

2002
Archive Agility News
For the Saint Bernard



Volume 1, Inaugural Year, 3 Issues
October, November and December

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2002

A First For The Breed!

September 21, 2002 was the date for history-making in America by a Belgium-born Saint Bernard. **CH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder CD, CDX, UD, NAP, NJP, DD, HF, PE** became the **FIRST** Saint Bernard with a Championship to earn an AKC Agility title. Kris is hoping many others will follow in his paw prints. Check out the Saint Bernard Archives for other Firsts in Agility and other performance events. <http://clubs.akc.org/saints/Archives/Welcome.htm>



Two Saint Bernards Place at One Agility Trial



On September 14 & 15, 2002 Hennessy and Kris (the two Saint Bernards in the photo above) came out of the 20" Novice Preferred Jumpers with Weaves agility class with a first and second place! Yes, *Saint Bernards* winning the class top placements, in agility, with other breeds following! Who said a Saint Bernard is not agile and could not compete in Agility?

They both had clean runs and excellent times. This may have been the first time TWO Saint Bernards were entered in the same AKC agility trial. One lady observed the list of dogs scheduled to run and when she saw two Saint Bernards listed, she thought it was some kind of joke! She was last seen walking around with her mouth open in amazement. It was the Bell Vernon KC trials at Oak Harbor, Washington.

One week later both dogs went to Hillsboro, Oregon. Hennessy completed his Novice Jumpers with Weaves title (NJP) and moved up to Open Jumpers with Weaves Preferred class and earned a 1st leg.

Kris finished his Novice Agility Preferred (NAP) title and Novice Jumpers Preferred (NJP) title and moved up to earn his first leg in the Open Agility Preferred class! It was a good weekend for the Saint Bernards in Agility!

AKC New Agility Classes

New sets of AKC Agility Classes are now in effect as of September 1, 2002. The new classes are named Preferred classes. They are aimed towards a greater variety of dogs such as larger breeds, low and long breeds, plus the older dogs. In the past, almost all Saint Bernards would have had to jump in the 24" classes. For most Saint Bernards the agility classes would (prior to September 1st) require higher jumping than what is required in the Obedience classes. But now with the new preferred classes, Saint Bernards can enter the 20" class division. Check out the AKC web page: http://www.akc.org/dic/events/agility/preferred_classes.cfm & see a Saint Bernard in action!

Second Saint Bernard to Earn an OA Title

Brandy Stations Almost An Angel CDX OA OAJ (photo to the right) completed her Open Agility Jumper with Weaves title on May 27th making her performance title count total to SIX (CD, CDX, NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ).



Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2002

New Preferred Agility Classes Now Showing Up In The AWARDS

AKC New Agility Classes

New sets of AKC Agility Classes are now in effect as of September 1, 2002. The new classes are named Preferred classes. They are aimed towards a greater variety of dogs such as larger breeds, low and long breeds, plus the older dogs. In the past, almost all Saint Bernards would have had to jump in the 24" classes. For most Saint Bernards the agility classes would (prior to September 1st) require higher jumping than what is required in the Obedience classes. But now with the new preferred classes, Saint Bernards can enter the 20" class division. Check out the AKC web page: http://www.akc.org/dic/events/agility/preferred_classes.cfm & see a Saint Bernard in action!

The October *Saint Bernard Agility News* had the Preferred classes described in details. For an e-mail copy, send your request to saintbernardnationalarchives@attbi.com. Or, they can be found in the AKC 2002 Agility Regulations (orange cover).

The *First Saint Bernards* To Start Earning The New Preferred Titles

September 1st was the first day the new AKC Preferred Agility Classes went into action! There were even Saint Bernards sighted, waiting at the starting gates, posed and ready to run! The timer said "Go when ready" and they were off! When the dust settled, the scribe just had the starting and finishing times to write on the score sheets. No faults by the Saint Bernards in the first Preferred Classes run by our breed. The Golden Retrievers, Shelties and Border Collies were seen shaking their heads in amazement.

In the November AKC AWARDS, the new classes started to show up and we now have the first results of the *first Saint Bernards* to qualify in the new classes.

The exact date for the first Qs in the new Preferred classes was on September 14th at Oak Harbor, Washington. This trial saw TWO Saints running, which was quite a sight to say the least. It was duly noted by the onlookers that the pile of blue and red colored ribbons were going down fast as the Saint Bernards kept coming into the winners circle for their prizes.

Hennessy and Kris made our breed proud by demonstrating what a clean run, under time, was all about!



Champagne flows for CH Kris UD, his butler & teacher. 1st Champion to earn an Agility Title.

AKC mans the printing presses as Agility titles go out to the *First Saint Bernards* in the Preferred classes.

November 2002 AKC AWARDS

Novice Agility Preferred (NAP)

FIRST-September 21st CH Kris UD, NAP
September 26th Hennessy OA OAJ NAP, NJP

Novice Jumpers Preferred (NJP)

FIRST-September 21st Hennessy OA, OAJ, NJP
September 22nd CH Kris UD, NAP, NJP

Hennessy & Kris (photo left) *First Saints* to run in the AKC Preferred Classes on September 14th



Kip Meintzer

Miranda (photo above) going for legs. More on Miranda CD, TD next month.

If you are missing a copy of the *Saint Bernard Agility News* write for your back issue. Please state Volume & Issue: saintbernardnationalarchives@attbi.com

Saint Bernard ONLY Agility Classes Start Up In Ottawa, Canada!

Krys Prichard writes, "We are located in the Ottawa, Ontario, Canada region. There is not a local Saint Club (local meaning HERE; there is one in Ontario, but Ontario is a HUGE province), so this is one activity we've initiated to get our Saints together. Last week-end we had a fun-day at one of the Saint folks' houses and that was a RIOT. Each month, we get our Big Dog (Newfs, Saints, Danes, and Pyrs) together for a walk at one of our local dog walking parks. These are our social activities with our dogs and ones that we encourage our adopters to join. We are all



just 'plain ole pet people' so we have a different focus than those involved with breeding or showing. We just want to have fun with our dogs, show people that our rescued Saints are good dogs, and that they too can do things.

So, We started Agility Classes

Oh, did we have FUN. The dogs were very, very good. Some barking,

but not enough to warrant unpacking the earplugs <g>. There was a class in the other room. Well, there's a window between the rooms. The instructor was watching us more than she

was instructing. She doesn't usually teach on Saturdays, so she's begged me to come to class as one of our spare handlers. She said that we looked like we were all having so much fun and she could hear us applauding when one of the dogs got it right. It really was a lot of fun. Just watching the dogs was fun, but working with them was also fun. We have started discussing building Agility equipment for 'Camp Saint Bernard.' This would let us have the classes at Camp during the Spring - Fall. For many of us, we welcome any excuse to go to Camp."



"We have started discussing building Agility equipment for Camp Saint Bernard. We have also considered doing Rally Obedience"

I can't believe it...

We Have TEN (That's Right, TEN) Saints Signed Up or The Saints-Only Agility Class.

I can't believe it...we have TEN (that's right, TEN) Saints signed up for the Saints-only Agility class. I was hoping for SEVEN, maybe EIGHT. Only one of the ten is not a rescued Saint Bernard we've placed in the area. The ages of the dogs range from 18 months to 7 years (the Twins are the oldest...but I figure they can still have fun. They are both very fit and agile. Kirk was given the "all clear"

at his last vet visit re: his cruciate surgery recovery to participate in this activity). We have five males (one is not a rescue) and five females. One couple will be driving just over an hour to participate. The rest of us are about 1/2 hour away. So, not only is it an outing in the vehicles for the beasties, but they get to see their buddies and maybe learn something at the same time. The instructor has threatened to wear her terrycloth bathrobe to combat the amount of drool that will be flying! We start this Saturday. I am so excited (and a bit



nervous...my dear husband is coming this week, but I don't know if he'll be able to make it each week to help handle the Twins). We have arranged to have two of our Saint-experienced foster parents to be on site to help move equipment, hold a leash, perform body-blocks, run interference...wipe drool off the floors we're not expected to wipe it off the walls! The floors yes, that is for our safety <g>. The facility is new and they had to build a lot of the agility equipment...so they built it with our class in mind (the A-frame is SUPPOSED to bear the weight of our guys and not collapse...let's hope they got that right)! I anticipate I'll need a long nap once we get home from class...Regardless of how well the dogs do, I am sure it will prove to be an entertaining (and exhausting) hour. How could it not, with 10 Saints in the same room????



AKC Agility Regulations

A copy of the AKC Agility Regulations is free. There are several ways in which you may obtain a copy. You may order on line at www.akc.org, by mail: The American Kennel Club, 5580 Centerview Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-3390, or, sometimes Superintendents have copies. at dog shows or Agility trials.

The First Week at Camp Saint Bernard



The first week, we were working on teaching the dogs where their back ends are. I am not sure if every agility class begins this way or not, we work with a ladder and a plank, moving to the tire the next week (so this weekend's class will be introducing the dogs to the tire and having the dogs work on the plank and ladder again. The plank will be raised to prepare the dogs for the dog walk and jiggled to get them ready for the teeter. Once they've been introduced to the tire, we'll move to the barrel to get them ready for the tunnel, so the pictures should get more lively each week).



Roll Call...

All of our rescue dogs are renamed when they enter rescue. We give them a rescue name that starts with Trinity Of Hope's ...because each of the rescued dogs is dear to us. Shadow's I'm Winston Too is the only Saint in the class who did not come through rescue, he was a planned puppy.

Page 2:

Top Left Trinity Of Hope's Luck of the Irish (Bruno)

Top Right Trinity of Hope's Yokie from Muskokie (Yokie)

Bottom Right Trinity Of Hope's Princess Grace...Kelli (Kelli)

Bottom Left Sir Captain Kirk S. Bernard, Ret. L.O. TT

Page 3:

Top Left Trinity Of Hope's Peggy Sue I love you! (Peggy Sue)

Center Left Shadow's I'm Winston Too

Bottom Left Trinity of Hope's Mad About Maggie

Top Center Trinity of Hope's Love Strikes in Earnest (Ernie)

Bottom Center Sir Captain Kirk S. Bernard, Ret. L.O. TT

Top Right Trinity Of Hope's She's a Cookie Monster (Perci)

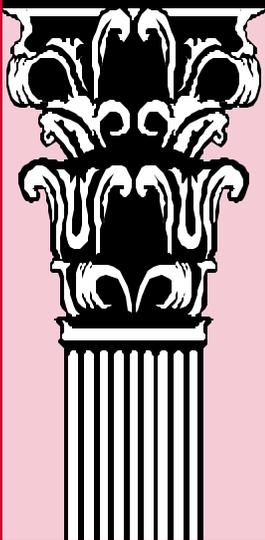
Center Right Trinity of Hope's A.C. Tanner Brown (Tanner)

Bottom Right Trinity of Hope's Luck of the Irish (Bruno)

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2002



AKC Agility Titles Are on The Increase For Saint Bernards And The Saint Bernard Hall of Fame Doors Are Wide Open!

Back in 1994 is when AKC Agility started in the United States. In 1995 we saw one Saint Bernard (Dudley) earn the **FIRST** Standard Novice Agility qualifying run. Dudley did not continue to compete and there were no other Saints earning Agility legs for years to come.

Then in 1999, Angel and Hennessy came on the scene and "legs" were a flying! These two dogs were going neck-in-neck blazing the trail in Agility for other Saint Bernards to follow. Both earned OA and OAJ titles in short order. They were the **FIRST** male and **FIRST** female to do so.

September 2002 saw the Preferred classes introduced and more interest peaked do to lower jump heights for our massive guys. More titles were earned just weeks after the introduction of the new classes. We even witnessed our **FIRST** champion (Kris) completing several Preferred Agility titles!

The Saint Bernard Hall of Fame (HF) recognizes the Agility titles and the induction criteria is the same as for any performance title. Earning *three* titles gets one into the Hall of Fame. A championship title can also be a part of this equation. For complete information on the Hall of Fame, or, to view the databases and HF inductees, log on to: <http://clubs.akc.org/saints/Archives/Welcome.htm>

Echo's Utmost (Miranda) CD, TD, NA Enters The HOF

By Lovey Olbrich

Miranda has a bias for action, and agility is just made for her. Like most dogs she loves tunnels, and on some of them you can see the top of the tube move as she barrels her way through. She really likes to build up a head of steam in the weave poles, and the larger number of them she is beginning to face in Open just about makes her smile; I'm waiting for her to rip them out of the ground as she tears her way through them. Her biggest challenge is ignoring the spectators, and sometimes she cannot quite tear herself away from the eye contact. She has so many friends to greet!

Miranda does not pass every time she competes but she usually makes a good showing and she always has a very good time. She completed her NA title at the Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore (California) on October 20, 2002. She has her first leg in Open standard, and we are pursuing that last leg of her Novice jumpers title.

(photos by Kip Meintzer)



2003
Archive Agility News
For the Saint Bernard

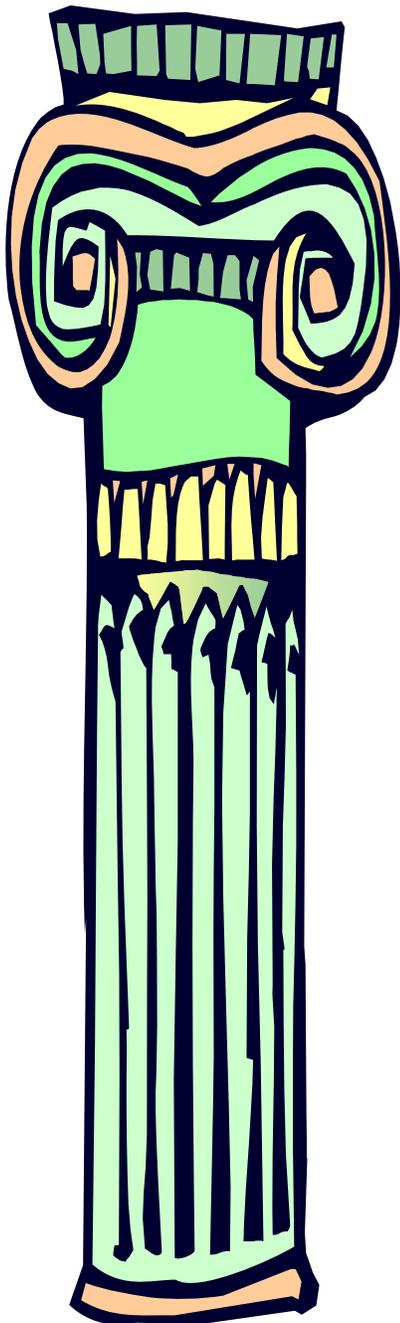


Volume 2, 11 Issues

Saint Bernard
Agility News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2003



You've Got Mail!

Hall of Fame certificates for **Plateaus of Excellence** were mailed out to the following Saint Bernards as the Agility titles keep on coming;

Novice Agility Preferred

Brandy Stations Almost N Angel CDX NJP OA OAJ

Open Agility Preferred

Sir Hennessy Cognac OA OAJ OAP OJP WPS

CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder UDT NAP NJP OAP VCD1

Open Agility Jumpers Preferred

CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder UDT NAP NJP OAP OJP VCD2 DD

2003 National Agility Championship

[Monday, January 13, 2003]

The 2003 AKC National Agility Championship will be held this December in Long Beach, California, in conjunction with the 2003 AKC/Eukanuba National Invitational Championship, which will include Conformation and Obedience competition.

The Agility Nationals will begin on Tuesday, December 2 with the Iams International/State Team Tournament. The National Agility Championship will be held on December 3 and 4.

The eligibility requirements are 4 Double Qualifying Scores from the Excellent B class in events held from September 27, 2002 through October 2, 2003. The closing date for entry eligibility will be October 2 at 6:00 p.m. Entry forms will be available in July.

The Nationals will be part of a full week of agility competition in California, as local clubs will be sponsoring trials the weekend preceding and following the event. Exhibitors can enjoy the excitement and special features of the AKC/Eukanuba National Invitation Championship, such as the popular "Meet the Breeds" exhibit.

Watch the AKC Web site for more information about the 2003 National Agility Championships.

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2003

Miranda Closes Out 2002 by Earning an Open Agility (OA) Leg

Echo's Utmost CD, TD, NA showed up in the December Show results (February AKC AWARDS) as earning her first leg in the intermediate Open Agility class. Good luck and on to more Open legs, plus the last NAJ (Novice Agility Jumpers) award. The NAJ title will give Miranda the needed requirements for the Versatile Companion Dog (VCD1) title. She would be the second Saint to earn the title and the first lady! You go girl! Miranda pictured to the right.



Two Saints Earn Excellent Agility Legs in 2003—Breed Firsts!



Hennessy and **Kris** made history for the Saint Bernard once again as these Northwest dogs earned one leg each towards the most advanced Agility titles in the Excellent classes. The Excellent level is like the Utility of Agility. More later when the legs are published in April. **Hennessy** (to the left) and **Kris** (below).
(Photos by walkaboutimagery)

Reminder: Dogs Must Be On Leash at Events [Tuesday, January 14, 2003] AKC Web page.

Exhibitors and clubs are reminded that dogs must be on leash while on trial or test grounds. The Agility Regulations state, "Dogs shall be on leash at all times when on the show grounds except in the ring and at the warm-up jump area." The Obedience Regulations state, "All dogs will be kept on leash except when in the obedience ring or exercise area." The Tracking Regulations state that "... dogs shall be 'on lead' at all times on any area of the tracking site." Furthermore, the Tracking Regulations stipulate that a dog, allowed to run free on the tracking test site, can be failed and excused if a track has been completed, or not allowed to run the test if it has not already done so.

These regulations are in place for both safety and consideration of all exhibitors and spectators. If an exhibitor is uncooperative, a hearing can be called and appropriate disciplinary action taken. If club show or trial committees fail to enforce the regulations, they may be subject to fines.

Show your respect for other exhibitors and set the right example for spectators by keeping your dog on leash unless it is involved in off-leash competition.



Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2003

12 Agility Titles! 2002 A Year In Review For Agility

The new American Kennel Club's Agility Regulations came into effect on September 1, 2002. One of the changes was the introduction of the new Preferred classes. These classes allowed lower jump heights and the Saint Bernard breed responded with glee. We saw a **100% increase** in the number of Saint Bernards competing in the AKC agility rings in 2002. Of course, the number only went from two Saint Bernards to four, but never-the-less it was a huge jump forward.

This new sport is gaining popularity like no other! Saint Bernards make it through the courses showing off their versatility with crowds gathering to watch the giants perform.

Here are the Saint Bernards earning Agility titles in 2002:

1 Novice Agility (NA) title:

Echo's Utmost CD, TD, NA

3 Novice Agility Preferred (NAP) titles:

Brandy Stations Almost N Angel CDX OA OAJ NAP

Sir Hennessy Cognac OA, OAJ, NAP

CH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder UD, NAP

3 Novice Agility Jumpers with Weaves Preferred (NJP) titles:

Brandy Stations Almost N Angel CDX OA OAJ NAP

Sir Hennessy Cognac OA, OAJ, NAP, NJP

CH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder UD, NAP, NJP

2 Open Agility Preferred (OAP) titles:

Sir Hennessy Cognac OA, OAJ, OAP, NJP

CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder UDT, OAP, NJP, VCD1

1 Open Jumpers With Weaves (OAJ) title:

Brandy Stations Almost N Angel CDX, OA, OAJ

2 Open Agility Jumpers with Weaves Preferred (OJP) titles:

Sir Hennessy Cognac OA, OAJ, OAP, OJP

CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder UDT, OAP, OJP, VCD2

Brandy Stations Almost N Angel-below
Echo's Utmost-bottom right
Sir Hennessy Cognac-center
XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder-upper
right



Saint Bernard
Agility News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2003

*Saint Bernards Break into the Excellent Agility
Classes and Set More Breed Records for 2003*



Sir Hennessy Cognac CD OA OAP OAJ OJP WPS DD is the **first** Saint Bernard to earn a qualifying score in the Excellent Jumpers With Weaves Preferred class, doing so on February 2, 2003 at Seattle Kennel Club. For a complete story on this history-making Saint, go to the Firsts Room in the Saint Bernard Archives and scroll down the page to the 2003 firsts.



One week later (February 8th & 9th), **CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder UDT VCD2 DD** went into the agility rings in Elma, Washington and came home with two breed firsts. Kris was the **first** Saint to have a qualifying run in the Excellent Standard Preferred class. That same weekend he earned a leg in the Excellent Jumpers With Weaves Preferred class, earning him the honor of the first Saint with a qualifying score in both of the Excellent classes. Kris' history-making story may also be viewed in the First Room in the Saint Bernard Archives.



AKC GAZETTE—April 2003

“The Versatitles”

side bar (page 39)



Agility's Preferred Customers

Few AKC innovations have caught on with the fancy quicker than Versatile Companion Dog titles. Established in 2001, VCD titles honor dogs who achieve the elusive triple crown of an obedience, agility, and tracking title.

“VCD titles have been a great success from the beginning,” says Patricia Krause, AKC assistant vice president of Companion Events. “Owners are vying to have the first dog of their breed with a VCD title.”

Dogs from 51 different breeds have so far earned VCD titles. This is, in part, due to agility's new Preferred classes, with run times and jump heights adjusted to encourage a greater variety of breeds to compete in agility. For example, a dog who jumps 20 inches in a Regular agility class would jump 16 inches in the Preferred class and would have an additional five seconds to complete the course.

The Preferred classes enabled Saint Bernard Ch. XmaxKris Von Hof't Eynder, CD, CDX, UD, TD, NAP, NJP, DD, VCD1, to become the first of his breed with a VCD1.

“With the new Preferred classes in AKC agility, Kris will jump 20 inches, and the titles we earn count toward the Versatile Companion Dog title,” says owner John Cox. “That's great! It should encourage more of the larger breeds and veterans to try for a VCD title or two.”

As a matter of fact, it is not just the larger breeds that should be encour-

aged. John's wife, Sue, has her Pembroke Welsh Corgi entered in Preferred agility classes. Cézanne's Scribblelina, UD, has successfully cleared the obedience jumps in Open and Utility to obtain a Utility Dog title. But Sue, who is also an AKC obedience judge, shared the concern about repetitive jumping at the heights used in agility classes. For a shorter, longer-bodied breed, and especially for 6-year-old Lina, she likes the option of the Preferred classes.

The highest levels of achievement for the Preferred class are the Master Agility Excellent Preferred (MXP) for the standard course and the Master Excellent Jumpers with Weaves Preferred (MJP) for the jumpers course. In the Master Level Preferred classes, dogs can continue to compete, adding 2, 3, etc., to their title for each additional 20 qualifying scores.

“I just wanted to do different things with Kris,” says John. “I thought he might be worried about the seesaw, but he is already doing it, along with the dog walk, tire, table, and A-frame. He can do 12 weave poles. Part of my enthusiasm comes from the way Kris has taken to agility. I think the problem will be with me, not Kris, in getting through the courses!” he says. “I used to think ‘Saint Bernard in agility’ was an oxymoron, but not anymore,” says



PHOTOS BY BILL DEWEY COURTESY JOHN AND SUE COX

A dynamic duo: Kris (top) and Lina have each benefited from the Preferred class regulations, and Kris has gone on to earn his VCD1 title.

John. “Kris may not be the first Saint to get a VCD, but I think he'll be the first one with a Draft Dog title, a breed championship, and a Versatile Companion Dog title. He may have lots of titles, but the most important one he has is BF: Best Friend.”

—Nancy Matlock

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

MAY 2003

Update...

Saint Bernard "only" AGILITY School in Toronto, Canada

By Krys Prichard

We took a few weeks off because three of our Saints were "under the weather." One, **Winston**, was thought to have hemangiosarcoma; that turned out to be a benign hecatomb. **Perci** suffered an Addisonian crisis (our fault--we changed her meds, she's back on track now). And **Kelli** suffered an infected pad/nail bed and was lame. This is the beauty of a "closed" class; when the dogs/people are under the weather we can rearrange things.

Well, **Tanner's** dad is in the Netherlands (new grand-daughter), so Tanner's out at "Camp" and rode into class with **Ernie** and **Winston** (supposedly the three slept in preparation for class during the hour drive in to the city and again on the way home from the exhaustion of all that work). **Bruno** and **Maggie's** "mom" was in Toronto so their dad was without a vehicle. After a few phone calls, we managed to get all the dogs to class, and have handlers for them.

Since Maggie and Bruno's mom and dad only have the one car, one of our volunteers went to pick them up in her van. Bruno pranced into class as if to tell EVERYONE he rode to class in a VAN (he goes to the window when I stop by his house to see if I drove my VAN and maybe I'll take him for a ride).

We never thought Ernie would be the example for ANYTHING!

Yesterday we worked the dogs on the tunnel from a distance and introduced them to the teeter. We have one boy in our class, Ernie, who was one of our "problem children." I could've would've kept him, if I didn't have a full house, but he was definitely not the dog for the inexperienced handler. Ernie has to be the one which has benefited the most from class. Not only is he absolutely AMAZING with all the people (and this has become a spectator sport; there are usually more people there to watch the class than are handling the dogs), but he has also become an amazing dog at agility. He's been with his new family for just over two years, but it is during the past 6 months that we've really noticed a change (I did prophesize that he would be an amazing dog once he'd been in his home for about 18 months). His eyes are on his "dad" until his dad gives the command. The sequence goes like this: Steve asks Ernie, "Ready?" and then he will start moving once he has Ernie's attention on him. About 20 feet from the tunnel, Steve will say, "Go tunnel!" (no hand signal, just the verbal command). Ernie's head pivots, he looks to find the tunnel and then he BEELINES for it, shooting through the tunnel at an amazing speed. It doesn't matter if I'm standing off-side (I am his most FAVOURITE person after his dad...maybe even more favorite than his mom) or if there is a dish with food by the tunnel; he ignores everything except the tunnel. When Ernie's head pops out of the tunnel (since Steve can change sides while Ernie is in the tunnel--Steve starts running once Ernie is in the tunnel), Ernie's head is pivoting to find Steve. Once he finds Steve, he runs to his side and is ready for the next command. Yesterday, it was teeter or jump. He was used as the class example of how all our dogs should be doing the tunnel...and watching. We never thought Ernie would be the example for ANYTHING!

Peggy Sue was also amazing yesterday. Although she wanted to go see the other dogs, her handlers were able to keep her focused and with them. I love to see the progress that these dogs are making. Now, we would like to keep Ernie, Bruno and Peggy Sue in agility as they seem to have a talent for it. The others, well, they are having fun and the handlers are having fun, but they might lose points on speed.

[See article in Volume 1, Issue 2 \(2002\) of the Agility News for prior story and photos of the dogs in class!](#)

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2003

More Saint Bernard Firsts Set in the Agility Rings on April 19th, and 20th, 2003!

By John Cox

A double **Q** is a term used in Agility when a dog "Qualifies" in the Standard Agility course *and* the Jumpers With Weaves course on the same day. Today, **April 19, 2003**, **CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder CD, CDX, UD, TD, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP, VCD1, VCD2, DD** had a Saint Bernard history-making day for our breed!

Kris qualified in the Standard Excellent level of Agility (the highest level, similar to Utility in obedience), which completed the requirements for his **AXP** title. Then he went over to the Excellent Jumpers With Weaves course and had another perfect run. In fact, the run was so good he earned the honor of **High in Class**. This means he had the best time for yards covered of ALL the Excellent A dogs (of ALL breeds). This run also completed Kris' requirements for his **AJP** (Excellent Jumpers Preferred) title.

Kris is the **FIRST** and **ONLY** Saint Bernard to earn the Excellent Agility titles! To think, just seven months ago we knew **NOTHING** about agility. AKC agility started in 1994.

Kris now has **fifteen** titles to his name in the venues of conformation, obedience, agility, draft work and tracking.

Kris DID IT AGAIN, on Sunday, April 20, 2003...

Unbelievable, he **QUALIFIED** in **BOTH** Excellent agility classes again and started working on the **MOST ADVANCED** agility titles:

Master Agility Preferred (MXP)
Master Jumpers Preferred (MJP)

Plus, another **High In Class**, this time from the Excellent B class of Jumpers With Weaves.

To earn the MXP or MJP titles, one has to qualify in each class **TEN** times. Kris is now 1/10 MXP and 1/10 MJP. **ANOTHER FIRST FOR THE SAINT BERNARD**. No other Saint Bernard has gone this far in agility.

We would like more company! Saints do well in Agility and **LOVE** it. Kris and I hope to see more Saints in agility in the years to come. Remember, it took an agile Saint Bernard to climb the Swiss Alps!

To celebrate it was off to Dairy Queen for hamburgers *and* a **LARGE** ice cream cone. He is resting up now for future trials in his search of the MXP and MJP legs.

On **May 4th & 5th**, Kris earned two more Master Agility Preferred legs taking his total to three of the ten needed.



Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

JULY 2003

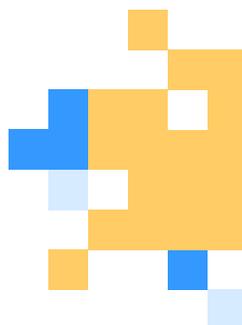
Miranda going for the Open agility title! She does it and becomes only the 4th Saint Bernard to obtain the title!



By John Cox

There she goes...up, over and down the Dog Walk, heading towards the double jump and then the weave poles. Miranda is busy at work with her "Mom," Lovey Olbrich, on their way to earning the Open Agility title. Miranda (**Echo's Utmost VCD1 OA**) has completed the requirements for the Open Standard agility title and now is working on the Open Jumpers with Weaves title. Never a dull moment with this crowd-pleasing girl. In fact, Miranda loves to stop on the course to greet her cheering fans. Of course this does not help her course time, but there is always another day for that! She is having a good Saintly time while racking up new titles.

Miranda's titles are: CD, TD, NA, NAP, OA, VCD1.



Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2003

The First AKC Master Agility Titled Saint Bernard

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



By John Cox

What an unbelievable ride!

In September of 2002, Kris entered his first agility trial in the AKC's new Preferred Agility classes at Oak Harbor, Washington. The new preferred classes permits dogs to jump in the next lower height division, if they choose to do so. Kris measures 30" inches at the withers so he would have to be entered in the 24" height division (the maximum agility jump height for all breeds) before the Preferred classes were offered. At the Preferred level, Kris jumps at the next lower height division--20 inches. I chose the Preferred classes with the lower height (considering there can be up to 20 obstacles) as it would be less of an impact on his joints with all the jumping and quick turns in an agility course. It was these new classes that gave me the push I needed to try our Saint Bernard in agility.

Kris LOVED this new sport and excelled. In such a short time, he was at the top of the Preferred agility titles.

- 1) One year ago, we entered our first agility training class (in July of 2002).
- 2) 60 days later, we entered our first agility trial where he qualified in both the Standard and Jumpers Novice classes.
- 3) 60 days later, after completion of the **Novice titles**, he earned the **Open titles** at the end of November in 2002.
- 4) In April of 2003, Kris became the first and only dual **Excellent titled** Saint Bernard in AKC history. Both Excellent titles (Standard and Jumpers With Weaves) were earned on the same day.
- 5) 90 days after completing his two Excellent titles, Kris became the first and only Saint Bernard to earn the **Master Standard agility title**.

All seven agility titles were earned in just ten months time, from the first show in September 2002 to July of 2003. What a dog! Sue and I are so proud of our "son." His Pembroke Welsh Corgi "sister," Lina, still keeps him in his place when needed and enjoys the victory parties at Dairy Queen!

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2003

Saint Bernard strings the letters **MJP** behind his name. **MASTER Jumpers With Weaves Agility title—A Breed First!**

By John Cox

July 27, 2003 was a proud day for our breed and for Suzanne and me. On this day, Kris completed his 10th clean run in the Excellent Jumpers With Weaves agility class to earn his **Master Jumpers With Weaves** title. He is the first Saint Bernard to attach the letters **MJP** behind his name!

Just two weeks prior to July 27th, Kris completed his **Master Standard** agility title. Also, the first Saint Bernard to earn the **MXP** title.

In retrospect, I still find it hard to believe this all took place in only 10 months time. Eight agility titles are now strung behind his name taking him to the top of the AKC agility Preferred titles. There are no more titles to be earned from the Preferred classes. It was such an adrenalin rush to run the courses with a Saint Bernard and qualify time and time again.

I must say the folks who show in agility in the Pacific Northwest are the best! You would not believe the support I received for running a non-traditional breed in agility. People genuinely loved to watch Kris plow through the weave poles and dive into the tunnels as he tried to make course time--not an easy task for a 150-pound dog. It's a good thing for strong equipment. Kris was also having the time of his life, and he was well aware of his "fans."

There is a whole different style of handling for running a Saint Bernard in agility. One must take into account where the big guys will land with all the momentum coming from their heavy weight (compared to other breeds). Then you must take into account their being able to turn and take off again in another direction to the next obstacle on the course. Since this is a timed event for all breeds, the handler looks for the best and most efficient maneuvering to save time. As I walked the courses, before running Kris, I kept this in mind. I constantly asked myself, "What will be the best way to get him from point A to point B to C, etc.?"

At the Excellent level, there are many odd angles to deal with between the different obstacles. Bar jumps (for a Saint) are best approached straight-on rather than at a sharp angle. It took a little more time on the course clock, but by doing this the percentage of bars staying in place went more in our favor. Also, which side of Kris did I need to be on while running had to be taken into consideration as I plotted running the course. This position can change during the course as we go from obstacle to obstacle.

The amazing thing about agility is the dogs are run without a leash and, in most cases, without a collar. The handler can NOT touch the dog at any time during the run if you plan to qualify! So the dogs are running for the pure joy of it.

As we finished our Master titles, the big question at the trial was, "Will we get to see Kris again?" Yes, he will be back from time-to-time while he is in his prime. It is a good sport for the dog and handler to keep fit and trim while having the time of their lives!



Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2003

Saint Bernard Earns an Excellent Standard Agility Leg



On August 22, 2003, **Sir Hennessy Cognac CD OA AJP DD WPS HF PE** completed his run in the Excellent Standard class to earn his first leg toward the AX agility title. This qualifying score was the 25th in Hennessy's career from the Open/Excellent agility classes. He is only the second Saint Bernard to reach the Hall of Fame Plateau of 25 Advanced Agility scores. Congratulations to Ray and Barbara Slish.

Hennessy pictured to the left.

CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder VCD2 UDT MXP MJP DD retired from the agility rings on July 27, 2003 when he completed his Master Jumpers With Weaves Preferred title. The Master titles are the highest Preferred agility titles offered by AKC. As Kris completed his final qualifying run, the question of the day was, "Will we see Kris again?" Maybe in the future, but for now, Kris will be going back into the Obedience rings to revisit old friends. Plus, he will be out in the tracking fields honing his tracking skills.

Kris pictured to the right.



Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2003

2003 AKC National Agility Championship

The **2003 AKC National Agility Championship** will be held this December in Long Beach, California, in conjunction with the 2003 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, which will include Conformation and Obedience competition.



The Agility Nationals will **begin on Tuesday, December 2** with the Iams International/State Team Tournament. **The National Agility Championship will be held on December 3 and 4.**

The Nationals will be part of a full week of agility competition in California, as local clubs will be sponsoring trials the weekend preceding and following the event. Exhibitors can enjoy the excitement and special features of the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, such as the popular "Meet the Breeds" exhibit.

Volunteers Needed

Our Nationals are a success each year due to the help of many volunteers. We will have two rings that need the usual complement of ring help. If you are interested in volunteering please contact:

Volunteer Coordinator; Melodie Sudick at (661) 297-5168; email - msudick@prodigy.net

Co-chairperson; Carrie De Young at (818)886-8212; e-mail - cxd2@akc.org

All volunteers working in the rings will need to wear dark colored pants (preferably navy blue) and white shirts. Volunteers will have free parking and receive lunch each day, but the greatest perk is the front row seat to watch the best agility competition in the country!

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Melodie Sudick
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48" High PVC Dog Walk

Strong enough to support a Saint Bernard!
(Designed to come apart for storage)

by John Cox

dog-talk@comcast.net

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Materials (all bought at a Home Depot Store):

All PVC is 1 1/2" Schedule 40:

- 8 – 45-degree elbows
- 12 – 90-degree elbows
- 8 – crosses
- 6 – T
- 2 – end caps for ascending & descending plank legs
- 12 – 10-foot sections of pipe

Lumber:

- 3 – 12' X 12" X 2" Planks
- Slats for footing - 3/8" to 3/4" thick to 2" wide (rounded edges)

Hardware:

- 2 – 1' pieces of 1" angle iron (or aluminum for outdoors)
- 8 – 4' pieces of 1" metal (or aluminum for outdoors) for braces
- 16 – 3" X 1/4" Machine bolts (to attach braces)
- 16 – 1/4" flat washers for above
- 16 – 1/4" lock washers for above
- 16 – 1/4" wing nuts for above
- 4 – 4" X 1" pieces of metal or aluminum for anchoring ramps
- 14 – 1 1/2" lag bolts for angle iron and ramp anchor pieces

Other Materials:

- PVC glue
- Paint for planks (contrasting color to contact zones)
- Paint for contact zones (yellow is suggested by AKC Regulations)
- Sand (for sprinkling in paint to make a non-skid surface)
- 4 cans of spray-paint IF you wish to paint the PVC

Estimated Cost: \$200.00

PVC "Saint Bernard" Dog Walk Illustrations of construction



View of end PVC assembly



Angle iron works as a lip to support ramp
Ramp is fastened with metal strip and lag bolts



View of underside showing center support



Aluminum braces going both directions

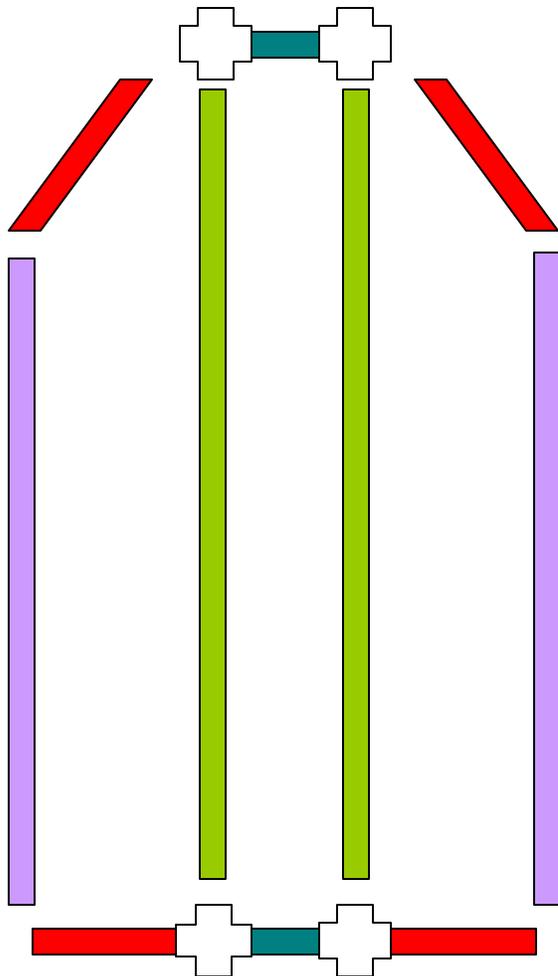
Four 10' sections of PVC are each cut in half and the middle Ts installed. Crosses and elbows are then installed on the ends. The top and bottom sections are then assembled with the five uprights. 45-degree elbows are added to the top crosses and leg extensions are added (these disassemble at the marked joints).

Yellow and blue tape at joints indicates joints that are NOT glued.

End assemblies for 48" PVC Dog Walk

Approximate measurements for PVC pipe cuttings

For the side supports (red & lavender), cut one to fit and then take exact measurements from it. Measurements may vary a little depending on how exact the PVC is cut, plus depth of pipe in joint(s). The side leg supports are assembled *after* the building of the top plank support (green & teal).



1 1/2" PVC Pipe--Schedule 40

(4) 6" lengths fit between the crosses at the top & bottom. Exact measurement will be based on how well your center upright "Ts" (see photos below) fit together. Butting the center Ts together (with no gaps at joints) works well. Make sure the PVC pipe running under the top plank is **NOT** visible from the top! You do not want to give the illusion to the dog the walk is wider than it actually is.

(4) 9 1/2" lengths fit between the 45-degree elbows at top of the side supports.

(4) 9 1/2" lengths fit between 90-degree elbows and crosses on bottom of the side supports.

(4) 33" uprights are needed for outside supports.

(5) 41" uprights are needed for top plank supports. The 5th support is in the center of the top plank (see LH photo).



Center support



Metal bracing & uprights from 90-degree elbows at end of crosses



Layout of center Ts

2004
Archive Agility News
For the Saint Bernard



Volume 3, 2 Issues

Saint Bernard
Agility News

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2004

AKC Agility Jump Height Card Policy and Measuring Procedure Guidelines

Permanent Jump Height Cards were developed to speed up exhibitor check-ins, provide for less exhibitor anxiety for those with borderline dogs, and insure that all dogs meet the minimum performance standard of the AKC Agility program.

General Policy

- All dogs competing in AKC Agility must present a *valid* official AKC Jump Height Card prior to running in any class. This can be accomplished by:
 - Presenting a valid official Jump Height Card at the time of check-in, or
 - Provide the Trial Secretary with a photocopy of the valid official Jump Height Card with the entry form, *if allowed by the club as stated in their premium.*
- Each club should specify in their premium list whether they will accept a photocopy of the *valid* Jump Height Card to be sent in with an entry form.
- Any dogs that have not been officially measured for a Jump Height Card or *whose card has expired on their second birthday* **may still compete**; however, they must be measured by the Judge of Record prior to running at each trial.
 - The Judge's measurement will be valid for this trial (or weekend) only.
 - For the Judge's planning purposes, the Trial Secretary **must** provide the Judge with a list of dogs that will require measuring.
- If a measurement is necessary, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to have their dog(s) measured prior to running.
- All exhibitors should carry the original valid AKC official Jump Height Card with them to each trial, in order to present the card upon request.
- Misrepresentation of a dog, including altering information on a Jump Height Card, is grounds for misconduct.

- The initial jump height card will be sent out free of charge.
- Lost cards may be replaced at a fee of \$15.00. Contact Ina West-Tatum, Agility Coordinator, at (919) 816-3876, or by e-mail at int@akc.org.

AKC Official Jump Height Card Measuring Procedure for Dogs Without Valid Jump Height Cards

If there is an AKC Field Representative or a Volunteer Measuring Official at the trial, they will determine when they will be measuring for permanent Jump Height Cards depending on their duties/ show schedule. All dogs that do not have a valid jump height card **must** be officially measured. This includes all dogs jumping in the 24" height class. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of any qualifying scores or awards.

- a) If the decision is to measure all dogs before their first run, that measurement will be for the dog's official Jump Height Card **effective that day and for all future trials**.
- b) If the AKC Field Representative or Volunteer Measuring Official is unable to measure all dogs before they run, then the Judge of Record will wicket the dogs entered, excluding the dogs jumping in the 24" height division. The AKC Field Representative or Volunteer Measuring Official will state times they will be measuring for permanent Jump Height Cards. If officially measured after the dog has run, that measurement will be effective the next day and for all future trials.

Each dog is allowed one re-measurement per lifetime if the dog is past their second birthday. Prior to the second birthday, a dog may have one additional measurement after the initial official measuring. In both cases, the measurement official is to be told the re-measurement is a "**challenge**" measurement.

Note: If a dog is measured by an AKC Field Representative or Volunteer Measuring Official and is now eligible to jump in a lower height class, the measurement is *only effective for any trials that have not reached their closing date*.

If there is no AKC Field Representative or Volunteer Measuring Official at the trial, then the Judge of Record will wicket all dogs, except those in the 24" class, before they run and that measurement will be for that weekend/cluster of trials only.

In accordance with Chapter 2, Section 3 of the Regulations for Agility Trials, dogs wicketed by the judge of record **may not be moved down in jump height**.

Clubs may directly contact a Volunteer Measuring Official and request that they come to their trial to measure dogs. A Mass Measurement Form must be submitted to AKC 30-days prior to the event date indicating that a Volunteer Measuring Official will be present at the trial.

There are four types of completed Agility measurement forms that are sent to the AKC for recording:

- A. Temporary height cards for dogs 12 months to less than 2 years old.
- B. Permanent height cards for all dogs 2 years and over.
- C. Challenge measurements (one challenge for a temporary height card and one challenge for a permanent height card).

D. Lost, stolen or forgot cards. If an exhibitor has lost their card, they should contact Ina West-Tatum, Agility Coordinator for a replacement. For measuring purposes, the exhibitor will fill out a height card form, you write across the top of the form “Lost Card” or “Forgot Card”. The exhibitor will present it for check-in and return it to you. This card (both yellow and white copies) will be sent to the AKC for verification.

 **Official AKC Agility**
Jump Height Card
Issued by the Agility Department of the American Kennel Club

Dog's Registered Name

Call Name

AKC Number **Sample**

Breed

Shoulder Ht. DOB

Owner's Name

Co-owner's Name

 **THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT:**

- *Maintain a registry for purebred dogs and preserve its integrity.*
- *Sanction dog events that promote interest in, and sustain the process of, breeding for type and function of purebred dogs.*
- *Take whatever actions necessary to protect and assure the continuation of the sport of purebred dogs.*

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MASS MEASUREMENT INFORMATION

As of January 1, 2001 all agility dogs are required to have a jump height card. The judge of record must measure any dog that has not been officially measured before they are allowed to participate in a trial. Official jump height measurements may be obtained from all Agility Field Reps., as well as any of the measuring officials listed below. If a club wishes to request one of the official measuring judges, they must first contact the official to make arrangements and then a Mass Measurement Form must be completed and forwarded to: American Kennel Club, Andy Hartman, Companion Events Manager, PO Box 37930, Raleigh, NC 27627-7930
Fax: (919) 816-4204

This form must be received a minimum of 30-days before the measurement takes place. This form is not needed for AKC Field Reps. You may print a Mass Measurement form from the website or contact Andy Hartman (aah@akc.org or 919-816-3821) for a copy.

Volunteer Measuring Officials

Joseph Acker
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303-279-6083
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Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2004

Hennessy Earns Both Excellent Agility Jumper Titles AXJ & AJP!

By Ray Slish



Hennessy is still going strong in the agility ring. He is showing that a Saint can do more than trot around the ring or lay around waiting for his tummy to be scratched. .

After taking a year off from handling Hennessy for my operation to heal, and foregoing the second operation, I needed to get back in the ring with him. I did not like the excellent classes because I could not remember the courses but after talking to my doctor it was decided I could stop my meds for epilepsy and my short term memory started to come back.

This time my goals were: first, not to fall; second, to remember the course, and third, to have a clean run.....and if we qualified, all the better. It was a little frightful at first but we went on to get his Excellent Jumpers Preferred (AJP) title.

I then decided to go back to the 24-inch excellent jumpers course as I had confidence in Hennessy that he could do what no other Saint has done before. Besides having to jump 4 inches higher for this title, you also have 5 seconds less time to run the course. That means a lot in agility but we were up to the task, although there were some trials and tribulations.

We ran one course and had a perfect run only to find out the steward forgot to reset the clock. The judge did not think we had made time so after catching my breath I had to run again. I knew with my emphysema I could not run that fast again but I gave it my best shot. Just before the last jump I tumbled to the ground and Hennessy stopped to look at me. As I rolled over onto my stomach, I pointed to the last jump and told him to go which he did to stop the clock but, alas, we were 1 second over time. No one said agility is easy just fun.

Hennessy went on to earn his 24-inch Excellent Jumpers title giving him another 1st for a Saint Bernard.

Hennessy had a two page photo in the November 2004 agility magazine, *CLEAN RUN*.

This great dog is trying for more as we have moved up again to a higher level class in Excellent B jumpers. Here again we lose another 5 seconds in time to run the course. In our first try, the course was 142-yards long with 19 jumps and 12 weave poles in 38 seconds. We were the last dog to run that day and Hennessy was pumped up from waiting around and hearing the other dogs barking and running. As soon as I took off his leash he was off and running. Lo and behold, we collided after the first jump but I quickly got off the ground and we finished the course with a clean run 4 seconds over time.

As I took him back to his crate and caught my breath I heard the ring steward call out, "Ray you're up in Ring 1 with Armani." Yes, I now have two of these wonderful Saints in agility.

So, stay tuned for some more adventures of agility with Saint Bernards.

2005
Archive Agility News
For the Saint Bernard



Volume 4, 4 Issues

A Proposal for a New Agility Title for the Preferred Classes.

By John Cox
dog-talk@comcast.net

No, not a MACH from the Preferred classes, but instead a title aimed at rewarding and recognizing Double Qs (combined qualifying scores) in the Preferred Excellent classes. As you know, part of the MACH title rewards double Qs in the regular classes of agility. There is now a need to have a title (similar to the UDX in obedience) for the Preferred classes, which would reward the *Preferred combined qualifying scores* (double Qs) from the Excellent Preferred Standard and Jumpers classes.

As a suggestion, the new title could be given the name **Preferred Agility Excellent (PAX)**. This would be a suffix title for **ten (10) combined scores from the Preferred Excellent classes**. Also, one could continue on to earn a **PAX2, etc.** The new title would reward the dogs in the Preferred classes for combined scores (something now missing) like the MACH does in the Regular classes and the UDX does in obedience.

With my obedience background, and my new love for Agility, I do see a spot for this new title, which would benefit the handlers, dogs, clubs and the AKC. The PAX title would be consistent with other AKC combined score titles and create new and interesting goals for all in agility.

Like the UDX in obedience, it would be a difficult title to obtain, but not out of reach for most breeds or handlers. With the PAX title in effect, entries should increase in both classes (Preferred Standard and Jumpers), thus benefiting clubs and the AKC with their bottom lines while adding new interest to the sport.

The PAX title would not interfere or take anything away from the MACH title just as the UDX title does not interfere or take anything away from the OTCH title.

To be fair and consistent, if the PAX title were introduced, I would support having the PAX legs earned in the past grandfathered in like the NOI (National Obedience Champion) title and the numbered UDX legs. This data is now computerized so, like the UDX, it should not be an issue. Since this is a title for the Preferred classes, the grandfathering would only go back to September 1, 2002 (the date the Preferred classes went in to effect), a much shorter time frame than the NOI or numbered UDX legs. So, now would be a good time to start offering the title and not delay.

Recording the PAX results would be no different than what is now being done with the UDX legs or the combined scores from the Regular classes for the MACH.

I hope you folks will give it some thought for the upcoming review of Agility. If you feel it has merit, please forward your support to:

Curt Curtis (Director of Companion Events) cac@akc.org
Sharon Anderson (Director of Agility) sxa@akc.org

Thanks and have a clean run and a DOUBLE Q!

John Cox
(206) 524 2468
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Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2005

New World Record for the Saint Bernard MXP2 Title Earned!

OUR SAINT BERNARD MAKES HISTORY AGAIN

By John Cox



Photo by Gayle George-Sackett

In July 2003, our "son" "Kris" (**CH, WDCH, XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder VCD2, UDX, MXP2, MJP, DD**) finished his Master Jumpers Preferred title, which matched up with his Master Standard Preferred title earned a few weeks earlier.

At the time Kris finished both Master titles, I felt it was wise to retire Kris from agility and give the UDX a try (he earned his UD in April of 2002). So it was off to school for a brush-up and we started showing again in obedience in November 2003. Well, as work and luck would have it, eight months later, in July of 2004, Kris had the UDX title under his keg. Now what?

As fall came, we went into the tracking fields to work on a TDX title. This filled some weekends but there were also weekends spent at agility trials, as his Pembroke Corgi sister was finishing up her Master Standard Preferred title. Just sitting on the sidelines offering moral support was great but the itch to run again became overwhelming.

I did have concerns about running Kris in agility again as he was nearing six years of age, plus he is a 150-pound Saint Bernard! On the other hand, he is so muscled and conditioned from his exercise program we thought we would just run him once or twice for fun. Yea, right!



Well, before we knew it Kris was within striking distance of his **MXP2** title. This dog LOVES agility and rips around the courses with glee, flews and ears flying and the tail wagging. The obedience background sure has helped Kris as we can maneuver the courses with great control. He is easily called off, if needed, from heading in the wrong direction or is about ready to take a wrong course. In just a few months of showing he had *mastered* his MXP2. Next in our sights is MJP2 (Master Jumpers Preferred 2). We have six legs left to go on that title. Kris's jumper legs are a little harder to achieve, as the course times are faster. Couple this fact with a 30-inch 150-pound dog, which has to squeeze through several 24" tunnels--it eats up the clock time.

Did I mention the weave poles? With LOTS of length of body, he is weaving and twisting through almost FIVE weave poles at the same time! He is accurate but being a GIANT breed can work against him when it comes to making time if there are more than two tunnels on the Jumpers with Weaves course.



Not bad for a breed champion! Sue is so good about sewing new buttons on my shirts as I pop them off with such pride in our son Kris!

Saint Bernard *Agility News*

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2005

*Another breed-first & World Record for Saint Bernard Kris!
FIRST and ONLY Saint Bernard to Earn
AKC's Master Jumpers Preferred 2 title (MJP2)*

By John Cox

On Saturday, July 23, 2005, Kris was standing behind the starting line all posed and ready to run in the Excellent Jumpers With Weaves class at the Chuckanut DTC's Agility Trials in Lynden, Washington. The timer said, "Go," and in just 43+ seconds Kris raced and maneuvered the course with ease, cleared 17 jumps, went through a long curved tunnel and weaved 12 weave poles with precision. As he cleared the last jump, Kris entered the Saint Bernard history books as this run completed the requirements for AKC's Master Jumpers Preferred 2 title--a 20 leg title! **This is Kris's FOURTH Master Agility Title** as he also has two Master Titles in the Standard Class!

The Excellent B Classes in Agility are the top level of AKC Agility. The classes provide challenging courses where maneuvering and precision go hand-in-hand with speed. To earn a leg in the Excellent B classes, the dog must have a perfect run (no faults) and do it under time. Not an easy task for ANY breed--let alone a 145-pound Saint Bernard!

Through his physical conditioning program, Kris has had the advantage of being muscled-up and fit as a fiddle, plus extremely sound in body and mind. If you are ever lost on a mountain, you had better wish for Kris to be on rescue duty that day! Climbing a mountain and maneuvering the terrain with speed and accuracy would be second nature to this agility-tracking-titled dog. Of course, being a WORKING Saint Bernard it would also be his first nature to carry out a rescue. Way to go, **CH, WDCH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder VCD2, UDX, MXP2, MJP2, DD, WP**

Agility trials reflect back to our breed's history and provide a way for us to show our breed still possesses skills to work mountain terrains.

On the next page is an article from a local newspaper that covered the trials.

THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

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Monday, July 25, 2005

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OUTDOORS

Dogs run through their paces

Agility trials test skills and mettle of dogs and owners



RACHEL E. BAYNE THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

Kris, a Saint Bernard whose owner John Cox says he weighs about 145 pounds, leaps over a jump during the Chuckanut Dog Training Association's AKC Agility Trial at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds Sunday morning.

KATIE N. JOHANNES
THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

Jasmine, a 3-year-old corgi, was willing to jump and weave - on her own schedule.

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Steve Horton, of Covington, encourages his Norwegian Elkhound, Shadow, a 12-year-old dog that has survived cancer, as he goes through the weaving poles at Sunday's agility trials.

First she had to greet the judges, and about half way through her course, she sat down to scratch.

"Come on Jasmine," urged her owner, 55-year-old Peggy Cobb, of Mount Vernon, who huffed and puffed around the course, panting more than her little dog.

The pair was competing Sunday in the novice division of the Chuckanut Dog Training Association's summer agility trials, an American Kennel Club licensed event.

From papillons to Saint Bernards, the weekend event drew about 140 dogs and their handlers, and spectators lined the horse barn bleachers at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden.

Fifty-year-old Andy Kissling, of Auburn, sat in the stands with one-year-old Cardigan Welsh corgi, Skye Pilot. Kissling let out a holler as his wife, Jill Kissling, completed the jumping course with two-year-old Shelby the sheltie.

Jill Kissling used to compete with their dog Maggie, also a sheltie, who died recently. The dog was so attached to Andy Kissling that he would have to hide during the trials so Maggie wouldn't get distracted.

"He had to spend a whole show in a Honey Bucket," Jill Kissling said.

The competition was serious for some participants. Dianna Kirkbride said she was more nervous than her husband, Robert Kirkbride, who was hoping to get a MACH (an AKC title that stands for Master Agility Champion) Sunday with their schnauzer, Mic in Time.

"I'm the one shaking the most up there," she said.

But the handlers seemed to maintain a sense of humor, regardless of how the dogs performed.

Handler Connie Tamura, of Stanwood, laughed as she tried to coax Holly, her 4-year-old golden retriever, to weave through a series of poles.

"The dogs don't care if they qualify or not," Tamura said. "They're just having fun."

FIND OUT MORE

For information on obedience and agility classes, check out www.chuckanutdogtraining.org.

Reach Katie N. Johannes at katie.johannes@bellinghamherald.com or call 756-

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2005

**Another breed-first & World Record for Saint Bernard Kris!
FIRST and ONLY Saint Bernard to Earn
AKC's Master Agility Preferred 3 title (MXP3)**



By John Cox

August 7, 2005, was another very special day in our lives as Kris finished his **5th** Master Agility (MXP3) title at the Gig Harbor KC's agility trials! This new title also completed **50** perfect runs in the Excellent B classes of agility with 3 Master Standard Preferred titles and 2 Master Jumpers Preferred titles to his name. And I used to think Saint Bernard=Agility was an oxymoron. Not any more, as our boy just finished his new 30-legged title!

One interesting fact that came to mind is just last year at Gig Harbor's obedience trial, Kris finished his **50th** advanced (open and/or utility) obedience score which was our goal in obedience after earning his UDX title.

Through his physical conditioning program, Kris has had the advantage of being muscled-up and fit as a fiddle, plus extremely sound in body and mind. If you are ever lost on a mountain, you had better wish for Kris to be on rescue duty that day! Climbing a mountain and maneuvering the terrain with speed and accuracy would be second nature to this agility-tracking-titled dog. Of course, being a WORKING Saint Bernard it would also be his first nature to carry out a rescue. Agility trials reflect back to our breed's history and provide a way for us to show our breed still possesses skills to work mountain terrains.

Kris adds title number **22** to his name:

CH, WDCH (Working Dog Champion) XmaxKris Van Hof 'T Ten Eynder CD, CDX, UD, UDX, TD, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP, MXP, MXP2, MXP3, MJP, MJP2, VCD1, VCD2, DD (Draft Dog), WP (Weight Pull).

Kris now moves on to the tracking fields where he will continue training for a TDX. Plus, he will also join his sister (Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Lina) in the Rally rings to fill in his *spare* time. We're going to miss all the great people we've met in the world of agility these past three years!

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 2005

Another breed-first & World Record for Saint Bernard Hennessy!
FIRST and ONLY Saint Bernard to Earn
AKC's Agility Excellent title (AX)



By Ray Slish

You may not have heard anything since his last article, however this great dog has not been sitting around on the pause table but out proving at eight and a half years old he is going strong.

After earning the Excellent titles in the Preferred 20-inch classes, we decided to go back to the *Standard* 24-inch classes. It did not take long to get his Excellent Jumpers (AXJ) title as he could run at full speed without stopping for contacts.

In October we decided to enter one more AKC agility trial for this year (2005). The first day was a fun match to help promote a new club getting into agility and of the first five jumps, Hennessy crashed through three of them so I pulled him off the course.

The next day as I walked the course at the trial and I saw how difficult it was going to be, my hopes to qualify ("Q") were down. Out of 162 dogs entered (total number in all jump height classes) in the Excellent Standard class, Hennessy was the last dog to run so I was able to watch all the other dogs maneuver the course. Many of the dogs were missing the entrance to the weave poles and, for some reason, knocking off the top bar of the triple jump. Hennessy and I seem to excel on the more difficult courses and this course was no exception. Only thirty-eight dogs Qd on this tough course with Hennessy taking first place in the 24-inch jump height class. This qualifying run earned Hennessy the "AX" (Agility Excellent) title—another first and only for a Saint Bernard. Hennessy now has twelve AKC agility titles to his name along with other AKC and SBCA titles making eighteen titles over all.



2006
Archive Agility News
For the Saint Bernard



Volume 5, 6 Issues

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2006

New AKC Agility Titles Coming to a Trial Near You—SOON!!



CHAPTER 8 AGILITY REGULATIONS RECOGNIZED ACHIEVEMENT CHAPTER 8

Section 5. Preferred Agility Excellent Title. To obtain the Preferred Agility Excellent title (PAX), a dog must exhibit superior performance on the Agility course. Consistency is the main quality denoting “superior performance” and therefore is the basis for the Preferred Agility Excellent program. The highest level of achievement in the Preferred Classes is the Preferred Agility Excellent title (PAX).

In order to acquire the Preferred Agility Excellent title, a dog must achieve 20 double qualifying scores obtained from the Preferred Excellent B Standard Agility class and the Preferred Excellent B Jumpers With Weaves class. Qualifying in both the Preferred Excellent B Standard Agility class and the Preferred Excellent B Jumpers With Weaves class on the same day equals one (1) double qualifying score (2Q).

Requirements / General Scoring. Scores of 100 (clean rounds) obtained in the Excellent B Preferred classes will count towards a dog's Preferred Agility Excellent requirements if the scores are earned in both Standard and JWW classes on the same day.

A dog does not have to obtain the Master Agility Excellent Preferred (MXP) or the Master Agility Excellent Preferred JWW (MJP) titles prior to achieving scores that will count towards their Preferred Agility Excellent (PAX) title. Scores of 100 will count toward the dog's MXP or MJP titles, and double qualifying scores count toward the PAX title even if the MXP or MJP title has not yet been achieved. The PAX title will follow a dog's registered name in all official AKC records. The PAX title will supersede all other Preferred agility titles. The title PAX will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the quantity of times the dog has met the requirements of the PAX title as defined above, e.g. 40 2Q's = PAX2, 60 2Q's = PAX3, etc.

CHAPTER 9 AGILITY REGULATIONS FIFTEEN AND SEND TIME (FAST) CLASS CHAPTER 9

Section 1. (new chapter) Purpose.

This agility titling class is meant to be an additional test of strategy skill, accuracy, speed, strategy, and timing and distance handling, to demonstrate a dog's athletic ability and willingness to work with its handler in a fast-paced atmosphere over a variety of agility obstacles. The class may be offered once per day as an additional class at a club's option. In order to offer the Open level, the Novice A & B level must be offered. In order to offer the Excellent A & B level, the Open level must be offered. The class is not part of the Master Agility Championship titling program.

The following criteria apply to the Fifteen And Send Time classes:

- Novice A & B FAST
- Open FAST
- Excellent A & B FAST

Section 2. Definition.

As indicated by the title the Fifteen And Send Time Class uses fifteen (15) point valued obstacles and/or obstacle combinations. The course will include a 'Send Bonus' or distance element that will award a bonus of twenty (20) points if completed successfully, and is identified as the 'Send Bonus'. Six of the fifteen (15) point valued obstacles must be single bar jumps (typically winged) valued at one point each. Winged jumps are assumed to have a value of one point unless otherwise denoted by the judge. Nine (9) additional obstacles on the course will be assigned unique values from 2 through 10 by the judge. Additional obstacles (typically non-winged jumps) may be placed on the course, but with no assigned value. There is a maximum of 80 possible FAST Class points awarded at all levels, which is the sum of the fifteen point valued obstacles (60 points) plus a Send Bonus value of 20 points. Teams must successfully complete the Send Bonus to achieve a qualifying score, as well as a minimum number of required points defined at each class level. To earn points, all obstacles must be completed in accordance with the obstacle performance guidelines identified in these regulations.

Course times are determined by level (Novice, Open or Excellent) and jump height.

Standard Course Times (SCTs) are required as follows. Teams will use the following Standard Course Time to accumulate points, attempt a Send Bonus and to reach a judge-defined finish obstacle:

REGULAR: NOVICE/OPEN/EXCELLENT

8" - 38 seconds,

12"/16" - 35 seconds,

20/24/26" - 32 seconds

PREFERRED: NOVICE/OPEN/EXCELLENT

4" - 41 seconds,

8"/12" - 38 seconds,

16"/20" - 35 seconds

An electronic timing horn/buzzer (preferably) or whistle will sound at SCT completion, whereby handlers will no longer have the right to earn points while on course and dogs must run to the finish obstacle to stop the clock. Electronic timing devices with horn or buzzer sounds are recommended for execution and consistent and accurate timing. Handler contact aiding the performance of the dog to the finish obstacle will result in Elimination.

Teams will be assessed one (time) fault for every full second over SCT which will be subtracted from the total points (obstacle & Send Bonus total) accumulated on course to determine the final score. Order of placements will be determined by points first and fastest (shortest) time second.

In case of a tie in both points and time, a runoff must be offered. The runoff should be held preferably on the same course or alternately on a FAST course of another level. If a different course level is used to break the tie, the scoring method of that course will be used. This means it could be possible for an excellent level tie to be broken on an open or novice level FAST course or vice versa. If either team chooses not to rerun to break the tie then they may concede the win and take the lower placement. If a team is not available for a runoff (e.g. have left the trial site) then the team that is available will receive the higher placement. Another acceptable method of breaking a tie would be to flip a coin to determine the winner if both teams agree.

A minimum of two and maximum of three unique contact obstacles will be required on course. A maximum of four contacts may be performed to earn points (i.e. one contact taken twice for differing point values). The four paw rule will be in effect for all course levels. Weave poles are a required obstacle on course: a minimum of 9-12 weave poles will be required for Excellent/Open class levels and six (6) weave poles are required on Novice courses. The balance of obstacles will include single, double and triple jumps, open and closed tunnels, panel jumps, broad jumps and tires or a combination of these obstacles. A table may be used as a finish obstacle in the Send Bonus element of the course. Four paws on the table will earn the tables given point value however, the dog does not need to assume a sit, down, or wait on the table for any prescribed length of time.

Courses may be modified from either the Standard or Jumpers with Weaves courses approved for that event, with the stipulation that the course must be modified in such a way as to be random in pattern with no discernable flow. This will encourage variation in handler course strategies. Up to two intersecting start lines may be set. A single Finish obstacle consisting of a jump or open tunnel is required somewhere on the course. Numbered flags (white background color and black number) or elevated placard signs for numbers 2 through 10 are highly recommended for ease of judging and scoring. Microphone headsets may be used by the judge and scribe as an aid in scoring the run and answering any questions that arise. However, the judge's calls must be audible to the competitor in the ring.

Obstacles that are bi-directional may be taken in either direction to earn points unless otherwise directed by the judge. The judge may require any obstacle to be taken in only one direction for points.

Bi-directional obstacles may have dual point values but may not be taken back-to-back (immediately repeated without doing another

obstacle in-between) for points. Once a team has successfully completed a contact obstacle or a full set of weave poles and has earned the points, they may not repeat that obstacle. If the contact or weave poles are repeated, the team will lose their right to accumulate any more points on the course.

The team will then be sent to the finish obstacle by the sound of a judge's double (so it isn't confused with the SCT whistle) whistle. Faulted contact obstacles may be repeated for an attempt to earn points, but may not be attempted in back-to-back fashion. Weave poles may be reattempted immediately from either end if faulted, but if bidirectional must be restarted at the original entry and completed correctly from start to finish to earn points. If a judge has elected to post dual values on the weave poles, one for each entry end, a competitor must complete all poles correctly in the designated direction to earn the assigned points.

The Send Bonus portion of the course must contain two to three pointed-obstacles. Handler distance restrictions for the Send Bonus portion must be; 15-20 feet in Excellent, 10-15 feet in Open, and 5-10 feet in Novice. The total point value for all obstacles contained in the Send Bonus portion of the course must be no less than five (5) points and no greater than fifteen (15) points. In general, the Send Bonus portions should not be placed in close proximity to the start line(s). If contacts and weave poles are used in the Send Bonus portion of the Novice course, the minimum distance requirement of 5 feet must be used. Obstacle discriminations and changes of flow and/or direction are allowed, in the Open and Excellent Send Bonus sections. Judges shall call out "Bonus" if the Send Bonus is correctly completed. A dog is considered to have completed the last obstacle of the Send Bonus when all 4 feet have touched the ground. If the table is the last obstacle in the Send Bonus, it is considered complete when all 4 feet have touched the table.

A tape used for marking the Send Bonus handler restricted distance must be of a bright contrasting color and should be secured to the floor or ground in an appropriate manner. Golf tees are an appropriate method of holding the line in place when on grass or dirt. Tape may be used when on indoor surfaces but silver duct tape is not to be used for the line, as it is not visible enough to the handlers. Colors such as hot pink, bright green or yellow are recommended.

Refusal or Run-out faults will not be assessed on course except during the Send Bonus. Once the first Send Bonus obstacle is completed, any Refusals or Run-outs in the sequence will negate the Send Bonus. In this case, point values may still be earned for corrected refusals or for Send Bonus obstacles taken out of sequence, but will result in a non-qualifying score due to not completing the Send Bonus challenge properly.

Section 3. Performance Requirements for All Classes

- Obstacles are bi-directional for point values except for the closed tunnel, seesaw, broad jump and triple jump or unless specified differently by the judge.
- A maximum of six jumps may be taken in any order for one (1) point each, however, the same jump may not be taken back-to-back. Any additional jumps taken will not be scored or penalized.
- Judges may choose one bi-directional obstacle and assign a unique point value for each approach.
- If an obstacle is repeated or faulted competitors may continue to accumulate points elsewhere on the course. They may also earn points for correctly performing a previously faulted obstacle. The exception to this rule is a displaced bar, as these will not be reset.
- Points will not be awarded for contact obstacles taken back-to-back.
- Once all points available have been accumulated on contacts and weaves they may not be taken again. Teams that repeat these obstacles after all their available points are awarded will be whistled to the finish line but will maintain the accumulated points.
- Refusals or run-outs will not be faulted anywhere on the course other than during the Send Bonus, and will **ONLY** negate the opportunity to earn the 20 points for the Send Bonus.
- Time penalties at all levels are one (1) point for each full second over SCT.
- Teams running to the finish obstacle after the whistle/horn/buzzer sounds cannot be faulted for taking additional obstacles on the way, however, they can be eliminated for handler contact that aids the dog's performance or by purposely touching the dog prior to stopping the time.
- Teams must successfully complete the Send Bonus portion behind the judge-defined handler restriction line. Stepping on any part of the line before the dog has completed the last obstacle in the sequence will negate earning the Send Bonus points.

Section 4. Novice A & B FAST Class

The focus of the FAST class at the Novice level will be to introduce the skill, timing and minor distance work involved in a game of strategy and point accumulation.

Performance Standards:

- Minimum score to Qualify is 50 Points which must include 20 points from the Send Bonus.

- Course requires two Send Bonus point valued obstacles taken at a handler restricted distance between 5' and 10'. Distance may vary within this range with a change in distance allowed between the (4/8/12/16") small dogs' heights and the (20/24/26") large dogs' heights only.
- Send Bonus obstacles may include six (6) weave poles or any contact obstacle if these are set at a handler restricted distance of no more than five (5) feet.
- Equipment allowed on course is equivalent to Novice Standard and Novice JWW allowed equipment (with a one contact minimum and one set of six (6) weave poles required).

Section 5. Open FAST Class

The focus of the FAST class at the Open level will be to test skill, timing and intermediate distance work involved in a game of strategy and point accumulation.

Performance Standards:

- Minimum score to Qualify is 55 Points which must include 20 points from the Send Bonus.
- Course requires two or three Send Bonus point valued obstacles taken at a handler restricted distance between 10' and 15'. Distance may vary within this range with a change in distance allowed between the (4/8/12/16") small dogs' heights and the (20/24/26") large dogs' heights only.
- There are no Send Bonus obstacle restrictions. Discriminations and changes of direction are allowed in the Send Bonus sequence.
- Equipment allowed on course is equivalent to Open Standard and Open JWW allowed equipment (with a one contact minimum and 9-12 weave poles required).

Section 6. Excellent A & B FAST Class

The focus of the FAST class at the Excellent level will be to test skill, timing and distance work at the highest level involved in a game of strategy and point accumulation.

Excellent A will be for dogs who have not earned the XF (Excellent FAST) Title.

Performance Standards:

- Minimum score to Qualify is 60 Points which must include 20 points from the Send Bonus.
- Course requires three Send Bonus point valued obstacles taken at a handler restricted distance between 15' and 20'. Distance may vary within this range with a change in distance allowed between the (4/8/12/16") small dogs' heights and the (20/24/26") large dogs' heights only.
- There are no Send Bonus obstacle restrictions. Discriminations and changes of direction are allowed in the Send Bonus sequence.
- Equipment allowed on course is equivalent to Excellent Standard and Excellent JWW allowed equipment (with a one contact minimum and 9-12 weave poles required).

Section 7. Titles and Requirements

Novice Fast Title = NF. Requires three Novice A or B qualifying scores of 50 points or greater under at least two different judges.

Open Fast Title = OF. Requires the NF title plus three Open FAST Class qualifying scores of 55 points or greater under at least two different judges.

Excellent Fast Title = XF. Requires the OF title plus three Excellent A FAST Class qualifying scores of 60 points or greater under at least two different judges.

Master Excellent Fast Title = MXF. Requires the XF title plus ten Excellent B FAST Class qualifying scores of 60 points or greater.

FAST Century 1 Title = FTC1. Requires the MXF title plus one hundred Excellent B FAST Class qualifying scores of 60 points or greater. The FTC title initials will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the quantity of times the dog has met the requirements of the FTC title as defined above, e.g.: 200 Excellent B FAST Class qualifying scores of 60 points or greater = FTC2.

All FAST Class titles are suffix titles.

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2006

AKC's FIRST Agility Invitational & Another FIRST for Kris!

In December, the American Kennel Club will be hosting their FIRST Agility Invitational in Long Beach, California. The nationally ranked TOP Agility dogs of each AKC registered breed will be invited to attend.

It gives me great pleasure to announce there has been one Saint Bernard invited to this inaugural, prestigious event! Kris (registered name on the next page), according to the AKC, is the top Agility Saint Bernard in the nation, plus the **only** Saint Bernard to qualify and represent our breed at the first Agility Invitational. Kris met the AKC Agility Invitational qualifications by earning Double Qs in the Preferred Agility Excellent B Classes. According to the Agility Regulations, a Double Q is a term used when a dog qualifies in the Standard Excellent B class and also qualifies in the Jumpers With Weaves Excellent B class on the same day (similar to a UDX leg in Obedience). To date, Kris is the only Saint Bernard to earn Double Qs in the Excellent B classes of Agility.

Just a year ago, Kris was also invited to the AKC Obedience Invitational in Florida.

From the AKC web site (www.akc.org) came the following:

The AKC Agility Invitational will invite *top dogs ranked* in agility events during the qualifying period and is based on the Top MACH Dog formula (Double Q's x 10 + MACH (Master Agility Championship) points). **The top five ranked agility dogs in each of the AKC recognized breeds will be invited to attend this prestigious event.** In addition, this competition will be open to the top International agility competitors in their respective countries.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How many dogs will be invited per breed?** 5 dogs per breed will be invited.
2. **Will ILP dogs be invited?** Yes. All breeds eligible to compete in AKC Companion Events will be included.
3. **What is the Qualifying period?** It is July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.
4. **How will the top dogs be determined?** The top dogs will be determined by the Top MACH Dog formula (Double Q's x 10 + MACH (Master Agility Championship) points) that dogs have earned during the event qualifying period. Example: Dog has 520 MACH points and 9 Double Q's (9 x 10 = 90 points), so their total "formula value" will be 610.

5. **How can I find out where my dog is ranked?** There is a [free report available online](#) to view the top five dogs by breed during the event qualifying period. Also, there is a [purchasable report in the AKC online store](#) to order the top 25 ranked dogs by breed during the event qualifying period.
6. **What about Preferred Dogs?** For any breed that does not have 5 dogs with MACH points then the Preferred dogs will be invited based on the # of Double Q's they have during the Qualifying period.
7. **Will Preferred Dogs jump at their Preferred height?** Yes they will, but they will have the same course time as all other dogs in that height.
8. **May I jump above my official AKC height class?** No, all dogs must jump in their official AKC jump height, they may not move up.
9. **What will the format be?** Each day a Standard and a JWW course will be run. After the completion of the 4 rounds, over two days, the top dogs in each height will move to the finals. The complete scoring description will be announced on the agility page on the AKC website.
10. **If I don't make it to the Finals am I eligible for any special awards?** YES! Awards will be given for the top dogs in Individual Rounds. Cash awards will be awarded to the Top Dogs based on the best 3 out of 4 rounds and the Top Group Winners over the first 4 Rounds. A full explanation will be in the upcoming Invitation. Clean Run Productions and J & J Dog Supplies are sponsors of these special awards

I have heard that other countries have been invited. Does that affect how many of each breed will be invited?
No, those numbers are separate. Each country may send 3 dogs of their choosing.

Top Agility Dogs

Eligible for Invitation to the December 2006 Agility Invitational by Breed
Eligibility dates are July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

Dogs are listed in alphabetical order.

Select Event

Select Breed

St. Bernards	Class
CH Xmaxkris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder VCD2 UDX RAE MXP3 MJP2	PREF



The AKC Agility Invitational report lists the top dogs ranked in Agility events and is based on the Top MACH Dog formula (Double Q's x10 + MACH (Master Agility Championship) points) that dogs have earned during the qualifying period. Dogs must have competed and qualified in Regular Excellent B classes and the top five (5) ranked dogs of each breed will be included on these reports. If there are not five (5) dogs ranked from the Regular Excellent B classes, dogs will be ranked based on the number of double Q's from the Preferred Excellent B classes that were earned during the qualifying period. The reports will automatically sort the dogs alphabetically.

This free AKC Agility Invitational report will list the top five (5) dogs for the breed selected.

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2006

Another FIRST for Kris! Master Agility Preferred FOUR title.

CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder CD, CDX, UD, UDX, RN, RA, RE, RAE, TD, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP, MXP, MXP2, MXP3, MXP4, MJP, MJP2, VCD1, VCD2, DD, WP, WPX, WPS



By John Cox

On August 20, 2006, Kris ran a beautiful Excellent Standard course which completed the requirements for his **Master Agility Standard Preferred 4 (MXP4)** title.

This is not your ordinary 3-legged AKC agility title. The MXP4 title requires **FORTY legs!** The title is aimed to reward a team that is consistent in qualifying at the most advanced level of agility.

Kris Masters agility by adding his **sixth** Master title to his name—which now gives him an even dozen agility titles.



An AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB® Event

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

is pleased to invite

CH Xmaxkris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder VCD2 UDX RAE MXP3 MJP2

to participate in the Inaugural

AKC AGILITY INVITATIONAL

Sponsored by

Eukanuba, Clean Run Productions LLC, and J&J Dog Supplies

December 2nd & 3rd, 2006

Long Beach Convention Center, 300 E Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90802 USA

Your dog is among the select few being honored with this invitation to compete in this event in recognition of outstanding achievement.

RSVP by September 6, 2006

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 2006

Another FIRST for Kris! First Saint Bernard to earn a PAX leg!

CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder CD, CDX, UD, UDX, RN, RA, RE, RAE, TD, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP, MXP, MXP2, MXP3, MXP4, MJP, MJP2, VCD1, VCD2, DD, WP, WPX, WPS

By John Cox



On **September 1, 2006**, the American Kennel Club introduced the Preferred Agility Excellent (PAX) title. The new title and qualifying legs towards this title were grandfathered back to **September 2002** (the first month and year of the Preferred Classes).

The AKC Agility Regulations define the class and its requirements as follows:

“To obtain the Preferred Agility Excellent title (PAX), a dog must exhibit superior performance on the agility course. Consistency is the main quality denoting ‘superior performance’ and therefore is the basis for the Preferred Agility Excellent program.

“The highest level of achievement in the Preferred Classes is the Preferred Agility Excellent title (PAX).

“In order to acquire the Preferred Agility Excellent title, a dog must achieve 20 double qualifying scores obtained from the Preferred Excellent B Standard Agility class and the Preferred Excellent B Jumpers With Weaves class. Qualifying in both the Preferred Excellent B Standard Agility class and the Preferred Excellent B Jumpers With Weaves class on the same day equals one (1) double qualifying score (2Q).

“Requirements/General Scoring. Scores of 100 (clean rounds) obtained in the Excellent B Preferred classes will count towards a dog’s Preferred Agility Excellent requirements if the scores are earned in both Standard and JWW classes on the same day.”

Kris started in the Preferred Agility classes in September 2002 and in less than seven months he earned his Novice, Open and Excellent titles in Standard and Jumpers With Weaves. From there, it was on to the Master level in the Excellent B classes. On **April 20, 2003**, the day after finishing his two Excellent titles, Kris double Qd again and earned his first Master Standard leg (MXP), first Master Jumpers with Weaves leg (MJP) and first Preferred Agility Excellent leg (PAX). A lot of history-making for ONE Saint Bernard in ONE day!



Saint Bernard
Agility News

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER 2006

**Another RECORD for Kris!
Master Agility Jumpers With Weaves
Preferred THREE (MJP3) title.**

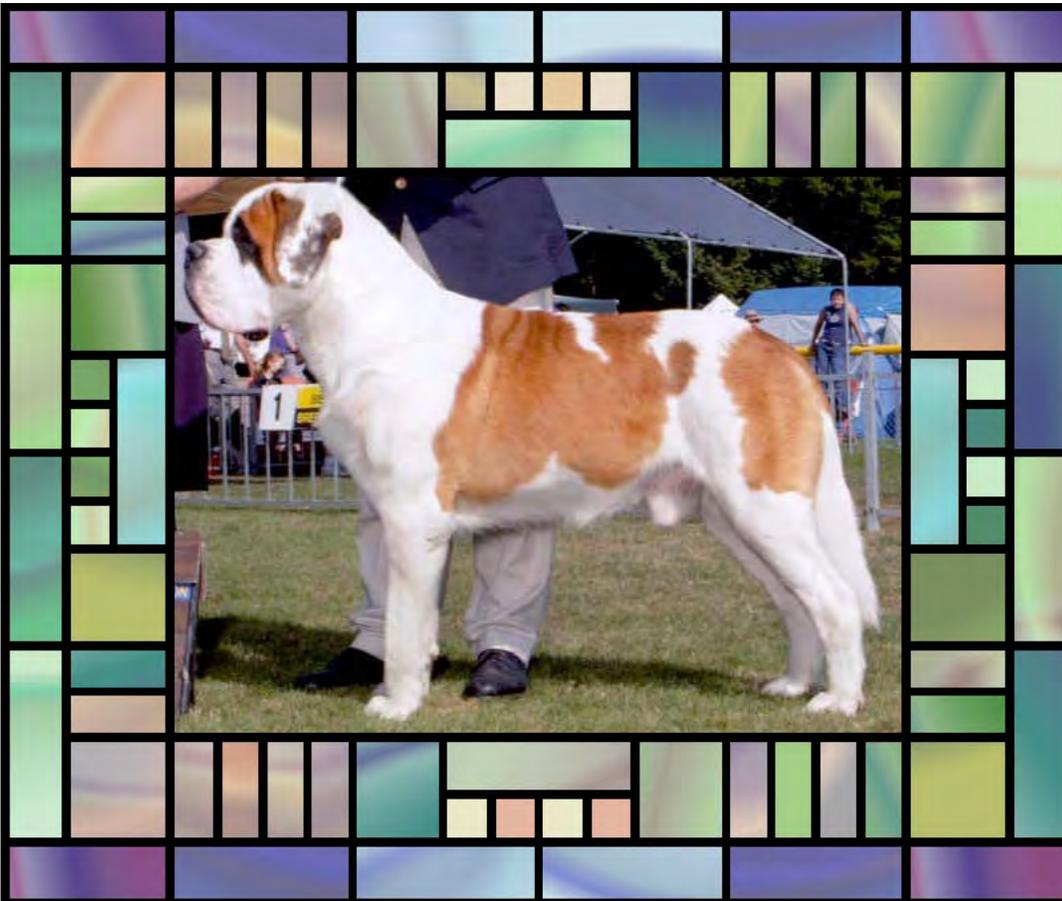
**CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 'T Hof Ten Eynder CD, CDX, UD, UDX, RN, RA, RE, RAE,
TD, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP, MXP, MXP2, MXP3, MXP4, MJP, MJP2, MJP3,
VCD1, VCD2, DD, WP, WPX, WPS**

By John Cox

On **September 9, 2006**, Kris ran a beautiful Excellent Jumpers With Weaves course which completed the requirements for his Master Agility Jumpers With Weaves Preferred 3 (MJP3) title. Kris also qualified in Excellent Standard class on this same day, which earned him his 15th combined Excellent B score!

The MJP3 title requires **THIRTY** legs! The title is aimed to reward a team that is consistent in qualifying at the most advanced level of agility.

Kris Masters agility by adding his **seventh** Master title to his name—which now gives him an even baker's dozen (**13**) AKC agility titles.



Agility News

	<p>CH. Kris is the <i>only</i> Saint Bernard to be invited by the American Kennel Club to represent our breed at. . .</p>
<p>The <i>First</i> AKC Agility Invitational in Long Beach, California, USA December 2 & 3, 2006</p>	

Kris's diary notes on his BIG adventure to the FIRST AKC Agility Invitational

Translated by his American mom, Suzanne Cox

(Kris was born in Belgium and only writes in Dutch!)

Thursday, November 16, 2006:

I know we're going someplace far away in the car because the other day Mom and Dad stopped at the dog food store and spent over \$100 getting food to carry us over for lots of breakfasts and dinners. The best part was that Mom filled up TWO plastic bags of really good biscuits in different flavors. We're going to have really good snacks at every rest or potty stop on the way to and from Long Beach!

I don't see much other activity in the way of packing or getting ready for this trip, but tonight Dad bought two new pair of shoes so he can run really fast when we compete in agility. He has to run really fast to keep us with me—at least that's the way I see it. Mom is in charge of a Variable Surface Tracking test this weekend and is also the Test Secretary. She's sure been busy cooking and baking for that event, and Lina (my Pembroke Welsh Corgi sister) and I didn't even get to sample anything or lick any bowls. That's supposed to be our job! Maybe we'll get in on any leftovers.

Now it's time for me to lounge on the sofa—my favorite way to spend an evening, especially when Dad's sitting there to pet me instead of busy working on that stupid computer.



Monday, November 27, 2006:



The excitement is mounting! The big surprise was the snowstorm that hit Seattle early Sunday evening. Everything was covered with snow this morning. The streets and highways were clear this afternoon, but then it started to snow again about 4 p.m. and now everything is white once again. I like it! But it's put Mom and Dad in a flurry of activity because now we're going to start driving to Long Beach on Tuesday afternoon instead of Wednesday morning. I like that because I love to go riding in the car and the earlier we start off the better I'll like it. Lina and I sure like stopping at new places along the way, and checking out motel rooms, too. Our car beds are all washed and ready to go, our cookies and food is loaded in the car, and now Mom and Dad have to get their stuff ready to go. Mom had a busy weekend being in charge of some sort of tracking event so she's really feeling rushed to get ready to leave by tomorrow. Now I better go oversee just what they're doing so I don't miss out on any of the excitement!



Tuesday, November 28, 2006:

Dad announced we would be on our way at 11 a.m. today and that's just what happened, but not without a little glitch. The emergency brake was frozen and the car wouldn't back up our driveway! Mom was standing on the sidewalk waiting and waiting and finally Dad got the car to back up. Then Mom couldn't get in the car because the doors were frozen shut! I guess Mom is a weakling, because Dad hopped out and came around to pull the door open for Mom. Then we were on our way. Mom is a real Nervous Nellie in snow, but I-5 was dry and we didn't see any icy roads until we got to Federal Way, Washington. My Dad is a really good driver and he got us through all that just fine. We drove a long time before Dad pulled off at one of those rest stops and Lina and I got to have some fun sniffing around and going potty before getting back in the car for some cookies. Later in the afternoon, they pulled into another rest stop in Oregon, where it was 41 degrees, and we got to run around some more. Mom and Dad had lunch and we got more cookies! Now we're getting ready for bed in our hotel room in Grants Pass—one bed for Dad and me and one for Mom and Lina. After breakfast, Mom and Dad will check the road report for the Siskiyou and then decide which route to take (I-5 or the coast). Now, since we've had our bedtime cookies, I'm calling it a day!

Kris's Travel Log to the 1st AKC Agility Invitational Continued...Page 2



AKC AGILITY INVITATIONAL



Wednesday, November 29, 2006

It sure was cold and frosty when we woke up this morning in Grants Pass. Mom and Dad checked highway web cameras to see how roads looked going through the Siskiyou Mountains and the roads weren't covered with snow, but they were concerned about black ice. So we waited until about 9 a.m. to get back on the road. I heard Mom and Dad's talk of being relieved to have nothing but dry roads. I must tell you that climbing Mt. Ashland was very moving for me, and all the heavily snow-covered trees reminded me of Switzerland. Mom can't believe I wanted to share that with everyone, but it was a beautiful few miles of driving and I found it very emotional. It's too bad Dad couldn't pull off somewhere to take our photo in the snow, but he did stop at a rest stop with Mt. Shasta in the background and a tiny bit of snow on the ground.

Since we made such good time and distance heading south, Dad thought it would be a great idea to swing over to the area north of San Francisco and see about having dinner with our friend, Mid Rothrock. We reached her by phone, she didn't have plans, so we headed to Santa Rosa to spend the night and enjoy the evening with Mid. Tomorrow morning it'll take us a couple of hours to get back to I-5 and then we continue on to the Long Beach area. We can't check into our Long Beach hotel until Friday afternoon so Mom will find us someplace else to sleep tomorrow night. We sure like going to lots of different hotels, but all these Holiday Inn Express rooms look much the same. Lina and I are ready for our bedtime cookies now.



Thursday, November 30, 2006



Whoopie! We're in Long Beach at the hoity-toity Hyatt Regency. It's the fanciest place Lina and I have ever stayed. I sure hope she doesn't embarrass us all by pooping in the lobby. It was a long day of driving with several rest stops for us to potty, walk around and get more cookies when we get back in the car. Lina got all excited when she saw prairie dogs at one stop. Dad didn't plan our arrival too well as we arrived in Los Angeles, California during the evening rush hour. We spent a lot of time sitting in six lanes of traffic all going in the same direction, but they sure have to slowly move along. Dad got into the car pool lane and when Mom told him our exit was 2 miles ahead he put on the turn signal and ended up moving over six lanes! Mom about had a stroke when two other drivers blasted their horns at us. We like our nice room and nice grass potty area. We got our dinner first and then Mom and Dad went to dinner and we napped in the room. And then Mom and Dad showed up with a man pushing all our stuff on a big cart. We've walked over to the Convention Center, which adjoins our hotel, and then tomorrow we'll get to go in and snoo around some. That silly Dad made us sit in the lobby tonight so he could take our picture by the Christmas tree. It's our bedtime now and we have a lot of resting up to do for a busy day tomorrow.

Friday, December 1, 2006

We didn't have to get up really early today, but since Mom and Dad were meeting a group for breakfast at 8:30 we didn't exactly lay around lounging either. Lina and I got our breakfast and then made a trip outside to the potty area before Mom and Dad could go to breakfast. After that, Lina and I got to take a nice, quiet snooze in the car while the folks went to the Convention Center to check out everything. I heard them talking about how much fun they had seeing old friends again so guess they had a really good time. Dad got our agility stuff all taken care of and my heavy wire car crate hauled into the crating area so I can rest between my runs. I'd rather have my nice soft-sided crate, but Dad forgot it at home. Pretty soon we were having dinner in the hotel room as Dad and Mom were heading to another hotel for the Obedience exhibitor's party tonight. They weren't gone very long and now we've had our walk and we'll all be going to bed early tonight as our day will begin at 5 a.m. tomorrow. I'm going to really try to keep all the bars up for Dad and make him really proud of me. Keep your fingers crossed that my dream comes true!

Saturday, December 2, 2006

I seem to be keeping Dad on his toes and wondering just when I'm going to give him the promised clean run. But today wasn't the day. This morning on the jumpers course there was one bar that I must have knocked down. The dropped bar, I heard Dad explain, cost us points but didn't eliminate us from the competition. I ran real good for Dad on the Standard course. Today's movie clips of my two runs are on this page I was told. We compete in both rings again tomorrow and I'll put extra effort into running clean. Lots of folks came up and said how impressed they were in seeing a Saint Bernard run in Agility. I got lots of pets and kisses and made new friends. Many of our fellow Pacific NW team members did really well and got "clean run" ribbons. Now we've had our dinner and soon Mom and Dad will get all dressed up and head off to the agility banquet. It's sure great to be back together with Lina. She can't come into the building so spent the day in the car. I missed my little sister today!

Continued next page...



Kris's Travel Log to the 1st AKC Agility Invitational Continued...Page 3



AKC AGILITY INVITATIONAL



Sunday, December 3, 2006

Today was a very exciting day—one that began very early as Dad thought I would be the first dog to run. We were up and dressed and walking to the Convention Center before 6 a.m.! I'm not a morning dog. I got to snuggle in my crate while Dad went off to walk the course. I had great runs today and made Dad really happy. This afternoon on the Jumpers course, a whole bunch of Saint Bernard folks were in the stands and gave me a standing ovation. Before running that last course, Dad and I were interviewed for TV and we even heard from someone that they saw me on TV. So, I headed to Hollywood—well, we're close to the movie producing city—and I end up a star! This afternoon was nap time for me while Mom and Dad watched the final obedience championship competition on the 3rd floor of the Convention Center. Later in the afternoon, the agility finals

took place and I was happy to let all those other dogs run while I snoozed. It wasn't long before Dad came to wake me up and said we would be heading over to the area where the awards were presented. Sure enough, after all the prizes were given to the finalists, many of us were given huge medals and I now have a beautiful medallion from the Saint Bernard Club of America. I can wear it when we get really dressed up and I'll look like royalty! Neat, huh? Dad was bursting with pride with all the compliments he received about me all weekend, and especially today—even from the judges. That made up for the couple of bars I knocked down over the weekend.

After a good night of sleep and getting the car all loaded up, we'll start our trip home on Monday morning. That's when Lina and I will start enjoying all the promised Dairy Queen stops. That's what I've been waiting for ever since we left home so bring on the burgers and cones.

Monday, December 4, 2006

Here we are in Corning, California (south of Redding) for the night. It was noon before Dad got the car loaded and we began the trip home. After all the talk about stopping for burgers and cones, there doesn't seem to be any Dairy Queens along I-5 in California so we're still waiting for those treats. We're both very tired so catching up on our sleep while riding along was okay with us. We'll get into Oregon tomorrow and be back in DQ country. But we did have a little excitement today when Mom and Dad pulled off the freeway to stop at a store selling nuts and fruit. Mom went inside to buy almonds and Dad took us out to run around a little bit. We were just trotting along when out of nowhere came a rabbit which ran right in front of Lina. She was so shocked, but then she started to chase the bunny with me right behind her to help if she needed. That bunny went under a fence and got away from us so that was the end of our burst of excitement for today. Dad took our picture with the palm trees at this stop.



The lady at this Holiday Inn Express gave us each a huge cookie tonight and Lina's eyes about popped out of her head when she saw that huge cookie. We like this place!

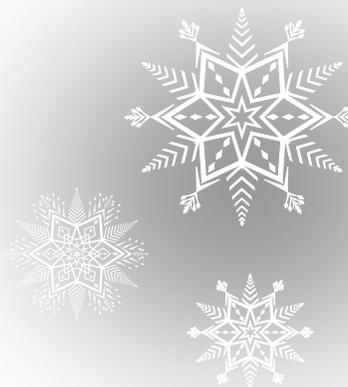
Continued...



Kris's Travel Log to the 1st AKC Agility Invitational Continued...Page 4



AKC AGILITY
INVITATIONAL



Tuesday, December 5, 2006

This turned out to be a VERY long day! We slept in and it was about 10 a.m. when we got back on I-5. Well, Mom and Dad had to stop at a Starbucks before we could do much of anything. Then we headed north about 40 miles to Redding, California, where we stopped to visit our Aunt Pat. When Mom called her in the morning, Aunt Pat insisted we come to her condo for lunch as she'd just made a nice pot of soup. It was really fun to check out her condo, but Lina and I never did get any of that soup. Soon we were back in the car and heading north again. Dad and Mom were sure relieved to see nothing but dry roads all the way. The winter wonderland scene we saw at Mt. Ashland the week before was now totally vanished. There had been no DQs along I-5 in California so we were really thrilled when Dad announced we were in Oregon and back in DQ country, except that we had to wait for over 100 miles before we saw the first DQ sign. And then the sign said it was 4 1/2 miles to the DQ! But Dad said he'd promised to stop at the first one so off we went down the country road and through a few little towns to a DQ which has been in existence a very long time—in Myrtle Springs I think it was. Anyway, they sure made good burgers and cones and Lina and I were very happy dogs.

We figured Mom would soon be looking in the AAA book for our motel that night, but onward we continued and then Dad announced we would be driving straight home. Mom and Dad stopped for dinner along the way and that's when we had our dinner and another little walk. And then we settled in for the long ride home. It was 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday when we got home and were we ever happy to realize where we were. It wasn't very long before we were all in bed (in the same bed, too) and sound asleep.

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

We got to sleep in this morning and it sure was good to wake up at home. Dad unloaded the car and then they both seemed busy at their computers because there was lots of e-mail they said. Lots of people saw Dad and me on the Animal Planet broadcast of the Working Group at the Invitational. The Animal Planet folks interviewed Dad and me and showed that clip along with my really good agility run. I'm sure glad we made Saint Bernards look so good and agile. We'll all be watching for the rebroadcast of the Working Group at the Invitational with hopes they'll show the part with me again. And then on **February 11th on Animal Planet** we'll be watching the agility competition. Dad doesn't know if they'll show any of my runs in that program. They filmed the final competition and I didn't make it to the finals.

Dad's getting ready to head out to run an errand and I'm ready to go for another ride now. But I do want each of you to know how much Dad and I appreciated all the support and kind words as you read and watched our National Agility Invitational adventures. I've already qualified for next year's Invitational, but Dad's not so sure I'll be up to it then as I'll be almost 9 years of age—not to mention how OLD he is!

I just overheard that Lina and I traveled 2500 miles from Seattle, Washington to Long Beach, California and back. WOW, that is a lot of miles under our collars and to think we just went to Cheyenne, Wyoming in September too!

It sure is good to be home and back to **MY** sofa!



2007
Archive Agility News
For the Saint Bernard



Volume 6, 7 Issues

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

JANUARY, 2007

New AKC Agility Classes & Titles

January 1, 2007 the American Kennel Club introduces new Agility Classes and Titles.

CHAPTER 9 AGILITY REGULATIONS FIFTEEN AND SEND TIME (F.A.S.T.) CLASS CHAPTER 9

Section 1. (new chapter) Purpose.

This agility titling class is meant to be an additional test of strategy skill, accuracy, speed, strategy, and timing and distance handling, to demonstrate a dog's athletic ability and willingness to work with its handler in a fast-paced atmosphere over a variety of agility obstacles. The class may be offered once per day as an additional class at a club's option. In order to offer the Open level, the Novice A & B level must be offered. In order to offer the Excellent A & B level, the Open level must be offered. The class is not part of the Master Agility Championship titling program.

The following criteria apply to the Fifteen And Send Time classes:

- Novice A & B FAST
- Open FAST
- Excellent A & B FAST

Section 2. Definition.

As indicated by the title the Fifteen And Send Time Class uses fifteen (15) point valued obstacles and/or obstacle combinations. The course will include a 'Send Bonus' or distance element that will award a bonus of twenty (20) points if completed successfully, and is identified as the 'Send Bonus'. Six of the fifteen (15) point valued obstacles must be single bar jumps (typically winged) valued at one point each. Winged jumps are assumed to have a value of one point unless otherwise denoted by the judge. Nine (9) additional obstacles on the course will be assigned unique values from 2 through 10 by the judge. Additional obstacles (typically non-winged jumps) may be placed on the course, but with no assigned value. There is a maximum of 80 possible FAST Class points awarded at all levels, which is the sum of the fifteen point valued obstacles (60 points) plus a Send Bonus value of 20 points. Teams must successfully complete the Send Bonus to achieve a qualifying score, as well as a minimum number of required points defined at each class level. To earn points, all obstacles must be completed in accordance with the obstacle performance guidelines identified in these regulations.

Course times are determined by level (Novice, Open or Excellent) and jump height.

Standard Course Times (SCTs) are required as follows. Teams will use the following Standard Course Time to accumulate points, attempt a Send Bonus and to reach a judge-defined finish obstacle:

REGULAR: NOVICE/OPEN/EXCELLENT

8" - 38 seconds,
12"/16" - 35 seconds,
20/24/26" - 32 seconds

PREFERRED: NOVICE/OPEN/EXCELLENT

4" - 41 seconds,
8"/12" - 38 seconds,
16"/20" - 35 seconds

An electronic timing horn/buzzer (preferably) or whistle will sound at SCT completion, whereby handlers will no longer have the right to earn points while on course and dogs must run to the finish obstacle to stop the clock. Electronic timing devices with horn or buzzer sounds are recommended for execution and consistent and accurate timing. Handler contact aiding the performance of the dog to the finish obstacle will result in Elimination.

Teams will be assessed one (time) fault for every full second over SCT which will be subtracted from the total points (obstacle & Send Bonus total) accumulated on course to determine the final score. Order of placements will be determined by points first and fastest (shortest) time second.

In case of a tie in both points and time, a runoff must be offered. The runoff should be held preferably on the same course or alternately on a FAST course of another level. If a different course level is used to break the tie, the scoring method of that course will be used. This means it could be possible for an excellent level tie to be broken on an open or novice level FAST course or vice versa. If either team chooses not to rerun to break the tie then they may concede the win and take the lower placement. If a team is not available for a runoff (e.g. have left the trial site) then the team that is available will receive the higher placement. Another acceptable method of breaking a tie would be to flip a coin to determine the winner if both teams agree.

A minimum of two and maximum of three unique contact obstacles will be required on course. A maximum of four contacts may be performed to earn points (i.e. one contact taken twice for differing point values). The four paw rule will be in effect for all course levels. Weave poles are a required obstacle on course: a minimum of 9-12 weave poles will be required for Excellent/Open class levels and six (6) weave poles are required on Novice courses. The balance of obstacles will include single, double and triple jumps, open and closed tunnels, panel jumps, broad jumps and tires or a combination of these obstacles. A table may be used as a finish obstacle in the Send Bonus element of the course. Four paws on the table will earn the tables given point value however, the dog does not need to assume a sit, down, or wait on the table for any prescribed length of time.

Courses may be modified from either the Standard or Jumpers with Weaves courses approved for that event, with the stipulation that the course must be modified in such a way as to be random in pattern with no discernable flow. This will encourage variation in handler course strategies. Up to two intersecting start lines may be set. A single Finish obstacle consisting of a jump or open tunnel is required somewhere on the course. Numbered flags (white background color and black number) or elevated placard signs for numbers 2 through 10 are highly recommended for ease of judging and scoring. Microphone headsets may be used by the judge and scribe as an aid in scoring the run and answering any questions that arise. However, the judge's calls must be audible to the competitor in the ring.

Obstacles that are bi-directional may be taken in either direction to earn points unless otherwise directed by the judge. The judge may require any obstacle to be taken in only one direction for points.

Bi-directional obstacles may have dual point values but may not be taken back-to-back (immediately repeated without doing another obstacle in-between) for points. Once a team has successfully completed a contact obstacle or a full set of weave poles and has earned the points, they may not repeat that obstacle. If the contact or weave poles are repeated, the team will lose their right to accumulate any more points on the course.

The team will then be sent to the finish obstacle by the sound of a judge's double (so it isn't confused with the SCT whistle) whistle. Faulted contact obstacles may be repeated for an attempt to earn points, but may not be attempted in back-to-back fashion. Weave poles may be reattempted immediately from either end if faulted, but if bidirectional must be restarted at the original entry and completed correctly from start to finish to earn points. If a judge has elected to post dual values on the weave poles, one for each entry end, a competitor must complete all poles correctly in the designated direction to earn the assigned points.

The Send Bonus portion of the course must contain two to three pointed-obstacles. Handler distance restrictions for the Send Bonus portion must be; 15-20 feet in Excellent, 10-15 feet in Open, and 5-10 feet in Novice. The total point value for all obstacles contained in the Send Bonus portion of the course must be no less than five (5) points and no greater than fifteen (15) points. In general, the Send Bonus portions should not be placed in close proximity to the start line(s). If contacts and weave poles are used in the Send Bonus portion of the Novice course, the minimum distance requirement of 5 feet must be used. Obstacle discriminations and changes of flow and/or direction are allowed, in the Open and Excellent Send Bonus sections. Judges shall call out "Bonus" if the Send Bonus is correctly completed. A dog is considered to have completed the last obstacle of the Send Bonus when all 4 feet have touched the ground. If the table is the last obstacle in the Send Bonus, it is considered complete when all 4 feet have touched the table.

A tape used for marking the Send Bonus handler restricted distance must be of a bright contrasting color and should be secured to the floor or ground in an appropriate manner. Golf tees are an appropriate method of holding the line in place when on grass or dirt. Tape may be used when on indoor surfaces but silver duct tape is not to be used for the line, as it is not visible enough to the handlers. Colors such as hot pink, bright green or yellow are recommended.

Refusal or Run-out faults will not be assessed on course except during the Send Bonus. Once the first Send Bonus obstacle is completed, any Refusals or Run-outs in the sequence will negate the Send Bonus. In this case, point values may still be earned for corrected refusals or for Send Bonus obstacles taken out of sequence, but will result in a non-qualifying score due to not completing the Send Bonus challenge properly.

Section 3. Performance Requirements for All Classes

- Obstacles are bi-directional for point values except for the closed tunnel, seesaw, broad jump and triple jump or unless specified differently by the judge.
- A maximum of six jumps may be taken in any order for one (1) point each, however, the same jump may not be taken back-to-back. Any additional jumps taken will not be scored or penalized.
- Judges may choose one bi-directional obstacle and assign a unique point value for each approach.

- If an obstacle is repeated or faulted competitors may continue to accumulate points elsewhere on the course. They may also earn points for correctly performing a previously faulted obstacle. The exception to this rule is a displaced bar, as these will not be reset.
- Points will not be awarded for contact obstacles taken back-to-back.
- Once all points available have been accumulated on contacts and weaves they may not be taken again. Teams that repeat these obstacles after all their available points are awarded will be whistled to the finish line but will maintain the accumulated points.
- Refusals or run-outs will not be faulted anywhere on the course other than during the Send Bonus, and will **ONLY** negate the opportunity to earn the 20 points for the Send Bonus.
- Time penalties at all levels are one (1) point for each full second over SCT.
- Teams running to the finish obstacle after the whistle/horn/buzzer sounds cannot be faulted for taking additional obstacles on the way, however, they can be eliminated for handler contact that aids the dog's performance or by purposely touching the dog prior to stopping the time.
- Teams must successfully complete the Send Bonus portion behind the judge-defined handler restriction line. Stepping on any part of the line before the dog has completed the last obstacle in the sequence will negate earning the Send Bonus points.

Section 4. Novice A & B FAST Class

The focus of the FAST class at the Novice level will be to introduce the skill, timing and minor distance work involved in a game of strategy and point accumulation.

Performance Standards:

- Minimum score to Qualify is 50 Points which must include 20 points from the Send Bonus.
- Course requires two Send Bonus point valued obstacles taken at a handler restricted distance between 5' and 10'. Distance may vary within this range with a change in distance allowed between the (4/8/12/16") small dogs' heights and the (20/24/26") large dogs' heights only.
- Send Bonus obstacles may include six (6) weave poles or any contact obstacle if these are set at a handler restricted distance of no more than five (5) feet.
- Equipment allowed on course is equivalent to Novice Standard and Novice JWW allowed equipment (with a one contact minimum and one set of six (6) weave poles required).

Section 5. Open FAST Class

The focus of the FAST class at the Open level will be to test skill, timing and intermediate distance work involved in a game of strategy and point accumulation.

Performance Standards:

- Minimum score to Qualify is 55 Points which must include 20 points from the Send Bonus.
- Course requires two or three Send Bonus point valued obstacles taken at a handler restricted distance between 10' and 15'. Distance may vary within this range with a change in distance allowed between the (4/8/12/16") small dogs' heights and the (20/24/26") large dogs' heights only.
- There are no Send Bonus obstacle restrictions. Discriminations and changes of direction are allowed in the Send Bonus sequence.
- Equipment allowed on course is equivalent to Open Standard and Open JWW allowed equipment (with a one contact minimum and 9-12 weave poles required).

Section 6. Excellent A & B FAST Class

The focus of the FAST class at the Excellent level will be to test skill, timing and distance work at the highest level involved in a game of strategy and point accumulation.

Excellent A will be for dogs who have not earned the XF (Excellent FAST) Title.

Performance Standards:

- Minimum score to Qualify is 60 Points which must include 20 points from the Send Bonus.
- Course requires three Send Bonus point valued obstacles taken at a handler restricted distance between 15' and 20'. Distance may vary within this range with a change in distance allowed between the (4/8/12/16") small dogs' heights and the (20/24/26") large dogs' heights only.
- There are no Send Bonus obstacle restrictions. Discriminations and changes of direction are allowed in the Send Bonus sequence.
- Equipment allowed on course is equivalent to Excellent Standard and Excellent JWW allowed equipment (with a one contact minimum and 9-12 weave poles required).

Section 7. Titles and Requirements

Novice Fast Title = NF. Requires three Novice A or B qualifying scores of 50 points or greater under at least two different judges.

Open Fast Title = OF. Requires the NF title plus three Open FAST Class qualifying scores of 55 points or greater under at least two different judges.

Excellent Fast Title = XF. Requires the OF title plus three Excellent A FAST Class qualifying scores of 60 points or greater under at least two different judges.

Master Excellent Fast Title = MXF. Requires the XF title plus ten Excellent B FAST Class qualifying scores of 60 points or greater.

FAST Century 1 Title = FTC1. Requires the MXF title plus one hundred Excellent B FAST Class qualifying scores of 60 points or greater. The FTC title initials will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the quantity of times the dog has met the requirements of the FTC title as defined above, e.g.: 200 Excellent B FAST Class qualifying scores of 60 points or greater = FTC2.

All FAST Class titles are suffix titles.

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

MARCH, 2007

Agility Records Increased in 2006

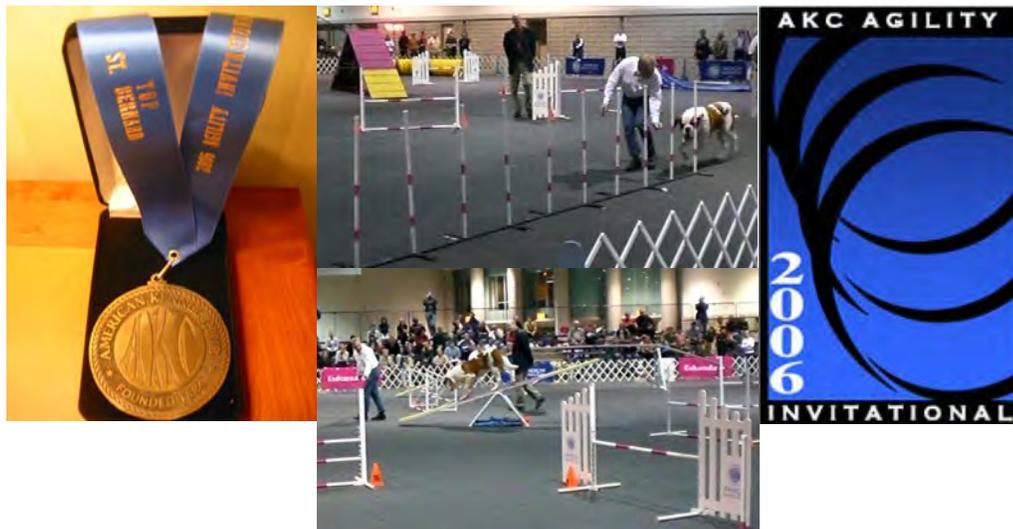
2006 In Review

Kris (CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder VCD2, UDX, RAE, MXP4, MJP3, DD, WPS) finished out the 2006 year with a great run in the Excellent Jumpers With Weaves class on December 30th. This qualifying run rounded out his qualifying scores totals in the Open/Excellent Advanced classes of Agility to NINETY—and this run was just after his eight birthday. Had he not been acting like a puppy and running his “own” courses in the Standard rings, the number could have be a tad higher. Nevertheless, it is good to see him have a good time and keep in shape while doing it. Kris's Saint Bernard agility records are as follows:

- 1) Only Master titled Saint Bernard
- 2) 90 Advanced qualifying runs in Open/Excellent Agility
- 3) 21 Double Qualifies in Standard and Jumpers With Weaves (15 in Excellent alone)
- 4) Most combined qualifying scores in Agility (90); Obedience (51) and Rally (32)

2006 was a good year for Kris topped off by a trip to the First AKC Agility Invitational in Long Beach, California. It was a proud moment for us to represent the Saint Bernard which ended up on national television.

The Top Agility Dog for 2006 is CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder VCD2, UDX, RAE, MXP4, MJP3, DD, WPS owned by John & Suzanne Cox of Washington. To view all the past Agility winners log on to the National Archives web site and click on the SBCA column. The link to the past winners is at the bottom of the page.
<http://clubs.akc.org/saints/Archives/Welcome.htm>



Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

APRIL, 2007

Kris Earns a New Title 48 days After Its Inception! Another FIRST for Kris + Title #31

By John Cox

On January 1, 2007, the American Kennel Club introduced a new class for Agility. The class is called Fifteen And Send Time (F.A.S.T.). The Agility Regulations defines the class as follows:

“Purpose. This agility titling class is meant to be an additional test of strategy skill, accuracy, speed, strategy, and timing and distance handling, to demonstrate a dog’s athletic ability and willingness to work with its handler in a fast-paced atmosphere over a variety of agility obstacles.”

“Definition. As indicated by the title the Fifteen and Send Time Class uses fifteen (15) point valued obstacles and/or obstacle combinations. The course will include a ‘Send Bonus’ or distance element that will award a bonus of twenty (20) points if completed successfully, and is identified as the ‘Send Bonus’. Six of the fifteen (15) point valued obstacles must be single bar jumps (typically winged) valued at one point each. Winged jumps are assumed to have a value of one point unless otherwise denoted by the judge. Nine (9) additional obstacles on the course will be assigned unique values from 2 through 10 by the judge.”

On February 17, 2007 (just forty-eight days after this new title was introduced), Kris earned his third NFP leg to become the **first** Saint Bernard to earn the new AKC title Novice Fast Preferred (NFP). Not bad for an eight year old who on this date adds title number **thirty-one (31)** to his name!

CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder CD, CDX, UD, UDX, RN, RA, RE, RAE, TD, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP, MXP1, MXP2, MXP3, MXP4, MJP1, MJP2, MJP3, NFP, VCD1, VCD2, DD, WP, WPX, WPS



Kris, 5 months earlier, winning an Award of Merit at the Saint Bernard Club of America's National Specialty in Wyoming under Mr. Stanley Zielinski.

Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

MAY, 2007

Master Jumpers Preferred FOUR (MJP4) Another FIRST for the Saint Bernard & Kris' Title #32

By John Cox

On February 25, 2007, Kris ran a beautiful Excellent Jumpers With Weaves course which completed the requirements for his **Master Agility Jumpers With Weaves Preferred 4 (MJP4)** title. The MJP4 title requires **Forty legs!** The title is aimed to reward a team that is consistent in qualifying at the most advanced level of agility.

The day before, Kris also was the first Saint Bernard to earn a qualifying score in Open F.A.S.T.

Kris Masters agility by adding his **eighth** Master title to his name.

CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder CD, CDX, UD, UDX, RN, RA, RE, RAE, TD, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP, MXP1, MXP2, MXP3, MXP4, MJP1, MJP2, MJP3, MJP4, NFP, VCD1, VCD2, DD, WP, WPX, WPS



Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5

JUNE, 2007

Open F.A.S.T. Preferred (OFP) Another FIRST for the Saint Bernard & Kris' Title #33

By John Cox

On **March 24, 2007**, Kris completed the **Open F.A.S.T. Preferred** title with eight seconds to spare of the 35 seconds of course time!

Sixteen (16) of Kris' 33 titles are in the sport of agility. The unique thing about Kris' 16 agility titles is they are all in one venue—the AKC. No duplicate titles in another registry. **Each title is a step-up in difficulty from the last.** Plus, many are 10-legged titles which is a far cry from the 3-legged titles we are so use to! Of the 16 agility titles, **8 are ten-legged titles!**

Celebrations were held at the local Dairy Queen and Kris devoured his favorite snacks, a cheeseburger and cone!

CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder CD, CDX, UD, UDX, RN, RA, RE, RAE, TD, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP, MXP1, MXP2, MXP3, MXP4, MJP1, MJP2, MJP3, MJP4, NFP, OFP, VCD1, VCD2, DD, WP, WPX, WPS



Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 6

JULY, 2007

MASTER Excellent Preferred FIVE (MXP5) Another FIRST for the Saint Bernard & Kris' Title #34

By John Cox

POP the bottle corks and let the champagne flow as Kris **MASTERS** Agility for the **NINTH** time, this time Mastering the Standard course at the Excellent level, once again!

On **May 26, 2007**, Kris completed a great run and was three seconds under course time completing a new **50-legged title—MXP5**. Not an easy task as the big guy tries to squeeze his 31", 150# frame in 24" tunnels that are 20' feet long while the clock is ticking away. Many times there are two to three tunnels on a course making it even harder to beat the clock.

Celebrations were held at the local Dairy Queen and Kris devoured his favorite snacks, a cheeseburger and cone!

CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 't Hof Ten Eynder CD, CDX, UD, UDX, RN, RA, RE, RAE, TD, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP, MXP1, MXP2, MXP3, MXP4, **MXP5**, MJP1, MJP2, MJP3, MJP4, NFP, OFF, VCD1, VCD2, DD, WP, WPX, WPS

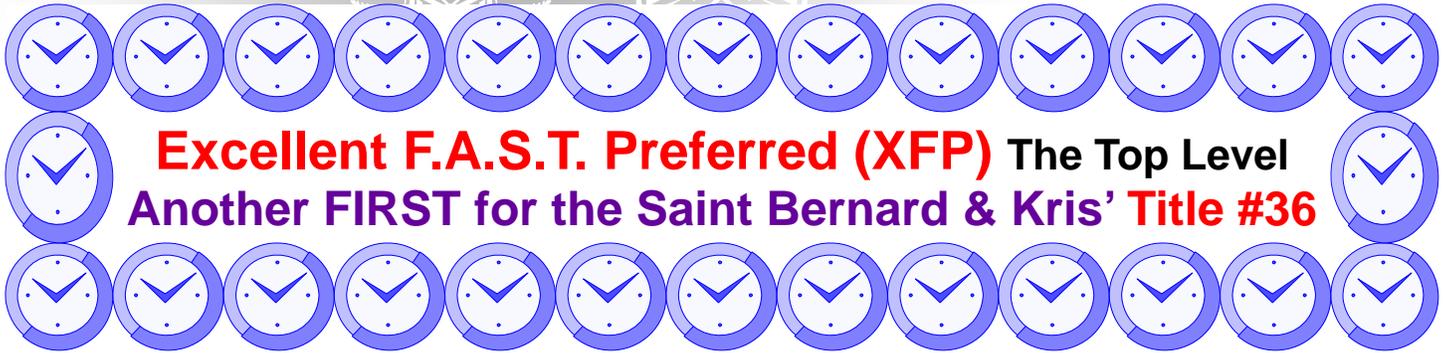


EBTC Agility Trials, 5/26/07
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Saint Bernard Agility News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7

OCTOBER, 2007



Excellent F.A.S.T. Preferred (XFP) The Top Level Another FIRST for the Saint Bernard & Kris' Title #36

By John Cox



I have uploaded another history-making video run of Saint Bernard Kris in agility. This run is on YouTube and is from the AKC Agility *EXCELLENT* F.A.S.T. class—the TOP level of competition in the F.A.S.T. classes. Here is the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAY57fhpshk>

A little information about this difficult class of Agility...

In the AKC Agility **Fifteen And Send Time** (F.A.S.T.) classes the handler makes up their own course from the **fifteen** obstacles in the ring. Each obstacle has a point value. At the Excellent level you must obtain at least 60 points to qualify. Plus, there is a **send zone** (within an area marked with tape on the ground) into which the handler is not to cross. The dog is sent by direction from the handler, who is 15-20 feet away from the obstacles in the send zone. The dog is to do the obstacles in the correct order. The handler's course, plus the send zone, must be completed within a 35-second **time** frame.

In this video and course the first obstacle in the send zone is the tunnel (behind the A-frame and a little out of view in this video). I am 20 feet back from the entrance to the tunnel and direct Kris to head in on his own to the *correct* tunnel entrance. Kris goes to the tunnel (correct entrance, too) and then out of the tunnel to a jump, then turns and comes back over the other jump. This sequence is called a serpentine as the jumps and tunnel are in a row and the dog weaves from one to the next. This is a difficult task for a Saint as the angles are tight and, unless they go deep to make the jump, the bars can get knocked off which equals a non-qualifying run.

Kris was pumped with visions of cheese burgers in his head if he did a good job on this course. Dogs just LOVE this sport as it is a natural for dogs that like to run and jump. Kris is three months away from his *ninth* birthday in this video and you can see how this sport has maintained his superb physical condition and attitude.

Some of the F.A.S.T. courses work well and others do not, depending on your dog or even the breed of dog! We have had many courses where we did not fare well. The send zone is the most difficult part (getting the dog to work *correctly* away from you), plus getting around the ring to the obstacles needed to obtain 60 points in 35 seconds. Not an easy task for our large breed.

Keep in mind, when tunnels are on a course they are not speed obstacles for a Saint Bernard as a 30-inch dog going through a 20-foot tunnel that is only 24-inches in diameter takes a bit of time! The allotted 35 seconds goes REALLY fast!

Kris now is retired from agility amassing **18 agility titles** and all in one venue--the AKC (**an all-time record for our breed**). Whew, what a fun ride it was and we are so proud and fortunate to have shown others what OUR breed can do. Our proudest moment was Kris being featured on national television during the AKC Agility Invitational! The folks in this sport have been so very supportive as I steered my oil tanker of a dog through the sometimes tight courses!

2008
Archive Agility News
For the Saint Bernard



Volume 7, 1 Issue

Saint Bernard

Agility News

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

DECEMBER, 2008

AKC's Top Agility Saint Bernard For 2007

In the Fall of this year, I received a letter from the AKC stating Kris was the Top Saint Bernard in agility for 2007. He is the *only* Saint Bernard to ever Double Q (qualifying in Excellent Standard & Excellent Jumpers With Weaves) and this accomplishment was to be honored at the 2008 AKC Invitational Agility Banquet on December 13th. What a presentation it was! The AKC had a Power Point presentation on a huge screen and each breed's Top Dog was projected on the screen as the award was presented. I was so proud for our breed as the head of the AKC Agility Department read off Kris's titles. Our breed was the most-titled breed of all the honorees!

