

# Breed Firsts - **GCH** + Virtual Scent Work Experienced {VSWE}



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

Beth Horn

## By Beth Horn

Virtual Scent Work Experienced - Breed First

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.

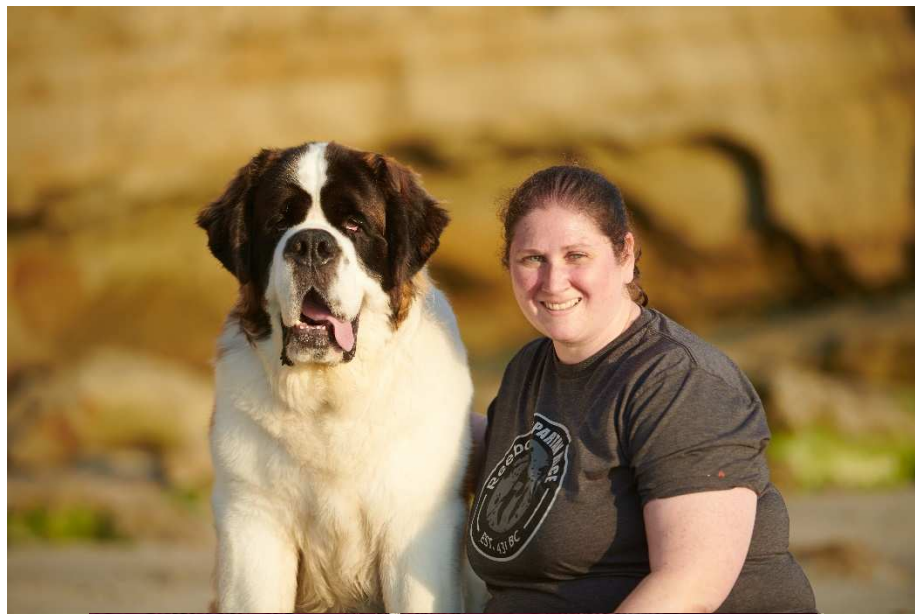
The criteria for the VSWE requires the dog to search three search areas, with a combo of interior and exterior searches, with 1 treat, toy, or ball in each search area, all 3 items must be used per test. The hides had to be 2-3 feet off the ground, and the dog had 3 minutes to search and find all 3 items. 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 used all three required items and placed them in 1 interior area, and 2 exterior areas. This level became harder to manage the dog from staying in 1 search area. Rye wanted to move outside, but I kept insisting that he search the interior first. The video for test #1 can be seen here. <https://youtu.be/U64CjOCIIE8>

For test #2 I also had to use all 3 items, and placed them into 1 exterior and 2 interior this time. It was a little more easy to manage him in this search, and he found all three items fairly quickly. The video for test #2 can be seen here. <https://youtu.be/kwcrHeehUEY>

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 Experienced! Rye was the first Saint Bernard to earn this title, it was his 25<sup>th</sup> AKC title!

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



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

**October 5, 2021**