

Breed First - Therapy Dog Advanced {ThDA}



Montana Mtn's Dance N The Twist and Shout CGC, CGCA, ThD, ThDA

Amy McCarthy

By, Amy McCarthy

It was a pleasant surprise when I found out that Montana Mtn's Dance N The Twist and Shout, CGC, CGCA, ThD, ThDA, aka Twister or "T", was the first Saint Bernard to receive the AKC ThDA (Therapy Dog Advanced) title.

While in the nursing home my dad really enjoyed the visits when we brought his dog Hannah. It was after this that I decided to pursue therapy dog work with my Saints if they seemed so inclined. Twister was not the first Saint I have owned to be registered as a therapy dog, but he has certainly been the most involved. Ask him if he wants to "go visit" and he does the dance of joy!

We are registered through Therapy Dogs Inc, a group based out of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Once or twice a month Twister volunteers with the Paws for Reading program, where children read to him at the public libraries. He visits an Assisted Living facility once a month. We are a therapy dog team that visits Hospice patients. He is part of a group called TLC Therapy Dogs that goes to the local Cancer Treatment Center of America facility on Saturday mornings and Monday evenings. And he is part of the Champs program. This is a group of therapy dogs or obedience dogs and their owners that work on basic obedience/rally with young people that have developmental disabilities. What a treasure this activity has been.

To qualify for his ThDA title Twister had to complete 100 documented visits. In the next few months I am hoping that we will have completed the next 100 visits (200 total) for him to get the ThDX level. Assuming that he stays healthy and still enjoys his visits, then on to the ThDD!

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Twister at graduation



Handlers



Jesse with Twister

**First Saint Bernard to Earn The
Therapy Dog Advanced (ThDA) Title**

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