

Breed First - Weight Puller (WP)



Elations Audrey Rose WP

Susan Allmand

By Susan Allmand

Audrey came into our lives in the back of my truck on the way home from the veterinarian's office, one of many trips that day for her mom. When I got home she was cold, blue and limp. I worked quickly with CPR and lots of brisk rubbing with a warm towel to bring her back.

Things were pretty normal for the four surviving puppies until they were 10 days old. First thing in the morning, I checked on the puppies but there were only three. How could a puppy escape when she was only a week and a half old? I looked all over the house trying to find her; finally, there she was, under our claw foot bathtub. She was just snooping around, eyes still closed, checking out her world.

Her next trick came when the pups were ten weeks old. I went to feed the dogs in the morning and all the puppies were gone from their kennel. I didn't have to go far to see that Audrey had dug into her dad's kennel to do a little visiting. I thought I must have forgotten to latch the gate, but later I saw Audrey reach up and flip the latch with her nose to let everybody out.

There was the time she went after a chicken on the other side of our chain link fence. She zipped under the fence and her dad (Moby) went after her. When I found them they had a wet chicken with a very long neck, but not a scratch on it. The chicken looked like the one Johnny Carson kept at his desk on the *Tonight Show*. Audrey came running under the fence and left Moby on the other side holding the chicken. The things we see when we don't have our camera ready.

Audrey didn't turn out to be a show dog, and she was a bit too wild for the obedience ring. Just for fun, we took her to the St. Bernard Club of Puget Sound harness match that was held at the Mt. Hood Lodge when she was about a year and a half old. Audrey went bonkers over the weight pulling. We finally found her mission in life.

The most difficult part of weight pulling for Audrey was waiting for me to get behind the line. Once she had the harness on she was ready to pull. After she earned her weight-pulling title, we learned to keep her weight down to about 118 pounds. This kept her out of the unlimited class and in the winner's circle for a couple of years. We continued to let Audrey compete in weight pulling events until she was about six years old. At that time she started to develop arthritis in her spine.

Audrey was a very special dog with lots of personality and a long list of skills, such as opening doors and climbing ladders. We will always remember her with joy and affection. I still miss her.

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**First Saint Bernard to Earn
The SBC of America's Weight Puller
(WP) Title**

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