

Breed First - Coursing Ability {CA}



James P. Sullivan
TKN, TKI, TKA, TKP, TKE,
DN, DJ, DS, AJ, HDS, DSA,
DSX, CA, CGC, ATT, VHMA

Kimberly Goodwin

By Kimberly Goodwin

CA (Coursing Ability) for James P Sullivan

Sully, AKA James P Sullivan, is always out doing himself. Back in May of 2018, I discovered Sully's love of lure course. We were at a pet expo and they had a "try it" available. Sully, being Sully, instantly fell in love with it and shocked everyone that a Saint would actually do it. Sully has always been a bit "different" with his prey drive being oddly high compared to most Saint Bernards. He loves to chase, whether it be bags, leaves, squirrels, etc.

I bought him a home lure course and would play with it every so often. No matter the day or time, he loved the game. I never thought of it as a sport he could do and earn a title for, especially for non-sight hounds. It wasn't until I started in other dog sports that I discovered there was something called a "Coursing Ability Test." I knew I had to let Sully get this title because he has been doing this for fun for years.

This test requires dogs to run alone and is open to all breeds. There are 2 course lengths, 300 yards and 600 yards. The 300 yard course is only for dogs who are 12" and under or brachycephalic ("flat-faced") dogs. Since Saint Bernards are neither of those, they must run the 600 yard course. In addition, they must do it in under 2 minutes. They have to pass the course 3 times to earn the CA title. The course is designed with non-sighthounds in mind and doesn't have any sharp turns in it.

Sully became the first Saint to run the course in Brooksville, FL on January 23rd with the Sunshine State Rhodesian Ridgeback Club. He had no problem at all running the 600 yards and ran it in under a minute. However, I could only get him into 2 runs with them. So the following week, we traveled down to AZ to the Desert Fun Bunch Sighthound Club. On January 30th, he earned his 3rd and final leg for the CA title.

Sully is such a unique pup and I am so glad to be a part of his journey.

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First Saint Bernard to Earn The
Coursing Ability Title

January 30, 2021