

Staffords Unleashed!

For several years I have attended the famous AKC terrier only performance week in Kimberton PA with my American Staffordshire Terrier. The week is comprised of 4 days of agility, 1 day of rally, and 1 day of obedience.

My first encounter with a Stafford was not at this event, but attending this event year after year and meeting the incredible performance Staffords from all over the country and their owners sealed the deal for me. One day I would own my very own Stafford and become a part of this dynamic group!

As the years ticked by and I continued to drool over the Staffords I met, I also

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observed that while many terrier breed clubs sponsored special awards for their dogs, it didn't seem that the Stafford club did so, or at least not consistently. My terrier tenacity kicked in and I set forward with my goals. 1. To own a Stafford. 2. To give all performance Staffords the recognition they deserve at this event.

Both desires certainly presented their challenges along the way but that only made the end result that much more sweet. I acquired my first Stafford in September 2010, Elivid's Shaken Not Stirred. Call name, "Bonnie". And, with the blessing of the SBTCA, the agility, obedience, and rally entry at Kimberton 2012 was to be supported! OMG! Now...What exactly did I get myself into?

I soon discovered what exactly I got myself into in both regards. It became readily apparent that I would need to



JEAN HARVEY AND LIGHTNING



CHRISTINE EDWARDS AND FOXY



LIZZ KESTER AND LENA



SARGE AND JILL TICE (HIT)



GUS (OWNED BY GWYN SCHEIDT)



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By Deb Roseman

draw again on my own terrier-like tenacity to not only get my Stafford ready to compete but also to pull off the best supported event ever.

As I dealt with the challenges of training the highest drive dog I have EVER owned, I also struggled with how to get this supported entry thing off the ground. I had no idea what I was doing. I started to write notes to various yahoo group lists for advice. A few people responded but I was still feeling overwhelmed and wondered if anyone really cared and whether even I could truly make this happen.

No one who is reading this will be surprised to learn that Karyn Dawes responded to my cry for help. Everyone in Staffords knows of her incredible accomplishments with her own dogs, her mentoring of others in all sports, and her tenacity in making sure that everyone knew what great performance dogs Staffords are. Her email wasn't chock full of details that led me down a path. It was a matter of fact statement of what to expect and what not to expect. While not the answer I was looking for, it was the best advice I received and sent me on my mission to find my way to achieve my goal. Karyn and I emailed a few more times about various things and I knew she would be there for me, as she was for anyone who asked for help.

In the months that followed, I started to work on determining budget and awards. I wanted participation in the event and I wanted participants to be HAPPY. Eventually things started to click. I made rosette decisions. I decided on prizes. I gave myself a budget and made sure I was comfortable with the amount should a chunk of it have to come out of pocket.

Then the unthinkable happened. The person I had hoped to look to throughout this process, Karyn Dawes, fell ill at an agility trial. She sadly passed away a few short days later. The Stafford community was thrown into a state of shock and I became aware of how truly special to the bull breeds this lady REALLY was. It wasn't a hard decision at all to dedicate Kimberton 2012, and all future years of supported entry at Kimberton, to Karyn.

At this point things needed to kick into high gear. I advertised the event and the supported entry in memory of Karyn wherever I could think to post it. Gears started to

move like a well oiled machine and before I knew it, the event was here and competitors from across the United States flew and drove in for the event.

Christine Ann Edwards from CA brought Foxy to compete in obedience and agility.

Jean Richardson from IL brought Charlie to compete in obedience.

Gwyn Scheidt from NC brought Gus to compete in agility and obedience

Jill Tice from NY brought Sarge to compete in agility, rally, and obedience.

Stephanie Crawford from NY brought Itty Bitty Bea to compete in rally and obedience.

Lizz Kester from VA brought Lena to compete in rally and obedience.

Jean Harvey from PA brought Lightning to compete in rally and obedience.

Angie Mitts from PA brought Senna to compete in rally. She's a puppy!!!

Kay Datesman and Denise Visco from NJ brought Pearlle to compete in agility, rally, and obedience

Debra Roseman from NJ brought Bonnie to compete in agility, rally, and obedience

Even though the event started on Tuesday with agility, the supported entries started on Wednesday with rally. In the rally ring we had 7 Staffords entered across multiple classes resulting in a total entry of 10.



THE AUTHOR - DEB ROSEMAN & BONNIE

continued

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Rally qualifying results were as follows:

Kay and Pearlle earned an RAE leg with scores of 98 in Adv. (1st place!) and 85 in Exc

Lizz and Lena earned an RAE leg with scores of 95 in Adv. (3rd place!) and 92 in Exc (2nd place!)

Jean and Lightning earned an RAE leg with scores of 96 in Adv. and 85 in Exc.

Jill and Sarge earned an RN leg with a score of 97 in Nov B (3rd place!)

Angie and Senna (puppy!!) earned an RN leg with a score of 95 in Nov B

Stephanie and Itty earned an RA leg with a score of 89 in Adv B.

On Wednesday night, everyone except Denise and Kay (who had other commitments) joined up with Beth Dunkle Zeiner and Lisa Glass Skorija for drinks, dinner, and to talk Stafford! Beth and Lisa both have multiple Stafford households and are well known for their flyball fame! A great time was had by all and more across the miles friendships formed...

The supported entries continued on Thursday with obedience and agility. Once again, our versatile Staffords did not disappoint! In the obedience ring we had 9 Staffords entered across multiple classes resulting in a total entry of 10. Obedience qualifying results were as follows:

Deb and Bonnie competed in Beginner Novice A obtaining a score of 192.5 to finish their BN title. (1st place!)

Jean and Lightning earned a CD leg with a score of 190.5 in Nov B and completed their CD title

Stephanie and Itty earned a CD leg with a score of 190.5+ in Nov B (4th place! they had a run off with Jean for placement)

Jill and Sarge earned a CD leg with a score of 192 in Nov B (2nd place!) HIT STAFFORD!!!!

Christine and Foxy competed in Open B and demonstrated Foxy's amazing and unique frog-dog drop on recall! They received a score of 187 (3rd place!)

In the agility rings we had 5 Staffords entered across multiple classes across all days resulting in a total entry of 35. On the supported day of Thursday, Agility qualifying results were as follows:

Gwyn and Gus qualified in T2B.

Christine and Foxy qualified in EXC B JWW (2nd place!)

Although Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday agility classes were not supported, qualifiers included:

Denise and Pearlle QQ'd in EXC B STD and JWW on Tuesday with 2nd and 3rd placements. They also Q'd in EXC B STD on Wednesday with a 2nd place

Gwyn and Gus Q'd in EXC B STD on Tuesday. They also QQ'd on Wednesday in EXC B STD and JWW with a 1st place in STD! To continue their amazing week, they also QQ'd on Friday.

Christine and Foxy QQ'd in EXC B STD and JWW on Friday with 2nd and 3rd placements.

All qualifiers received a Stafford knot tug toy and a special rosette. Additional prizes for more difficult challenges included giant gift bags full of treats for those teams earning RAE legs, and as High In Trial Stafford, Jill Tice and Sarge received a gift certificate for a custom hand stitched leather stafford collar and lead set!

I of course wanted everyone to go home with something whether they qualified or not, so at the end of the day on Thursday, we held an NQ raffle. Prizes consisted of Stafford knot tug toys, Stafford fleece collars from the UK, and a Stafford garden flag. Everyone went home with some kind of memento, happy memories, and new friends.

As this event came to a close, I breathed a huge sigh of relief and reflected back on my adventures with my Stafford and my adventures in organizing my first ever supported entry. Both are challenges that I took on with full disclosure and both eyes wide open. Would I do it again? ABSOLUTELY! I look forward to the continued support of our performance Staffords and their owners from the SBTCA and Stafford fans! People love to watch our adorable, entertaining, athletic dogs! And... I look forward to whatever challenges my Stafford continues to throw at me throughout her lifetime

*We could not have done any of this without our generous supporters!
We thank you so much for supporting our performance Staffords!
Supporters were (in no particular order):*

*The Stafford Knot
NESBTC
Christine Ann Edwards
Stephanie Crawford
Jean Harvey
Dayna Lemke
Judy Heller
Tomek Matusiak
Johnny Miller Amberly Staffords*

*Teri Crestani Keetch
Lisa Glass Skorija
Beth Lloyd
Toni Pawson
Melissa Ness
Jenn Irwin
Sharon Adams
Judith Brecka
Emily Sieger*