



ALL AMERICAN DOG

PARADE OF VETERANS 2015

Celebrating the lives and
accomplishments of our older
partners and friends!

2015 Parade

Pequena Sol “Sol”

Chihuahua - Age 9.5
Handled by: Connie Johnson, Belle Plaine, MN



Photo by Herreid Photography

Attitude is what it takes.

Sol came into the world at 3.2 ounces and grew to 3.5 pounds by her sixth birthday.

Her days in conformation were shortened by bad teeth, but she was a hit visiting nursing homes for five years. She tired of waiting in the crate while her sister ran agility and started training in 2012.

By 2014 she qualified and competed at CPE nationals. She also holds novice titles in AKC and superior titles in TDAA.

Unfortunately her legs do not go very fast and she never qualified in NADAC. She is always a hit with the crowd when she runs agility and has a phenomenal attitude. Run Sol!

of Veterans

Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

2015 Parade

Bella

Border Collie - Age 9.5
Handled by: Jessica Thell, New Richmond, WI



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

We were looking for another dog, then at the Humane Society in St. Paul covering at the back of her kennel and shaking was Bella. Her name at the time was Shivers and apparently she had been found in a dumpster in Iowa. I was immediately in love! Guy groaned knowing our search was over and I had picked the nervous dog, covered in poop!

After getting someone to let me into the kennel and being warned by them that she was "extremely timid" I slowly went to the back of the kennel where she was pressed as far as she could get against the far wall, she looked up and gave me a tiny little wag of her tail.

The rest is history and we have been inseparable ever since! I named her Bella in the car on the way home. She is my crazy, wild, wonderful baby and I love her to pieces!

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Breed Club

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Wifasa Blew By You v Bwd "Bayou"

Great Dane - Age 9.5
Handled by: Deb Merritt, Shakopee, MN



Photo by Deb Merritt

Bayou loves a parade!

Bayou has always loved the social aspect of agility a bit more than the game itself. She was quite happy to retire from agility competition last summer, although she misses the adoration of her fans.

Bayou is a thinking dog, willing to cheerfully engage in new activities and keep having fun with old ones. We've learned many things together, including foundation training, conformation, weight pulling, tracking, acting and modeling. One of the best parts of our journey as a team was discovering ASCA, CPE and NADAC agility.

Bayou encourages everyone to regularly enjoy deck time. And tiger lilies.

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Loki Joe Henry "Loki"

Bichon Frise - Age 9.5
Handled by: Wendi Holz, Mandan, ND



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Loki is my first agility dog and my heart dog. We have learned so much from each other.

He may not be the fastest one out there, but he sure does have fun and always has a smile on his face.

We continue to have a great journey together that I cherish more than anything.

I love you Loki!

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Breed Club

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Rising Sun Rain "Rain"

Border Collie - Age 9.5
Handled by: Colleen Flam, Cookeville, TN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Rain is my 3rd agility dog and has been quite a challenge for me in the ring.

She has huge distance and speed that I have not had with my first two dogs so I've had to learn how to handle that.

Out in the ring I never know if Rain will run with me or if she will decide to make up her own course.

Rain loves to lay on your lap at home and ball is her favorite game to play.

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Minnesota Mixed

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KayCee

Old World German Shepherd - Age 10
Handled by: Terri Lewis, Oronoco, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

It is so cool that KayCee is in the Parade of Vets again, but it's also bitter as it reminds me she is getting older. Not sure where the last 10 years have gone but I do know the last 8 have been running agility courses with this Agility Junkie! Yep, KayCee is an Agility Junkie!

I love running with her and seeing that huge grin with her long tongue hanging out on the side. It seems like every new judge we trialed under would comment about how much fun she has on the course! Her first run after her knee surgery was awesome! She was running like a puppy. Her favorite is Tunnels and I can see that on every tunnel picture I have. She is a great partner that makes this sport so awesome.

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My.T.Hi Speed Zip Drive "Zippy"

Shetland Sheepdog - Age 10
Handled by: Shari Vespested, Prior Lake, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Zippy has been competing in agility since he was barely 1 ½ years old.

He went to his first national event at just over 2yrs and has competed in eight North American Championships, placing in the top three, five times.

At age 10 his agility career is slowing down now a little.

At home, he is the Chief of Security, as well as Master Snuggler. His favorite spot is Shari's lap.

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Nasa

Rat Terrier - Age 10

Handled by: Connie Johnson, Belle Plaine, MN



Photo by Herreid Photography

She picked me! She greeted me by pushing her nose between my hand and another puppy and flipped over on her back to wave her legs in the air so I could scratch her tummy.

Her greeting dubbed her "spacey" and her name became Nasa. We brought her home but soon found she was in pain. Her upper thigh bone was crushed soon after birth and surgery left her with a shortened leg.

A few months later she licked my tears the night my husband died. Nasa loves to eat, at six pounds overweight we started agility classes when she was six years old for fun and exercise.

Since returning to Minnesota NASA qualified for CPE nationals where she earned "High in Trial-Standard" for her division and fourth in games. She earned 5 CT-ATCH titles in 2014 and was named to the national CPE Top Ten list. NASA runs 4 inches below standard because of her bad leg but she's come along way in just few years. It's been fantastic!

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Sam

Mixed Breed - Age 10.5

Handled by: Kelly Dittmar, Maple Grove, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

When I started training, I had no intention of competing with Sam. I just wanted to have a good time and play with my dog. Thankfully, many of my agility friends encouraged me to compete, and I took the plunge at the 2007 MMBC New Years trial at Soccer Blast.

Our first run ever was Touch And Go, and I was so nervous! Thankfully, I blocked everything out as we walked to the line, and soon we were off and running. My fondest memory of the run was that I completely lost Sam halfway thru the course. He sprang off the dogwalk (above the yellow!) and I lost track of where he went. I ended up twirling in a circle looking for him, and the silly guy was right behind me!

This photo is from that TNG run. It's the exit from obstacle #3, just moments into our competition journey together.

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Qwaynt's Magic Spark "Magic"

Cardigan Welsh Corgi - Age 10.5
Handled by: Dawn Fisher, Minneapolis, MN



Photo by Alissa Behn (Pet Personalities)

As a kid I fell in love with a corgi. I said someday. Magic is my someday dog, my once in a lifetime dog.

He is my first everything dog, my first cardigan, my first competition dog. He always tried everything I asked with the biggest smile, no matter how silly it may be. Magic's favorite game to play is agility, and I know he is smiling today.

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Cisco Pots and Bugs "Cisco"

Dalmatian - Age 11
Handled by: Karen Magee, Rochester, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Hard to believe it's been 11 years since Cisco popped out of the Semi Truck and into our lives.

Age hasn't changed him much. Whether flying after a bunny, or trotting an agility course, he still keeps the same steady pace he always has. A kind hearted boy, always entering a room with a wink and tail wag. Live many more years and chase lots of bunnies my friend.

Side note: Agility days Mom wishes it was "flying on the agility course" and "trotting after the bunny".

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Mini Cooper - Shown Actual Size "Mini Cooper"

Rat Terrier - Age 11
Handled by: Wendy Henes, St. Paul, MN



Photo by Wendy Henes

It seems Cooper has always been a grumpy old man at heart. At age 4, his family surrendered him into rescue after he bit one of their children. With the help of our flyball friends (both people and dogs), Cooper flourished as my foster dog.

Thanks to all of this socialization, he went on to earn his CGC certification and was accepted into agility foundation class.

A lot slower these days, he still does agility and flyball but is probably best known for his singing and yodeling abilities.

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Prince Omar's Pearlina "Pearlina"

Pomeranian - Age 11.5
Handled by: Wayne Carlson, Edina, MN



Photo by Kim Vogel

Pearlina is a "once in a lifetime agility partner". She is super responsive on the course and will do everything asked.

In AKC she has 100 DQ's, 150 JWW Q's, and 130 STD Q's with a PACH 3 and PAX 5. She has been in the top five Preferred Poms for five years and the top Preferred Pom 3 of those years. She placed 5th twice in the AKC Nationals. In CPE she has 9 C-ATCHes and 5000 lifetime points. She won the National Standard Championship in 2011. In TDAA she has a TaCH 3. In 4 runs in UKC each, she got her AG1 and AG2 Titles. In NADAC, running as Q support, She has her Novice Versatility and O-OAC Title.

She is my shadow and loves being with me and I love being with her.

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Lakeway's Bella Halloween Boo "EllaBoo"

Pembroke Welsh Corgi - Age 11.5
Handled by: Ellyce Thompson, St. Paul, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

EllaBoo a.k.a. MACH3 PACH (and a whole lot of NADAC Titles) Lakeway's Bella Halloween Boo will soon be 12 and we've begun to wind down her agility career. She still is incredibly fast, but now prefers her agility one day only. At home, the past year and a half has been challenging for Miss Ella. She had to say good bye to her oldest buddy Wagner, and put up with puppy antics. BUT, she finally decided that damned puppy might be okay. She has not let the turmoil at home affect her in the ring and continues to lay down some smokin' fast runs.

Boo has been and will continue to be the agility dog of a lifetime. As long as she continues to pull into the ring and run happily, we will keep at it. We may not always Q, but the smile on both of our faces as we enter and leave the ring together is all we need. What a joy it is to still be running with my sweet girl, my wild child, my BooBird, my EllaBoo.

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Caamora First Flight "Will"

Pembroke Welsh Corgi - Age 11.5
Handled by: Bonnie Boudreau, Rosemount, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Will is almost 12, born 9/10/03.

Will - NATCH2 C-ATCH3 Caamora First Flight
RN OA AXJ CGC W-FD W-FDX also qualified
as therapy dog and pointed in AKC breed ring.

Best second choice dog ever and my best buddy-
nuff said.

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Mitsu Beeshe Turbo "Beeshe"

Shetland Sheepdog - Age 12
Handled by: Stacy Reinolt, Nowthen, MN



Photo by Herreid Photography

Beeshe is a 12 year old Sheltie that has been competing in agility for the last 9 years. Her accomplishment this year was earning C-ATCH 5 in CPE. Just recently Beeshe starting jumping 4" and loves it. In her younger years, Beeshe competed in NADAC more than she does now but she always loves a good Tunnelers course. Ground speed has never been an issue for her.

Beeshe loves her Frisbee. She could be sound asleep and you say the word Frisbee and she at the door, wagging her tail, barking, waiting to go play, play, play!!!

Running multiple dogs, I have learned that each dog has their own way of doing things and you

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Avatar Whiskey J of Bayshore "Whisk"

Border Collie - Age 12
Handled by: Shirley Wallace, Wrenshall, MN



Photo by Shirley Wallace

Whisk came to live with us in July of 2003 as a 9 week old baby Border Collie. His training started almost immediately - first manners and house & yard rules, and then agility. We both worked hard at it and we both loved it!!!

I don't know where these last 12 years have gone, but it's been quite a journey. Not always a smooth road. We've had our fair share of rocky roads, but worked to get through them. He has overcome 2 sprained carpals, and a Mom who insists on doing it her way! It took some work for both of us, but finally we have learned to run truly as a team. Whisk is such a joy to run. He loves his agility and he loves his Mom! Running with Whisk is like having power steering from the rear seat, which is where I always am! He has slowed down some over the last 2 years, but is still going strong and has achieved far more than I ever thought he would. In 2008 he was 2nd overall in his category at the NADAC Championships, and would have won it all if not for a handler error. He has also achieved a NATCH-Versatility NATCH 2! We are well on our way to number 3! Whisk is the light of our lives! I love you Whisk, my big boy.

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Aldebaran Tisla “Viva”

Icelandic Sheepdog - Age 12
Handled by: Kathryn Ananda-Owens, Northfield, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Agility competitor since: 2005
Titles earned in: AKC, ASCA, CPE, NADAC, TDAA, USDA
Runs especially fast for: dried Icelandic cod skin
Begs sincerely for: carrots, cilantro, kale, parsley
Peak decibel output while running: don't ask
Favorite toy: Toss n Treat
Least favorite agility obstacle: hoop
Special skill (non-agility): can count to three test kernels when humans are making popcorn; also telekinesis involving grated cheese
Proudest accomplishments: herding waterfowl into the lagoon behind the Long Beach Convention Center between runs at the AKC agility invitational; teaching Sol to bark at the vacuum cleaner
Favorite runs: breaking 7 YPS in a Mad Dog Agility NADAC Tunnelers run, though the 2012 AKC PNAC finals were pretty good too
Old Dog/New Trick? WCRL rally, begging for broccoli
Has outgrown: rolling in chewing gum
Chiro or massage? yes
Horse pucky: food or entertainment? food
Goose poop: food or entertainment? entertainment
Optimal fan club size: There can never be too many fans.
This is Viva's tenth year of competing in MMBC agility trials - thanks, MMBC, for all the fun!

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My.T.Hi Walking on Sunshine “Sunny”

Shetland Sheepdog - Age 12
Handled by: Shari Vespested, Prior Lake, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Sunny, the Little Golden Girl has been the joy of our family and a wonderful agility partner for over 12 years.

She earned over 20 Championship titles including NATCH-9, Versatility NATCH-6 and CATCH-6.

More recently she earned her 100th Elite Jumpers Q, her last significant title.

She is mostly retired now, but still occasionally plays the game. At home she is still top of the pack, keeping the boys in line.

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Josephine Jezebel Marie Lowry “Josie”

Mixed Breed - Age 12.5
Handled by: Pam Lowry, Princeton, MN



Photo by Herreid Photography

Josie is now the matriarch of the Lowry pack. She takes toys away from her bratty little brothers, and barks her disapproval if they do something she does not approve of. Josie is the queen of squeaker toys. She will happily roll on her back or go to a quiet corner, and squeak for many minutes at a time. She loves going for walks, especially if she gets to go with her Momma all by herself.

Josie recently had a sudden onset of Old Dog Vestibular Disease. Her balance has been off, but she still wiggles her tail, has her same lovely smile, and snuggly personality. Agility is a distant memory for her, but fortunately I have enough memories of our time and travels together for us both.

I love my Baby Jo with all my heart!

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Sirobi Wind Swept Bogart “Bogart”

Chinese Crested - Age 12.5
Handled by: Wayne Carlson, Edina, MN



Photo by Kim Vogel

Bogart was born in the wrong location and the wrong time.

A master of finding the most comfortable spot on the planet, he should have been in an Ottoman empire harem 600 years ago.

I was never able to get him in fifth gear except on rare occasions. He achieved modest results in AKC, NADAC and UKC.

He did however achieve 10,000 points in CPE, a C-ATCH 9 and the National Reserve Championship in 2011. He is close to a TaCH 3 in TDAA.

He is a gorgeous dog and is a crowd pleaser when he runs.

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Nala the Leaping Lioness "Nala"

Mixed Breed - Age 12.5
Handled by: Jamie Elvert, Rochester, MN



Photo by Cris Rhea

For the first 11 years of my life, I begged my parents daily to let me have a dog. Every Christmas, every birthday, my wish list began, "1. A Puppy."

My family began volunteering at the local dog shelter, and one day a litter of puppies arrived. We took one little golden fuzzball out to play, and fell in love with her adorable antics and fat puppy face. When we decided to go home for the day, we returned this little pup to her littermates. It was mealtime, and the other puppies were happily chowing down, but the fluffy golden puppy ignored the food and watched us leave with sad eyes and a pathetic whimper.

Soon after, she became my family's first dog. My first puppy. My Nalaroo. She has been the most important and influential thing in my life. Through Nala, I have found a second set of parents, a lifetime passion and hobby (agility, of course!), and over a decade of wonderful memories. I will share my love with many dogs in my life, but she is and will always be Number One, the First, the One and Only Amazing Nala Roo.

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Rising Sun Meg "Meg"

Border Collie - Age 13
Handled by: Colleen Flam, Cookeville, TN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Meg is now retired from agility. She earned her last agility title CATCH 3 at age 12.

Meg now enjoys herding the chickens around at home and playing in the pool.

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Dawson's Up A Creek "Dawson"

Mixed Breed - Age 13
Handled by: Wendy Henes, St. Paul, MN



Photo by Wendy Henes

Dawson is proof that an old dog can learn new tricks. At age 13, he finally decided to do 12 weave poles. In a row. Prior to this, his preferred style of weaving was to use the addition method. Weave a few, then reload and add some more, occasionally totaling 12.

Agility however, is not Dawson's passion. Nestling on-to anyone and everyone's lap is his true calling. I believe this originated upon his meeting George Abraham 12 years ago. Dawson claimed his new found friend's lap and the two of them began howling in song together. It was quite the sight.

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Zachary Scott "Zak"

Jack Russell Terrier - Age 13
Handled by: Laura Breckheimer, Minneapolis



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Zak has learned a few things in his 13 years that he would like to share!

For the dogs:

1. Bark. Bark often. Bark energetically. It gets the blood and brain cells flowing! Bark during your warm-up, when your human gets lost on course (or cues you late) and while getting rewarded. The humans need coaching to improve!

For the humans:

1. Read the rule above.
2. If you tell us more clearly and sooner, we coach less.
3. You'll be missing our barks and antics far too soon. Enjoy today!

Fill your life doing what you love with those you love!

Zachary Scott Anthony Marcus James Frederick Taylor
(aka Zakiak, Shortie, Lil' Man, Puddin', Mr McNaughty Pants)

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Turbo Charged Mitsu "Mitsu"

Shetland Sheepdog - Age 13.5
Handled by: Stacy Reinolt, Nowthen, MN



Photo by Herreid Photography

Mitsu is a 13 1/2 year old Sheltie that earned C-ATCH 5 and CT-ATCH in CPE this past year. She has been competing in agility for the last 10 1/2 years and still loves to run, especially the courses that have tunnels, jumps, hoops, and weaves in them. Standard/Regular courses are fun but together we have decide that she has done enough of them in her life. You can tell that Mitsu still loves the game by watching her run. She jumps the 8" jumps like she still is jumping 16".

Mitsu still enjoys a good game of Frisbee but has slowed down some. Sometimes she just enjoys cheering "aka Barking" her sisters on, instead of fetching. She loves going for walks and just hanging out with the family.

Mitsu is a special girl and I love her with all my heart. Thanks Mitsu for being such an awesome agility partner.

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Golac's River of Joy "River"

Golden Retriever - Age 13.5
Handled by: Jaci Carufel, Anoka, MN



Photo by Gretchen Olson Photography

River is my best friend and an amazing girl. She will be 14 years old in October.

She is an active therapy dog and visits the Anoka Treatment facility with her little sister Rae. River has many titles in AKC, CPE, and NADAC agility, obedience, rally and has her Nose work 1 title.

She is the "Joy" of my life.

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Lake 'n Sun Cody "Cody"

Border Collie - Age 14
Handled by: Colleen Flam, Cookeville, TN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Cody is my first agility dog.

Cody and I have been to 6 NADAC Championships.

He earned his 2nd NATCH at the age of 13.

Cody is now retired from agility and now enjoys playing ball and wading in the swimming pool.

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Thank You!

Thank you to one of my favorite people, our anonymous ribbon donor. I wish more than anything you were with me in person this weekend. Know that you're with me in spirit! And to Gina - thank you for the wonderful cookies!

Taking a serious turn to the somber side, during the course of the last year, our community has been rocked with some shocking and unexpected losses. I know I was not the only one rattled. And I am not alone in that I have made adjustments to how I live with my dogs.

Now, more than ever, I will remember to enjoy every run I have with my partners. I will enjoy the special things that make my dogs unique. I will be thankful for the days and experiences we share and the memories we make.

So here's to everyone who lost a friend this year. Goofball Nim - I will never attend a general briefing without thinking of you. Fantastic Flint - I'm not sure there will ever be a dog to equal you. Gentle Gypsy - you paved the way for Mixed Breeds in AKC in our area. And that's just a subset of the friends crossed the bridge this year. We were the lucky ones - lucky to have shared our lives with you, and lucky to have been able to love you. We'll miss you forever.

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