

2002
Archive Performance News
For the Saint Bernard



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



Saint Bernard

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2002

Performance News

The American Kennel Club's Versatile Companion Dog Title

VCD Title Requirements

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The **VCD3** requires a UD, AX, AXJ or AXP, AJP and TDX.

For the **VCD4**, a UDX, MX, MXJ or MXP, MJP, and VST must be achieved.

The very prestigious **Versatile Companion Champion title (VCCH)** will be placed before the dogs name and will proclaim the dog has accomplished the Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH), the Master Agility Champion (MACH) and the Champion Tracker (CT).

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.

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To date there are no Saint Bernards with a VCD title. However, I know of two that are very close so we should have a couple of VCD Saint Bernards very soon! Stay tuned.

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3. A Draft Dog title
4. A WPX weight pull title

The **first** WDCH was achieved just four months after the title was first introduced.

The **last** WDCH was in 2001.

Who will be next? Stay tuned!

In 1988 at the Centennial Celebration in Colorado, the Saint Bernard Club of America's working dog trials were introduced. Those trials, plus future trials, showcase the Saint Bernard as a true working breed. The new titles that were introduced in 1988 were the Draft Dog (DD) and Weight Pull titles (WP, WPX, WPS). The new titles reflect a part of the Saint Bernard's history and honor the dog that can achieve them. Of course, AKC obedience titles are also included as obedience is the cornerstone to any performance title. Each year there is always a working event at the SBC of America's National Specialty be it Obedience, Draft, Weight Pulls or all three!

Since 1988 when the Saint Bernard Club of America's Working Dog Championship was first introduced, we have **8 WDCH** Saint Bernards to date. They are:

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Saint Bernard

Volume 1, Issue 2

November 2002

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<<<<NEWS FLASH>>>>

We have the **FIRST NEW VCD1**
Saint Bernard &
VCD2 Saint Bernard !!!!!!!!!!!
More when titles published!



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In 2002 we have our 9th WDCH.

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<<<<NEWS FLASH>>>>

We have the FIRST NEW VCD1 Saint Bernard & VCD2 Saint Bernard !!!!!!!!!!! Full Story Next Month with photos!



2003
Archive Performance News
For the Saint Bernard



Volume 2, 11 Issues

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



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2. A Tracking Dog (TD) title
3. A Draft Dog (DD) title
4. A Weight Pull Excellent (WPX) weight pull title

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Performance News

Good words from the AKC web page at www.akc.org

Train Your Dog

Training your dog is an absolute necessity. Just like children, dogs come into the world filled with love and curiosity, but not manners. They need to be taught how to get along in the family. That includes eliminating outside of the house, behaving properly in the house, and being polite to people and other animals. This is a demanding, yet enjoyable job that begins the moment the dog enters your house and your life.

Training makes dogs happy. By nature, dogs prefer a society with rules, where everybody knows his place. When you teach dogs the rules of your family, they feel secure knowing exactly what they are and aren't allowed to do. Dogs will test you from time to time, to see if anything has changed. That's one reason it's so important to keep the same rules and the same schedules every day.

You Are the Trainer

You set the stage for the successful training of your dog. Your most important tool is “positive reinforcement”—getting the dog to do what you want with praise and reward. The other two critical tools are patience and firmness (never harshness). You must be confident while training, and you must be consistent. Your goal is to get the dog to respond to your request, delivered once, in a cheerful, business-like voice. It's up to you to set a positive, happy tone for training.

What to Expect from Your Dog

The amount of patience and firmness you will need often depends on the breed of dog. Investigate the breed you want before you get him. Breeders, veterinarians, trainers and owners can tell you what it's like to train different breeds. Some breeds learn quickly; others require more time. Some breeds need a strong hand; others require only gentle correcting.

With all breeds, being too hard on a dog will only teach him to fear you and others. He can become overly fearful or overly aggressive. On the other hand, if you're not confident in your authority, the dog may try to take over. Tell your dog what to do, but respect him for who he is. Enroll in an obedience class for advice and support in the training process.

Praise and Correction

Praise when right. Correct when wrong. It's as simple as that. A correction is the word “no,” delivered in a firm voice. Always follow a correction with praise as soon as the mistake has been cleared up.

Make a habit of pointing out your dog's good behavior to him—he wants to please you, so he'll remember to do it again. When he does something wrong, correct him, show him the right thing to do, then praise him. For example: Puppies must chew, but when they chew on your shoe or hand, correct them; then give them a chew toy and praise.



Performance News

2002 A Year in Review for the Performance Titles

Saint Bernard Club of America Awards the Top Performance Dogs for 2002

It all started back in 1966 when the Saint Bernard Club of America presented an award to the Top Obedience Saint Bernard in the Nation, owned by a SBCA member. Over the years, the awards have changed and new ones have been added to reflect the changes in the performance sports of obedience, tracking and agility. **Check out [all the past winners and criteria met in the SBCA History room \(bottom link\)](#).** Congratulations to all and good luck in 2003.



Top Obedience Saint Bernard for 2002
 &
Top Performance Saint Bernard for 2002

**CH/WDCH XmaxKris Van 'T Hof Ten
 Eynder UDT VCD2 DD**

The Top Saint Bernards for 2002 in the AKC Sports of Performance



Top Agility Saint Bernard for 2002

Sir Hennessy Cognac OA OAJ OAP OJP WPS



Performance News



The Work of the Homeland Defense Teams May Lead to Possible New AKC Titles



Dear Dog Sport Enthusiast:



The events of September 11, 2001 have changed everyone's perspectives and focus on the use of properly trained and handled canines in the United States. Whether it be protecting vital facilities, detecting dangerous substances, or finding and rescuing survivors and recovering the victims of terrorist attacks, the role of the intensely trained human/canine team in contributing to Homeland Defense has never been more apparent. That is why the AKC is in the process of developing a Working Dog Sport in which ALL AKC breeds may participate, as directed by the AKC Board of Directors. This would unify components of other AKC activities like Obedience, Tracking, and Agility into exercises that would enable dogs to demonstrate characteristics and skills that could, with additional training, make them potentially useful in Homeland Defense.



"...the role of the intensely trained human/canine team in contributing to Homeland Defense has never been more apparent."



We have the proposed regulations for four levels, Junior, Senior, Open and Master, prepared. These levels consist of various exercises found in Agility, Obedience and Tracking as well as protection work in the Master level. We want to do a "walk-through" or "test run" of the requirements and would like to invite you to bring your dog and help us see if the requirements that we have are what we need for this new and exciting proposed sport. This new



proposed sport, when approved, will offer the suffix titles of JWD, SWD, OWD and MWD.



This new proposed sport will be for any and all AKC breeds so please bring your dog(s) and join us in this new venture and the fun. The "walk-through" will begin on March 30th at 8:30 A.M. at the Autumn Winds Agility Center located at 3701 Bosco Rd, off Rte 1 South from the Outer Beltline, New Hill, NC 27562. For further information please contact me at (919)-816-3900.



Sincerely,



William M. Speck
Assistant Vice President -AKC Performance Events



Performance News

AKC Declares September 17th AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day



From the AKC web page... Wednesday, April 23, 2003...
AKC Teams with Dog Clubs to Host Events Across the Country---



These local events may include such activities as obedience demonstrations, microchip clinics, breed rescue information, therapy dog/service dog demonstrations and presentations about safety around dogs for kids.

The American Kennel Club is pleased to announce that the AKC Board of Directors has designated September 17th (the day AKC was founded in 1884) as "AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day." The goal of the event, being held for the first time on Wednesday, September 17, 2003, is to educate the dog-loving public about the importance of responsible dog ownership.

All AKC-affiliated dog clubs are invited to participate by holding public events in their communities the weekend following AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day (September 20th & 21st). These local events may include such activities as obedience demonstrations, microchip clinics, breed rescue information, therapy dog/service dog demonstrations and presentations about safety around dogs for kids.

On September 17th the AKC will promote AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day in New York City and to media nationwide in order to drum up public interest in the events being held that weekend around the country. AKC's effort will highlight the many AKC programs and services that can help educate first-time dog owners and help current pet owners enhance their relationships with their dogs. Dog lovers will be able to visit AKC's web site to find events going on in their area.

"Responsible Dog Ownership Day serves as a reminder to the dog-loving public that while dogs are a wonderful addition to any family, they are also a big responsibility," said Dave Frei, AKC's Director of Media Relations. "Responsible dog ownership begins the moment you decide to share your life with a dog - from choosing the right breed for your lifestyle and providing basic care to ensuring your new family member receives the necessary training and exercise all dogs need to live a happy, healthy life."

Dog clubs **interested** in taking part should **contact** [Gina DiNardo Lash](mailto:GinaDiNardoLash@akc.org) at 212-696-8350/





Performance News

Let us not Forget, a Saint Bernard is a **WORKING** Breed of Dog!!

By Paul Bodeving,

Way too few of the dogs shown the weekend of the California Specialties Cluster (April 2003) could perform in the obedience or the weight pull ring. They have become show dogs only and are no longer working dogs, and that is very sad. We are beginning to almost see two types of St. Bernard - the show dog and the working dog. They should be the same but no longer are for a number of dogs.

We are in the process of putting WAY TOO MUCH emphasis on head and bone and forgetting that our breed is a **working** breed. I saw non-movement galore last weekend and structure that was as wrong as it could be as far as the standard goes. The dogs, however, did have head and bone and were placed, whether they were able to walk around the ring or not. Some dogs showed no movement and were drug across the floor and were still placed. Some dogs were sickle-hocked and placed. Some dogs were toed-in in the rear and barrel-rear as well and placed. Some dogs were so out at the elbows they could not put the legs forward; they still placed. Some dogs were crabbing like a sea crab trying to get away from the catcher and still placed.

Our breed, in my opinion, based on the puppies I saw coming up, stands a good chance to be in a world of hurt in the near future (heck we may already be there). Our standard calls for a strong and powerful dog. I did not see that in a number of dogs last weekend and that bothers me.

I think as breeders, we have to remember that our dogs do not walk on their heads. They use the head for thinking and we need to be concerned with the head for that reason. But the legs and body and neck support the gorgeous heads we want and need to be considered as well when we do a breeding. Without functionality, our dogs are becoming caricatures of what they are supposed to be.

I did see some wonderful dogs that were moving and working and won, which is GOOD, and which restored my faith in our breed. Most of those dogs were also entered in obedience and or weight pull and proved their functionality as well. Those are the types we should try to reproduce.

“Most of those dogs were also entered in obedience and or weight pull and proved their functionality as well. Those are the types we should try to reproduce.”

But it was clear that there were two very distinct types and that generally the bone/head combination was placed with more emphasis than the slightly less boned dogs with good movement. We as breeder/owner/exhibitors have to be more honest and critical of our lines.

Paul—who still has not found where in the standard it requires the excess bone a lot of us seem to like.



Performance News

The *First* "Lady" VCD1 Saint Bernard May 17, 2003



By John Cox

On **May 17, 2003**, Echo's Utmost VCD1 had a clean run in the Novice Jumpers Agility class, thus completing her requirements for the AKC's **Versatile Companion Dog** title. To achieve this new (2001) AKC title, a dog must have titles in *three* of the AKC performance venues of obedience, agility and tracking. Miranda already had her TD, CD and NA titles.

She is *only* the second Saint Bernard to earn the new VCD1 title, but she is the *FIRST* lady to do so!

Pictured here is Miranda running the next day in the Open Standard agility course. She also qualified in this run earning the second leg towards her OA (Open Agility) title.

Miranda shares her home with Lovey Olbrich and two other Saint Bernard "sisters." Lovey is pictured escorting Miranda around the Open course following the correct route and showing Miranda what obstacle is next in the sequence.

The Pause Table (photo to the right) is a control exercise. The dog, after running, has to get on the table and STAY (in a sit or down position, judge decides) for 5 seconds before continuing on.

Lovey and Miranda have talked things over and plan to finish the Open Agility titles this year and then go back into the obedience ring for a CDX title.

We wish them the best.





Performance News

Summer Safety Tips to bone-up on... via the AKC Web Site

Hot weather can make us all uncomfortable, and it poses special risks for your dog. Keep the following safety concerns in mind as the temperature rises, and follow our tips to keep your dog cool.

Heat Hazards

If your dog is outside on a hot day, make sure he has a shady spot to rest in. Doghouses are not good shelter during the summer as they can trap heat. You may want to fill a child's wading pool with fresh water for your dog to cool off in.

Never leave your dog in a closed vehicle on a hot day. The temperature inside a car can rise to over 100 degrees in a matter of minutes.

Always provide plenty of cool, fresh water.

Avoid strenuous exercise on extremely hot days. Take walks in the early mornings or evenings, when the sun's heat is less intense.

Try to avoid prolonged exposure to hot asphalt or sand, which can burn your dog's paws.

Dogs that are brachycephalic (short-faced), such as Bulldogs, Boxers, Japanese Chins, and Pekingese, have an especially hard time in the heat because they do not pant as efficiently as longer-faced dogs. Keep your brachycephalic dog inside with air-conditioning.

General Health

Make sure your dog's vaccinations are up to date, especially since dogs tend to stay outdoors longer and come into contact with other animals more during the summer months.

Keep dogs off of lawns that have been chemically treated or fertilized for 24 hours (or according to package instructions), and away from potentially toxic plants and flowers.

Keep your dog well-brushed and clean. Fleas and ticks, and the mosquitos which carry heartworm disease, are more prevalent in warmer months. Ask your veterinarian for an effective preventive to keep these parasites off your dog.

Beach Tips

Make sure your dog has a shady spot to rest in and plenty of fresh water.

Dogs, especially those with short hair, white fur, and pink skin, can sunburn. Limit your dog's exposure during the day and apply sunblock to his ears and nose 30 minutes before going outside.

Check with a lifeguard for daily water conditions. Dogs are easy targets for sea lice and jellyfish.

Running on the sand is strenuous exercise. A dog that is out of shape can easily pull a tendon or ligament, so keep a check on your dog's activity.

Do not let your dog drink seawater; the salt will make him sick.

Salt and other minerals in ocean water can damage your dog's coat, so rinse him off at the end of the day.

Not all beaches permit dogs; check local ordinances before heading out.

Water Safety

Most dogs enjoy swimming, but some cannot swim, and others may hate the water. Be conscious of your dog's preferences and skills before trying to make him swim.

If you're swimming for the first time with your dog, start in shallow water and coax him in by calling his name.

Encourage him with toys or treats. Or, let him follow another experienced dog he is friendly with.

Never throw your dog into the water.

If your dog begins to paddle with his front legs, lift his hind legs and help him float. He should quickly catch on and keep his back end up.

Don't let your dog overdo it; swimming is very hard work and he may tire quickly.

If swimming at the ocean, be careful of strong tides.

If you have your own pool, make sure your dog knows where the stairs or ladder are located. Be sure that pool covers are firmly in place; dogs have been known to slip in under openings in the covers and drown.

Never leave your dog unattended in water.

Travel

By Air - Many airlines will not ship animals during summer months due to dangers caused by hot weather. Some will only allow dogs to fly in the early morning or in the evening. Check with your airlines for specific rules.

If you do ship a dog, put icepacks or an ice blanket in the dog's crate. (Two-liter soft drink bottles filled with water and frozen work well.) Provide a container of fresh water, as well as a container of frozen water that will thaw over the course of the trip.

By Car - Keep your dog cool in the car by putting icepacks in his crate. Make sure the crate is well ventilated.

Put a sunshade on your car windows.

Bring along fresh water and a bowl, and a tarp or tent so you can set up a shady spot when you stop. Keep a spray bottle filled with water to spritz on your dog to cool him down.

By RV - A dog's safety should not depend on the air conditioning and generator systems in an RV or motor home. These devices can malfunction, with tragic results.

If you leave your dog in an RV with the generator running, check it often or have a neighbor monitor it. Some manufacturers have devices that will notify you if the generator should malfunction.

Never leave an RV or motor home completely shut up, even if the generator and AC are running. Crack a window or door or run the exhaust fan.

Never, ever leave a dog unattended in a vehicle in the summer months. Heatstroke and death can occur within minutes in warm temperatures.

Heatstroke

Heatstroke can be the serious and often fatal result of a dog's prolonged exposure to excessive heat. Below are the signs of heatstroke and the actions you should take if your dog is overcome.

Early Stages:

- Heavy panting.
- Rapid breathing.
- Excessive drooling.
- Bright red gums and tongue.
- Standing 4-square, posting or spreading out in an attempt to maintain balance.

Advanced Stages:

- White or blue gums.
- Lethargy, unwillingness to move.
- Uncontrollable urination or defecation.
- Labored, noisy breathing.
- Shock.

If your dog begins to exhibit signs of heatstroke, you should immediately try to cool the dog down:

- Apply rubbing alcohol to the dog's paw pads.
- Apply ice packs to the groin area.
- Hose down with water.
- Allow the dog to lick ice chips or drink a small amount of water.
- Offer Pedialyte to restore electrolytes.

Check your dog's temperature regularly during this process. Once the dog's temperature has stabilized at between 100 to 102 degrees, you can stop the cool-down process.

If you cannot get the dog cooled down and you begin to see signs of advanced heatstroke, take the dog to the veterinarian immediately.



Performance News

The proposed regulations for the **Working Dog Sport** can be found on the AKC web site at http://www.akc.org/pdfs/Working_Dog_Sport_51303.pdf. They are quite extensive.

I was also at the Delegate meeting where this proposal was presented and felt that the majority of Delegates are opposed to the entire concept. Apparently the push for it comes from the GSDCA who, I have been told, can not participate in International Organizations unless their own competitions contain some aspects of protection work. I doubt that a single letter will have much effect at this time since it became quite clear to the Board that the Delegate body was strongly opposed. Keep an eye on the AKC web site for the minutes of the Board Meeting to be held on this coming Monday and Tuesday.

Only the Masters level of WDS will contain bite work in addition to higher levels of Obedience, Tracking and Agility. The first 3 levels, which do not have any aspects of protection, can be held in conjunction with other AKC events but the Masters level can only be held at National Specialties of Parent Clubs of the selected breeds. At this time the proposal restricts the Masters level to only 2 breeds: GSDs and Dobermans. There has been a great deal of discussion on the topic on the Delegate email list.

Jerry Glazman
Winsted, CT



Performance News

Source: Kathy Lang, President of Family Dog Training Center

Chewing and Barking and Digging! Oh My!

Unresolved behavior problems are a common reason given by families relinquishing their dogs to rescue organizations. The digging terrier is unwelcome in the owner's prized rose garden. The herding Border Collie won't stop chasing the children. The 200 pound Great Dane is knocking grandma to the floor. The retriever puppy is eating rocks, swallowing socks and stealing shoes.

Most behavior problems are easily corrected, once the owner understands the reasons behind the dog's behavior.

~ **Dogs are like children** when it comes to the need for attention. They would rather be praised than punished. And they'd rather be punished than ignored. Owners should try to catch the dog in the act of doing something RIGHT, like chewing on his bone instead of a shoe, and praise him for the GOOD behavior.

~ **Dogs misbehave more often when they are bored**, either physically or mentally. Dogs need lots of exercise every day, regardless of the weather. Exercise, for many dogs, means more than just going for a casual stroll or walk around the block. At the end of the exercise session, the dog should be TIRED! A vigorous game of fetch, a swim or accompanying the family jogger several times a week may be needed for higher energy dogs.

~ **Mental boredom can trigger behavior problems**, particularly when the family's schedule changes abruptly. The days following a school vacation can be particularly challenging, especially if the dog has become accustomed to constant company, activity and rides in the car.

~ **Dogs love to learn new things.** They are instinctively intelligent, creative problem solvers. Owners should try to spend a few minutes every day challenging their dog's mind. Play hide and seek. Teach tricks. Work on obedience.

~ **Think PREVENTION rather than correction.** It would be unthinkable to leave an infant alone in a room for even a few minutes. Young puppies need supervision at all times to prevent accidents in the house and other behavior problems. Crate or kennel training is recommended for those times when owner attention is divided.

~ **Think REDIRECTION before correction.** Families should anticipate when misbehavior is likely to occur. If they catch the dog in the act of misbehaving, they can immediately REDIRECT the negative behavior to a positive alternative. A dog found chewing on slippers can be taken to his toy box and shown alternatives, such as chew bones and other safe toys.

~ **CORRECTIONS, when warranted**, must be consistently applied. The most effective corrections contain an element of surprise. Owners should be proactive, anticipating when misbehavior will occur and then be prepared to correct it. Quite often, simple corrections, such as a blast of water from a spray bottle or garden hose, or the shake of a rattle can (empty soda pop can with a few pennies inside) are effective when used consistently.

~ **BOOBY TRAPS are also effective** way of convincing dogs to stop certain behaviors. For example, lots of black pepper sprinkled in a shoe, or favorite digging hole, may trigger a long-remembered sneezing session that stops further shoe stealing or hole digging.

Sometimes behavior problems are more difficult to resolve and require the assistance of a professional dog trainer and/or veterinarian working as a team. Separation anxiety and aggression are more serious problems that need professional intervention and guidance.

Family Dog Training Center offers monthly free behavior problem solving workshops, and addresses common behavior problems in all their obedience training classes. Check their website or call their office for more information: www.familydogonline.com or (425) 291-9663.

About the source: Kathy Lang is widely recognized as one of the top obedience trainers in the country. She has been training dogs and teaching people since 1977. Kathy and her staff can be reached at **(425) 291-9663** or through their website: www.familydogonline.com.

Performance News

Working Dog Championship Criteria Update

In 1988, the Working Dog Champion title (WDCH) was introduced by the Saint Bernard Club of America (SBCA). A Saint Bernard had to meet three requirements out of a possible four options to earn the honor and title of a Working Dog Champion. In 1988 the options were as follows:

1. Earn a CDX (two obedience titles)
2. Earn a TD (tracking title)
3. Earn a WP (weight pull title)
4. Earn a DD (draft dog title)

These options were later tweaked and option #3 was changed to a WPX (two weight pull titles). For many years the WDCH requirements were as follows:

1. Earn a CDX (two obedience titles)
2. Earn a TD (tracking title)
3. Earn a WPX (two weight pull titles)
4. Earn a DD (draft dog title)

In 1994, the American Kennel Club introduced the sport of Agility. For years there were few if any Saint Bernards competing in this new sport. Times have changed and now we have a growing number of Saint Bernards competing at every level of Agility. Therefore, the SBCA Working Dog Committee has recognized this new sport (plus all of its titles) and have now added a fifth option to the Working Dog Championship requirements. A dog still must complete three options to become a WDCH but now there are five options to choose from. As before, at least **one** of the three options must be an SBCA title (DD or WPX).

1. Earn a CDX (two obedience titles).
2. Earn a TD (tracking title)
3. Earn a WPX (weight pull title)
4. Earn a DD (draft dog title)
5. Earn an OA or OAP plus a OAJ or OJP (two advanced agility titles)

The new WDCH requirements are effective immediately and a WDCH title has been issued retroactively back to 2001 to honor a dog that has met the new requirements. It would not have been fair to have passed him up since the requirements have been met.

Congratulations go out to **WDCH Sir Hennessy Cognac WPX, OA, OAJ, DD** (his titles at the date of meeting the new requirements on October 21, 2001) and his owners Ray & Barbara Slis. Hennessy is only the 10th WDCH since 1988! (pictured to the right)



A tip of our hats to the Working Dog Committee for recognizing and incorporating the sport of Agility into our WDCH title. An agile, strong Saint Bernard which is able to maneuver through many obstacles (which occurred on rescue missions in our breed's past) goes to preserving an important aspect of our breed's roots.

2004
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For the Saint Bernard



Volume 3, 3 Issues



Performance News

Joost and Pat Postma checked in with the following news:

We are back from Montreal—we were gone for 8 days total.

We and our dogs, Dandy (Cairn) and Bella (Saint) were involved in the filming of a movie - "**Daniel and The Superdogs.**" It was very interesting and lots of fun. Long days, short nights, a fun cast and a tolerant director.

Dandy had a "speaking" part! He had to whine and howl in a scene with Claire Bloom, an English actress. Pat was holding him in her arms for this scene. All four of us were in the drill segment for the show opening, plus various background scenes.



Bella and Joost were in lots of the Superdogs events that were filmed. Bella was also in a scene where some of the dogs stormed City Hall with their backpacks and baskets full of "petitions." Bella had her picture in at least two of the Montreal newspapers—see photo in which she is shown with the lead actress and the boy who plays "Daniel."

This is a family movie which will be released next **November 2004**. They are hoping to do the Film Festival circuit first and then, with any luck, the theatres.

The director is Andre Melancon, who also directed "**The Dog Who Stopped The War**" (starring another Saint Bernard) back a few years ago.

There is an interesting story line in the movie. Daniel is an 11-year-old boy whose mother dies from an aneurysm. Trying to get his father's attention, he gets into trouble and has to redeem himself by working at a dog kennel. He gets upset one day and lets all of the dogs out and one of them gets killed by a car. Lots of things happen within this 90-minute movie. No doubt a lot of cutting will happen as there is only about 5-6 minutes of actual Superdogs events in the film but the segments at City Hall and Dandy's scene are very pertinent to the storyline so hopefully they will be in the finished product!

We had to be on set most mornings between 6:00-7:00 am and were there anywhere from 8-11:30 pm. Long days, as I mentioned! We all had hair and make-up done first thing each day. The wardrobe people looked after all of the costume changes and got the clothes ready for us and re-hung anything we didn't need. No rummaging around looking for our clothes as we sometimes are doing at regular Superdogs shows! They fed us well—a little too well! Lots of things to eat all hours of the day with a huge buffet at noon, then pizza or chicken if we worked late.

We are trying to get back in the groove at home. The dogs are doing better than we are with this!

Joost and Pat

P.S. from Pat - if you see Joost in his wrap-around sunglasses, just ignore him—the movie-star craze will soon die down—I HOPE!

Performance News

Rally Approved as a Titling Event January 1, 2005

Rally has been approved to become a titling event January 1st, 2005. Rally is a sport, held in conjunction with Obedience, where the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of directional signs in a manner similar to Rally Car Racing. The signs are numbered sequentially in the ring to indicate the course the handler must take. The dog and handler team heel from sign to sign and perform the exercises indicated on the sign at each location. Each sign contains an exercise illustrated with symbols.

A title may be earned in each of three levels - Novice, Advanced and Excellent. In addition, a dog may continue to compete in the Advanced and Excellent classes to earn a Rally Advanced Excellent title. The suffix title designations are RN, RA, RE and RAE.

Rally Judges Requirements

To qualify as an applicant - must have:

1. Owned, trained and handled a dog that has been awarded an AKC Companion Dog Excellent Title (CDX);
2. Been active in Rally;
3. Acted as a steward in the Rally Non-Regular class, at AKC member or licensed trials;
4. Judged the AKC Rally class being applied for, at AKC member or licensed trials, waived through 2004;
5. Actively participated as an assistant trainer or as a trainer of Rally classes in a dog training club or similar organization;
6. Attended an AKC Rally Seminar within the past three (3) years.

To apply as a Provisional Judge:

Forward completed application and questionnaire to Companion Events, P. O. Box 37930 Raleigh, NC 27627-7930 to begin the approval process.

The applicant's name will be published on the Secretary's Page of the first available issue of the *Gazette* as a Rally Judging Applicant. This provides all interested persons the opportunity to comment on the applicant's judging qualifications..

Provisional Approval:

All applicants are required to pass an open book test consisting of 25 multiple choice questions, followed by a personal interview with one of the Obedience Field Representatives.

Applications are reviewed at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of staff, and referred to the next monthly meeting of the Board of Directors for final determination. Following review, applicants will receive written notification of the Board's action. If approved, the judge may then accept judging assignments for the class approved. The applicant's name will be published on the Secretary's Page of the next available issue of the *Gazette* as a Provisional Rally Judge.

As a Provisional Judge, he or she must judge a minimum of three (3) classes with at least ten (10) dogs competing in each class. In addition, a satisfactory observation judging the approved class must be completed. It is helpful for the Provisional Judge to inform Companion Events when judging assignments are accepted, for ease in scheduling the observation (waived through 2004).



Performance News

Barry Roland, Working Chairman

National Working Dog Events:

Tuesday Weight Pull:

8 entries: 5 - 140# and below and 3 - above 140#.

140# & below-

Blue Collar's Joliet Jake (Jake) 2065# & 15.88%

Ch. Blue Collar's Etcetera Etc (Moochie) 1825# & 14.25%

Ch. Sirius Maiden Flyte (China) 1345 # & 10.11%

Cornerstones Glad Tidings (Gladys) 985# & 8.01%

Blue Collar's Jackpot (Gamble) 985# & 8.4%

Above 140#-

Nerthus Eisenhower (Ike) 2425# & 13.47%

Wild West Rootin' Tootin' TJ (TJ) 2185# & 12.20%

Wednesday Draft Test: Four entries

Excalibur's Kirsten, C. D., W.P. passed.

Friday Obedience: 7 entered, 6 shown, 2 qualified.

NB-1st Excalibur's Kirsten, C. D. 183.5 High In Trial

2nd Ambersand Jennifer Juniper 176.5

Friday Weight Pull: 15 entries

140# & under-

Blue Collar's Joliet Jake (Jake) 2185# & 16.81%

Ch. Blue Collar's Etcetera Etc (Moochie) 1945# & 15.20%

Blue Collar's Jackpot (Gamble) 1585# & 13.55%

Excalibur's Knight of the Realm, C.D. 1345# & 10.85%

Cornerstones Glad Tidings (Gladys) 1345# & 10.92%

Westhaven Sierra Wildfire (Wildfire) 1225# & 9.35%

Ch. Sirius Maiden Flyte (China) 985 # & 7.41%

Cache Retreat Kryskara Gold (Nugget) 505# & 4.9%

Over 140#-

Wild West Rootin' Tootin' TJ (TJ) 2545# & 14.22%

Nerthus Eisenhower (Ike) 2305# & 12.81%

Ch. Almshaus Hollywood Jazzman (Bruce) 1585# & 10.64%

Lenwardoffs Valzur (Drainer) 1465# & 10.39%

JBar's Supreme Commander V Taz (Luigi) 745# & 4.98%

2005
Archive Performance News
For the Saint Bernard



Volume 4, 2 Issues



Performance News

Rally is now a titling class

On **January 1, 2005** the American Kennel Club (AKC) started titling the Rally Classes. This is new performance sport that some call a crossover between obedience and agility.

Here is how the AKC describes the new sport of Rally...

"Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of designated stations (10 - 20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience.

"The team of dog and handler moves continuously at a brisk, but normal, pace with the dog under control within a 2-foot area at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect "heel position" is not required. After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly.

"Unlimited communication from the handler to the dog is to be encouraged and not penalized. Unless otherwise specified in these Regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. Multiple commands and/or signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. The handler may not touch the dog or make physical corrections. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands or intimidating signals will be penalized.

"Rally provides a link from the Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) program to obedience or agility competition, both for dogs and handlers. In addition, rally promotes fun and enjoyment for dogs at all levels of competition."

In the April AWARDS we show our first Saint Bernard to earn the Rally Novice (RN) title:

Swissong's Nevada CDX RN owned by Barry and Judith Roland of GA.

The AKC AWARDS has not published the Rally results, but when they do, it will be in the Database Room of the Archives and the 2005 folder.



Performance News

"Ewe" Won't Believe This!

Nineteen-month-old **Shadow Mtn In The Zone (Zoey)**, owned by the Marcy and Rob Boyens and Paul and Karen Bodeving, went to a Herding workshop last month.

It was basically a non-sanctioned herding trial, to see how the dogs would do in a regular trial and if they had the herding instinct.

Zoey did so well, that they stopped her to have people come over and film. Here are a couple of pictures we have captured from the films.

Thought you might get a kick out of our dogs doing something besides dog shows and weight pulls.

Karen Bodeving
(PS - No sheep were harmed in this trial) <grin>



2006
Archive Performance News
For the Saint Bernard



Volume 5, 2 Issues



Performance News



Saint Bernard Club of America 2006 National Specialty "Special Saints Project" Olympics at Cheyenne

By Doylene,

Saint Olympics Events -- Activities and competitions demonstrating the natural strengths and traits of Saint Bernards. No special training is needed, just a willingness to try. These events will be fun to participate in and entertaining to watch.

Participatory Events in Agility-- an array of agility apparatus will be available for participating Saint Bernards to try out. Timed trials will be held after practice sessions. *Awards: Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each event.*

Opening Ceremony Parade: All participating Saint Bernards and their humans will be able to march in the opening ceremony parade.



The Saint Olympics that were held at the 2006 National in Cheyenne included events scheduled over four days. Spectators and participants both had a lot of fun! On Monday afternoon, we had a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) workshop for dogs and their people. This gave the fifteen participants five days to work on the ten tests that comprises the CGC award—which we tested for on Friday afternoon.

Fun agility and two fun competitive Olympic Events took place on Tuesday afternoon. It was great to watch dogs that were at first unsure of the tunnel apparatus to be going thru it full speed after a tutorial by John Cox and Kris Kringle. Our competitive events included musical carpets pads and relay dress-up your Saint. Medals were awarded to the class winners.

The main event was the Parade of States and Nations represented at the National—this was part of the opening ceremonies. We had good participation by over twenty states and nations. The State of Virginia was well-represented by its Saints and people—complete with colonial costumes. Canada took the gold medal for more Canadian flags than people and dogs. Washington won the gold medal for the States.



On Friday, twelve dogs and their people took the CGC test and all passed, we were able to let a couple dogs that needed to retake one element of the test to re-test. It was a pleasure to see so many Saints with great and loving temperaments!



Well done to all who worked so hard all week!



Performance News

Who Says Saints Can't Swim?



by Walt Parsons

(Photos by Merle Maggy)

Saints aren't particularly known for their swimming ability which is what makes this story so unusual.

Thunder Hill's Brunhilda, CDX, TDD (Hilda) on 9/09/06 entered a Newfoundland Water Test as a "Demonstration Dog" and before the day was over she was awarded an "Honorary Water Dog" title. Her owner, Marge Parsons, handled Hilda. Hilda is almost 10 years old.

The Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) created a Water Test in order to preserve the heritage of the breed based on their use in Newfoundland by the fisherman for water rescue work. The Junior Division, consists of six exercises. Dogs that pass all six exercises earn a Water Dog (WD) title. There is a Senior Division for the more advanced dogs and qualifiers earn a Water Rescue Dog (WRD) title. The Junior Division exercises are:

- 1) **BASIC CONTROL** is designed to test whether the dog can be kept under control.
- 2) **SINGLE RETRIEVE** has the dog swimming out 30 feet to retrieve a boat bumper.
- 3) **THE DROP RETRIEVE** has a boat cushion or a life jacket dropped by a canoe 50' out from the shore. The handler directs the dog to retrieve the item. (photos above)
- 4) **TAKE A LINE** has the dog towing a long rope out to a swimmer in distress. The swimmer grabs the rope from the dog so that the swimmer can be pulled back to shore.
- 5) **TOW A BOAT** simulates a disabled boat that needs to be towed 50 feet back to shore. (photos below)
- 6) The last exercise is "**SWIM WITH HANDLER**". The dog and handler go into the water together and swim out 20 feet. Upon a whistle signal the handler tells the dog to go back to the shore and the dog tows the handler back to shore. (photos below)



Hilda did not have to do the Basic Control since she has a CDX title. She then proceeded to do a better job on the water exercises than most the Newfies.

How did this all come about? It seems that Hilda grew up with Newfies frequently accompanying the Newfies to their Water Test practice and participating in the practice. She absolutely loves to swim.

We are real proud of our old Saint lady. **Way to go HILDA!**

