

Breed First - Dock Diving Novice {DN}



James P. Sullivan **DN**

Kimberly Goodwin

Sully is my first Saint Bernard, along with his littermate Daryl.

Sully was born in Maine on October 23, 2016. I first saw photos of the litter when they were about a month old, since then I knew he was mine. I actually ended up with him and his littermate Daryl. I had never had a Saint Bernard, but these 2 got me hooked.

Sully has always been different. He has a surplus of energy and is always looking for something to do. As with any new dog, we started with the basics, sit, down, learning his name, etc. But it wasn't enough. He needed more. I'd bring him everywhere with me and he loved it. He only cared about me through all the crowds. However, he is not food motivated, he would rather work for water.

I ended up getting in touch with Matt Agnese, for some training advice. We got chatting and he was the one who made me realize there are sports you can do with your dog. With Matt's guidance first thing Sully and I did with the AKC was get CGC and TKN. It was at the North East Grand Slam in 2018. It was so amazing to see all the saints and be able to bring mine there to get their first titles.

Along the way, we discovered so much more. However, dock diving is Sully's true passion. Within a couple weeks of training, he was flying off the dock. He actually was jumping for feathers for the first couple months. I had to transition him to be motivated enough for a regular bumper. In August 2019, he became the first Saint Bernard to get his Dock Novice. This title requires 5 Jumps off the dock ranging within 1" to 9'11". He got this title at American K9 Country in Amherst, NH, his first NADD event. He was jumping in the high 9' range. He actually ended the event with a 10' jump!

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First Saint Bernard to Earn
Dock Diving Novice

August 18, 2019