will be exacerbated in cold water. Additional causes may include an over exciting day or few days, prolonged crating in too small of a crate, or being in cold and wet weather for prolonged periods of time. At the beginning of the season of water work, the cold weather, the cold water, and the re-introduction to the water sets up an unfortunate ideal situa-



Photo courtesy of Deb Torraca

tion for swimmer's tail. Typically, the symptoms begin to show within a few hours to days of the activities or situations.

Diagnosis and determination of the condition is based on history, clinical signs and a physical assessment. A radiograph or an x-ray may be taken to rule out a fracture or a break in the tail.

Initially, the tail and the surrounding area will be extremely painful. Ideal treatment and programs include rest and reduced exercise. Cold compresses may reduce the inflammation if it is possible to place it on the tail. Your veterinarian may prescribe a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory to assist with the reduction in inflammation. A home laser or home photobiomodulation units are very effective in treating the pain and inflammation. Laser or photobiomodulation may also be performed at a rehabilitation or veterinary clinic.

Fortunately, there is an excellent prognosis. Symptoms usually resolve within two to fourteen days. Unfortunately, relapses are possible.

POTENTIAL WAYS TO PREVENT SWIMMER'S TAIL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Moderate activity in colder weather, especially associated with swimming, dock diving and wading in the water
2. Proper condition and weight
3. Reduce prolonged crating or confinement



Photo courtesy of Tanya Strom

Liza

10/25/2011-12/11/2022

She's gone too soon

MACH Miraval's Life Is A Cabaret CDX
PCD BN GN GO RM RAE FDC ATT MXB MJS
MXP MXF T2B SWNE SWM SHDN THDN DN
CGCA TKE DN ETD PSD RATO CRO-III NW3
NW3-C MWD GROM MAC-15



© Olaf Christein

Loved by Pam Leshner and Hope Hoch, Liza had many friends and fans. Pam was her teammate as they earned an extraordinary 91 titles, but none were as important as being a family member and loving companion.

Supported by Jules Asbed
and breeder Phyllis Zusman
www.MiravalPWDs.com



USSPWD Supported Entry: Winter Edition

By: Zac Crump

Every December in the dog show world, all roads lead to Orlando, FL for the final week of shows, ending with the AKC National Championships, presented by Royal Canin.

United Sunshine States Portuguese Water Dog Club was excited to be back supporting the Central Florida Working Group Show on Friday, December 16th, 2022, with a beautiful Portuguese Water Dog entry.

Dr. Eric Liebes judged the entry. Our Best of Breed was GCH CH Seaworthy's Epilogue, Owner Nancy Vencill & Mary Salvary, Breeder Mary Salvary. Best of Opposite & Best of Breed Owner Handler, GCHS CH Allegiance How to Get Away with Murder for Lawless, Owner Candice & Jason Duclos, Breeders Eva Marie Muschek & Rich Muschek and Amy Lane. Winners Dog & Best of Winners, Sailor's Sea of Love, Owners Traci & Michael Chlan and Pam Jones, Breeder Pam Jones. Select Dog, GCHP CH Far Away Black Star, Owner/Breeder Laura Taft. Select Bitch, CH Seaworthy's Indigo Owners Vanessa Ward & Mary Salvary, Breeder Mary Salvary. Winners Bitch, Crews N Ports Irish Pot of Gold Owner Marsha Popielewski, Breeders Diane Crews & Kristle Marangon. Reserve Winners Dog, Aegean Robel Light'Em Up Owners/Breeders Beth Mercier & Elizabeth Volz. Reserve Winners Bitch, Infiniti One Kiss Away at Peja Owners Marcia Jensen & S Hall and L Kirk, Breeders, Elizabeth & Don Powell & Mary Salvary and Traci Chlan.

Congratulations to USSPWD Member Dogs, GCH CH Seaworthy's Epilogue CGC AOM WWD, CH Sailor's Sea of Love and CH Seaworthy's Indigo TKN and Aegean Robel Light'Em Up!

The AKC National Agility Invitational also featured 4 of the top 5 Portuguese Water Dogs including two our USSPWD member dogs, #2, Love you to the Moon and Back, "Luna", Owner Rill Baxter, Breeders Brad Welch, and #3, CH MACH Rustyco Mount Quincy Adams MAC 6 GROM, "Mr. Magoo", Owners Heather Kelly and Julie & Ty C Rust, Breeders Julie & Ty C Rust. The AKC National Fast Cat Invitational featured 3 Portuguese Water Dogs, Congratulations to all!

USSPWD wishes to congratulate our USSPWD dogs in the ring and on the agility field. Congratulations to all exhibitors for showcasing the best of our outstanding working breed. Thank you to our members for their donations which supported this gorgeous entry with awards and rosettes. USSPWD Supporters Jan Allred, John & Sarah Brock, Bonnie Chase & Amy Phelan, Gary & Karen Childers, Michael & Tracy Chlan, Zac Crump, Meg DeFore, HiBisKiss PWD's, John & Amanda Ellery, Tracy & Debbie Jackson, Beth Mercier, Don & Susan Myrick, Marilu Novy & Overlook Lisiji PWD's, Ron & Cam Salvary, Seaworthy PWD, Lori Torriero & Joe Piotrkowski, John & Nancy Vencill and Tim & Lizette Wagoner. Awards designed and hand-painted by Angie Robinson and Rosettes created by Cyndy Steiner. Supported Entry Committee: Zac Crump, Amanda Ellery & Marilu Novy. Central Florida Working Group Show Chair: Pat Boyd



A special thank you to our esteemed Breed Judge and for comments on our entry:

"It was a pleasure to judge this nice entry on the Friday of the Royal Canin/AKC week-end. Thanks for having me judge and having great trophies for the event.

Judges come to the ring with their ideas about priorities in each breed. I have judged many nice entries in this breed over the years and attended a water training day, some years ago. I look for the rugged and robust dog who can do the hard work that the fishermen asked of the breed. I find the substantial bone and solid build starting right with breadth of head and strong muzzle. I expect to find strong bone in the front legs and good balance with strong drive on the move. Characteristic coat of either variety is fine with me, as they both function well. These are the key features, along with soundness and good temperament that formed my priorities in judging this nice entry.

My BOB, BOS, Selects and Winners all showed the important characteristics of the breed, and I was happy to have them. The puppy dog I used for WD, and BOW has a great future in front of him.

The WB had great bone and head, strong muzzle and underjaw, good proportions, and carried herself wonderfully on the move.

My Breed winner and the others who made it to the final four are all great examples who I was happy to recognize. The breed winner prevailed on balance, good bone, strength, and effortless consistent movement.

A glance down the line when the breed competitors came in showed the skilled hand of your breeders in the consistency and quality of type on display.

Many were a credit to the breed, their breeders, and owners. My congratulations to the breeders on creating these nice dogs and thanks for bringing them to me."

Dr. Eric Liebes



PERFORMANCE BRAGS

What is a Performance Dog?

The term refers to dogs trained and competing in various dog sport activities, including show, agility, hunt, obedience, rally, field trials, lure coursing, tracking, scent work, search and rescue, and many others.

This month, we celebrate our performance dogs and all of their achievements.

Watch for these dogs competing in upcoming events this year.

STREAK

Topsail's Destinado a ser Otima - "Streak"	AKC SBN (Scentwork Buried Novice)
AKC TKI (Intermediate Tricks)	AKC SCN (Scentwork Containers Novice)
AKC CGC	AKC SWN (Scentwork Novice Level)
Reserve Winners Dog (Nutmeg Regional Specialty)	AKC BCAT
Best of Breed, Best of Winners, Winners Dog	AKC ACT1
(North Shore Kennel Club)	AKC ACT1J
JWD	RATI (Barnhunt Instinct)
AKC SEN (Scentwork Exteriors Novice)	RATN (Barnhunt Novice)
AKC SIN (Scentwork Interiors Novice)	Best of Winners (Eastern Dog Club)
	AKC TKA (Advanced Tricks)

Owned by Kari Lavalli



QUINTA

MACH CH Eauchien's Quinta TD CWDX
Superdog 2015

10 years young and TWO HUNDRED titles completed for 2023. Some serious and some hilarious moments along this title quest journey for Quinta and Tammy.

What a wonderful partnership, filled with joy for working and playing together.

Owned by Tammy Hibberson

ZELDA ZEE DOGG

IS NOW A
MACH AND MASTER
WATER DOG.

love my dog

Owned by Pamela Obrest



MIZZEN

Topsail's Don'T Drift Away

BCAT

ACT1

CGC

TKN

AWD

Owned by Janet Kutner

EPIC

Topsail's Beijo da Borboleta

CD BN RI DCAT ACT1J CGC TKA CD-C FDCH-S WWDX

CDSP CD-C

AKC CD

AKC RN & RI

AKC DCAT & 5th Fastest PWD 2022

NAFA FD

NAFA FDX

NAFA FDCH

NAFA FDCH-S

WWD

WWDX

Owned by
Shelby Robin





BOATY

Rio Seco's Barco de Sono Pinto, CGC, TKI, WWD
WS71452001

Junior Water Dog...8 months old
Apprentice Water Dog...18 months old
Working Water Dog...20 months old

Owned by Mary Lou Oliver

SCULLY

TOPSAIL'S AHOY ME MATEY RED SCULLY CD BN RE FDC OA
OAJ XF ACT2 ACT2J BCAT SWN RATS CGC TKA BN-V CD-V
SN-C CD-C NAC NJC WWD MAC-6 GROM

AKC RA (Rally Advanced)	AKC SWN (Scentwork Novice Level)
AKC SBN (Scentwork Buried Novice)	AKC CD (Novice Obedience) + HIT
CDSP CD-C (Novice Obedience)	AKC OAJ (Open Agility Jumpers)
AKC CD-V (Virtual Novice Obedience)	AKC XF (Excellent Agility Fast)
AKC SCN (Scentwork Containers Novice)	AKC RE (Rally Excellent)
AKC OA (Open Agility)	RATS (Barnhunt Senior)
AKC OF (Open Agility Fast)	PWDCA WWD Leg 2
AKC SEN (Scentwork Exteriors Novice)	PWDCA MAC-4, 5, & 6
AKC SIN (Scentwork Interiors Novice)	PWDCA BROM, SROM, & GROM

Owned by Kari Lavalli



BELL

SAKONNET BELEZA DA COSTA CD BN RE OA OAJ XF BCAT
ACT2 SWA RATO CGC TKP CD-V VSWB SN-C CD-C NAC OAJC
WV-N TN-N TEAM-1 WWDX MAC-6 GROM

AKC SIN (Scentwork Interiors Novice)
AKC SWN (Scentwork Novice Level)
AKC OA (Open Agility)
AKC OAJ (Open Agility Jumpers)
AKC SIA (Scentwork Interiors Advanced)
AKC SEA (Scentwork Exteriors Advanced)
AKC SCA (Scentwork Containers Advanced)
AKC TKP (Trick Performer)
AKC XF (Excellent Fast)
PWDCA GROM

AKC SBA (Scentwork Buried Advanced)
AKC SWA (Scentwork Advanced Level)
AKC VSWB (Virtual Scentwork Beginner)

Owned by Kari Lavalli

PWDCA MAC-6



TRACKING - Getting Started

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TRACKING

AKC tracking events are the competition form of canine search and rescue. These Tracking events provide experience for dogs and their handlers to meet some needs for tracking and finding lost humans or other animals, as well as, demonstrating the extremely high level of scent capability that dogs possess.

We've all seen movies with dogs following the trail of an escapee through swamps. The AKC's Tracking Tests allow dogs to demonstrate their natural ability to recognize and follow human scent. This vigorous outdoor activity is great for canine athletes. Unlike Agility and Obedience events that require a dog to qualify three times, a dog only needs to complete one track successfully to earn each title.

Tracking Dog (TD)

A dog earns a TD by following a track 440 to 500 yards long with three to five changes of direction. The track is laid by a human tracklayer and is "aged" 30 minutes to two hours before the dog begins scenting. The goal is to use the scented track to locate an article left at the end of the trail by the tracklayer. The owner follows the dog on a long leash and can encourage the dog during the tracking test.

Tracking Dog Urban (TDU)

The fundamental features of the Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) test are the dog's ability to follow a track laid by a person under a variety of scenting conditions in an urban environment and to find the articles dropped by that person. This is an optional titling event. Clubs are not required to offer this test and dogs are not required to earn the title to enter a TD, TDX, or VST tracking test.

Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX)

The TDX is earned by following an "older" track (three to five hours) that is also longer (800 to 1,000 yard) and has five to seven directional changes with the additional challenge of human cross tracks.

Variable Surface Tracking (VST)

In the real world, dogs track through urban settings, as well as through wilderness. A VST dog has demonstrated this ability by following a three- to five-hour-old track that may take him down a street, through a building and other areas devoid of vegetation.

Champion Tracker (CT)

A dog that has successfully completed all three tracking titles (TD, TDX and VST) earns the prestigious title of Champion Tracker.

Owners who do tracking with their dogs find joy in seeing the dogs at work using their innate scenting skills. If you and your dog like the outdoors, try tracking!

A list of clubs approved to hold Tracking tests can be found in the club search section of our website.

Getting on Track

With Heather Kelly

by Heather Kelly

I got started in tracking because of COVID. In late 2020 our performance options were quite limited, with most being canceled because of COVID. A friend who had put a few Tracking Dog (TD) titles on her dogs convinced me it would be fun, and we could do it outdoors and keep social distancing. Thus began my journey into tracking.

We started very simply on soccer fields or other parks, laying short tracks for all of our dogs. There are various training methods, but we paired human scent with food odor. We started by using a kerchief and a leather glove which we would "wear" to transfer our scent, usually in the waistband of our pants. The tracklayer would put the kerchief and a piece of steak (our choice for high-value reward) at the start. Then we would step slowly pulling a drag bag (a leash with a mesh bag attached with steak inside) behind us. At the end of the track we set a leather glove with a piece of steak under the thumb.

As we progressed, we added turns, removed the drag bag, increased the distance, added more articles, and started aging the tracks. At the end of Jan 2021, another friend who had multiple Champion Tracker titles took us to "the field" for the first time. For us, in San Diego, CA, this means an open space with mostly dead vegetation and lots of animal scents. It was the first time Mr. Magoo followed someone else's scent and found their articles and it was a ton of fun.

By mid-year 2021, I was fortunate enough to start training with Sally Nesbitt. She started with tracking in the 1960s, beginning with Search & Rescue and moving into AKC Tracking. She began judging in



1991 and has been teaching in the San Diego area since then.

Mr. Magoo, Dylan, and I would make at least a hundred-mile round-trip trek to train with her every other week. She taught me the rules and regulations for all levels and how to read my dogs. In Nov. 2021, she laid my first blind track, meaning there were no flags or clues marking turns or articles. Dylan was the first to run the track. It was amazing watching him go! She didn't tell me that it was for our Tracking Certification.

To enter a Tracking Dog test, you must have a Certification letter from a judge or someone who has a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) or Variable Surface Test (VST) within the last ten years. I'm happy she didn't tell me, or I might have failed my dog because I was nervous. She set a second certification track for Mr. Magoo, and that day, both dogs were certified to enter tests.

After many entries sent without making the draw, Dylan made it into a Tracking Dog test on Jan 12, 2022. His test had very little vegetation, and it was very dry. I wasn't hopeful. But my little man knew what he was doing and nailed his three turns and



440 yards to find his glove! My first dog ever that I put a tracking title on.

GCH CH Rustyco You Want it Darker TD FDC CGCA TKI The following week Mr. Magoo made it into a tracking test because of a withdrawal. We had gotten some much-needed rain, and the weather and conditions were perfect! The ground was damp but not wet - the grass was much longer than Dylan had the prior week. A slight breeze picked up when we started but stopped almost as quickly.

Mr. Magoo was flying through the field - so fast I nearly lost his leash and had to rein him in and refocus him. After that, his nose went on the ground, and he nailed his track! In just 6 minutes, he covered 450 yards and made three turns to find the coveted glove.

This wasn't going to be the end of our journey; I was hooked. We continued practicing Sally throughout the year, training for our Variable Surface Test and Tracking Dog Excellent test with the hope that I'd make the draw and be able to test our skills.

In Nov 2022, both boys made it into a Variable Surface Test. Wowzers, there was A LOT of wind that day, and it was SOOOO dry.

Dylan was up first. He drew a super hard track which was the result of a variety of distractions. First, his start article (a kerchief) wasn't on the start. It had blown away. I tried to start him on a sock which we've never done. Then, there was a lawnmower roomba that startled him and caused him to lose focus. But we got it back. He crushed two turns and found two articles. Next, he found a bone, there was food on the ground as well as a tablecloth, and he just couldn't do anymore, so I called it. We had two turns left, but that was ok...he tried SUPER hard.

Then it was Mr. Magoo's turn. The boy CRUSHED it. He nailed every turn, found his three articles, and then raced to his glove. He did the whole test in about 10 minutes. He passed his Variable Surface Test to earn his VST title. One more test, Tracking Dog Excellent, and he would become a Champion Tracker.

We got the opportunity to attempt the Tracking Dog Excellent test on Jan 11, 2023. We had a ton of rain, so the grass was green, and there was a lot of moisture to hold the track ayers' odor. It was another perfect tracking day. His track was 805 yards, just under 1/2 mile, with seven turns and two cross tracks from two other people. He took off.

We went uphill by a rock with a ton of bird poo on it, and then we paralleled a creek path. He inspected the cross paths but never veered off too far. He found a hat, a sock, and finally, the magic glove. And while I

thought he was all over the place, he finished in 13 minutes. For a PASS!

With this pass, Mr. Magoo became the 6th PWD EVER (according to records on PWDCA) to earn his Champion Tracker title (CT).

He is now a champion in 3 different disciplines.

CH CT MACH Rustyco Mount Quincy Adams RN FDC MXS MJG MFG TQX T2B4 ACT2 SWN SEA SHDN CGCA CGCU TKP SPS MPJ LI-1 JWD WWD MAC-8 GROM

This won't be my last tracking title or my last Champion Tracker. It's a really fun sport, and one in which our dogs excel.🐾



THE PWDCNC IS PROUD OF ITS MEMBERS - TEAMS' 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS! CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW TITLISTS

- MIKA**
CH Sealsle Midnight
Pam Wong, Jon Wong, Kathy Souza
AKC - Champion – CH
- RAMONA**
Cortereal Just One of the Girls VCD2 UD RE TDX AXJ MJP OF SWN SHDN
RATN MWD GROM
Barbara & Don Niemann
Scent Work Novice-SWN
Scent Work Handler Disc Novice-SHDN
- PEPPER**
GCHB Sealsle Doctor Who Dat Pepper
Cheri Ross, Tim Lenoir, Kathy Souza
AKC - Champion – CH
AKC - Grand Champion – GCH
AKC - Grand Champion Bronze – GCH
- GRETA**
CH Sealsle The Divine Garbo SWN, TKI, CGC, VHMA, VSWI, NW 2, ORT, L2-I, L2-C, MAC-2
Kathy Souza
AKC - Champion – CH
Scent Work Container Novice-SCN
Scent Work Buried Novice-SBN
Scent Work Novice-SWN
NACSW NW 1, NW 2 L1-I, L1-C, L2-I, L2-C
- JACK**
Roseknoll's Jack Of All Trades VCD1 BN RI TDX OA OAJ OF BCAT SWN
AWD
Janis Welsh
Open Agility - OA
- RIVAH**
CH Boardwalk River Song to Sealsle RI, SWE, SWNE, SCM, VHMA, CGCA, TKA, DJ, JWD, ORT, Elite-3, L2-C, L3-I, L2-V, L2-E, NW3-Elite, PKD-T, MAC-5
Kathy Souza
Scent Work Container Master-SCM
NACSW Elite 3-NW3-Elite
NACSW Level 2 Exterior - L2E
NACSW Level 3 Interior - L3I
NACSW Level 2 Container - L2C
Nosework NSA1
- VIOLET**
Chien D'Eau No Shrinking Violet BN RN NAJ NF BCAT AWD
Janis Welsh
Novice Agility Jumper – NAJ
Apprentice Water Dog- AWD
Beginner Novice – BN
Rally Novice – RN
- JAGS**
CH Surfari's Jagged Edge RI TKN AOM CGC AWD
Lew and Casey Ingram
Apprentice Water Dog- AWD
- KISSY**
LA FAMILIA'S THE SKIPPER KISSED ME SWD SWM SCME SEME SBME
SHDM CGCA
Wendy Spradlin
Scent Work Detective-SWD
NACSW Nosework 3 Elite - 3 Elite
- River**
Surfari's American River Sweetheart RI TKN SCN SEN SIN
Lew and Casey Ingram
Scent Work Container Novice-SCN
- GYRO**
CH Toraq 'n Legados Gyro de Pirate's Cove SCN SIN SBN CGC TKN
Sherry Hanen
AKC - Champion – CH
Scent Work Container Novice-SCN
Scent Work Interior Novice-SIN
Scent Work Buried Novice-SBN
- ASIA**
CH C-ATCH Peja My Radiant Spirit Asia Blue BN RA FDC CGCA CGCU
TKE ATT, Fenzi Team Level 1
Sue Bloom & Peggy Thomas
C-ATCH (Canine Performance Events Agility Team Champion),
Fenzi Team Obedience Level 1
- KEANU**
WaterWave You're Breathtaking!, WWD
Pamela Marcus
Working Water Dog - WWD
- TULI**
Toraq N'Legado's Tulipa Preta de Pirate's Cove AWD
John and Laura Wilson
Apprentice Water Dog- AWD
- RAFA**
GCH CH Maritimo Rafaga Brillante VCD2 UD RE AX AXJ
OF SWE SHDA THD MWD GROM
Barbara & Don Niemann
Scent Work Handler Disc Advanced-SHDA
Scent Work Excellent-SWE



WINSTON

CH Legado Trovao De Ashbe NW1, NW1V, NW1I, NW1E, NW2, NW2C, NW3, NW3C

Linda Kelly

NACSW Nosework 2 - NW2
NACSW Nosework 3 - NW3
NACSW Level 3 Container - L3C

IRIS

GCH CH Freestyle Iridescence MX MXJ MXF CGCA CGCU TKI

John Cucura

Agility Master FAST Excellent - MXF
Working Water Dog – WWD

MARCUS

Shootin 'the Curl in Baypoint RA MX MXJ MJB XF CGC WWD

Leslie Holt

Master Agility Excellent - MX
Master Excellent Jumper – MXJ
Master Bronze Jumpers - MJB#
Working Water Dog – WWD
Rally Novice – RN
Rally Advanced - RA

TEDDY

GCH CH Agua Dulce's Tusind Tak BN RI TD SHDNE SCN SIN SEN SHDE TKN

Ann Gaskell

AKC - Grand Champion – GCH
Scent Work Container Novice - SCN
Scent Work Interior Novice - SIN
Scent Work Exterior Novice - SEN
Scent Work Handler Disc Novice - SHDN
Scent Work Handler Disc Novice Elite - SHDNE
Scent Work Handler Disc Advanced - SHDA
Scent Work Handler Disc Excellent - SHDE
Tracking Dog - TD
Beginner Novice - BN
Rally Intermediate- RI

BUSY

GCH CH AGCH MACH6 Freestyle She Means Business CD RE MXB3 PDS MJS3 PJD MFG TQX T2B6 CGC CWD GROM

Susan Cucura

Master Century Agility - MXC#2
Master Bronze Jumpers - MJB#3 (Preferred)
Master Silver Jumpers - MJS# 3(Preferred)
Premier Agility Dog Silver - PDS#
Premier Jumpers Dog - PJD (Preferred)
Time 2 Beat - T2B#6
Master Agility Champion – MACH 6,7
Agility Grand Champion - AGCH
Master Gold FAST - MFG#

ZILLI

Saltwater One in A Zillion of Roseknoll RA CGC TKN

Christa V Diamant

Trick Dog Novice - TKN

TRISS

CH Toraq N'Legado Triss Merigold De Pirate's Cove CGC TKN

Rebecca Morin

AKC Champion – CH

VIRIATOS

GCHB CH Rough Seas' Viriatos De Toraq CD BN RA SIN SCN SBN ORT CGCA TKN

Rebecca Morin

Scent Work Container Novice-SCN
Scent Work Interior Novice-SIN
Scent Work Buried Novice-SBN
NACSW Odor Recognition Test-ORT

BEAU

Esquire's Ripple Effect in Baypoint AX MJX XF CWDX

Carl Craig

Master Excellent Jumper – MXJ

TIANO

CH Avida's Sebastiano Del Mare AWD, RN, CGC, TKN

Carol Amadeo

Apprentice Water Dog- AWD
Rally Novice – RN
Trick Dog Novice – TKN
Canine Good Citizen – CGC

BRISA

GCHB Covey Run's Summer Breeze, BCAT, CGCA

Diana Bailey

Grand Champion Bronze – GCHB
Canine Good Citizen Advanced/Community Canine – CGCA
BCAT

TITO

GCHB Covey Run's Summer Lightning, RN, CGCA

Marsha Litke

Grand Champion Bronze - GCHB

RAINHA

GCHS RACH Claircreek Rainha Marina CD BN RM6 RAE4 CGC

Frank & Margaret Dietrich

Rally Master – RM
RACH RM3 RM4 RM5 RM6 RAE3 RAE4

FIG

CH Aviators Figaro D'Avida BN RN SCN SEN SIN CGCA TKN JWD

Elaine & Chris Rasmussen

Scent Work Interior Novice-SIN
Scent Work Exterior Novice-SEN

MERCEDES

CH Mercedes Do Lusiadas BN CGC SIN AWD

Elaine & Chris Rasmussen

Scent Work Interior Novice-SIN
Apprentice Water Dog- AWD
Beginner Novice-BN



Celebrating 50 years of the PWDCA



Agility and the Portuguese Water Dog

by Angela Kalmanash and the Agility Committee

The roots of agility are in equestrian horse jumping. The Crufts Dog Show in 1978 created dog agility as an event to entertain the audience between their existing conformation and obedience segments. Hence the first dog agility demonstration was created.

Agility was designed to test a dog's ability to negotiate a multitude of obstacles against a timer. The first agility course was similar to our modern ones with many of the same obstacles. Given the success of that first demonstration, the Kennel Club (the official kennel club of the UK) recognized dog agility as a sport and started sanctioning trials. In 1994 the first AKC licensed agility trial took place in Houston, TX, the first AKC National was in 1996 in Tulsa, OK. *

Modern agility is open to dogs of all sizes and breeds including mixed breeds. It is a safe sport that helps build a strong bond between the owner and his/her dog. It is also loads of fun and can be trained at home as well as in a facility with a trainer. Agility teaches you how to use body language as a canine management and communication tool.

Portuguese Water Dogs are a natural for Agility. As a breed, they bond well with their owners and are smart. We currently have many PWDs competing in AKC agility. Many PWDs have multiple master's titles (MACHs) and titles at other levels. There are other organizations that Portuguese Water Dogs are agility titled in, such as USDAA, CPE, UKI and NADAC.

The first Portuguese Water Dog titled in agility was owned and handled by Alania Axford, a pioneer of dog agility. She and her PWD Cooper earned the first USDAA Agility dog title in May of 1990.

In the early years of Agility, many of our members competed with their dogs: Terry Hermann with Aria (USDAA), Tango and Joan Heater, Linda Otey and Midge, Tom Thompson and his wife LynMarie ran Tango and Reveille as well as Carole Allen who had Jack and Gemma. Melinda Harvey, who is also an agility AKC judge, titled Juno. I am sure there were others who were involved from the beginning as they all recognized the fun of the sport.

The left picture shows (from front to back): Linda Otey-1- and Midge (First MACH PWD), Joan Heater-2-and Tango (Third MACH PWD), and Joyce Taylor-3- with Party (Second MACH PWD)(Party was Linda's breeding).



I think Joan Heater's favorite recollection sums up the agility experience perfectly. "I have lots of fond memories of agility events from weekend trials to national breed and agility specialties and the first 2 AKC agility invitationals. But the first thing that stands out for me is the fact that I found something that I was good at and found the perfect dogs to do it with. Tango and Devlin took me places I never would have gone if they hadn't entered my life. And, to the top of the game I love.

The second thing is all the great friends I have made within the sport and the breed. Friends to laugh and cry with, to congratulate on their accomplishments and vice versa. Friends to sit around the ring with and shoot the breeze between classes, and then to find good restaurants in strange places and have a meal with after a long day at a trial. Those are the things I cherish as the years go by".

Agility is a fun sport to share with your dog. It is great exercise and very rewarding. An easy way to start in this sport is with AKC's Agility Course Test (ACT) Program. **Source AKC*



First 25 Portuguese Water Dogs Earning AKC Master Agility Championship (MACH)
(In date order of first MACH earned)

Date of First MACH	Full Name with All AKC Titles Earned Throughout Dog's Career (AKC Titles ONLY)	Date of Birth	Sex	Owner
2001-06-02	CH MACH5 Floottide's Menina De Ilha CD RN MXC2 MJC2 NJP	1995-06-04	F	Linda Otey
2001-07-08	CH MACH Del Sur's Party Pooper RN MXS MJG NAP NJP	1992-05-06	M	Linda Otey
2001-08-18	MACH Regala's Takes Two To Tango VCD2 UD MXB MJS	1992-02-27	M	Joan Heater
2002-01-20	MACH Kings Cross Calypso MXB MJS	1993-03-09	F	Tim Lohrenz
2003-10-17	CH MACH Neocles Water Lily CDX RE MXS MJC NAP OJP	1996-02-12	F	Krista Hunt Altendahl/Linda K Hunt
2003-11-21	MACH9 Redwoods Sea Devil N Disguise CDX MXB3 MJG3 AJP XF	1999-02-24	F	Joan Heater
2004-01-31	CH MACH2 Bayswater Formosa Vaga Negra UD RE MXS2 MJB2 MXP3 MXPB MJP7 MJPS PAX	1997-04-19	F	Charles F Bubert/Candi K Bubert
2004-06-20	MACH5 Bela Safira De Sagres MXG2 MJG2	1998-03-25	F	Lyn Marie R Thompson
2004-12-11	MACH7 Roughrider's Makin' Waves CD MXS3 MJC3 OAP OJP MXF	1998-09-07	F	Ron Avila/Barbara Avila
2005-03-19	MACH2 Kalista's Around The World VCD1 MXC MJC OF	1999-06-12	F	Tammy S Etscheidt/Bill Etscheidt
2006-01-08	MACH5 Triangulo A Liberty Belle VCD3 UDX RAE MXC2 MJG3 MXP MJP MXF TQX	2001-08-09	F	Carl Friedrich/Barbara Friedrich
2006-03-24	CH MACH Excalibur's Achievement CDX RAE MXS MJG	1997-05-22	M	Judith K Roland
2006-05-26	MACH4 Hallmark Singular Sensation CD MXG2 MJB3 MXP2 MJP2 MXF	1997-07-16	M	Ron Avila/Barbara Avila
2006-08-11	CH MACH Downeast Song Of The Sirens MXS MJB	1997-02-11	F	Carole Doerr Allen
2006-08-26	MACH Hunters Hertie Gertie Girl VCD2 UD RN MXS MJG NF	1998-01-10	F	Paula Stevens
2006-10-28	MACH Driftwood's Sudden Tsunami CD MXG MJS OAP OJP OF	2000-07-19	F	Tim Lohrenz/Morgin L Powell/Elie Chiampa
2006-11-26	CH MACH Tradewind's Lunar Eclipse RN TD MXS MJG NF	1997-05-27	M	Michael D Ihrig/Sue Zgol
2007-01-27	VCCH MACH3 Redwoods Sea Fox UDX3 OM3 RE MXC MJB2 MXF T2B THD	2001-12-24	F	Louise Mowbray
2007-10-14	CH MACH4 Alto Mare Peixes Do Voo RAE MXS2 MJG2 OAP NJP MXF	2000-11-30	F	Daniel Craig/Lisa Hubbard
2008-01-27	CH MACH9 Cutwater Wine And Dine Me MXS3 MJS3 XF	2002-04-28	M	Lori Chambers
2008-05-18	CH MACH12 PACH2 Bayswater's Rowdy Jack Tar UD RN MXG4 MJS5 MXP7 MXPB MJP7 MJPG PAX3 MXF MFB TQX T2B	2004-03-02	M	Charles F Bubert/Candi K Bubert
2009-02-28	CH MACH Del Sur's She Sells Sea Shells RN MXS MJG OF	2000-04-15	F	Linda Otey
2009-02-28	CH MACH3 Great Lakes Follow The Fleet UDX OM1 MXB2 MJB2	2003-05-06	M	Vicky Reed
2009-03-29	MACH2 Agua Viva's Princess Bela RN MXC MJS2 MXP MJP3 MJPB NF	2001-08-26	F	Sandra M Kott

Important Agility Dates/Firsts

1990-05-05	Portuguese Water Dog Camerell's Call Me Cooper and Alaina Axford-Moore earned the very first agility title of ANY registry in the USA; USDAA Agility Dog (AD) in VA
1994-08-11	Very first AKC licensed agility trial is held in Houston, TX
1996-11-23	First AKC Agility National Championship held in Tulsa, OK
1999-02-01	Rules for the new Master Agility Championship (MACH) are introduced

Celebrating 50 years of the PWDCA



THE ROAD TO MACH

By: Linda Otey

When the new Master Agility Champion titling program was announced at the 1998 AKC National Championships in Atlanta, I remember thinking that it was possible for one of my two Portuguese Water Dogs to achieve this title, but that the other would certainly be retired before attaining this goal. Little did I imagine that both dogs would be on the verge of becoming Master Agility Champions at nearly the same time, and that it would be my wild and crazy Midge who would be the first Portuguese Water Dog to achieve the title.

The program became effective on February 1, 1999 and the first dog ever to attain the MACH (a Shetland Sheepdog named Wyatt) did so in five months. Initially, MACHs were being achieved primarily by Herding Group dogs, and in late summer of 2000, I suddenly became aware that no Working Group dogs had accomplished this feat. It was then that I realized we had a chance to be the first.

Midge was an energetic puppy who happily played with housemate Party (a 3 year old Breed Champion). She quickly learned to play tug with the plants, chew up pens, and destroy anything wrapped in plastic. She figured out how to open duffle bags by placing her paw on the bag and pulling the zipper with her teeth. Her happy-go-lucky approach to life made discipline difficult, so at 8 months of age we signed up for an introduction to agility class. Midge was an enthusiastic participant with a devil-may-care attitude. Make a mistake? No problem. That simply meant we got to do the exercise again! This came to haunt us repeatedly in trials, as contacts were often missed, much to my dismay.

Long before we were ready, we entered our first national championship event and traveled to Ohio for the USDAA Grand Prix of Dog Agility Championships and the AKC Agility National Championships in Atlanta where I had the opportunity to watch some of the best handlers in the country. It was a great experience in

learning how to deal with the intensity of national level competition: the music booming, sights, sounds, dogs barking, cameras on the equipment and overhead, a time change, and the heat/humidity.

Midge and I grew together as a team, and my other PWD, Party, had a lot to do with that. In the beginning they had completely different approaches to learning.

Party had to know he was correct; Midge didn't care, just as long as she got to do it. They had different working styles. While Midge liked to rush headlong, Party was thoughtful and deliberate.

They jumped different heights (which changes the handler's timing at each obstacle). Midge jumped 16" while Party jumped 24" which was a higher AKC height than necessary (to stay consistent with his required USDAA and NADAC jump heights). They both helped me improve as a handler—and kept me humble in the process. Party was an honest, reliable dog who worked at a steady pace that was deceptively quick. He had a great sense of comedy, played to the cameras, and once in a while would do something totally goofy on an agility course and then look at me with this silly grin showing me all his front teeth.

As Party's double Qs increased, Midge racked up the points. Party was short on points and Midge lacked QQs. The harder we tried, the more elusive the MACH title became. I knew Joan Heater and Tango were hot on our heels ...

Joan and I met in California early on. Joan was taking lessons from Stuart Mah, one of the great gurus in dog agility. I was taking lessons from Karen Moureaux, a member of the Agility World Team for USA. We were fortunate to have some of the best foundation training available at the time, and had the opportunity to attend seminars presented by some of the greats in agility competition. When Joan and Tango moved to Pennsylvania and the MACH race was on, I knew I had an edge when winter approached. The best part of living in California is having trials year-round.

Little did I imagine that both dogs would be on the verge of becoming Master Agility Champions at nearly the same time, and that it would be my wild and crazy Midge who would be the first Portuguese Water Dog to achieve the title.



Joan and I have laughed about how we would come back from a weekend of trialing and check to see how the other did, how many points and how many double Qs. It was neck and neck. We both wanted to be first!

Then, suddenly, Midge and I began to click. At 19 ½ QQs, it seemed like an eternity before we took the line for that last Q. The course was technical and we needed to stay focused. We worked each obstacle, one by one. The second to last obstacle was the teeter, and I found myself telling Midge to take her time so she wouldn't incur a flyoff. It felt like forever before the board tipped and down through the contact she ran, into the collapsed tunnel, and into MACH history as the first Portuguese Water Dog to achieve the Master Agility Champion title and the fourth dog in the country from the Working Group (the only one who was a Breed Champion of Record, as well).

Midge and I took a victory lap that day while our fellow competitors cheered us on. It was the first of five MACHs that we would achieve before Midge died unexpectedly. She taught me a lot about teamwork, forgiveness, and the joy of snuggling at the end of the day.

Five weeks after Midge achieved that historic MACH, nine year old Party became the second Portuguese Water Dog to earn the MACH title on a very difficult course, finishing well under time. While Midge received honors as AKC's Top Dog in the breed for the year (2000) and went to the AKC Agility Invitationals, Party was the one who placed 8th at the AKC All-Breed Agility Championships, and was the two-time winner of his class at the USDAA World Championships.

Not long after, Joan and Tango finished their MACH, to become our breed's third MACH. Joan went on to achieve a second MACH with her other Portuguese Water Dog, Devlin, with whom she had a great career.

I believe the lessons learned from dog agility are a road map for life. In the early days, we didn't have trials every weekend. It was more like once a month, and everyone would travel to that one trial. If it was in Arizona, we all went to Arizona. If it was northern California, that's where you'd find all of us. There was only one ring and one judge. Everyone helped and everyone would sit and watch that one person in the ring working their dog. You made your mistakes "in front of God and Everybody". This was a very difficult thing for me to overcome, as I felt so self-conscious. Eventually, I realized it wasn't about me looking good; it was about me making my dog look good!

There's an old saying in agility that 99% of the mistakes are the handler's. It often amazes me that we ask our dogs to run as fast as they can, on a course that they've never seen, to respond in a split second to instructions given them verbally and by body movement, and to complete said course in less than 60 seconds. It further astounds me that they can execute these instructions accurately so much of the time. My respect for their superior ability is tremendous.

Sometimes we would hear individuals blaming their dogs for their mistakes, but there is strength in learning to own the mistakes as yours and then going back out there again, recognizing positively the parts of the course you, as a team, did well. Agility also teaches you how to win gracefully and to lose graciously.

After Midge died, it took a long time for me to run my third Portuguese Water Dog, Shelly, with any appreciation for her ability. I remember the first time I set her up on the line and did a lead out (her first trial). She looked like she was going to throw up. Poor girl, I had my doubts about her. While she tried, she was always running in the shadow of Midge. Eventually, I realized that I needed to focus on what she did well and give her an opportunity to shine. We became a real team and learned to trust each other. Shelly was awesome in her own right, and became an intense competitor. She achieved the Master Agility Champion title and we competed for many years.

It should be noted that there were several other individuals competing in agility who achieved "Firsts" before AKC's program rose in popularity: Bud Kramer, Alaina Axford-Moore & Cooper, Tom Thompson & Tango, Jerry Adams & Izzy, and Terry Hermann & Ria (see Brian McGunigle's article in the "Heritage from the Sea" 30th Anniversary of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc. Issue July/August 2002). I look forward to hearing from some of these Pioneers of Agility in future issues.

AGILITY EXPLAINED

By: Maureen G Nowak

"Trixie" Freestyle
 And Away We Go Again
 MX MXB MXJ MJS
 MXF TKA WWD AKC #
 WS60127004
 (owned/handled by
 Patricia Parrett)



Imagine a fast-paced and exciting sport where your dog is your teammate running through an obstacle course in a race for accuracy and speed ... that's agility!

It's no wonder why agility is the fastest growing canine sport, with over a million participants competing in the US each year. As a Working-Class breed, Portuguese Water Dogs excel in agility since they relish having a mission to complete and partnering with their owners on any task. While they may not have the speed of the exemplary Border Collies at Agility Trials, they make up for it in attentiveness and accuracy to earn top AKC titles.

Agility is a relatively young sport, created to entertain spectators at horse races in England in the late 1970's, and arriving in the US more than a decade later. The first AKC-licensed trial was held in Texas in August, 1994. Today trials are held year-round across the United States, both outdoors and at indoor facilities. Agility can be just recreational or can be a competitive international sport, but it's always FUN.

Most PWD's who compete enter the 20" class (dogs measuring 18-22 inches at the withers) at AKC-licensed Trials around the United States. The two primary events are the Standard Class and Jumpers with Weaves (JWW)—a dog who succeeds in both categories simultaneously could eventually earn the coveted Master Agility Champion title. At trials, handlers direct their dogs through a set series of numbered jumps (including single, double and triple jumps, a long jump, and a tire), weave poles, and tunnels in the JWW category. Standard courses add "contact obstacles" including the A-frame, see-saw, pause table, and dog

walk. The courses change for every Trial, so memorizing the course and quick strategy planning are key to a clean run. Handlers must direct their dogs through the course without any toys or food for incentive, using only their voice and physical cues to direct them (touching your dog or the obstacles is prohibited). It's as challenging as it sounds; the slightest tilt of a handler's shoulder or angle of foot could send their dog racing to the wrong obstacle.

The objective of every agility run is to make no mistakes—called "faults" in the sport—and to complete the course faster than other competitors. Faults such as knocking a jump bar, skipping an obstacle, or not touching the yellow section on a contact obstacle, result in an automatic non-qualifying score (NQ.) Dogs at the more junior levels can still qualify with some minor faults, such as jumping onto the far side of the



"Dooley" Dooley Noted at Pouch Cove AX, AJX, AKC # WS62496504 (owned/handled by Maureen G Nowak)

table or slightly exceeding the course time set by the judge, but dogs must perform flawlessly at the Masters level to qualify. Many participants can qualify in each category—dog/handler teams need a certain number of qualifying scores to graduate to the next level—but only the fastest dogs with Q-scores bring home ribbons.

Training classes* can be found around the country, making agility one of the most accessible canine performance sports. Early foundation training is key to a dog's success on the agility course. Dogs should master basic obedience skills (such as sit, stay and come) before beginning agility classes. Early classes focus on "flatwork," which is the cornerstone to teaching a dog to follow a handler's commands, and an introduction to the obstacles. The see-saw and twelve weave poles are the most complex to teach, while jumping is more intuitive.

The AKC won't allow dogs to compete until they reach 15-months old, and veterinarians recommend training in moderation to avoid injuring young bones and ligaments. Check out the AKC's website for more details on getting started with agility: <https://www.akc.org/sports/agility/getting-started/>

***Warning: The fun and comradery of agility training makes the sport highly addictive for both PWDs and their owners!**



"Shea" Pouch Cove's 007 OX, OJX, AKC # WS69983807 (owned/handled by Maureen G Nowak)

STANDARD. The Standard class course includes a variety of jumps, weave poles, a pause table, and tunnels, as well as contact obstacles, which have yellow "contact zones" at each end. Contact obstacles include the A-frame, dog walk and see-saw. To obtain a qualifying score, the dog must place a least one paw in each descending contact zone, knock no bars, stay on course without any refusals, and complete the run within the required time.

JUMPERS WITH WEAVES. The Jumpers with Weaves (JWW) class does not have contact obstacles or a pause table to slow the team, only a variety of jumps, weave poles and tunnels. This is a very fast course requiring instant decisions by the handler and close attention from the dog.

FIFTEEN AND SEND TIME. The Fifteen and Send Time (FAST) class is an additional test of skill, accuracy, speed, strategy, timing and distance handling. Rather than a set course to follow, FAST class uses fifteen point-valued obstacles and/or obstacle combinations. The handler directs their dog to their choice of obstacles with the aim of

earning the most points. The course includes a 'Send Bonus' that awards bonus points if completed successfully from a distance.

TIME TO BEAT. The Time to Beat (T2B) class is a combination course from the Standard and JWW classes and includes dogs at all skill levels on the same course. The dog that sets the quickest time in each height category will set the time to beat for that jump height. This optional agility titling class challenges the handler and dog to run an efficient line with speed and accuracy.

PREMIERE STANDARD AND PREMIERE JUMPERS WITH WEAVES. The optional Premiere titling classes are designed to challenge dogs and handlers with a more complex course than at the Masters level. Handlers and dogs will need to negotiate courses that require varied approach angles, spacing, and obstacle discriminations to be successful. A dog must have earned their Excellent Agility and Excellent JWW titles to compete at the respective Premiere level. These classes are offered as separate titling tracks and are not part of the MACH/PACH Championships.

The Road to an AKC Master Agility Champion (MACH) Title

THE NOVICE LEVEL competition is for the dog that is new to agility. The course is relatively simple, with fewer obstacles and only six weave poles. The focus of the Novice class is on performing the obstacles with minimal handling technique. A dog must earn three qualifying scores to move to the Open Class in either Standard or JWW categories.

THE OPEN CLASS is for the dog that has completed the Novice level. The focus of the Open class is on more difficult obstacle course performance with more handling skill required. A dog must earn three qualifying scores to move to the Excellent Class in both Standard or JWW categories.

THE EXCELLENT LEVEL of competition is for the dog that has completed the open level. There are 18 - 20 obstacles on this course, and a more challenging sequence. The focus of the Excellent class is for dogs and handlers to demonstrate their superior skills in moving quickly and efficiently with close communication and teamwork through challenging agility courses. A dog must earn three

qualifying scores to move to the Masters level in both Standard and JWW categories.

THE MASTERS CLASS uses the same course as the Excellent level, but no mistakes are allowed and there are faster time requirements to earn a qualifying score. Masters level is the class where handler-dog teams can earn the title Master Agility Champion (MACH) in the Regular Classes and Preferred Agility Champion (PACH) in the Preferred Classes. Dogs entered into the Preferred level compete at lower jump heights and are allowed more time to complete the course. Ten qualifying scores at the Masters level earns an MX title for the standard course and an MXJ title for the JWW category. To earn a MACH title, a dog must have twenty "Double Q's", which are qualifying scores in both Standard and JWW on the same day. Additionally, the dog must earn 750 points, with one point awarded for each full second under the standard course time in both Master Agility Standard class and the Master JWW class.

SIRE-CH Neocles ACABADO CD TT CGC LOM POMB ROM.
WF779038
DAM-GCH CH Paria Note Delta Aquarius of Karavins BN
WS3871707

Emmy loves doing scent work, earning 22 titles. She will be working on getting all her elite titles, then will work on her master titles. She started fast cat last fall and earned a few pts toward her BCAT. She also started practicing barn hunt, hoping to earn some titles this year.

AKC CH/UKC CH RBIS Karavins Neocles Unfrozen Emmy
SWN SWNE SWA SEAE SWE SIAE WS52469305

Emmy



GCH CH *Blueline's French Courtesan* CD BN RA NAP NJP CGC BROM

AKC # WS60153901

Satine

earned her
Bronze Register of Merit

REGISTER OF
MERIT AWARD
2022



Breeders: *Sandra Myers, Melissa Forneris-Joens,
Barbara & Scott Henley*

Owners: *Blueline Portuguese Water Dogs
Sandy Myers, Melissa Forneris-Joens, Elizabeth Ginn*

Photo credits to Phyllis Ensey Photography

(Driftwood's You Ain'T Seen Nothin' Yet X Spyglass's Water Lilies)

Interview with

Kevin Keeshen

By: Maureen G Nowak

Kevin Keeshen is the owner/handler of O'Neill, the top ranked Portuguese Water Dog in the popular sport of agility.

Kevin began training for agility nearly a dozen years ago with his first PWD, Bensen. For the last six years, Kevin and O'Neill have partnered in the sport, working their way to the top. O'Neill earned his Master Agility Champion (MACH) in November 2021, and his second MACH in August 2022. They recently placed first for the breed at the December 2022 AKC invitationals in Orlando, Florida, and also competed in 2022 at the Nationals in Gainesville, Florida, and were finalists at the Westminster Dog Show. Kevin owns his own business and is a volunteer for his local New Jersey fire and rescue department. As often as possible, Kevin and O'Neill compete at weekend Agility Trials in Master Standard, Master Jumpers with Weaves (JWW), Master FAST, Time to Beat, Premiere Standard and Premiere JWW. I recently talked with Kevin about his Agility journey:

Kevin, Congrats to you and O'Neill on your great achievements ... I'm sure that we are all eager to hear the secret to your success! How did you initially get involved with agility and how do you now train for the competitions?

Thanks! While taking a Canine Good Citizen class with my first PWD, Bensen, the trainer introduced the class to dog agility. I researched classes through Bayshore Agility Dog Club, enrolled in a beginner's class, and later began private lessons with trainer Lisa Christman. I was hooked and the rest is history. Now I train once a week for 90 minutes with Jeri Precop's class through Jersey Agility of Central New Jersey (JAG.)

What are your favorite and least favorite aspects of agility?

Oh, the classes are great fun and trialing is about mixing competition with fun. I enjoy meeting new friends and especially other PWD teams, and am psyched to run a challenging course clean. Agility has helped me to escape the stresses of owning and running a business so that I can enjoy time with O'Neill without thinking about work. The only downside to agility might be



"O'Neill" MACH2 Lakeshore Surf's Up O'Neill MXS, MJG, XF AKC # WS52756001, (owned/handled by Kevin Keeshen)

getting up before the crack of dawn and driving two hours for a 7 am run.

What are O'Neill's favorite and least favorite aspects of agility?

O'Neill loves the tunnels and weave poles! You will hear him talking as he whips through the poles, which makes everyone smile. The only negative for O'Neill might be that he has to wait his turn to enter the ring—he gets very excited!

Tell us why you choose a PWD to compete with in agility, instead of a traditional agility breed like a Border Collie or Sheltie?

My family fell in love with this breed many years ago after our son gave a Portie to his girlfriend for her birthday, along with an engagement ring! Now they have their second PWD, Lucy, and we have our second PWD, O'Neill. Agility came later. We have found them to be great athletes, close companions, terrific teammates, and always eager to please. I'm quick to say that I'll take a steady, hard-working and consistent PWD any day over the wildly fast but less predictable Border Collie.

Do you have a routine before competing in a trial?

I say a prayer for all of the teams competing, wishing them safety, fun and perspective, and giving thanks that I have the opportunity to be there. Then I share some special treats with O'Neill. As you know, it's "all about the food" for Porties!

How has your agility journey changed over the years?

When I first began competing, I was nervous about remembering the route and studied handlers running before me to see how they managed the course. Over time, I grew more comfortable and confident, and focused on having fun while giving each run my best effort. I remind myself that O'Neill and I are a good fit as a team, and every practice or competition is another chance to bond. It's important to celebrate achieving titles together and making the whole sport fun. Ultimately, that's why we're there.

What advice would you offer to other Portuguese Water Dog owners interested in trying agility with their dogs?

I recommend that anyone wanting to learn about agility go to a trial, ask lots of questions, and find a beginner's class or dog club that offers agility training. For PWD owners, in particular, I remind them why we love this spunky breed and urge them to be patient, have fun, and enjoy the time with their best friend. And, I tell them that it's more important to run clean than to be the fastest dog on the course.



What goals lie ahead for you and O'Neill?

I hope that both O'Neill and I will be strong and healthy enough to continue competing for a long time to come. And, I'd love for us to earn our MACH3 this year and possibly a Grand Champion title.

All photos by: Rich Knecht Photography



Hunter

Any Port In A Storm

SWA SIAE CGC TKN MAC1



Six New Scent Work Titles in 2022

**Top Finalist in Scent Work Points
PWDCA Owner Handler Program**



Tawny

(WS69436601)

Owned by Nancy and
Michael Kurkjian
Bred by Elaine Suter

Sire: CH Navio Runs W Royalty at Valkrie (WS37819802)

Dam: Hunter Sassy Girl from Wonderland (WS53743301)

Rally – Not Obedience Lite

Submitted By Janis Welsh, Chair, Obedience Tracking Rally Committee

AKC Rally is the dog sport that has taken the nation by storm. Once billed as a stepping stone into Obedience or Agility, its popularity has surpassed traditional Obedience.

Rally has developed into a sport that can easily be entered by new handlers and dogs progressing to challenging, sophisticated levels requiring tremendous training and skill. It offers both the dogs and handlers an experience that is fun and energizing. We all know PWD's need basic training to be good family members.

The basics of walking on a loose leash, sit, down, and stay will get you through the Novice level of Rally.

Novice classes are all on leash with only one dog in the ring at a time. You may talk, clap your hands, and/or pat your legs to encourage your dog. A Novice course consists of 10 – 20 basic sign stations that the dog and handler perform. All you need is a 6-foot leash and four practice pylons for heeling. Rally Novice is a great place to gain ring experience and confidence for you and your dog.

Rally is a judged and timed event. Although judging is less rigorous than traditional Obedience, you begin with a perfect score of 100, and the judge deducts points for things like a slow or crooked sit, a tight leash, or a lagging heel. You need 70 points to qualify, and the fastest dog wins if there is a tie.

RALLY HAS SEVEN POSSIBLE LEVELS:

- Rally Novice RN
- Rally Intermediate RI (this is an optional titling class)
- Rally Advanced RA
- Rally Excellent RE
- Rally Advanced Excellent RAE
- Rally Master RM
- Rally Choice (starting June 29, 2023)
- Higher-level classes are judged off-leash.

Once you make it to Rally Master, you may earn performance points and a Rally Championship RACH

Choices - New Rally Class

Effective June 29, 2023, is the Choice class. All dogs are eligible to enter the Choice class. There is no jumping, and dogs are judged off-leash. The Choice class will have 15 – 20 signs from ALL levels.

For more information, go to <https://www.akc.org/sports/rally/>

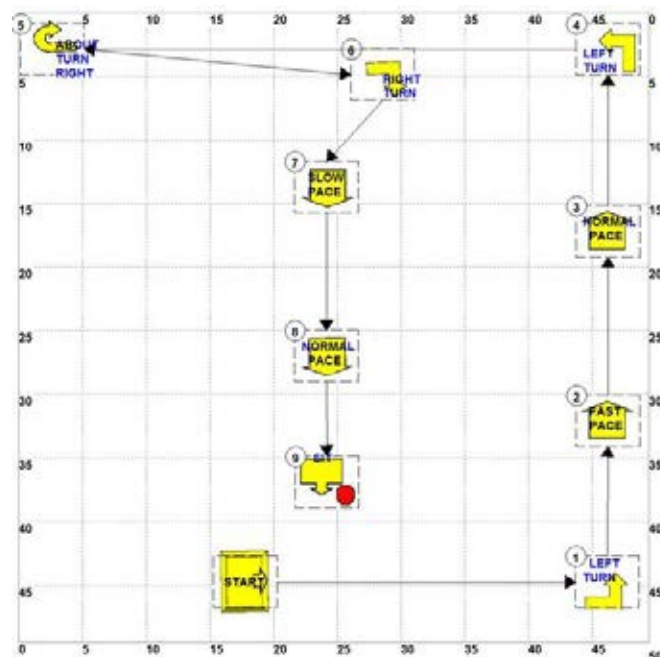
AKC Virtual Rally

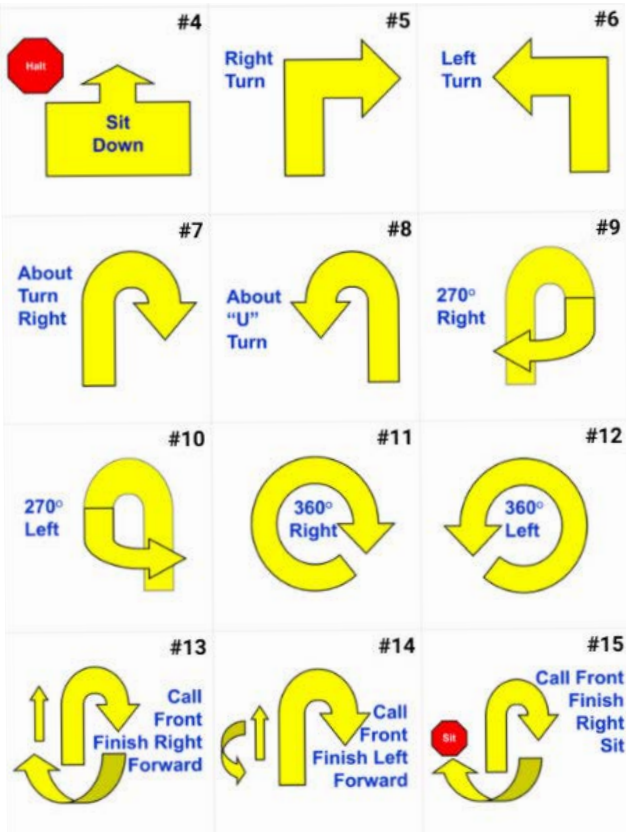
If you don't have a local dog club to join for training, you still can do Rally on your own through virtual training, home training, and then performing tests to be judged virtually and receive a Rally title.

These are not different titles. A Rally title earned virtually is the same as a Rally title earned in the ring.

The Rally Novice, Rally Intermediate, Rally Advanced, and Rally Excellent classes can now permanently participate virtually. The competitor sets up a pre-designed AKC Rally course, video record the team's performance, and submits it to AKC.

Five pre-designed courses are published on the AKC website for the exhibitor to choose from. The exhibitor will set up the course according to the Instructions provided in the Virtual Rally Guidebook available at <https://www.akc.org/pdf/Rally-Virtual-Guidebook/>.





Rally Resources

Many of your local dog clubs will offer Rally classes. If you can't find one in your area, several online Rally courses are available such as Fenzi Dog Sports Academy or E-Training for Dogs.com. Rally signs are available for download from the AKC. You can also order laminated signs or flashcards from Amazon, J & J Dog Supplies, or snowpinedogtraining.com, to name a few.

There are several great apps to download that have all the signs, explanations, and tips for performing the sign. " Check out the free K9Rally app and download it; then you will always have it and can practice anywhere or anytime.

RACH Rainha

An Interview with Frank Dietrich

By: Janis Welsh

Rally started as an AKC Sport in 2005. When did you start?

We started Rally with our first PWD, Toby (now GCHB Chien D'Eau Tobias De Remis RE CGC TKA BN-V), in 2014, after he had completed his GCH in Conformation. Rainha (GCHS CH RACH Claircreek Rainha Marina CD BN RM6 RAE4 CGC), our second PWD, earned her RN in 2015 at the beginning of her Conformation career at the age of 1 year. After Conformation and motherhood, she resumed Rally in 2019 with a much-improved work ethic.



Why did you start?

After Toby's successful career in Conformation with a professional handler, we were interested in a new activity involving direct communication with our dog. After getting the RN title on our own, we trained for the higher levels with a trainer.

RACH Lakecrew Order of Magellan was the 1st PWD to earn a RACH on July 11, 2020. Rainha was the second PWD to earn a RACH. What made Rainha such a great Rally dog?

Between her first and second forays into Rally, Rainha had a lengthy career in Conformation. I think this, along with maturity, gave her the mental discipline that made her a remarkably fast learner when we resumed Rally.

What would you tell someone interested in starting?

If it sounds interesting, try it! You can even prepare for the Novice title using resources available on the web. If you want to go further, a good trainer or training group is important for developing good habits. And there's always an off-ramp after each title if you want to do something else. You might think about switching back and forth between Rally and Obedience



since the skills developed in one are helpful in the other.

What do dog people and dogs gain (other than basic training) from Rally?

It's a wonderful way to bond with your dog and develop communication that goes both ways. Each Rally course is different, often requiring a bit of problem-solving from both team members. While pursuing the RACH, I was surprised that Rainha sometimes knew I

had erred before I did.

Do you have any learning moments from your time in the ring that you can share?

Don't walk past a Rally sign, ever! This is the fastest way to get an NQ (non-qualifying score). Once, upon completion of the Master Class course, I thought we had had our best run ever. Then a very sympathetic-looking judge informed me it was a beautiful run, but we had walked past the very first sign! And so a memory was made. Everyone does this occasionally, even judges and expert trainers. A good sense of humor helps; after all, there's always another day.



2023 National Specialty - Performance Events

What to expect in Oregon.

Submitted by 2023 PWDCA National Specialty Host Committee

Of course, performance events abound at any National Specialty and no slouching here – we'll have nearly all of it!

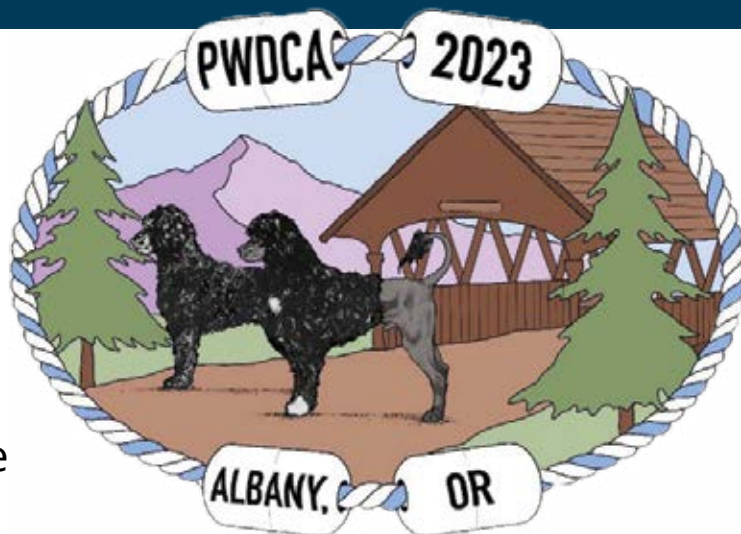
"Nearly", because there are always new and/or outlying events, or those requiring special conditions that we may not have for each Specialty and therefore cannot offer. This year the performance events we will offer include obedience, rally, scent work, agility and of course, water!! The culmination of the Specialty for the dog/handler team excelling in many of these events is Superdog! More on Superdog later.

Just now, our newest event in a National Specialty is scent work. (Scent work first appeared at a PWDCA National Specialty in 2019, Greeley, CO.) This sport recognizes the use of one of our dog's premier senses, smelling, to find hidden odor. The four odors used in AKC scent work are birch, anise, clove and cypress.

The four elements in which dogs search are interior, exterior, container and buried. The containers are generally boxes of some type and the buried refers to an odor source that is buried in a minimum of 4 inches of sand or water. You can imagine our dogs simply LOVE this game.

They love the way it is played as the dog is in charge here. The handler is usually at least 12 feet back and simply maneuvering the lead to make certain that it doesn't get caught on, or otherwise disrupt, the trial venue (like upending the boxes lined neatly on the floor).

The interior and exterior searches may have furniture, containers, "things" like fire extinguishers, farm equipment, etc., around which the dog handler team must search. The odor sources are often tiny Q-tips with a



drop or two of odorant. The Q-tips are contained in tiny boxes or tubes with holes to allow the odor out. These containers are hidden in/on/under the container/furniture/other and placed within the test confines.

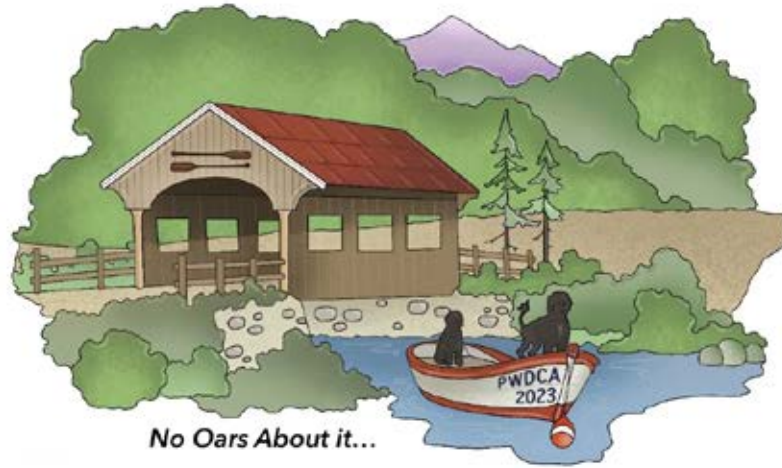
The tests are timed. As each team progresses through the test area, the dog alerts the handler to exactly where the dog finds the source of the odor. The handler states, "alert" and the judge either agrees or says, sorry – at this point the team leaves the test area.

In the early stages of this sport there is one hide/search. As the complexity advances there are more and more hides, more and more distractions (toys, food, etc.) and more and more difficult hides (up on a wall, under furniture, etc.). We are so happy to be offering scent work at our National Specialty – give it a try – you have time to do some major practicing before August!

Superdog ... not at all a new event (the first Superdog was awarded way back in 1992, at the First PWDCA National Specialty in Princeton, NJ) and it's always a crowd pleaser!

This is the coveted title awarded to the dog entered in multiple events that accrues the most points over the course of the Specialty. Each event earns points for a qualifying score or placement ribbon. This includes the conformation ring as well as the performance events!!

At the end of the week, points are tallied and the Superdog title is awarded. Obviously, this winning team has proven their prowess in a set of performance and conformation events.



In order to participate in the Superdog competition you must be entered in at least three events (for example, water, agility, and conformation.) Competition for the top spot is stiff, but you don't need to be in the running to enter and enjoy. Many teams enter every year just for the camaraderie and personal challenge (and

the Superdog pin!) Please go to the PWDCA.org website to see the updated rules for Superdog and make your plans to participate. This is the pinnacle of awards at the Specialty as it exemplifies the extraordinary versatility of these crazy creatures we love!

PWDCA National Specialty 2023 | Judges

Water Work

Mrs. Mary-Kay Schroeder

Ms. Martha Ruskai

Conformation

Mr. Steve Dostie:

Bitches,
Best of Breed,
Junior Showmanship, 4-6
Beg. Puppy

Mr. Eric Liebes:

Dogs, Non-Regular

Sweepstakes

Mr. Luke Seidlitz:

Futurity/Maturity

Ms. Kristen Cofiehl

Agility

Ms. Susan Leitner

Scent Work

Ms. Terri Spaeth-Merrick

Ms. Lisa Kretner

Ms. Mia MacCollin

Obedience

Mr. Carl P Lentz

Ms. Carolyn Wray

Rally

Ms. Carolyn Wray

CGC/CGCC/Trick

Ms. Dana Stillinger

2021 National Specialty *Parade of Seniors*

ADDIE, Freestyle Paper Moon Caerlan CD BN RN CWD, Jane Freeman

ALLIE, GCH MACH C-ATCH Freestyle You Can Cal Ma AI CDX BN RE MXS MJS2 MFC TQX t2B2 TKI AAD JCH GM RM RATO AWD MAC-5 SROM, Lisa Wilkinson & Jane Freeman

BUGSY, GCHB Aviator Success' Waterbug Blackjack CGC CGCA, Nancy Jo Sedlacek

CRICKET, CH Miraval's Shutterbug WWD, Phyllis Zusman

DASH, Sara Franzese & Steve Schneider

DUSTY, GCHB Driftwood's You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet CD BN RN NAP NJP BROM, Sandy Myers & Melissa Forneris-Joens

DYLAN, CH Success' Taken By Surprise, Nancy Sedlacek

HOBIE, GCH Vista do Lago's Sand Sailor CGCA TKN RN WWD RATN, Louann Tracy & Sandy Melson

LUCCA, CH Deerchase's Lady Lucca BN CD RN CGC CGCA TKN AWD, Toni & Harry McHugh

MALIBOO, BOSS GCHB MACH Marshview Out Ridin' The Waves CD RN MXS MJG T2B NFP DCAT RATS CGCA WWD AOM POM GROM, Julie Vanderbush & Pat DeVries

MOXIE, CH Driftwood N Broek Solid Gold Success, Nancy Jo Sedlacek

NANI, GCH Spyglass's Nanny Nanny Boo AOM, Scott Henley

PRESSLEY, CH Allegiance Stop The Press Pouch Cove FDC SWN, Jamie & Tom Carr & Amy Lane

RAZZIE, Cutwater Crazy Love RN NAJ WWD, Jane Harding

RIO, Vista do Lago's Sand Dancer CGC CWD, Sandy Melson

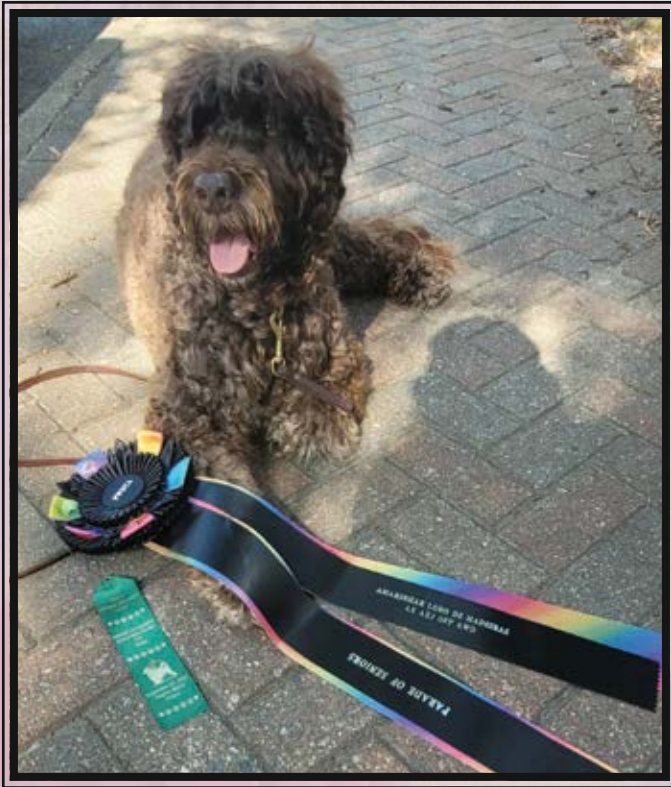
RUMOR, CH Windward's Rumors 'R Flying At Afim CGC, Emma Kello

SABATO, CH Tagalong's Roman Holiday CD BN RE OA OAJ OF CGC WWD GROM, Benita Bottom

SAMMIE DOODLE BUG, CH Allyn The Drive BN RN WWD POM, Cristi & Bruce Wetherholt

WOOF, Amarinhar Lobo De Madeiras AX AXJ OFP AWD, Kathy Groschupf & Frank Baucom





THE PARADE OF SENIORS
 JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THEIR GLORY DAYS
BRED IN THE U.S.A

Parade of Seniors
 Wednesday
 September 29th

Time: 3-45
 Room:

I had a friend was a big Portuguese water dog
 Back in obedience school
 He could sit and stay by you
 Make you look like a fool boy

Saw him the other night at this poolside bar
 I was swimming in, he was swimming out

We went back inside sat down had a few treats
 But all he kept talking about was
 Glory Days Glory days, well they'll pass you by
 Glory days, in the wink of a young porties's eye
 Glory days, well they'll pass you by
 Glory days, glory days



WORKING GROUP

Portuguese Water Dog

The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America will support the entry of Portuguese Water Dogs at this show, including Sweepstakes and Veterans Sweepstakes

Penn Treaty Kennel Club, Inc.

When: Sunday April 30, 2023

Location: Lum's Pond State Park, Bear DE

Class Judge: Dr. Albert P. Biachi

Sweepstakes Judge: Jo Ann Charnik

THIS SHOW IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF CAROLYN IRRAGI



Carolyn served as KPWDC's president, vice president, chairperson, and member of our committees and was the breeder of NorthStar Kennels. She was instrumental in helping get the Mentor Program off the ground. Carolyn was always there to help with any problem or issue, no matter how big or small. She lived her life with grace, and never complained about whatever challenge life threw at her. We will miss her smile and laugh, but we will be ever grateful for knowing her and having the honor to have called Carolyn our friend.

**The Pacific Northwest PWDC
invites you to join us at the
lake in 2023...**



Deep Lake Water Trial – Judge Lorie Crouch*
Sunday and Monday July 30-31, 2023-Nolte State Park, Enumclaw WA

*PENDING PWDCA APPROVAL

Check our website for details: www.pnwpwdc.org

© Nancy K. Gray



Great Lakes...

Great Friends...

Great Times!

GREAT LAKES PWD CLUB: 2023 WATER WORKSHOP AND TRIAL

For more information: David Swank; david@mariposapwd.com; www.greatlakespwdclub.org

JUNE 24, 2023

Novice Water Workshop

- INSTRUCTOR: VALERIE HUBERTS
- WAKEMAN, OH
- WORKING CLINIC
- INTRODUCTION TO WATER WORK
- PLAY AND LEARN WITH YOUR DOG

AUGUST 5-6, 2023*

Water Trial

- JUDGE: ALAN REISDORF
- ENGELHARDT PARK, BIRCH RUN, MI
- ALL LEVELS BOTH DAYS
- PRIVATE PARK
- CAMPING AND HOTELS NEARBY
- PRACTICE DAY AUGUST 4, 2023

*Pending PWDCA Approval

Movers And Shakers

Portuguese Water Dog Club Of The Carolinas

FOUR PAWSOME EVENTS IN 2023

For more info visit www.moversandshakers.org/2023-events or click the QR code below

REGIONAL SPECIALITY

Saturday June 3rd 2023 - Concord NC

Victory Lane Classic



Friday, June 2nd 2023
Owner Handler Event

Saturday, June 3rd 2023
PWDs take to the ring - Regional Specialty
Evening Movers & Shakers Social

More Information about all 4 events is available on our website



Southern Splash

WATER TRIAL - July 15-16
Montague Lake - Raleigh NC

The first water trial to be offered is our long-running and ever-popular Southern Splash Water Trial on Beautiful and Tranquil Lake Montague

Two Days of Water Trials
The Beloved Senior Challenge (10yr+)
A Saturday Awards Dinner
Auction and Raffle
Photographer
Vendors
The Popular Quack N' Fetch!

Contact Secretary Beth Dixon
bethdixon2141@gmail.com



September 23rd and 24th will be a preview of the 2024 National Specialty Water Trial

Movers and Shakers is co-hosting with the DelMarVa PWD Club. To be held at Observation Knob State Park near Kingsport, TN. Also featuring a Senior Challenge, Quack 'n' Fetch Awards Dinner with Raffle and Auction. Contact Chair Kent Nelson for more information paradise@mich.com

THE JAMBOREE, at High Falls Park in Seneca, SC

The Third Water Trial is part of that East Coast Favorite, Movers and Shakers is co-hosting, with the United States Sunshine Pwd Club. The water trial date as yet to be determined. It will feature Four Days of water trials, seminars, and title events such as Scent Work, CGC(a), Rally, ACTL-2, TDI, and Fast Cat. Also offered is an Awards Banquet, Auction, Raffle and other fun activities for you and your dog. Contact co-chairs of jamboree Judy Leather or Maggie Martin for more information tjleather9@gmail.com or m2martindmd@aol.com

Blue Ridge Splash Water Trial





**JOIN US TO
SPLASH EARLY!**

SPLASH OFTEN!

USSPWD CLUB IS HOSTING
THREE WATER TRIAL WEEKENDS IN 2023
FOR MORE INFO : www.usspwdc.org

DIP INTO SPLASH AWAY

Junior/Apprentice Trial ONLY
Saturday June 4, 2023
New Smyrna Beach, FL
Workshop June 3rd led by John Brock
Judge: John Brock



SPRING INTO SPLASH AWAY

Pyne Road Park, West Point Lake
4481 Roanoke Rd, LaGrange, GA
Two Water Trials: June 24-25, 2023
Judge: Greg Illchuk

JAMBOREE
USSPWDC MOVERS AND SHAKERS

High Falls Park, Lake Keowee, SC
DATES: October 18-23, 2023



PWDCA & REGIONAL CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please send calendar updates and corrections to:

Kathy Groschupf • HC 65 Box 7504 • Amado AZ 85645-9637 • (520) 398-8181 • birdsounds@aol.com

Information requires: date of event • location • contact person with phone number or email

MARCH

March 4 & 5, 2023 **Nutmeg Supported Entry Working Group Show.** Eastern States Exposition Grounds, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089. Contact: InfoDog (infodog.com, 336-379-9352).

March 5, 2023 **Mayflower PWD Dry Dock Workshop.** Agility Rush, 237 River Road, Uxbridge, MA. Workshop is presented by Kari Lavalli. AM and PM sessions offered based on experience level. Details and contact via website: www.mayflowerpwd.org.

March 9-13, 2023 **Rio Salgado PWDC Heart of the Desert Classic Supported Entry & Sweepstakes.** Arizona State Fairgrounds, 1826 W McDowell Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85007. Superintendent: Onofrio. Contact: Show Chair, Jim Beach (diamante.pwd@earthlink.net, 502-548-6233).

APRIL

April 21-23, 2023 **Southern California PWDC Agility Trials.** Freedom Park, 275 E Pleasant Valley Road, Camarillo, CA. Contact: Event Chair, Mary Baum (mpbaum@aol.com).

April 30, 2023 **Keystone PWDC Supported Entry.** With Penn Treaty Kennel Club, with Sweeps and Veterans Sweeps. Lum's Pond State Park, Bear, DE. Contact: Dave Wichtermand (wichtermand@gmail.com, 302-233-4747).

MAY

May 26-29, 2023 **Southern California PWDC Agility Trials.** San Bernardino Soccer Complex, 2500 Pacific Street, San Bernardino, CA 92346. Contact: Event Chairs, Mary Baum (mpbaum@aol.com) and Susan Cucura (pwdcucs@gmail.com).

May 26-29, 2023 **Southern California PWDC Supported Entry at Mission Circuit.** San Bernardino Soccer Complex, 2500 Pacific Street, San Bernardino, CA 92346. Contact: Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows (<https://www.jbradshaw.com/shows.htm>).

JUNE

June 3, 2023 **Movers & Shakers PWDC Regional Specialty.** With Carolina Working Group to include non-regular and regular events, and combined with three days of regular shows. Cabarrus Arena and Event Center, 4751 State Hwy 49, Concord, NC 28025. Contact: Toni McHugh, Chair tonimchugh@msn.com.

June 3 & 4, 2023 **Mayflower PWD Regional Specialty.** Ladies Dog Club Inc, Crackerbarrel Fairgrounds, Wrentham, MA. Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes. Contact: infodog.com.

June 10, 2023 **PWDC Northern California Supported Entry for Conformation.** With Contra Costa Kennel Club "Woofstock" Dog Show, June 8-11, Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA. Contact: Becky Morin (Detoraq@hotmail.com).

June 17-18, 2023 **Mayflower PWD Water Camp.** YMCA Camp Lyndon, 117 Stowe Road, Sandwich, MA. Instructor is Karen Pratt. Details and contact via website: www.mayflowerpwd.org.

June 23 & 24, 2023 **Movers & Shakers PWDC Water Practices.** Jill's Pond, 10617 Big Pine Rd, Creedmor, NC 27522. Contact: Maggie Martin, Regional Activities Coordinator, m2martinmd@aol.com.

JULY

July 1, 2023 **PWDC of Greater Chicagoland Concurrent Specialty.** With the Kettle Moraine Kennel Club, West Bend, WI. Contact: David Parker (Drparker7492@gmail.com, 847-650-6669).

July 8 & 9, 2023 **PWDC Northern California All Breed FCAT Trials.** Manzanita Sports Complex, 17100 Castroville Blvd., Prunedale, CA 93907. Trial entries: Abbadogs.com. Contact: Janis Welsh (janis@ahpmlc.com) or Ann Gaskell (Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com).

July 15, 2023 **PWDC Northern California Supported Entry for Conformation, Obedience, and Rally.** With the Del Monte Kennel Club Dog Show, July 14-16, 4380 Carmel Valley Rd, Carmel-By-The-Sea, CA 93923. Contact: Ann Gaskell (Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com) or Becky Morin (Detoraq@hotmail.com).

July 15 & 16, 2023 **Movers & Shakers PWDC Splash Water Trials.** Pending PWDCA approval. Includes Senior Challenge and Quack N Fetch events. Practice Day July 14. Penny Road, Raleigh, NC. Contact: Water Trial Secretary, Beth Dixon (bethdixon2141@gmail.com) or Water Trial Chair, Maggie Martin (m2martinmd@aol.com).

AUGUST

August 11-13, 2023 **PWDC Northern California All Breed Agility Trials.** Manzanita Park, 17100 Castroville Blvd., Prunedale, CA 93907. Trial entries: Abbadogs.com. Contact: Ann Gaskell (Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com) or Becky Morin (Detoraq@hotmail.com).

August 19 & 20, 2023 **PWDC of Greater Chicagoland Water Trials.** Pleasant Prairie, WA. Contact: Trial Secretary, Bob Zak (rjzak544@msn.com) or Trail Chair, Cindy Petrey (ctpetrey5@gmail.com).

August 25-September 1, 2023 **PWDCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY.** Linn County Expo, Albany, OR. Chairs: Matthew Davis & Molly Speckhart. For more information, go to PWDCA.org website.

SEPTEMBER

September 23 & 24, 2023 **Movers & Shakers PWDC and DelMarVa PWDC Observation Knob Water Trials.** Practice Day September 22. 553 Knob Park Rd, Bristol, TN 37620. Contacts: Water Trial Chairs, Kent and Nancy Nelson (paradise@mich.com).

September 23 & 24, 2023 **Southern California PWDC Water Trials.** Tentative. Practice Day September 22. Castaic Lake Recreation Area, 32132 Castaic Lake Drive, Castaic, CA 91384. Practice Day September 22. Contact: Trial Secretary, Susan Cucura (pwdcucs@gmail.com).

September 29 - October 1, 2023 **PWDC Northern California Water Trials.** Tentative. Lake Camanche, North Shore, Lone, San Joaquin County, CA. Website for location: golakecamanche.com. Contact: Kathy Souza (pwdlover@pacbell.com).

OCTOBER

October 21, 2023 **PWDC Northern California Supported Entry for Conformation, Obedience, Rally, and Agility.** With the Del Valle Kennel Club Dog Show, Harvest Moon Classic, October 19-22. Sonoma County Event Center & Fairground, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Contact: Becky Morin (Detoraq@hotmail.com).

NOVEMBER

November 10, 2023 **PWDC Northern California Regional Specialty.** Napa Valley Exposition, Third St and Silverado Trail, Napa, CA. Contact: Ann Gaskell (Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com) or Becky Morin at (Detoraq@hotmail.com).

November 24-26, 2023 **PWDC Northern California All Breed Agility Trials.** Rancho Murieta, CA. Trial entries: Abbadogs.com. Contact: Ann Gaskell (Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com) or Becky Morin (Detoraq@hotmail.com).

DECEMBER

December 17, 2023 **PWDC Northern California AKC Scent Work Trial.** Dream Big Training Facility, 19681 Brandt Road, Lodi, CA, 95240. Opening: Wednesday, September 27, 2023; 12:00:00 PM. Contact: Ann Gaskell (Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com).

Editorial Submissions

Submit letters, ads and stories to *The Courier* content team (couriereditor@pwdca.org). Submission implies right to publish all or in part. No unsigned material will be published. Fraudulent/misleading material will not be accepted. The publication of material is the opinion of the

author and does not necessarily imply the opinion of *The Courier* or the PWDC, Inc. *The Courier*, PWDC, Inc. or Courier Team volunteers assume no liability for information contained herein or typographical errors. *The Courier* reserves the right to edit or refuse material and to verify any and all data. Reproduction of photos, advertisements designed by *The Courier* and editorial content is forbidden without permission of the Editor.

Editorial Calendar

Winter 2023

Focus: Performance Dogs

Deadline: January 20, 2023, Publish: February, 2023

Spring 2023

Focus: Family Dogs

Deadline: March 20, 2023, Publish Online: April 30, 2023

Summer 2023

Focus: Annual – A year in review, water, performance, new title holders

Deadline: June 20, 2023, Publish: July, 2023

Fall 2023

Focus: National Specialty, Stud Dog, Breeding, and Health.

Deadline: October 20, 2023, Publish: November, 2023

Back Issues for sale:

\$15.00 each, individual issue, plus postage.

\$8.00 each, breeder packet of 10 or more issues, plus postage.

Contact: courieradvertisements@pwdca.org to purchase.

For rates and submission guidelines:
www.pwdca.org/the-courier



The Portuguese Water Dog Club of Northern California Come on out!

The PWDCNC is an independent AKC and PWDCA sanctioned dog club dedicated to providing its members with fun, informative and competitive programs that introduce the wide range of activities available to you and your PWD. We have plans for 3 supported shows with Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes, Obedience and Rally, 2 All Breed Agility Trials, 2 Scent work trials, FCAT trial, Water Trial, water practice training and a Regional Specialty


2023 Upcoming Events:

Event	Location	Date(s)
PWDCNC All Breed FCAT Trials	Prunedale, CA	July 8 & 9, 2023
PWDCNC All Breed Agility Trials	Prunedale, CA	August 11-13, 2023
PWDCNC Water Trial	Lake Camanche, CA	October 13-15, 2023
PWDCNC Scent Work Trial	Davis, CA	November 4, 2023
PWDCNC Regional Specialty	Napa, CA	November 10, 2023
PWDCNC Agility Trial	Rancho Murieta, CA	November 24-26, 2023
PWDCNC Scent Work Trial	Lodi, CA	December 17, 2023

For other fun and educational events please check out our calendar at www.pwdcnc.org for the most up to date information on all our upcoming events.
Join the fun today!



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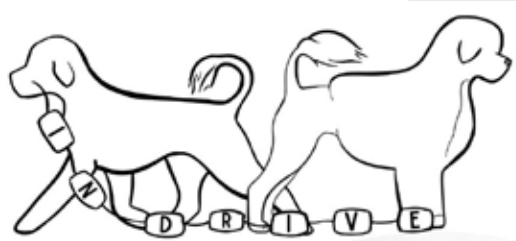
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**THE
COURIER
SPRING 2023**



The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America designates its Spring issue of The Courier to Family Dogs. This issue is shared with potential owners and PWD lovers around the world.

Ad Deadline is March 20, 2023

Submissions to:
<http://bit.ly/3HFeQrS>

Inquires to:
pwdcaeditor@gmail.com

**FAMILY DOG
ISSUE**

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CORRECTIONS

A few of the results had incorrect information in our Fall 2022 issue.

Page 60.

15-18 month bitches. Sweeps

The correct 2nd place winner should be:

- *Ascent I Like That Wookiee Maz*

Page 73

Amateur Owner Handler

1. Del Sur You Glo' Girl For Salt Heir
L Green/L Benton/J Green/J Green
2. Del Sur's You Give Me Goose Bumps
L Woodburn
3. Shooting Stars Blown Away At Sea NA NAJ OF
BCAT T Hosking
4. HiBisKiss It's Got To Be Shasta C Rodenburg

Open Bitch

1. Fado's Private Dancer D Hall
2. CH Watersong Pouch Cove Modern English
M Oldham/M Lint/P Helming
3. Cutwater I Don'T Know Why J Harding
4. Claircreek Picolina D Gottdenker

Because of an error in breeder assignment for a few dogs there is a correction to the list of additional qualifying breeders for the 2021 Outstanding Breeder Achievement Award. Here is the corrected qualifier list for the 2021 OBAA.

***Congratulations to the
2021 Outstanding Breeder Achievement Award Winner***

Mary-Kay Schroeder

•••••

Top five Qualifiers in rank order:

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------|
| Winner | Mary-Kay Schroeder *(8) |
| 2. | Freestyle *(13) |
| 3. | Marshview *(13) |
| 4. | Pouch Cove *(5) |
| 5. | Seaworthy *(9) |

Additional qualifying breeders, in alphabetical order:


- Afortunado *(7)
- Aspencove *(3)
- Julie Bailey *(1)
- Baywood *(2)
- Nigel Clark *(10)
- Margaret De Fore *(3)
- Downeast *(8)
- Cathy Dugan *(8)
- Jane Harding *(12)
- Melinda Harvey *(1)
- Amy Lane *(5)
- Kristle Marangon *(1)
- Mariposa *(4)
- Lisa McClish-Boyles *(8)
- Marlene Nicewander *(8)
- Paragon *(1)
- Elaine Rasmussen *(1)
- Janice Reilly *(4)
- Julie Rust *(2)
- Kendal Walters *(2)
- Cristi Fogus Wetherholt *(6)
- Margaret White *(8)

*(number of years qualifying)

Want more PWDs?

Catch up on the latest news and current events by following us on social media!

 @PWDCAInc
pwdca.org

 J. PALMER

CHAMPION
STARGAZER'S READY ABOUT

VCD1 RA AX AXJ OF TKI CWD GROM NW1

11/28/2008 - 11/3/2022

WS28749714



READY

WAS ALWAYS READY FOR JUST ABOUT ANYTHING,
and he let us know when he was READY TO MOVE ON.

You will be dearly missed, buddy!



He and Jim Smith were quite the team
and exhibited in multiple venues

READY was acknowledged
by the AKC as an "Achiever Dog"

Bred by Sandy Overton | Stargazer PWDs



NEW CHAMPION

RÉMIS'
*I WILL ALWAYS
Love you*

Whitney Houston starts off the year at the beautiful Kennel Club of Palm Springs becoming a multiple group placer, and winning the breeds from the classes to finish her Championship at the age of 19 months. Thank you judge Mrs. Abigail (Abby) S. Patrizio and Mr. Jeffery B. Moore for recognizing our girl!



THE KENNEL CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS



rsmithlewis@gmail.com

BREEDER OWNER HANDLER: RÉMIS' KENNELS - REMY SMITH-LEWIS

CO-OWNED AND BRED BY: TAFFE MCFADDEN AND ALBERTO MONTILA