Breed First - Tracking Dog (TD)

Brandewijn Von Reiland TD, CD

Lesley H. Reiland

By Lesley H. Reilnad

Brandy graduated from pre-novice training at Port Chester Obedience Training Club under the well-known trainer Milo Pearsall who was also the Tracking Trainer. Lesley says, "Tracking makes more sense to her, Brandy is her proudest and happiest when running to join the tracking class with a glove in her mouth."

POPULAR DOGS article circa 1962

Brandewijn Von Reiland, owned by Lesley Reiland of Larchmont, NY passed her Tracking Test at the Port Chester (NY) Obedience Training Club, judged by Bob Noerr and Guin Smith. Congratulations to "Brandy" and her owner! I received such an interesting letter from the proud owner that I am taking his opportunity to reprint part of it. Mrs Reiland writes:

"A dog is not required to have any other titles in order to try for a 'T'. But, in order to teach him to track he must be under control. The score at a Tracking Test is either 'passed' or 'failed'. A dog is compared only in respect to HOW WELL HE DOES HIS TRACK. He is not in competition with other dogs entered.

"Brandy enjoys tracking much more that CD work. It is like a detective story to her and she is very proud of her successful tracks. Once, when we were practicing last winter a friend held her Poodle and Brandy while I laid a track. Brandy got loose just as I was finishing and ran the whole track by herself. Great fun!

"I have found she does not like to be corrected while tracking and will quit on me if I pretend to know more about a track than she does. So even if I know where the track is supposed to be laid I do not make any attempt to tell her. I just watch to see how she acts when she is tracking and when she is 'goofing' I talk to her only when she is confused or goofing because I have found that it distracts her to be talked to when she is doing well.

"There came a time last spring when she suddenly decided she didn't feel like tracking any more - EVER. Since she tracks for the fun of it, not because she is told to do it, we had to get her to think it was fun again. This we did by having my little girls lay tracks for her and hide at the end of them. She went on those tracks when they were very fresh and she ran all the way. It did the trick and since then she has yet to become disinterested in tracking. We have also found that it is not a good idea to ask her to do more than two tracks a day (this would not include the initial stages of training where tracks are very short). It is usually better to do only one if the first one is good. This way we both finish happily and that bodes well for the next time.

"It is foolhardy to generalize on the work of only one dog, but I guess that Saint Bernards are a natural for tracking. They are known certainly for their ability to find people. Tracking amounts to just that--plus picking up a glove the tracklayer has dropped. The most difficult part of training for me was pulling Brandy away from a groundhog or rabbit hole.

First Saint Bernard To Earn The Tracking Dog Title (TD) Plus First TD with an Obedience Title

Saint Bernard National Archive's AKC Obedience/Performance Record For:

Brandewijn V Reiland TD CD

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Montross

CH	Titles	Date	Trial or Test	Track	NA	NB	OA	OB	UA	UB	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	UDX	HIT	A	N	S	#	M	F
		May 12, 1962	Springfield KC, MA			182.00																
TD		September 08, 1962	Port Chester OTC, CT	TD (1)																		
TD		May 19, 1963	Long Island KC, NY		179.50																	
CD TD		May 26, 1963	Mammoth County KC, NJ		182.00																	
Class score averages and placement totals:					180.75	182.00	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	0	0	0	0	ERR	0	0	0	0	0		
Qualifying Scores:				4	1	2	1	0	0	0	0											f

Code A = All Breed Trial; N = SBC of America's Trial; S = Saint Bernard Independent Specialty
 # = Number of Qualifying Scores in the Classes of Open and/or Utility