

## Breed First - UDTDX - Utility Dog & Tracking Dog Excellent



**WDCH Echo's Utmost  
CD, CDX, UD, TD, TDX,  
NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ,  
VCD1, VCD2, DD, WP**

Lovey Olbrich

### By Lovey Olbrich

The day dawned overcast, cool, and slightly breezy. There was the promise of rain, made good at the time final photos were taken. The sun peeked out for a few minutes mid-morning, but otherwise it was obscured by the clouds. In other words, it was perfect tracking weather in Los Altos Hills the day of the Palo Alto Foothill Tracking Association (PAFTA) Tracking Dog Excellent test on February 27, 2005. The test was held at the Arastadero Preserve; those with long memories will be amused to know this site is directly off Page Mill Road and just a few miles down the hill from the home of the late Bets Young, owner of Cyprus Woods Kennels.

This story's heroine, **WDCh Echo's Utmost, VCD2, UD, DD, WP**, known to her friends as Miranda, was drawn for the fourth of the five tracks of the day. This worried me because if the sun came out the day could heat up; Miranda's track wouldn't be run until almost noon.

While Miranda napped in her crate, the first three dogs (a Golden Retriever, a Rottweiler, and a German Shepherd) ran and passed their tests. Given that one or maybe two dogs pass at a TDX test, particularly at this location which is full of natural obstacles, the day was already turning out to be a happy one for the test committee. Miranda and I were driven to near the start of our track, where we waited a few minutes for the judges to arrive.

After instructions from the judges, I put on Miranda's harness and showed her the start of the track. The first leg was under about an inch of water, and although Miranda really isn't that fond of getting her feet wet, she made a good start. Sometime down the first leg she stopped and air-scented, intrigued by a scent she clearly found particularly interesting. Later I learned that mountain lions had been seen in the area, and I wonder if she was fascinated by this new-to-her smell. With short encouragement she was persuaded to leave that distraction and she gamely continued her track.

The first turn and obstacle (a very large downed oak tree) were successfully navigated. We then overran the next turn and found ourselves in a large patch of three-foot high teasels. They presented a handling challenge because the line frequently was caught up in the thistle heads and I had to drop it many times. After determining the track was nowhere where we were, we backed up, stopped, and regrouped. I gave Miranda some water, let her re-scent the starting article, and asked her to track again. Ten minutes after we had first overrun the turn I was relieved to see the head twitch that indicated Miranda had found her track again and we were on our way.

After this the rest of the track was mostly routine and within the scope of our training experiences. Although the judges noted several hills as steep, we have done much steeper and Miranda handled them as normal track segments. I saw no indication that she noticed the first cross-track, but was able to identify the location of the second by a brief pause in her brisk tracking walk. The challenges of note were the two turns on hilltops – by this time a light breeze had started up. Many dogs find them difficult, and Miranda had been no exception. I had been training them in the months before the test, and she confidently navigated them as she had learned to do. The roads and paths we crossed were routine for her (in the San Francisco Bay Area you have to learn roads during TD training to be able to get enough track length) and they presented no challenge.

Her first of the three on-track articles was indicated by a prompt down. Interestingly, the last two were indicated by sits about 10 - yards in front of the article, at which time I gave her water. I then sent her on, and she ran to the articles themselves and dropped like shot. The next-to-last article was a dark sock folded up into a small square; there is no doubt that it was her nose and not her eyes that found that article.

By the time she was sitting at what I later realized was the pre-indication of the last article Miranda was hot and tired. I watered her and gave her the last "go track" command. She ran to the glove and dropped to a down. I followed her, found the glove, and raised it over our heads. The judges and then the gallery, which could see much of the track, cheered. The judges came up with congratulations and Miranda was very happy to say hello to them. We then walked the short distance to the gallery, and she broke into a gallop (still on her long tracking lead) to greet those nice people who had come just to see her.

The track was 888 yards long and took Miranda 31 minutes to run. While I combed her for ticks back at the staging area, the last dog, a Belgian Tervuren, successfully completed his track. The post-test lunch with the entrants, tracklayers, judges, and committee was a jubilant affair, not in the least dampened by the light rain that had started. It was then a very short happy ride home with my snoozing Saint in the back of the van.

**WDCH Echos Utmost VCD2,  
UD, TDX, DD, WP**  
**Lovey Olbrich**



**First Saint Bernard to Earn A  
Utility Title & Tracking Dog Excellent Title**

**February 27, 2005**

# First Saint Bernard to Earn a Utility Dog and Traking Dog Excellent Titles (UDTDX) + Agility Titles

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

### WDCH Echos Utmost VCD2 UD TDX DD WP

Lovey Olbrich

CH	Titles	Date	Trial or Test	Track	NA	NB	OA	OB	UA	UB	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	UDX	HIT	A	N	S	#	MF	
	TD	March 03, 2002	Nor-Cal Golden Retriever Club, CA	TD (1)																		
	TD	March 11, 2002	SBC of America Regional, AZ			193.00					1					1				1		
	TD	March 12, 2002	SBC of America Regional, AZ			192.50					1					2				2		
	CD TD	March 13, 2002	SBC of Greater Phoenix, AZ			196.50					1					3				3		
	CD TD	March 15, 2002	SBC of America, AZ			192.50						2										
	CD TD	March 24, 2002	County Wide DTC, CA			192.00																
	CD TD	April 28, 2002	Mt Diablo DTC, CA			192.00																
	CD TD	May 19, 2002	Oakland DTC, CA			192.50																
	CD TD	May 25, 2002	Hangtown KC of Placerville, CA			183.50																
	CD TD	June 23, 2002	Deep Peninsula DTC, CA			195.00																
	CD TD	September 29, 2002	San Lorenzo DTC, CA			194.50								3								
	CD TD	October 18, 2002	SBC of Pacific Coast, CA			184.00										4				4		
	VCD1 OA	September 27, 2003	San Lorenzo DTC, CA			194.00															1	
	VCD1 OA	October 17, 2003	SBC of Pacific Coast, CA			197.00					1					5				5	2	
	VCD1 OA CDX	November 02, 2003	Vallejo DTC, CA			191.50						2									3	
	VCD1 OA CDX	November 21, 2003	Golden Valley KC, CA			188.50								3							4	
	VCD1 OA CDX	November 29, 2003	San Mateo KC, CA			189.50								3							5	
	VCD1 OA CDX	November 30, 2003	San Mateo KC, CA			195.00						2									6	
	VGD2	September 26, 2004	San Lorenzo DTC, CA						189.00			2									7	
	VCD2	October 18, 2004	Del Valle DC of Livermore, CA						191.50		1										8	
	VCD2 UD	November 19, 2004	Golden Valley KC, CA						192.50		1										9	
	VCD2 UD	November 29, 2004	San Mateo KC, CA						189.20		1										10	
	VCD2 UD	January 23, 2005	Santa Clara DTC, CA					191.00								1					11	
	VCD2 UD	January 23, 2005	Santa Clara DTC, CA							195.50	1					1					12	
	VCD2 UDTDX	February 27, 2005	Palo Alto Foothills TA, CA	TDX (1)																		
<b>Class score averages and placement totals:</b>					ERR	191.64	192.58	191.00	190.55	195.50	8	4	3	0	1	5	0	0	5	12		
<b>Qualifying Scores:</b>				25	2	0	11	6	1	4	1											

\*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

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