



ALL AMERICAN DOG

PARADE OF VETERANS 2019

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

2019 Parade

Minikota's Sweet Music Man "Quincy"

Swedish Vallhund - Age 9
Handled by: Renee Foster, Shorewood, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Growing up, I always dreamed of owning a Corgi. A vision not shared by my husband. Duane did not want to live with a small dog. Especially a breed known for its propensity to bark and its ability to shed. But when I saw a dog that resembled a Corgi running at World Team tryouts, I knew I had found my new next breed. I did my research, I found a breeder, and when a puppy became available I didn't make the same mistake twice. I simply told Duane we were getting a SV and he could Google "Viking Cattle Dog" to see what the breed looked like. Duane can still be heard complaining he has to co-exist with "the little dog with the big mouth".

Today, hundreds of events (and thousands of miles) later, Quincy has far exceeded any of my expectations. I could never have imagined how successful Quincy was going to be. What a learning curve it has been. Quincy is a dependable thinker and very intelligent. He is not without his challenges but he has turned out to be a very versatile competitor and the best "big dog in a little dog's body" I could ask for.

Minnesota Mixed

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2019 Parade

Lily Tomlin "Tommie"

Jack Russell Terrier - Age 9
Handled by: Laura Breckheimer, Minneapolis



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Lily Tomlin
(aka Tommie, T-Bird, Skunk, Skunk the Punk)

The skunk is nine! Yes nine years old, I know, she doesn't act her age! I assure you she is 9 YEARS old!

"And though she be but little, she is fierce."
-Shakespeare

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Pinga Linga Ding Dog "Ping"

Labrador Retriever - Age 9
Handled by: Kaydi Grunhovd, Euclid, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Ping was never meant to me mine. She came into my life as my brother's dog that I was supposed to watch for 6 months. 6 months turned into 9 years and she's all mine now. In my house, Ping is the top dog, but has a soft spot for her little pest of a brother Newman.

Being the socially awkward dog that looks more greyhound than lab and was never a natural retriever, Ping has always been known as my anti-lab. The only thing that makes her full lab is her exuberant work ethic.

Ping taught me that any skill and sport can be taught with a clicker. Other hunters thought I was crazy attempting to train a hunting dog with a clicker and not an e collar, but she thrived with the positivity. She taught me to be an advocate for my dogs' welfare, even if it takes a little longer to get there and it means going against the grain.

Ping earned her NATCH and Versa-NATCH on the same day and is working on her NATCH2. Pinkie Lou is also a titled Flyball dog, a dock dog, World Shed Championship Finalist, lover of laying in the sun and took 2nd in the 20" jump height at 2013 NADAC Champs. The lessons I have learned from Ping make me feel so happy to be loved by her!

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Mi-Ken's WWW DOT COM "Dottie"

Border Collie - Age 9.5
Handled by: Kaydi Grunhovd, Euclid, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

It's impossible to explain how much I've learned from Dottie. She was my first introduction to border collies and there's no stopping this girl, even if I tried. Dottie has been called the anti-border collie. She never gets worked up over other dogs working, loves other dogs and is a therapy dog.

She's always been my helper, never being more than 3 feet away from me at any given time. As serious as Dottie is on the agility course, she is a goof and absolute sweetheart off the course. Mornings are spent tossing toys to herself in the sunshine and rolling around on her back, snorting and making all sorts of goofy noises.

She's never had much instinct for herding sheep, but loves chickens. Often times walking across the yard, I'll look back and find all the chickens following me. Not by choice, but because Dottie has brought them to me. She's also been known to green beans out of both my garden and out of the field on our long walks on the farm.

Dottie earned her NATCH and Versa-NATCH on the same day and she is working towards her NATCH2. She is titled in Rally, Obedience, Flyball and Dock Diving. Dottie placed 3rd in the 20" jump height at the 2013 NADAC Champs. I could gush on and on about my love for Dottie and what she's taught me, but I would need more pages in this book!

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Noah's New Beginning "Abbey"

Border Collie - Age 9.5
Handled by: Gina Pizzo, Maplewood, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Abbey is a 9 year old rescued Border Collie. I can't believe she'll be 10 years old in a couple of months! Time always moves too fast when it comes to our dogs.

Abbey came into my life when she was 7 months old. Her foster mom had taken her out to exercise her right before we came to visit with her. Abbey took off into the bean field and her foster mom had all the neighbors looking for her. When we got there we joined in the search and even before we got into the field she came hauling butt down the path and right to me.

Abbey is always game for any activity and has been active in herding and flyball as well as agility. She has recently added barn hunt to her list of activities and finds great joy in climbing the hay bales.

While we don't qualify as much as other teams do, running Abbey is a complete adrenaline rush! We it all comes together it's beautiful. I wouldn't trade her for the world!

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Jake

Australian Shepherd - Age 10
Handled by: Kelly Dittmar, Maple Grove, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Jake and I started obedience training shortly after he came to live with me. He shocked me by how engaged he was in working with me and I decided to enroll him in foundations.

Those early months are a blur of fun watching Jake bloom. He quickly became a chow hound and a hazard! After every obstacle, he would come in and try to trip me! Thankfully, I found a magic bullet and used my manners minder to reward him at a distance. It only took a handful of reps before he learned to hold his line. We were on our way!

Our first trial was in May 2011. Outside in the sun and the rain. We hung out in Novice and Open for a while, earning our Superior Versatilities and building our partnership. I worked hard to improve my timing and build Jake's confidence. Jake was patient and helped me to grow as a handler. It's because of him that I always try to handle with rule #1 - build the trust between us. Even if that means I drive him right off course, my goal is that he knows he can trust my cues and believe in them as much as I believe in him.

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High Plains Drifter "Trek"

Border Collie - Age 10
Handled by: Jim Nally, Maplewood, MN



Photo by Jim Nally

Trek is a 10-year old Border Collie. He was found roaming the plains of North Dakota (earning him his official name - 'High Plains Drifter'), rescued, and found his forever home with Gina and Jim.

Besides agility, Trek likes to chase tennis balls, play flyball, chase tennis balls, swim, and chase tennis balls. When not enjoying those things, Trek likes to, well, chase tennis balls.

Trek qualified for the 2018 NADAC Championships and made the trip to Gillette, WY, where he had a whole lot of fun not running the courses as designed. He has also qualified for the 2019 NADAC Championships where he'd probably do the same!

Trek did accomplish a major feat this year. He (wait for it....)
weaved in public!

Trek wants to give a big 'Thank You' to all his human friends who supported him (and Jim!) during those months (.....and more months.....and even more months) while he battled his weave pole demons. Your support and encouragement were much appreciated! All that public weaving allowed Trek to earn his very first NATCH!

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Oakdales Jessicas Maggie "Maggie"

Labrador Retriever - Age 10.5
Handled by: Janet Wirth, Shakopee, MN



Photo by Janet Wirth

Maggie has been running agility for just around 2 years. Yes... started late, as she was my husbands hunting dog in her younger years. She just LOVES the game and is always getting comments from my Agility Peeps... "She runs with such joy", "She's not having any fun out there is she", "We need to video her for you so you can see just how much she loves this!"

She is one HAPPY Girl!

We could be moving up to Open, but we are choosing to just stay in Novice. As long as she's happy and healthy we will keep on training and running Agility!

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Koster's Shootin' For The Stars "Gunner"

Border Collie - Age 10.5
Handled by: Denise Koster, Rochester, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

How do you sum up 5 years of agility with your dog? We haven't been playing as long as some teams but I have enjoyed every minute of it. Dogs are such amazing animals and we are so lucky to have them in our lives. They ask for so little and give so much.

I'm so thankful to have had the opportunity to learn and play with Gunner. I think my favorite memory is NADAC Champs last year. We qualified for pre-Elite but entered Pre-trial only. It was such a fun trip and a great experience. Our one and only championship trial and I'm so glad we went.

I love his start-line roll and his steady Eddy way of running. Thank you for playing this game with me, buddy.

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Speedy II "Speedy"

Border Collie - Age 11
Handled by: Lisa Schafer, Glenwood, MN



Photo by Mark Herreid (Herreid Photography)

Speedy is our first border collie pup we bred/raised right here in Glenwood, MN. He comes from working border collie lines. His father resided at the Kinnic Creek Kennels in River Falls, WI which is owned/operated by Dr. Barbara Johnson, PhD. Barb has been a big part of mentoring Speedy's agility success's!

Speedy earned his Elite Agility Certificate with NADAC. He's our first agility dog! Speedy's been a great competitor, friend, companion and leader of our pack of border collies! We love you Speedy!

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Snoflake

Labrador Retriever - Age 11
Handled by: Sandy Oprenachak, Plymouth, MN



Photo by Sandy Oprenachak

Ohhh Snoflake! My licky goofball with floppy ears and a spirited personality! I thank you so much for being you and bringing both of us into the agility. We've met so many wonderful people and learned so much together over the last 11 years and I am sooo grateful to have you as my partner!

It took so much patience to get started. I often wondered if we would ever be able to trial. We struggled with so many things - weaves, the teeter, and even jumps! I wish we had stock in Nathan's Hot Dogs - we used so many treats!!

Our first trial was a NADAC trial in July 2011, at the age of 3! But in 2014 and again in 2015, we were sidelined by TPLO surgeries. Thankfully, we've made a comeback!

Team Snoflake earned our ASCA ACE (Agility Competitor Extraordinaire) in October 2018. We are just 7 Qs away from our first NATCH and Versatility NATCH!

With her big grin, it's easy to see how much Snoflake loves agility. She's also a big fan of playing Frisbee, chasing a ball, eating and walks!! We will keep doing what we are doing for as long as you want! We love you Snoflake!!

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REO Speed Waggin’ “REO”

Jack Russell Terrier - Age 11
Handled by: Laura Breckheimer, Minneapolis



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

REO Speed Waggin’
(aka Stilts, Roo, Mr. Special)
This wild and wily guy has turned 11!

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! 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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Booster

Mixed Breed - Age 11
Handled by: Phil Wala, Savage, MN



Photo by Phil Wala

DNA tests reveal that Booster, my first agility dog, is one-eighth American Staffordshire, and seven-eighths “who knows?” Although he’s in excellent physical condition, he retired from agility one year ago to ease the burden of the existential questions that had been plaguing him: “Why weave, when a straight path is more efficient? Why is the barrel there, if not to be pounced upon? Why jump, when flipping the bar away with my nose makes jumping unnecessary?” Booster was no more satisfied with my answers than I was by his DNA test results. And so the agility baton was passed to his sister Skeeter, whose naïve enjoyment of the sport is not yet encumbered by the melancholy musings that come with maturity.

Since retiring from agility, Booster finds purpose in life by inventing several new relaxation poses each day, and by serving as our local air traffic controller. Vigilantly standing guard, he barks at any aircraft passing overhead, sternly warning them NOT to land in our back yard.

If his 100% success rate is any indication, Booster may have found his true calling.

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Java

Mixed Breed - Age 11.5
Handled by: Lynda Vibert, Thunder Bay, ON



Photo by Lynda Vibert

Java has once again returned to the sport he loves, following a second TA surgery.

My amazing Java will now slowly start his journey towards retirement.

Every walk to the start line is precious, as are all of our activities. I look forward to continuing the wonderful journey Java and I are on.

Java is my best friend & Companion.

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Bailey Benson Jacques "Bailey"

Bichon Frise - Age 12
Handled by: Wendi Holz, Mandan, ND



Photo by Wendi Holz

Bailey, you are our little prince. You have always had a mind of your own and still love doing your own thing at your own pace.

Some courses no longer interest you, but there is always Jumpers to get you excited. It still warms my heart to see your big grin when you are having fun, running or walking. No sense in trying to change now! We will always do it Bailey's way.

Love you Bailey!

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Dex's Midnight Runner "Dexter"

Mixed Breed - Age 12.5
Handled by: Kristine Delago, New Richmond, WI



Photo by Kristine Delago

"Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring – it was peace."

- Milan Kundera

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Benji

Mixed Breed - Age 12.5
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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Hangtime Bandits Pal Cap'n Hook "Hooker"

Australian Shepherd - Age 13
Handled by: JoAnne Schwietz, Bloomington, MN



Photo by Mark Herreid (Herreid Photography)

Have you hugged a Hooker today? I did and have for the past 13 years. Hook is the type of dog that loves to cuddle and has an uncontrollable licker. Once he starts kissing, he can't stop!

Hook had to retire suddenly from the sport that he loved due to coming down with Vestibular 3 days before we were to leave for our National Specialty, last year. Yes, he was entered, and I was looking forward to walking to the line with him for one last time at a National event. He was a trooper and could have cared less that he wasn't running. He had his massage therapist (THANK YOU Cindy!!) and his guy (Roger, you are the BEST!), who massaged and walked the tiltiness out of him!

Before retiring, our journey had taken us across the US and Canada. We have accomplished more than I could have imagined because in his early years he couldn't keep a bar up to save his life. Championships didn't come easy, but we have them. One thing you can say about Hook, is that he was a great gamble dog and I found that the farther away I was from him the better he kept the bars up!

Thank you, Hooker, for taking me on your journey. I learned a lot and hopefully I was a teammate that you were proud of because I sure am proud of all our accomplishments!

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Fourwinds Magic Breeze "Breeze"

Australian Shepherd - Age 13
Handled by: Linda Heaton, Cambridge, MN



Photo by Mark Herreid (Herreid Photography)

Breeze is the most amazing partner. She reads my mind and does it her way.

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Uproar For Cody's Boot Scooter "Spur"

Australian Shepherd - Age 13
Handled by: Jan Poole, Bloomington, MN



Photo by Mark Herreid (Herreid Photography)

Spur – What an incredible 13 years we have spent together!

The lessons Spur has taught me:

1. Patience and the art of trying to be consistent 110% of the time.
2. Having a Spur in my life has been the most FUN ever!
3. It's okay to laugh together at our failures (Spur would tell you that they are all mine!).
4. We celebrate our successes together.
5. Most importantly how to be flexible and roll with the punches.

Now in our 13th year as teammates, we have had to make some adjustments to our "Dance" but the best thing is that we are still doing that dance together.

I now 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 wouldn't trade for anything. Thanks for being you Spur, Spur, Spur!

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Cooper

Mixed Breed - Age 13
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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Pequena Sol "Sol"

Chihuahua - Age 13.5
Handled by: Connie Johnson, Belle Plaine, MN



Photo by Mark Herreid (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 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 earned her TACH 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. She has also acquired a TDIA title. She was always a hit with the crowd. The lost of sight in her left eye and failing right eye caused her recent retirement from agility at age 13.

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Bella

Border Collie - Age 13.5
Handled by: Jessica Thell, New Richmond, WI



Photo by Guy Thell

These Are A Few Of My Favorite Things By Bella Thell

Pool in the garden
And fast flying Frisbee
Bowls full of thick juicy steak and kidney
Bushy tailed squirrels and furry puss-kins
These are a few of my favorite things

Trips in the car
For me that's a treat
Outdoor courses with mum that repeat!
Running and barking and ramps give me wings
These are a few of my favorite things

A walk in the park and a swim in the lake
Reading my wee-mails – dinner is steak!
A snooze on the couch – how my furry heart sings
These are a few of my favorite things

When my mum leaves
When the vet needle stings
When I'm feeling sad
I simply remember my favorite things
And then I don't feel so bad

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Loki Joe Henry "Loki"

Bichon Frise - Age 13.5
Handled by: Wendi Holz, Mandan, ND



Photo by Wendi Holz

Loki, though the years keep adding up, you are still a puppy at heart and your name still suits you!

The excitement and joy you demonstrate on the field continues to fill my heart with pride and joy. You were my very first agility dog and we have learned so much working and playing together. I look forward to and will treasure our continuing fun on the agility field.

Love you Loki!

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Nasa

Rat Terrier - Age 14
Handled by: Connie Johnson, Belle Plaine, MN



Photo by Mark Herreid (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. NASA has qualified for CPE nationals every year since 2013 including 2020. She earned 5 CT-ATCH titles, 3 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!

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Sam

Mixed Breed - Age 14.5
Handled by: Kelly Dittmar, Maple Grove, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Sam's embracing all that life has to offer now that he's 14!

He's still enjoying running agility and is as happy and fast as he's ever been. I'm so grateful to have had intro for our retirement years. It's been wonderful to be able to take him to the line and see the joy and confidence on his face. I am sure he's reliving the glory days! Those good years when I would say "come" and he would "switch" and take 10 obstacles with a huge grin before he checked in again. Those are the runs - and these are the days - that I won't trade for anything.

Outside of agility, it's been a great year for us. Sam has been cultivating his passion for naps in the RV. It's great to have the things he loves - like the PEMF bed and his favorite pineapple toy - readily available. He's sniffed out good smells and snacked on good snacks thru 23 states now. All the way from the mountains to the desert to the coast and back again.

I've been so very lucky to have found Sam all those years ago. He's been the best first partner and most amazing boy.

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Cisco Pots and Bugs "Cisco"

Dalmatian - Age 15
Handled by: Karen Magee, Rochester, MN

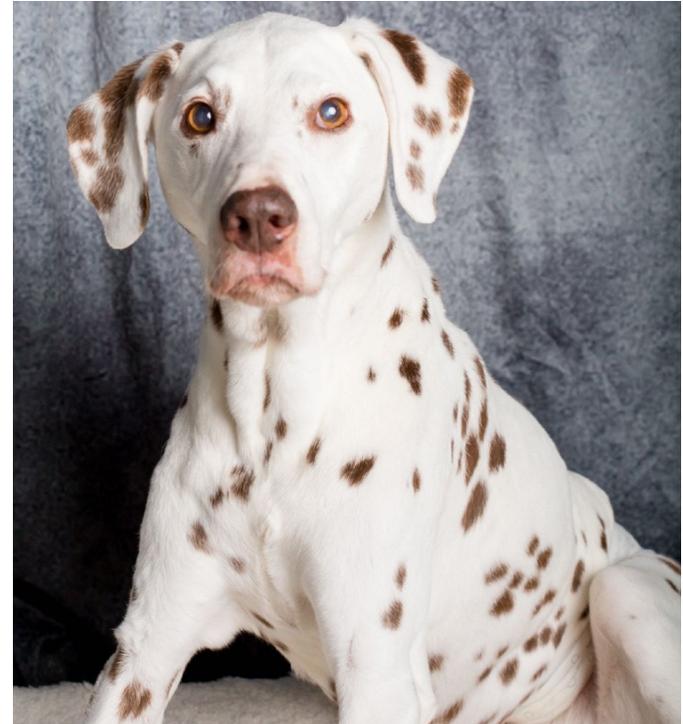


Photo by CTW Photography

Cisco is now 15. He's still moving and bossing the other agility dogs around. He makes a great CEO. Life may be a bit slower, and the eyes a little cloudier - but it's still full of lots of smells, treats, and well deserved sleep.

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Mini Cooper - Shown Actual Size "Mini Cooper"

Rat Terrier - Age 15
Handled by: Wendy Henes, St. Paul, MN



Photo by Wendy Henes

Cooper's life has been a transformation. At age 4, he was surrendered into rescue due to resource guarding a family member. A week after I got him, he escaped the arms of Laura Breckheimer, then made an enemy of her little guy, Zak. He even had to be dumped out of his crate once as he tried to attack a friend who was attempting to let him out.

Long story longer, his behavior eventually improved and had a long career as a flyball height dog and competitor in NADAC and CPE agility. Cooper eventually mellowed and gained a lot of friends, both human and canine. However, what goes around, comes around! Cooper eventually got a taste of his own medicine. We have a parrot in the house who ONLY chooses Cooper to harass and peck when he is let out of the bird cage for flight time. Ironically, Cooper tolerates this well!

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Dawson's Up A Creek "Dawson"

Mixed Breed - Age 17
Handled by: Wendy Henes, St. Paul, MN



Photo by Wendy Henes

Long since retired from dog sports, Dawson, aka Dawdle or Dawdie, is now 17 years, 2 months old. He's got a fair amount of arthritis and is lacking some hearing, sight and muscle tone but none of this has dampened his appetite for, well, FOOD!

It seems his now favorite past-time of eating is closely followed by his love for his Uber stroller rides needed after his 4 block walks around the neighborhood. That's him on the left enjoying the view. While Dawson was never stellar in agility or flyball, he did earn a few titles. It's too bad there isn't a title for lap sitting though, he certainly has been a champion at that!

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Thank You!

Thank you to all for being a part of the Minnesota Mixed Breed Club's 2019 Parade of Veterans.

MMBC is very glad to sponsor this event to honor the dogs who have touched our hearts and our lives for all of these years. Many thanks to all the hands that came together to build this event - From the Gina's delicious cookies, to Jim's wonderful course, to the t-shirts, booklet, awards, and announcers - it takes a village. Thank you.

When you see these dogs and their handlers today, let them know how wonderful it was to see them out in the ring again. Give those dogs a pat, scratch, or a hug. For today is a day to celebrate. Both those who are here with us, and the lives of those we are missing.

If you shed a tear or two, it only means that you understand that the your time in the ring with your canine companion is limited. Make sure you smile, laugh and take advantage of every moment!

An extra special thanks is due to a wonderful supporter of the Parade each year who is sadly missing from the ring. Many thanks to Miss Viva for sponsoring our bones and ribbons this year. Rest Well, and Bark Loud.



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