

How Cassie became an Australian Obedience Champion

I was after a bitch to start being serious about obedience. I did do obedience with Kirra (Aust Ch Hapustaff Black Magic CDXAD JD) but she hated it so had to find another. I then rang John and Nola (Bajed) to see if they had any bitch pups. She said she had 3 bitches but she wasn't sure what they were keeping and that she would let me know when they have made there mind up so when they were 3 months I went up to Mount Larcom and had a look at the 3 girls. Bearing in mind the pup was going to be owned by my son Michael so she had to be prepared to be pulled around and hugged and stuff. So I picked them all up and the other 2 didn't like cuddles so I picked up Cassie and she just laid there. I said to Nola " this one please" and that's how we picked her out of her sisters. I didn't check mouths or anything as that wasn't a major part to me as I wanted her for Michael and to be my next champion in obedience.

We bought her home and she fitted in really well and Kirra and her we inseparable. They are the best of friends and have never had a fight.

She had her first show at 4 months and kicked some butt and every show she went in she either won or got 2nd so I thought wow I have a stunner here in the show ring so we kept showing her and she did very well. She did especially well in the specialty rings with many in show awards and her recent winning RBCC & Best State Bred In Show at our SBTCQ 2010 under Mrs Griet Coetzer (Zeracious SBT). She loves to show and especially loves it when kids show her in junior handlers. She makes a very good junior handler dog and has qualified quite a few kids for the finals in handlers.

She gained her Australian Championship title at 2 ½ yrs of age and thoroughly enjoyed it and I had a ball showing and still show her on occasions now.

We started her obedience career at the age of 12 months. She loved doing it and was always eager to please me and hated doing anything wrong so I had to encourage her when she wasn't sure just to let her no its ok to do somethings wrong. She didn't think so though. In her mind she had to do everything right the first time so we started training and back when she started they never had the new title CCD title available so we went straight into Novice (CD). It is all off lead and she didn't mind it much but had to keep reminding her she had to stay beside me and not about half metre away. She didn't take long to train for the CD so off we went to her first Novice sweepstakes. You have to get a sweepstakes of 150 to qualify first before you can compete in CD

(Novice). She was just over a yr old and gained her first sweepstakes pass of 182/200 and 1st place on the 22/5/05. I was very pleased with her and thought I had something special in the obedience ring. So we kept training for CD and getting ready for her first trial on 4/6/05 where she scored 188/200 and 1st place and this was her 1st pass for her CD title. We then didn't train much as I found out I couldn't with her as she just hated being trained. She would rather just get out there and do it. She was very smart and only needed minimal training which many people didn't like because they had to train, train and train there dogs but with Cassie just maybe 1 day a week was all she needed. She then went onto gain her next pass in CD on the 2/7/05 with a score of 187/200 and yet another 1st place. I then went onto to get her CD title 2 weeks later with an awesome score of 192/200 and 1st place again. So that was her CD title and looked good on her paperwork to show she had brains as

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well as beauty. I was training her for CDX while competing in CD so she was just about ready to trial in CDX (Companion Dog Excellence) . Just had to get the out of sight stays down pat which she didn't have a problem with at all.

She loved the jumps and the dumbbell but did everything at a nice pace not a psycho pass. She was very calm when doing what she had to do but if she did something wrong and I corrected her by saying "no" she would just fall apart so then I new she was a soft dog to train so we went about training differently. We introduced a tennis ball.

Well that was a BAD mistake. She is a ball freak so it made it easier for her after she had done something right I would throw the ball and that was her reward. She loved the food as reward but preferred the ball I think and then she excelled in the training for her CDX title. I then entered her in her first CDX trial on the 30/7/05 and she had a ball gaining 176/200 with a 3rd place. I new she wasn't really ready but thought what the hell only way to learn is to put her in the trial so we did and was pleased she gained her 1st pass.

“Boy what a challenge UD is to train a dog...”

We were still showing her as well and we don't do trials every weekend as we wanted to get her Championship title so then we did some shows then thought buggar it will enter her in obedience again and on the 15/10/05 and she gained her 2nd pass in CDX with a score of 174/200. Wasn't a great score for her but was pleased as she was still learning the exercises and was still very young. I then thought I more pass to go for her CDX title so I put her in a trial only a week later and she gained her CDX title with a score of 178/200 and with a 2nd place. This was a great achievement for one so young and just only completing her CD title. I entered her in a couple more CDX trials and she scored an awesome score of 187/200 and 1st place. This was to be her last CDX trial as she was then shown and she started her UD (Utility Dog) title training.

Boy what a challenge UD is to train a dog. There is a lot more things involved in UD and takes a while to train a dog. Usually some dogs take over a year just to train for all the exercises but Cassie wow she was awesome. I think it took her about 5 or 6 months to train for every exercise.

It was a challenge as she had to find just one article (metal, leather and wood) amongst 12 other articles of the metal , wood and leather. Was a challenge to teach her just to scent for the one I touched and she wasn't sure what I wanted her to do so I had to sew all the 12 articles onto a white sheet so she couldn't just pick up anyone.

So I put the article I touched onto the sheet with the sewed ones on it and hoping this will teach her to only get the one with my scent on it as the others should couldn't get as they were sewed down. I sent her out to find the

one I touched and it took her a while not to pick up the sewed down ones and she finally found the loose one I had touched. So we did this with all the articles and this would have had to be the hardest one to teach any dog because they don't like the metal on their teeth.



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“I never thought a Stafford could refuse food.”

When we were doing this exercise I kept the 3 articles the same all the time so it had my scent on them and was easier for her to find them and no what she had to do and that she had to sniff them out to find the right one. When she started using her nose I took all the cotton off the sewed ones and they were all loose. Now the time had come to see if she could really do it and find the one I touched amongst all the other loose ones. I put the one I touched on the sheet and sent her to “find”. She went out and to my amazement she found the right one so I knew the method had worked. She did all 3 good so now was to train for the box and jumps. She loved this one and didn't take long before she learnt that as well. I then taught her to find the “seek back”. Its a piece of leather dropped by the judge. This was kind of easy for Cassie to learn and I found this the easiest one to teach her. After that I had to teach her the stand, drop and come so I was speaking and doing the signals at same time. Then I cut out the speaking and she new what the signals meant.

Then came the food refusal. I never thought a Stafford could refuse food. She learnt very quickly not to touch the food.

So she had concurred the whole of the UD exercises and I thought might as well enter her in a trail. Nothing to loose and will give her a bit of practise in a trial situation. Lets say in her 1st trial we got a couple of 0's. She just wasn't sure on what she was meant to be doing as it was a different place and not the back yard. So we kept entering her in UD as well as showing her.

On the 16/2/08 she gained her 1st pass with an awesome score of 188/200 and a 1st place. This was an awesome score being in UD as I was told. I was just going for a score of 170/200 which is the qualifying score for a pass in UD. So I was pretty stoked with her. We then started to have trouble with her eating the food in “food refusal” and she was loosing out on a pass. So we kept going with the food and just did more training with her and she then got her 2nd pass on the 19/4/08 with another great score of 187/200 with a 2nd place. As we font trial every weekend it was good that she new what she had to do even with little training. I

found if I kept training her in UD she would just get bored so we only trained a little everyday of 2 exercises and she was ok with that.

We then entered the Royal QLD Show for the 1st time in 08 where she went onto get her UD title with a score of 176/200 and 3rd place. This was a great achievement for her as the grounds were awful. Cows had been doing there business where we were trialling so all the UD dogs did a very good job. This was the best feeling to get her title at such a great show.

Then the fun began going for her Australian Obedience Champion (AOC) title.



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We needed 5 more passes of 185 or more and I'm like that is going to take awhile. So our campaign started to get her OC. We entered more trials and was close on some occasions for an OC pass but she would either eat the food or sit in the stand for exam.

So we did some showing to get her mind away from obedience and then went back to it. She then gained her 1st pass towards her OC on the 4/7/09 with a score of 186/200 with a 2nd place. Now then I knew she could do it and entered her in the next weekend trial where she gained another pass of 187/200 with a 1st place. So I was like awesome now we only need 3 more passes and she will be an AOC dog.

Well then we became into trouble yes you guessed it the food again. So we had to teach her the gloves. She knew the directions of where the gloves were as I had taught her the leathers for UDX so she had an idea of where I wanted her to go. She took to these easy so out with the food refusal and in with the gloves. So the moment came when we did yet another trial with the gloves this time and she did everything beautiful. She scored 187/200 and 1st place and her 3rd pass.

I'm now thinking mmmm maybe she will get her title. She was now trialling in Agility (AD) as well and she loved it. Something to keep her mind active and a break from obedience. She loved all the equipment involved and with 4 trials she gained her AD (Agility Dog) title. I'm started to think there is nothing this girl can do. So we started doing Jumpers (JD) too and she gained 1 pass in that as we haven't entered anymore as we were trying hard to get her AOC title before she was due in season at the end of November.

So we went back to trials trying hard to get her last 2 passes. We came so close and were running out of trials. We did little training with her as by now she knew all the exercises so I would just put her into trials and hope for the best. We had 2 trials in a weekend with only 4 trials left after these 2. I thought just get one pass and we have a few more to get the rest. So she went awesome and she got her 4th pass with a score of 186/200 and 2nd place. I'm now thinking we are so close to gaining this and we have a few trials left so that cool with me.

Then she pulls out another great pass of 187/200 and a 2nd place and gains the title of **Australian Obedience Champion**. This was the best feeling and all the training and heartache was well worth the effort.

This title makes her the 1st Stafford and Stafford bitch in Queensland (QLD) to gain this title.

I knew she could do it but not as quick as she has and she has achieved a lot in her show and obedience career and could not have asked anything else of her. Mind you she has been a mother twice so there's time out of training and just goes to show you she did it in limited training and time.

She is a one in a million dog and is always ready to please. She was easy to train and always wanting to please.

Cant thank John & Nola (Bajed) enough for allowing Cassie to become a major part of our lives and Michaels girl and the foundation of Magicmine Staffords.

Her son Tonka (Magicmine A Pot Of Black CCD CDX) and her daughter Ice (Magicmine Black Ice) have both taken after their mother in the obedience and both are excelling as well.

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