

Dee Dee and "Tess"

(AM. CAN. OTCH Splashdown Tess of Culywood, WCX)

For those of you who have never met Dee Dee Anderson, she could be said to be somewhat quiet (but she carries a big stick as old Teddy Roosevelt would say). I have seen her on numerous occasions at the dog shows and we have probably exchanged a dozen words. However, in the ring a transformation occurs. She mentally talks with her friend, Tess, all the time. There, in the ring the drama begins. Like a one act play, each instinctively knows what the other is saying, each line thoroughly rehearsed. The result, 200 scores or slightly lower (that's when one or the other, by chance, forgets for one brief moment one of those lines in the play). Now, I would be perfectly happy with a 170 or slightly better (beggars can't be choosers), but, that is the difference in training philosophies.

Take a gander at the NORCAL membership list and you will see some pretty outstanding dogs (and trainers, too); OTCHs, Miki, Tiaga, Nuggett, Boomer and don't forget those that passed through those exercises before, like Streaker and Rocky. Now, there's Tess. A star in the obedience sky that outshines all others, the Super Dog. What make the difference? Hours of training and loads of consistency in the ring. What's the result? Not just superstardom, but an incredible bonding between trainer and dog that's almost poetic.

Tess snatched the Gaine's Super Dog Championship from the formidable odds-on-favorites from the Midwest. What's happened to our two stars since then? Well, Tess was sorely tested by a local newspaper reporter when she broke from a "Stay" command (because the sneaky fellow waived Tess' favorite toy in front of her nose and taunted our poor girl into playing (what self-respecting Golden could resist such temptation, I ask you!) When the slippery floors on the David Letterman Show could have spelled disaster, Tess was equal to the test showing like the star she is.

And what, you might ask, of Dee Dee, the totally dedicated trainer? Well, Dee Dee nearly stole the Letterman Show when asked if Tess ate Gaine's products..."Well, no, not presently..." she retorted. "Has she ever?" asked Letterman. "Well, (short pause) no" she said sheepishly. Now, who's the star? Tess the Super Dog or Dee Dee the Super Trainer and part-time comedienne.

BRAVO to both Dee Dee and Tess for their exemplary performance in the elite of obedience competition....and we think good looks and the instinctive ability to fetch birds is tough!!!