

**Breed Firsts - GCH + Virtual Scent Work Beginner
{VSWB}**



**GCH Kudos' Crown Royal v Regalbear
TKN, TKI, TKA, TKP, TKE, ACTI,
FDC, CA, BCAT, DCAT, DJ, DJA,
DJX, DN, HDN, CGC, CGCA,
CGCU, ATT, VHMA, VSWB**

Beth Horn

By Beth Horn

Virtual Scent Work Beginner – Breed first Grand Champion

The AKC started a Virtual Scent Work Test (VSWT) program in August 2021 to provide owners a way to engage in an activity which utilizes a dog's natural ability to detect search items from the comfort of a home environment. The test is a basic way for owners to bond with their dog or to help get started in Scent Work. The VSWT consists of three levels – Beginner (VSWB), Intermediate (VSWI) and Experienced (VSWE). Each level has its own set of testing criteria and it requires two passing tests to earn the title at each level.

When this new program came out I knew that Rye would excel in this program and it would be a lot of fun for us to do together. Rye hadn't started any official AKC Scent Work, so searching for treats or food would be a great starting point for him. He was already very proficient in Barn Hunt, so he understood how odor moves, and he knew how to search and area to locate the source.

The criteria for the VSWB requires the dog to search for one ball, toy, or treat in one interior search area within 90 seconds, and the item must be on the ground level. Rye would need two searches to earn his title, and each search should be different search areas and different search items, each test must be unique and not identical. This test is also done with the dog in a blind.

For test #1 I decided to use a small treat and placed it inside of a shoe on the ground in the dining. Rye immediately found odor, but it took him a few seconds to dial into the source, I had to remove the treat from the shoe so he could eat it, since he couldn't put his muzzle into the shoe! Here is the video for this search. <https://youtu.be/6u4ztns3YhM>

For test #2 I used a toy and hid it against a bookcase. Since this wasn't an odor search, I told Rye to go find his bumper, he searched a few spots then located his bumper and clearly indicated he found it by digging into the hiding spot to get his toy! Here is the video for this search. <https://youtu.be/yJnX7vDjVc8>

Once both tests were filmed, I uploaded them to YouTube, and submitted my application for them to be judged. Both tests were passing scores and Rye earned his Virtual Scent Work Beginner! Rye was the first Grand Champion to earn this title, it was his 21st AKC title!

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

August 13, 2021