

## Breed First - Agility Excellent Preferred (AXP)



CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van  
'T Hof Ten Eynder CD,  
CDX, UD, TD, NAP, NJP,  
OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP,  
VCD1, VCD2, DD

John & Suzanne Cox

By John Cox

### It just can't get any better than this!

Just last year in April, Kris finished his Utility Dog title in one weekend with back-to-back UD legs --two weeks after the first UD leg. What next for the Champion UD Saint Bernard? Tracking? Well, yes, but what about agility too? Why not enter agility class with my wife and our Pembroke Corgi, Ms. Lina UD, and do something different. I knew nothing about the sport but it looked interesting and Sue liked it.

A 150# Saint Bernard in agility can only be for fun, right? This is not a breed you would give serious consideration to go anywhere in this fast-paced sport with an assortment of jumps and contact obstacles numbering from 15-20! How many Saint Bernards does one see in agility?

So, it was off to our first night of agility class. After entering the classroom and watching the eyes of my great instructor and fellow students roll to the back in their heads, we went to the corner of the room to get started. I knew what they were thinking! I guess we were all curious about how Kris would do, especially me! How does a 30" tall (at the withers) massive Saint Bernard fit into a 24" tunnel and travel 8-10 feet all bent over?

The first lesson was the tunnel! Our instructor held Kris at one end of the tunnel, I went to the other end and bent down in line with the tunnel exit, and called Kris. The instructor let go of the collar and Kris, being a smart dog, he ran around the side of the tunnel as that was the fastest route to get to his daddy. So, we tried again. This time I crawled into the tunnel exit to get his attention at the entrance end. Kris ducked his head in, looked at me, and crawled through at an alarming speed. My concern now was to get out of the tunnel before we collided. He got the idea and loved this new game.

I would say the only thing that took a little time for Kris to comprehend was after going over one jump it was not over! Being a UD dog, you do a jump and then a front and finish. You don't do repetitive jumps until the next exercise, so he thought; but he figured that out soon and his speed built up.

After six weeks of class, I entered him in his first Agility trial. We were going for the new Preferred agility titles that came into effect on September 1, 2002. Kris would jump 20" in this class, which is only 2" less than his three-quarter jumping height requirement in obedience. Remember, there are 15-20 jumps in agility compared to the two in obedience. For a massive breed, the Preferred classes are the best idea since God created the Saint Bernard.

Kris double-Qd his first time out, both days! We had both Novice titles, as fast as there were trial weekends. On to Open and the same results. The Excellent classes were a little slower start. We had a weekend with no legs! Wow, what a change and bubble-burst! We tried again another weekend and came up empty-handed again. Reality checks in! Then things started to pop and our teamwork (and luck in keeping the bars up) earned Kris one leg in each Excellent Standard and Jumpers class

in one weekend. Fifty percent passing rate in the Excellent classes for four runs in one weekend is not bad. Yes, I will say it, especially for a Saint Bernard! We repeated the percentage passing rate again the following weekend and now we were just one leg away from our Excellent titles in Agility.

Like Utility, you never know when the next qualifying score/run is coming. It can be the next weekend or well down the road. All sorts of "things" happen with the best laid plans. A year after Kris earned his UD back-to-back legs, he double-Qd in the Excellent agility classes and became the first and only Saint Bernard in breed history to have Excellent titles. Both titles were earned on the same day! No one told me to go from knowing nothing about the sport to an AXP and AJP in seven months (with a Saint Bernard) was a pipe dream.

After double-Qing on Saturday and earning his two Excellent titles, he double Qd again on Sunday to start his Master Preferred titles. How does it get better than that? What a dog! We are popping buttons all over the place! That weekend will always be one of those special memories in dogs.

Kris is the most versatile-titled Saint Bernard in the history of the breed. Fifteen titles in five venues: conformation, obedience, tracking, agility and draft work. To think, we went to Belgium to bring him to America only 4 years ago!

We are PROUD parents!

**CH, WDCH XmaxKris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder  
CD, CDX, UD, TD,  
NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP,  
VCD1, VCD2, DD**

**John & Suzanne Cox**



**Not only is there light at the end of the tunnel...  
there is the FIRST AGILITY EXCELLENT titled Saint Bernard emerging!!!**

**First Saint Bernard &  
First Champion to Earn The  
Agility Excellent Preferred (AXP)**

**April 19, 2003**

**First Saint Bernard + Champion To Earn A Agility Excellent Preferred & Excellent Jumpers Preferred Title(s)**

**Saint Bernard National Archive's AKC Agility Record {Preferred} For:**

**CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder VCD2 UD AXP AJP DD**

**John and Suzanne Cox**

| CH                                       | Titles          | Date               | 2Qs | PAX | NAP A     | NAP B | OAP | AXP A     | MXP | NJP A | NJP B | OJP | AJP A     | MJP | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | # | M  | F  |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----------|-------|-----|-----------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|----|
| <b>(1) Novice</b>                        |                 |                    |     |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     |     |     |     |     |   |    |    |
| 2001-CH                                  | UD              | September 14, 2002 | 1   |     | 100.67.40 |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     | 1   |     |     |     |   |    |    |
| 2001-CH                                  | UD              | September 15, 2002 | 2   |     | 100.63.88 |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     | 1   |     |     |     |   |    |    |
| 2001-CH                                  | UD NAP          | September 21, 2002 |     |     | 95.64.18  |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     |     |     |     |     |   |    |    |
| <b>Class Summary</b>                     |                 |                    | 3   | 2   | 0         | 3     | 0   | 0         | 0   | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0         | 0   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| <b>(1) Novice Jumpers With Weaves</b>    |                 |                    |     |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     |     |     |     |     |   |    |    |
| 2001-CH                                  | UD              | September 14, 2002 | 1   |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     |     | 2   |     |     |   |    |    |
| 2001-CH                                  | UD              | September 15, 2002 | 2   |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     |     | 2   |     |     |   |    |    |
| 2001-CH                                  | UD NAP NJP      | September 22, 2002 | 3   |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     |     |     | 3   |     |   |    |    |
| <b>Class Summary</b>                     |                 |                    | 3   | 3   | 0         | 0     | 0   | 0         | 0   | 3     | 0     | 0   | 0         | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 1   | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| <b>(2) Open</b>                          |                 |                    |     |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     |     |     |     |     |   |    |    |
| 2001-CH                                  | UD NAP NJP      | September 22, 2002 | 3   |     |           |       |     | 100.66.70 |     |       |       |     |           |     |     |     | 3   |     |   |    | 1  |
| 2001-CH                                  | UD NAP NJP      | November 09, 2002  | 4   |     |           |       |     | 98.72.91  |     |       |       |     |           |     |     |     | 2   |     |   |    | 3  |
| 2001-CH                                  | VCD1 UD NJP OAP | November 29, 2002  | 5   |     |           |       |     | 91.76.88  |     |       |       |     |           |     | 1   |     |     |     |   |    | 5  |
| <b>Class Summary</b>                     |                 |                    | 3   | 3   | 0         | 0     | 0   | 3         | 0   | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0         | 0   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0 | 3  |    |
| <b>(2) Open Jumpers With Weaves</b>      |                 |                    |     |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     |     |     |     |     |   |    |    |
| 2001-CH                                  | UD NAP NJP      | November 09, 2002  | 4   |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     | 100.41.83 |     | 1   |     |     |     |   |    | 2  |
| 2001-CH                                  | VCD1 UD NJP OAP | November 29, 2002  | 5   |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     | 95.48.89  |     | 1   |     |     |     |   |    | 4  |
| 2001-CH                                  | VCD2 UD OAP OJP | November 30, 2002  | 6   |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     | 100.39.38 |     | 1   |     |     |     |   |    | 6  |
| <b>Class Summary</b>                     |                 |                    | 3   | 2   | 0         | 0     | 0   | 0         | 0   | 0     | 0     | 0   | 3         | 0   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0 | 3  |    |
| <b>(3) Excellent</b>                     |                 |                    |     |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     |     |     |     |     |   |    |    |
| 2001-CH                                  | VCD2 UD OAP OJP | February 09, 2003  |     |     |           |       |     | 94.75.56  |     |       |       |     |           |     | 1   |     |     |     |   |    | 8  |
| 2001-CH                                  | VCD2 UD OAP OJP | April 13, 2003     |     |     |           |       |     | 100.65.19 |     |       |       |     |           |     | 1   |     |     |     |   |    | 10 |
| 2001-CH                                  | VCD2 UD AXP AJP | April 19, 2003     | 6   |     |           |       |     | 100.63.30 |     |       |       |     |           |     |     | 2   |     |     |   |    | 12 |
| <b>Class Summary</b>                     |                 |                    | 3   | 1   | 0         | 0     | 0   | 0         | 3   | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0         | 0   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0 | 3  |    |
| <b>(3) Excellent Jumpers With Weaves</b> |                 |                    |     |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     |           |     |     |     |     |     |   |    |    |
| 2001-CH                                  | VCD2 UD OAP OJP | February 08, 2003  |     |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     | 88.50.36  |     |     | 2   |     |     |   |    | 7  |
| 2001-CH                                  | VCD2 UD OAP OJP | April 12, 2003     |     |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     | 94.48.99  |     | 1   |     |     |     |   |    | 9  |
| 2001-CH                                  | VCD2 UD AXP AJP | April 19, 2003     | 6   |     |           |       |     |           |     |       |       |     | 100.49.66 |     | 1   |     |     |     |   |    | 11 |
| <b>Class Summary</b>                     |                 |                    | 3   | 1   | 0         | 0     | 0   | 0         | 0   | 0     | 0     | 0   | 3         | 0   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0 | 3  |    |
| <b>Overall Summary</b>                   |                 |                    | 18  | 6   | ERR       | 3     | 0   | 3         | 3   | 0     | 3     | 0   | 3         | 3   | 0   | 10  | 5   | 2   | 0 | 12 | m  |

# = Number of advanced scores from the Open and/or Excellent classes