

# Breed Firsts - **GCH** + Virtual Scent Work Intermediate {VSWI}



**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, VSWI**

Beth Horn

## By Beth Horn

Virtual Scent Work Intermediate – 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 VSWI requires the dog to search two exterior areas and find two different items, 1 in each area. They could be a toy, ball, or treat. The items must be placed about 1-2 feet off the ground, and the dog only has 2.5 minutes to locate both 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 a treat and a toy. I divided my backyard into two search areas, and hid a toy in a woodpile and a treat on top of a grooming table. Rye immediately found the treat on the table, then moved to the woodpile and found his toy. Here is the video for test #1. <https://youtu.be/Qiv4f5PANNQ>

For test #2 I used a treat and a toy and once again divided my backyard into two search areas. I hid the treat on top of a swimming pool, and the toy in a fruit tree. Rye once again found the treat first, checking the search areas from test #1 first! Then he moved through the yard looking for the toy, which he found quickly. Here is the video for test #2. <https://youtu.be/Wn76uLkyqFg>

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 Intermediate! Rye was the first Saint Bernard to earn this title, it was his 22<sup>nd</sup> AKC title!

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

**September 9, 2021**