



ALL AMERICAN DOG

PARADE OF VETERANS 2018

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

## 2018 Parade

of Veterans

Jake

Australian Shepherd - Age 9  
Handled by: Kelly Dittmar, Maple Grove, MN



Photo by Chapter 2 Pet Rescue

I had been looking on and off for a second dog for months. I agonized about how to know which dog would be the right one. My friends told me I would know when I saw him - and when I saw this photo of "Joey" on PetFinder.com, I knew he was the one. I immediately made contact with his rescue and set up an appointment to meet him.

We met for the first time on June 16, 2010. He was a little shell-shocked and wouldn't take a treat or play with a toy. But I was smitten. He had 4 legs, kind eyes, a sweet personality and a wiggly little flag-tail. He got along fantastically with Sam, and I signed up to become a two dog family.

I was woefully unprepared to bring him home. I didn't even think to bring a crate or leash for him! Upon arriving home, my two boys explored the backyard together and then found the toys inside and had their first game of bitey-face. They have been like peas and carrots since that day.

In the beginning, we weren't sure if he was an Aussie or a BC. But his first time at TCO, he cleared it right up. Instead of waking thru the open door - he walked right into the closed yellow door! Aussie for sure! He took to training like a duck to water - and thankfully also mastered doorways!

Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

# 2018 Parade

## Flower

American Pitbull Terrier - Age 9  
Handled by: Agata Brantingham, Woodstock, IL



Photo by Vicky Sowa

Hello! My name is Flower and I was rescued from the fighting ring. I was a bait dog, which means that other dogs were learning how to bite and attack me. When I was rescued by the Chicago Police I was very afraid of people, especially men. At the shelter, I was placed and returned three times while waiting for the RIGHT house. When my humans came and met me I clicked with my human Mom immediately. We spent a lot of time together. Because I was a high energy dog and love working, my mom found an agility class for me.

Agility helped me in so many ways - I stopped being afraid of people and noises (except for big thunderstorm Boom Booms). I started to like men, especially when they have a delicious cookies for me and started to enjoy life. I also earned a few nicknames - when I run agility some people call me Turbobutt! When around people and other dogs I am Gandhi - hardly anything can disturb me.

In 2015 I qualified for NADAC Championships and we brought home a few ribbons, I love the game of agility and TUNNELERS is my favorite!

My mom loves me very much and our agility mini vacations are my favorite! Hopefully I will see you all next year!

of Veterans

Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

# 2018 Parade

## High Plains Drifter "Trek"

Border Collie - Age 9  
Handled by: Jim Nally, Maplewood, MN



Photo by Jim Nally

Trek is a nine year old Border Collie. He was found roaming the plains of North Dakota, leading to his registered name - "High Plains Drifter".

Trek leads an active life, playing both Agility and Flyball. His Agility career has taken him to Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Montana, and Ontario, Canada. Trek is just short of earning his 5,000th Lifetime Point in NADAC and, later this year, he'll compete in his first-ever NADAC Championships in Gillette, Wyoming.

Trek's hobbies include swimming, laying in puddles, chasing tennis balls, and barking at the ill-mannered German Shepherd Dog that lives on the next block. Trek shares his home with three other Border Collies - his 'Mini-Me' sister Abbey, his little sister Shay, and his pain-in-the-butt little brother Keen.

of Veterans

Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

## 2018 Parade

### Oakdale's Jessicas Maggie "Maggie"

Labrador Retriever - Age 9.5  
Handled by: Janet Wirth, Shakopee, MN



Photo by Janet Wirth

Maggie was my husbands main hunting dog but a new pup has come along and took her spot.

So Maggie got a late start at agility. Real late... she and I started about 10 months ago now. But she absolutely loves the game. We have entered and ran in only 4 NADAC Trials to date and she has earned TG-I, IAC, & NJC Titles.

Her June Trial at Soccer World entered 6 classes and Q'd in 5 of her classes with Elite times. As long as she's happy and healthy we will keep on training and running Agility!

of Veterans

Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

## 2018 Parade

### Koster's Shootin' For The Stars "Gunner"

Border Collie - Age 9.5  
Handled by: Denise Koster, Rochester, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

I adopted Gunner in October 2012 from Border Collie Rescue of MN. He was so handsome!

He was my first Border Collie and has been my main agility dog for several years now, earning some titles, and most of all having fun. He has been a great dog to run with and I love stepping to the line with him, especially his start line roll, which is pretty funny.

Gunner also plays a little canine flying disc and is training in Scent Work. This is our first POV and I hope we have many more. Love you, buddy!

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Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

# 2018 Parade

## Speedy II “Speedy”

Border Collie - Age 10  
Handled by: Lisa Schafer, Glenwood, MN



Photo by Mark Herriid

The Speedman had a late start to his agility career; starting classes at age 3. After watching an agility competition on tv we decided to start training for this exciting sport. It didn't take long for us to be hooked!

Speedy is a working border collie and is from the Kinnic Creek Kennels out of River Falls, WI. He loves children and thrives on the agility training & competition. Speedy lost his right eye in a herding accident in 2014 but still continues to compete in the agility world!

Speedy has his Elite Agility Certificate with NADAC! He's our first agility dog....he's been a great friend, competitor and brings so much joy/love to our household! We love you Speedy!

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# 2018 Parade

## REO Speed Waggin’ “REO”

Jack Russell Terrier - Age 10  
Handled by: Laura Breckheimer, Minneapolis



Photo by Kim Nygard

Ten! Ten! Double Digits! HOW did that happen?!

Time flies when you share your life with a tree climbing, critter hunting, walk ALL the miles, bring home ALL the dirt, do all the “work” kind of guy!

Barnhunt LLC has become REO’s new LOVE this year! (Yes I FINALLY got him a number and let him start competing) We’re also BOTH enjoying new found joy and confidence in agility after a year spent training fun, confidence, distance, more fun, and more confidence with our favorite training coaches and friends!

“When it’s too hard to look back and you’re too afraid to look ahead, Look right beside you & I’ll be there.”  
-Author Unknown

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# 2018 Parade

## Booster

Mixed Breed - Age 10  
Handled by: Phil Wala, Savage, MN



Photo by Phil Wala

After earning his fourth CPE championship title last September, Booster retired from serious agility competition, and now returns to the ring only for an occasional trot through a NADAC Intro level course.

Agility didn't always come easy for Booster, so he looked for ways to make it easier - either by using his nose to flip jump bars out of the way, or by seeing how close he could get to standard course time. But while he had his ups and downs with agility, it looks like retirement will be an activity at which Booster can truly excel - having spent most of his life on the living room sofa practicing for it.

Perhaps his greatest gift has been the ability to walk up to complete strangers and say, with a gentle kiss, "I don't know who you are, but I love you!" All part of the art of being Booster.

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# 2018 Parade

## Java

Mixed Breed - Age 10.5  
Handled by: Lynda Vibert, Thunder Bay, ON



Photo by Jon Vibert

Java is starting to slow down a little now, but still loves his agility and anything else we choose to do. He is such a JOY in my life! LOVE this boy!

No Matter the Weather, the Time of Year, or the Type of Activity.

JAVA  
is  
MY BEST FRIEND & COMPANION

of Veterans

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# 2018 Parade

## Storlie's Queen of the Road "Harley Jo"

Kelman Husky - Age 10.5  
Handled by: Kirsten Storlie, Lakeville, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

This sassy girl completely altered the course of my life.

Before Harley Jo (BHJ), I had time, money, and normal tan lines. However, BHJ, I didn't know what it was like to experience the high of connecting with a dog on a level only those who have experienced it understand. Didn't know the sheer joy of laughing at the most awful mistakes, rooting others on in their successes and had no idea so many amazing people would welcome us into their fold. BHJ was pretty lame!

I am forever grateful that this energetic, smart, talking-back, unpredictable girlie chose me as her teammate and we figured this sport out together (well, kinda). Here's to many more years, JoJo.

of Veterans

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# 2018 Parade

## Foxberry Elrond Isadora "Izzy"

Swedish Vallhund - Age 10.5  
Handled by: Jan Moran, Bloomer, WI



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Izzy is my third agility dog but the first one who really liked this sport which allowed us to compete. I saw a Swedish Vallhund run at a NADAC trial in 2006 and decided that was my next breed. Izzy came to live with us when she was 5 months old and we started trialing when she was 2. We only trialed in NADAC because she has luxating patella's and I wanted her to jump as low as possible.

Izzy earned her NATCH 7 and Versatility NATCH 6 award in 2017. We needed 7 Elite Weavers Q's to obtain NATCH 7 Versatility, however, when Izzy did not want to run through tunnels anymore I took that as a clue that she was finished running agility and she was retired. She was the number 1 Swedish Vallhund in most classes from 2011 through 2016. She also earned 5,000 lifetime points and her Triple Triple Superior award in 2012.

As I reflect on these titles I am proud of what she accomplished in spite of her physical ailments, but it is the wonderful memories of those years that I truly enjoy. Izzy is one of the best and now she can just enjoy chasing the tennis balls, hanging out in the yard and aggravating my next agility dog, Khali.

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# 2018 Parade

## Bailey Benson Jacques "Bailey"

Bichon Frise - Age 11  
Handled by: Wendi Holz, Mandan, ND



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Bailey, what can I say about you?

You just love to do your own thing on the course. From day one you've always been this way and there was no changing that.

Sometimes you may run and other time you may walk - and that's ok because that's "Bailey's way" and you're having fun. What can I say Bailey - you make me laugh!

Love you BABES!!!

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# 2018 Parade

## Cannon's Cops N Robbers "Copper"

English Springer Spaniel - Age 11  
Handled by: Sarah Cannon, Grand Forks, ND



Photo by Jen Koller

From the time he was a baby, I said this boy would be my NATCH dog. Unfortunately, we didn't quite make it. We got close enough to prove our skills, but we ran a little short on time. He was the most amazing agility partner a girl could hope for, and I am so lucky to have been his partner.

He loved the sport almost as much as I do... and it showed. I always say: "Accuracy is good, but fast is more fun" and nothing was more fun than co-piloting as this boy flew around an Elite Jumpers course!

Thanks for the ride, Copper. I love you to moon and back sweet boy!

of Veterans

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# 2018 Parade

## Dex's Midnight Runner "Dexter"

Mixed Breed - Age 11.5  
Handled by: Kristine Delago, New Richmond, WI



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

With each and every passing day, my Gratitude List for Dexter continues to grow:

- Appearance of more white hairs on his face
- Intolerance for puppies and their shenanigans
- Increasing cloudiness in his once-clear eyes
- Insistence that he is hungry, even though he just ate
- Uncanny ability to catch treats tossed in his direction
- Ears which seemingly defy the basic laws of physics
- Persistence that "Table" is an appropriate behavior for places other than agility fields
- Ringing of glassware throughout the house due to his high frequency barking whenever I sit down to put on shoes
- Seriousness in which he assumes his role as "The Fun Police"
- Eagerness in which he'll work for food
- Dedication to the game of "Chuck-It"
- Expectation that he should sit at the hunting camp table eating breakfast from a plate... and teaching his brother this behavior

I am grateful to share my life with such an amazing boy!

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# 2018 Parade

## Benji

Mixed Breed - Age 11.5  
Handled by: Leo Fuerst, Freedom, WI



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Benji, a rescue, came to live with us in December of 2009. Benji connected with me immediately and we began training and trialing - agility became his game.

After a lot of playing, Benji retired three years ago when he earned his Versatility NATCH2. We still have an occasional agility run, enjoying every second of it.

Benji is a good boy and gives me great joy. He's one spunky little guy and I love sharing him with our friends.

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# 2018 Parade

## Hangtime Bandits Pal Cap'n Hook "Hooker"

Australian Shepherd - Age 12  
Handled by: JoAnne Schwietz, Bloomington, MN



Photo by Nina's Photography

Have you hugged a Hooker today? I did and have for the past 12 years. Hook is the type of dog that loves to cuddle and has an uncontrollable licker. Once he starts kissing, he can't stop! That being said, he is the best teammate that anyone can ask for. He is a willing partner who will do anything that I ask of him, especially if it includes food of any kind! He has been known to saddle up to a dog sitting in front of their human to get treats from them too. It doesn't matter the dog, ones he knows and ones he hasn't met before, he begs from everyone and the dogs don't seem to mind!

The journey we've been on for the past 12 years has taken us across the US and to Canada. We have accomplished more than I could have ever imagined since in his early years he couldn't keep a bar up to save his life. ATCH's and C-ATCH's haven't come easy, but we have them. Hook is a great gamble dog and I have found that the farther away I am from him the better he can keep the bars up!

Thank you, Hooker, for taking me on your journey. We hopefully have many more miles to travel, sights to see and photo opportunities to enjoy!

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# 2018 Parade

## Princess Grace "Gracie"

Cocker Spaniel - Age 12  
Handled by: Lou Ann Honek, Fargo, ND



Photo By Kelly Hilzendager

She came into my life shortly after the sudden death of my husband, when I needed lots of hugs, and she licked lost of tears. She has been a great companion and always there for me.

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Breed Club

# 2018 Parade

## Fourwinds Magic Breeze “Breeze”

Australian Shepherd - Age 12  
Handled by: Linda Heaton, Cambridge, MN



Photo by Laurie Erickson

When I found out that I needed to write something about Breeze for the Parade of Veterans, I wasn't sure where to start. So I asked my Facebook friends to describe Breeze in a word or two for me. These are the responses:

Steady, reliable, amazing, “The Queen”, focused, consistent, intense, confident, “The Best”, sassy, fun, dedicated, special, wonderful, gorgeous, determined, independent, awesome, amazing, beautiful, perfect partner, inspirational, happy, opinionated, champion, great, indefatigable, reads your mind, steady, comfortable, kind, consistently awesome, steady team, smooth, self-driving agility machine, efficient, reliable, partner, forgiving, once in a lifetime, always ready, heart dog, always focused, always up for the job. So, what else can I say? I wrote a Haiku for Breeze.

Breeze  
Strong-willed champion  
Perfect, my beautiful Breeze  
Keeper of my heart.

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Breed Club

# 2018 Parade

## Uproar For Cody's Boot Scooter “Spur”

Australian Shepherd - Age 12  
Handled by: Jan Poole, Bloomington, MN



Photo by Nina's Photography

Spur - Boot Scooter - Moose Bear - Spurdy Flurdy - all names I have used over the past 12 years to call Spur or get his attention. When I brought him home from Canada at 7 ½ weeks of age I was told “Be careful what you wish for”. There have been times when he has gotten injured over and over by running too fast or turning on a dime, that I might have agreed with that statement. The truth is, I can't imagine not having had him in my life, the good and the not so good, the exhilarated highs and the disappointing lows. Each experience has given me a memory to treasure and a special way of looking at life.

Now I look forward to each time I train him, enter the ring for any competition, or just go for a walk. It has been a journey I will cherish forever and would wouldn't trade for anything. Thanks for being you Spur, Spur, Spur!

of Veterans

Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

# 2018 Parade

## Cooper

Mixed Breed - Age 12  
Handled by: Leo Fuerst, Freedom, WI



Photo by Leo Fuerst

Cooper is our sweet lap dog. She had a rough beginning to life - first as a stray and then living in shelters between multiple adoptions.

Cooper's agility career was rather short - agility is not her thing. The stress of the ring was too much for her - so we decided to let her just be a dog. Cooper did however achieve her Novice Jumpers and Tunnelers titles before she made the career change to becoming our best "Go to Ground" dog.

She is the master of sniffing out critters. Her other favorite pastime is lying in the sun - no matter how hot it is.

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# 2018 Parade

## Pequena Sol "Sol"

Chihuahua - Age 12.5  
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. She tired waiting in the crate while her sister ran agility and started training in 2012.

By 2014 she qualified and competed at CPE nationals. She earned her TACH champion in 2017 and holds novice titles in AKC. She earned her TDI Therapy certification in 2016 and brings lots of smiles to folks in nursing homes. 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!

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# 2018 Parade

Bella

Border Collie - Age 12.5  
Handled by: Jessica Thell, New Richmond, WI



Photo by Jessica Thell

## Bella's Haiku

A summer evening  
She trots - close - fiercely graceful  
Loyal companion

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# 2018 Parade

Loki Joe Henry  
"Loki"

Bichon Frise - Age 12.5  
Handled by: Wendi Holz, Mandan, ND



Photo By Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Where did the time go Loki?

You were my very first agility dog and you taught me so much and had so much patience with me.

You still enjoy the game, just a bit slower now and a lot less classes to run. But all that matters is we still have fun out there playing together as a team.

Loki will always be my true heart dog. Love you to the moon and back - my dear Loki!

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# 2018 Parade

## KayCee

Old World German Shepherd - Age 13  
Handled by: Terri Lewis, Oronoco, MN



Photo By Terri Lewis

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KayCee will always be my Baby Girl!

We started training on contacts when she was 4 months old. She loved it from the start!

Every time on the course she ran happy with her trademark tongue waving out the side of her mouth. Almost every judge commented on how happy she runs.

I will treasure every run we shared.

# 2018 Parade

## Nasa

Rat Terrier - Age 13  
Handled by: Connie Johnson, Belle Plaine, MN



Photo by Herreid Photography

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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. NASA has qualified for CPE nationals every year since 2013. She earned 5 CT-ATCH titles, 2 CT-ATE championships, and was named to the national CPE Top Ten list 3 Times. She holds novice titles in NADAC, AKC, and TDAA.

NASA is slowing down, but still loves to run. It's been fantastic!

# 2018 Parade

## Sam

Mixed Breed - Age 13.5  
Handled by: Kelly Dittmar, Maple Grove, MN



Photo by Kelly Dittmar

Turning 13 has brought a great deal of enjoyment into Sam's life. On the agility front - Sam has retired from elite and now runs intro at 8". The jumps are just the right height and the courses are just the right length - but he does wish I would run less and use a little more distance handling. In true Sam style, he often takes significantly more obstacles than what are numbered while I call him fruitlessly. Always a pleasure.

We are closing in on our Intro Superior Versatility Award. We're way behind in his favorite class - Tunnelers! He still isn't fond of turning - it's a delight to watch him grinning while he dives into those off course tunnels.

Every day, Sam's becoming more and more puppyish. He often brings me a toy to play with in the morning after he does his stretching and is very bouncy when he runs. He's my constant shadow and supervises everything we do at home. He's a great adventurer, but unfortunately we didn't make too far from home this year. This photo is from our 2016 road trip to Rifle Falls State Park in Colorado.

So thankful for every day with my bestest Sam.

of Veterans

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# 2018 Parade

## Jessica "Jessie"

Shetland Sheepdog - Age 13.5  
Handled by: Vicki Jones, St. Paul, MN



Photo by Jessie's Photography

Jessie came into our lives shortly after the death of my schnauzer Abbie. I wasn't completely convinced that I was ready for a pup. But Bryan talked me into going to "look" at some sheltie puppies. We all know where that leads! Jessie managed to convince me very quickly that she did indeed need to come home with us. We nearly lost her at 4 months old due to heart problems which required surgery. But her feisty attitude kept her alive then and now. She rules and reigns our home with a prance to her step and a swish of the tail. Jessie knows who is in charge. Every so often she allows us the opportunity to mistakenly think it is Bryan and I. But we know she is the queen of our hearts.

Jessie is my first agility dog. We learned the game together and she has had quite the time training me. Jessie is very vocal when she runs- sassing me along the way through the agility course. Because Jessie has lost most of her hearing, it has become more of a challenge to maneuver around the ring. However, achieving a qualifying run doesn't seem to matter anymore. Each run has become all about enjoying the moment with my best agility partner. Soon it will be time for Jessie to retire. But the memories we have shared are priceless and will be treasured forever.

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## 2018 Parade

### Lakewood's Frozen Dilly Bar "Dilly"

Mini Australian Shepherd - Age 13.5  
Handled by: Deb Rickard, Jordan, MN



Photo by Barbara O'Brien

Dilly aka Dilly Bar, Dilly Pickle, Dilly Dally and Pipsqueak is now 13 ½. At home he always needs to be near me and follows me wherever I go.

The agility field is another matter. Sometimes he listens pretty well, but at other times he will take what he wants first and then "get back to me". Oh, and there are the times I lose him on a course because he's small and standing right behind me.

Regardless, we have fun, and often entertain those watching us. I love spending time with my little pipsqueak. Dilly Dilly!

of Veterans

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## 2018 Parade

### Kentucky's Weasel My Way Into Your Heart "Tucky"

Border Collie - Age 14  
Handled by: Candice Christensen, White Bear Lake



Photo by Candice Christensen

Tucky is a Southern Belle who all the way from Kentucky to live in cold Minnesota. I didn't know I needed another dog but she did!

Tucky is my heart dog. She's living the life of a retiree now. Leisurely! And she loves it!

Tucky has taught me more than I ever thought I needed to know. She's a princess. She's always up for a good game of squeaky and she's a total bed hog!

Old dogs ROCK and I cherish every minute of every day we have together.

Okay Tucky now let's go play SQUEAKY!!

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# 2018 Parade

## Cisco Pots and Bugs "Cisco"

Dalmatian - Age 14  
Handled by: Karen Magee, Rochester, MN



Photo by Karen Magee

14 and still the best British Butler around!

No longer able to see agility equipment, he makes up for it by cheerleading our crew on. So, you may hear him donkey-braying in the background some days as he pushes Team Black & Spots to do their best.

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# 2018 Parade

## Mini Cooper - Shown Actual Size "Mini Cooper"

Rat Terrier - Age 14  
Handled by: Wendy Henes, St. Paul, MN



Photo by Wendy Henes

Mini Cooper turned 14 in May. I adopted him at age 3 when he was surrendered by his family for being a growly Gus. SCORE for me!

Cooper fit into my life perfectly. He helped me learn how to run a small dog in agility. Also, by being a Flyball height dog, he helped his doggie friends compete for many years.

Mini Cooper will always be my cherished little buddy.

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## 2018 Parade

### Busy B's Legacy of Summer "Piper"

Pembroke Welsh Corgi - Age 14.5  
Handled by: Patty Fulton, Blaine, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Piper is a prime example of getting what you wish for, being overwhelmed by the reality of the request, and then having the thrill of an unbelievable ride. She could never be called an easy dog, but she has always made any endeavor an adventure.

A true performance dog, she has lived up to her kennel name of Busy B and demanded to get to do so many things from the start. I learned early why you want a tired dog. Unfortunately, that also taught me that getting a tired dog simply builds the endurance of said dog. It's a miracle we both made it to her first birthday.

Looking back nearly 15 years, we have taught each other a lot of tricks, earned agility, obedience, and tracking championships, had a blast working with 4-H kids, and just enjoyed life. As usual, she has taken on her current challenge with a smile and quickly figured out how to train the humans to cater to her every whim.

Thanks for everything, girlie!

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## 2018 Parade

### Caamora First Flight "Will"

Pembroke Welsh Corgi - Age 14.5  
Handled by: Bonnie Boudreau, Rosemount, MN

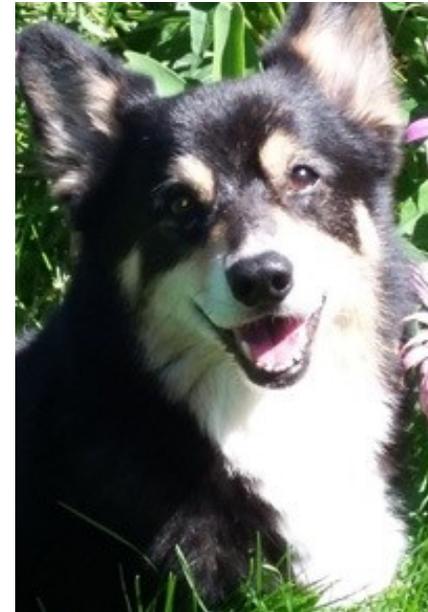


Photo by Bonnie Boudreau

Will is just 10 days short of 15 years old.

I am blessed that he doesn't show signs of any of the various illnesses that have cut other good dogs' lives too short. We have had a great run at dog sports together but the 'now' is way more precious.

Good job Will!

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# 2018 Parade

## Aldebaran Tisla "Viva"

Icelandic Sheepdog - Age 15  
Handled by: Kathryn Ananda-Owens, Northfield, MN



Photo by Kathryn Ananda-Owens

Viva has competed in countless trials, and, overachiever dog that she is, earned countless ribbons, including some bigger than she is from events like AKC & CPE Nationals, and the AKC Invitational.

Our favorite memories include every Chances Q she ever earned, including the Open Chances run in Thunder Bay that involved Kathryn simulating hula-hooping to get Viva out to a jump, a phenomenal Tunnelers run in Madison, WI, in which she was faster than every other dog all weekend, including the border collies, plenty of Chances NQs in which Viva expressed a Very Strong Opinion, involving Many Decibels, about the deficiencies of her handler or the judge's course. She was a velcro dog from day one and surviving to be a 15 is the ultimate expression of her velcro dogness.

Viva is still doing agility in the backyard, usually involving two short tunnels and a single jump with the jump bar on the ground. It remains the highlight of her day, even when she doesn't have an appetite for the treats offered at the end of a "run." We are pretty sure the time to let her go will be when she refuses agility and Greenies on the same day. In the meanwhile, every day with her is a gift, every round of barking is one we know we'll miss when she's gone, and every smile from her is valued beyond measure.

Viva Girl, it's been a great ride. May you always run clean, run fast, and run loud - and run with joy.

of Veterans

Minnesota Mixed

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# 2018 Parade

## Dawson's Up A Creek "Dawson"

Mixed Breed - Age 16  
Handled by: Wendy Henes, St. Paul, MN

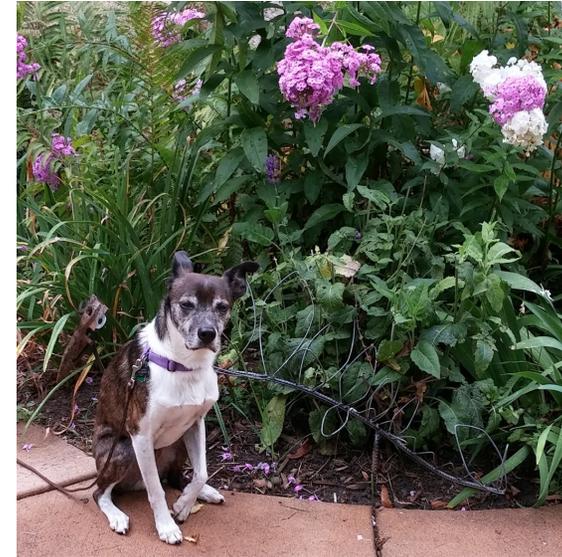


Photo by Wendy Henes

Dawson turned 16 on July 1st. Over the years, he has earned his CGC and done a little agility and a little flyball.

Currently, he has a blast attending a special agility class on Saturday mornings with several other oldsters. Due to his eyesight, we set his bar height at 4 inches but he still gleefully flies high over them like the reindeer Rudolph!

I love this boy!

of Veterans

Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

# 2018 Parade

## Zachary Scott “Zak”

Jack Russell Terrier - Age 16  
Handled by: Laura Breckheimer, Minneapolis



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

It's hard to believe Lil' Man turned 16 years in June! Yes, he requested his driver's license to. But he couldn't reach the pedals AND see over the dashboard.

At 16 he's less balls to the walls and more smell the flowers and snuggle. It's a bit bittersweet but these quieter shared moments are as amazing as any sport! Zak is loving dabbling in NADAC Intro these days (showing the baby dogs how it's done and showing the judges how they sometimes mis-number the courses!) and going to Senior Enrichment class to eat ALL the cookies!!

From a fearful puppy to a sports hellion to a wise old man-- we've come a long way baby! JRTsDoItAll-Agility, JRT Go-To-Ground, JRT Racing, JRT Earthdog, Flyball, Rally, Nosework, Barnhunt, tricks, and lure coursing have been our sports loves. Tracking, disc, and dock diving were tried and vetoed! Yep we try a lot on for size! BUT hiking/exploring, barking, and hammock naps are our favs!

“My face may be white but my heart is pure gold.  
There is no shame in growing old.”  
-Author unknown

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## Thank You!

The 11th annual... and bigger every year. What a wonderful thing to be able to say!

Some old friends who we haven't seen in years. And some new. And that's what it's really all about in this community, isn't it?

As with every year, it takes a village. Thanks so very much to each and every person who sat on the hill or in the sun and cheered today. Especially for those who cheered for the dogs they don't really know. Each one of these dogs is so incredibly special to their partner. It's an honor to cheer for these teams and belong to a community that will recognize the partnership and dedication.

An extra big thank you to Kathryn and Viva this year. I'm sure it was Viva's idea to sponsor the bones that we purchase each year to adorn our ribbons... Little did she realize that they weren't edible!

Thankfully - Gina has come to the rescue by making a very special bag of treats for each of our furry friends. Thanks Gina! I swear my dogs look forward to her cooking all year long!

And big thanks to Jim for once again putting together a nice course for us to play on. Let's have a ball!

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