

Breed Firsts - **CH** + Virtual Scent Work Basic {VSWB}



CH Fuzzy Bears Amore'
BN, BN-V, VSWB, RN, RI, RA,
TKN, TKI, TKA, TKP, TKE,
VHMA, ACTI, ACTIJ, FDC, CGC,
CGCA, CGCU, ATT, NSD, OSD

Kimberley Goodwin

By Kimberley Goodwin

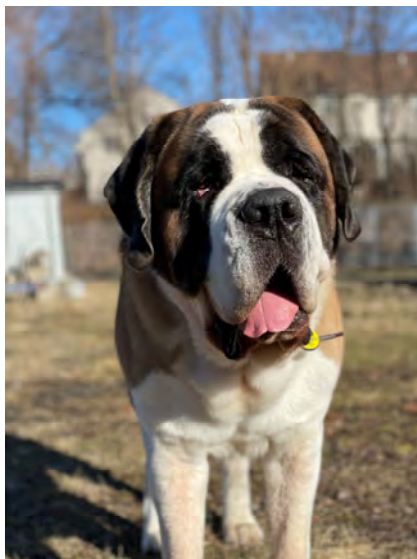
AKC came out with the Virtual Scent Work Test in August 2021. Yet another great way to learn something new and bond with your dog. The VSWT consists of three levels – Beginner (VSWB), Intermediate (VSWI) and Experienced (VSWE). You must pass each level twice to earn a leg.

Dino is a wonderful multi-talented-dog, so I knew we had to try it. Scent Work had always been an interest of mine to see if we liked. For beginner he needed to find one item (ball, small treat, or a toy) and it had to be on the ground level in less than a-minute-and-a-half.

I did one quick test round with Dino to show him what I was asking for. I opted to use a tiny square of cheese and do it indoors because the summer heat was too much. Then I recorded our two submissions and he nailed it! I sent them over to AKC hoping we met the requirements, the test was brand new so I wasn't sure what exactly would pass or fail.

But he did it and I'm so proud of him.

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Virtual Scent Work Testing Criteria

Test Level	Beginner	Intermediate	Experienced
Search Environment	Interior (Examples - living room, kitchen, dining room, bedroom, home office, bonus room)	Exterior (Examples - front yard, back yard, driveway, patio area, terrace, porch)	Combination Interior & Exterior (1 search item of the 3 must be placed in the interior and 1 search item of the 3 must be placed on the exterior)
Search Items	Ball or Toy or Treat	Any two of following items – Ball, Toy, Treat (the two items used must be different for instance you cannot use two balls or two toys or two treats)	All three items – Ball, Toy, Treat
Min/Max Height the Search Item Can Be Placed	Ground	1-2 ft.	2-3 ft.
Maximum Search Time	1.5 min	2.5 min	3 min
Number of Search Areas	1	2	3

First Saint Bernard Champion to Earn The
Virtual Scent Work Basic Title

August 9, 2021