

Sealyham Terriers in Performance

A VERSATILE LIT'L BIG DOG!

BY BEV THOMPSON (Originally appeared in the December 12, 2024 Issue of ShowSight Express)

“Originally bred in Wales to hunt badger, and alongside hounds to hunt fox, is a brave, tenacious, spunky, height-challenged ‘clownish’ breed—with a very soft and compassionate side—and smart as a whip with a willingness to please.”—Bev Thompson

Many dog fanciers and dog lovers may have never imagined these qualities to be a part of this terrier's demeanor. A trait that once realized and uncovered, by a lucky few, makes the Sealyham an ideal candidate for Canine Good Citizen as is exemplified by their excellence in Therapy Work, Lure Coursing, Barn Hunt, Earthdog, Scent Work, Obedience, and Agility.

Short in Stature—but not Short on Talent. Little dogs can do really big work!



THERAPY DOGS

Three Sealyhams are well known for their work with the public, which includes small children, the disabled, senior citizens, veterans, and others with physical and cognitive limitations—on a very intimate level.

Slyfox Jasper is an Airport Therapy Dog. He snuggles up at an undisclosed location, on the bare floor, with military deployment troops—his head on the chest of a soldier. Jasper has special security clearance along with his handler, Judy Mugrauer, to console the troops before takeoff. Participation in troop deployment is “by invitation only.” He also comforts retired military as they depart from and arrive at the Tahoe/Reno Airport terminal with the Veteran Honor Flights. Jasper holds the “highest title and honors” as an AKC Distinguished Therapy Dog: CGCA CGU CHDX THDD.



L to R: The Children - Mollie Mae; The Blind - Timper; The Veteran - Jasper; Honor Flight - Jasper Stealing a Kiss on a Lap in a Wheelchair; Slyfox Poppy Jasper, Judy Mugrauer.

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CANINE GOOD CITIZENS

A well-trained Sealyham is a welcomed terrier in any home. They pass, with flying colors, the basic skills needed for the title:

- Accepting a friendly stranger.
- Sitting politely for petting.
- Welcoming of grooming and examination.
- Walking on a loose lead, smooth movements & changing of direction.
- Walking politely through a crowd with no shyness.
- Sitting or a down on cue, with a stay.
- Coming when called.
- Behaving politely around other dogs.
- Expressing curiosity, but no aggression towards distractions.
- Demonstrating they can be left with a trusted person during separation.

“Tally Ho!”



CGC Photo Credits: 1. Thunder Rd's Solid Rock - Micah - Martha Hofstetter. 2. Witzn's Darling Domino Dormouse - Snoopy - Sandy Schneider. 3. GCH Afterglow's Sir Bedivere - Bogart - Pam Page. 4. CH Rosemont's Artful Dodger - Oliver - Conny Henry & CH Rosemont's Now You Has Jazz - Satchmo - Robin Murtha. 5. Hotshot's Royal One Man Band - Cash - Barbara Dunlap. 6. Seahill's Samantha - Taffy - Karen Phillips. 7. Goodspice's Full Of The Dickens - Pippa - Bev Thompson

LURE COURSING AND FAST CAT

coursing Ability, CABT, is “lure coursing for non-sighthounds” and challenges the dogs to run 600 yards and 300 yards (for small dogs) in a set time, chasing a plastic bag lure. It takes a “very game Sealyham” passing the test 25 times at 300 yards—equivalent to three football fields!

Fast CAT made its official appearance on March 24, 2016. In Fast CAT, the dog is running in a straight line for 100 yards. A handicap system allows different-sized dogs to be judged fairly. In both sports, the dogs run singularly.

“This small, compact dog should in all ways embody power, alertness, determination, and extraordinary substance.” —Sandy Schneider, American Sealyham Terrier Club



Fast CAT - Pippa, Goodspice Full Of The Dickens



CAX - Cash, Hotshot's Royal One-Man Band



Fast CAT - LSP, CH Witzn Wild Adventure

CAX - TAZ, Shshown's Royal Rhapsody In Blue



Fast CAT - Lumpy Space Princess (Witzn)

Fast CAT - Dexter, Rosemont High Society Haven



CABT CAX Coursing Title, 2024 - Pippa, Goodspice Full Of The Dickens

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Pepper (Goodspice Jalepeno Popper) Dawson (Goodspice) Lumpy Space Princess (Witzn) Cleo (Rosemont/Goodspice) Dobby (Witzn)



Shimmy (Thunder RD) Sugarsweet (Thunder RD / Goodspice) Oliver (Rosemont/Goodspice) Dawson (Goodspice) Pippa - AKC Act II Pre-Novice (Goodspice)



Above Ground Earthdog Demo with Sealyham Terrier - Meet the Breeds NYC. 1980-Present: 1 Sealy with SE title (Goodspice); 5 Sealys have their JE titles (3 Goodspice, 1 Counselor, 1 Shshown), most recent, Pippa (Goodspice).

Sealyham Mollie Mae - RAT! (Goodspice)



Pippa - Scenting Stages to Find the Source



Leah - Buried Hide (Bonney)



AGILITY

Agility is about timing, sequencing, and a winning Sealyham. Strategy! It's about connection, commitment, and having FUN!

Missy Johnson had a special bond with Pepper, the FIRST Sealy to get a MACH. Titled in Agility, smart, athletic Pepper loved to run flat out and fly over jumps. Pepper was all about energy, speed, and focus, his whole heart in the run. Johnson says, "Pepper was grateful for every new day and lived life with so much joy. I smile every time I think about him, flying high."

Our Sealy Teams at All Levels have earned a reputation and a place in the world of AKC Agility STARS, from Pre-Novice to MACH+ in Regular and Preferred class entries.



EARTHDOG

"Owning a working terrier without allowing it to work, is like owning a vintage bottle of wine so you can read the label."
—Terrierman.com

Earthdog Tests gauge how good a hunter your dog is underground. A Sealyham is judged on their own abilities for locating rodents underground at various skill levels. In these tests, rats are safely caged at the end of the hunt and are not harmed!



SCENT WORK

AKC Scent Work takes this incredible human-canine working relationship and turns it into a fun game that any dog can play. Terriers Rule In This Sport—Mighty Sniffers!

Scent Work is a sport that mimics the task of Working Detection Dogs (WDD) to locate a scent and communicate to the handler that the scent has been found for Container, Interior, Buried, Exterior, and Handler Discrimination.

Sealyham Terriers can build an incredible TRUST with their owners, as long as we remember that They Own Us—and not the other way around.

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BARN HUNT

Barn Hunt is based on the traditional roles of many breeds in riding farms, barns, crop storage areas, and homes of destructive vermin. Sealyham Terriers and other breeds were bred to fill this role. Barn Hunt provides their first true opportunity for a variety of specified terrier groups to test working traits in their dogs.

Sealyham Terriers have titled in Open (RATO); Novice (RATN); and Instinct (RATI). Climbing and Tunneling must be recorded as part of the hunt.



OBEDIENCE / RALLY OPEN AND UTILITY

The American Kennel Club's definition of Obedience: "Obedience training is the foundation upon which all canine activities are based. Conformation, Therapy, Canine Good Citizen, Lure Coursing, Agility, Barn Hunt, Scent Work, and Tricks."

In 1933, when AKC Obedience competition began, the concept was to develop a close working relationship between human beings and dogs, and at the same time demonstrating an enthusiasm and love for "being one" with their master.

Sealyhams can be very obedient with proper training and reinforcement. High-quality treats are a good start. Sealyhams, though terrier in nature, can be your forever Velcro pup, known for their intelligence, precision, focused attention, and undeniable bond.



TRICK DOG

If you haven't experienced the joy of training tricks, you don't know what you're missing. Sealyhams know how to ham-it-up performing tricks. Sealys love to please, are smart and spunky, and are always ready for a perfectly balanced sit, a spin or two, water and skate-boarding, or a high-five. Sealys are natural clowns! Naturals for balancing on a ball, playing the piano, ringing a bell, or catching a Frisbee. ■



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bev Thompson is a feature writer online and in print. She is the American Sealyham Terrier Club's AKC Gazette Columnist and a Dog Writers Association of America Maxwell

Award recipient. Bev lives in New York City.



Pippa (Goodspice)



Pippa (Goodspice)



Pippa Instinct Test (Goodspice)



Dobby (Witzn)



Rosie (Rosemont)



Jennie - Dumbbell Retrieve (Limatts)



Evan - Sequencing with Dumbbell (Goodspice)



Rosie (Rosemont)



Evan (Goodspice)



Evan - with Dumbbell (Goodspice)



Snoopy (Witzn)



Allie (Rosemont)



Mollie Mae (Goodspice)



Bogart (Afterglow)



Pippa (Goodspice)



Allie (Rosemont)



Allie (Rosemont)