

SAINT BERNARD

Breed First - CH + Trick Dog Elite Performer
{TKE}



CH Kudos' Crown Royal v Regalbear
ACTI, TKN, TKI, TKA, TKP, TKE,
FDC, CA, BCAT, DCAT, DN, DJA,
DN, CGC, CGCA, CGCU, ATT,
VHMA

By Beth Horn

Trick Dog Elite Performer – Breed first Champion

The AKC Trick Dog program allows dogs to earn multiple levels of trick titles based on complexity and skill level. At the top of the title list is the Trick Dog Elite Performer. This level requires a dog to complete ten tricks and five of them must include the use of a prop. The Elite Performer title also requires that you write a script for your dog to follow when completing each trick, and the whole video or performance is judged by an evaluator. Due to Covid-19, the requirement that the performance be completed in front of an audience was removed.

Rye had been flying through his trick dog levels during Covid-19, since it gave us something to do together, while having a lot of fun. Most of Rye's early tricks were evolved from things we do for strength and conditioning work, like bowing, crawling, sitting up on hind feet, etc. So by the time that we reached the Elite Performer levels, he had a lot of tricks in his arsenal. Below is the script used for Rye's Elite Performer Title.

Indiana Rye and the Hidden Bone

Deep in the Sahara Desert lies a mythical object, known as the Bone of Unlimited Chews, our hero, Rye, believes he has finally found the location of the bone and begins his journey...

While walking through the desert, Rye is searching for the tunnel that leads to the inner sanctuary of the bone. He *digs, and digs* all over the desert looking for the entrance. Finally the ground begins to cave in and a tunnel to the sanctuary is revealed!

Rye *crawls through the tunnel (under a table)* and reaches a large open space full of tunnels, bridges, ledges, and that was definitely something that crawled over his foot! Rye begins exploring the sanctuary by walking a narrow ledge, with *ladders he must climb* to navigate the room. Oh no! The pathway has crumbled, leaving a hole to nowhere, there is only a tiny ledge on each side that Rye must *side pass* over carefully to reach the pathway. Good boy Rye, you did it!

Rye sees something in the distance glittering in light, it must be the bone! But how does he get there? Aha! Rye sees a small platform, that if he *pivots* just right on, he can *kick a soccer ball* that will lower a bridge!

The bridge lowers and Rye is one step closer to the bone! Oh no! A poisonous snake is coming his way, Rye quickly *plays dead* and waits for the snake to pass by him, holding his breath as it slithers by. Phew, that was a close one!

Ahead of him, Rye can see the bone! It's so close! He begins walking towards, but there's another trap! A rope falls from the ceiling and tries to snare Rye, he decides that he can *run in a figure 8 around the columns of the sanctuary* and tangle the rope so they can't capture him!

One last sprint down the hallway and Rye is in striking distance of the bone! But it's protected by a barrier! He sees a bell, and wonders if the bell may remove the protective barrier. Rye *hits the bell several times* and the watches the barrier fall away! Rye barks in celebration, grabs the bone and runs out of the sanctuary as fast as possible!

Once Rye is home, he collapses *into his bed, rolling on his back* with his new bone safely under his pillow. Rye and I had a lot of fun doing this routine for our judge and we passed with flying colors!

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**First CH Saint Bernard to Earn The
Trick Dog Elite Performer Title**

June 21, 2021