

Dream lives up to her name in obedience test

EAGER-TO-PLEASE GOLDEN RETRIEVER WINS CROWN

By Linda Goldston
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A Redwood City dog has been named the best trained canine in the country.

Dream, a 4-year-old golden retriever, and her owner/handler Dee Dee Anderson, won top honors Sunday in the AKC National Obedience Invitational championship in Long Beach.

"She's the most obedient dog in the country," Anderson said, shortly after she and Dream arrived home from Long Beach. "This is only the second year I've gone to the competition."

Dream, who is co-trained by Anderson's husband, Billy, brought home a large crystal bowl trophy and \$2,800. She is registered as DD's Dreams Do Come True.

The obedience competition was part of the AKC/Eukanuba National Championships.

Christian Marsh of San Jose and his vizsla, Maho, won \$200 and show ribbons for Best Bred by Exhibitor in Breed and an Award of Excellence.

Maho, registered as Mystik's Mahogany By The Bay, and Marsh also

received invitations to attend the prestigious Crufts dog show in London in 2008 and 2009.

"I'm still floating," Marsh said Monday.

Nearly 2,500 dogs competed in Long Beach for the various titles and \$225,000 in prize money, the largest prize money amount of any dog show in the world.

A Sealyham terrier known as Charmin, of Cochranville, Pa., won the coveted AKC/Eukanuba National Championship title for being the top show dog and \$50,000 for her owners.

Anderson has competed in obedience for 25 years and had won a similar competition in 1985, although it was not sponsored by the American Kennel Club at that time.

"Two kids later, they're all grown up, I'm now competing again and won this," she said.

The obedience trials test a dog's ability to perform a prescribed set of exercises, with each one scored, according to the AKC.

"The difference between obedience and agility is that in obedience, you can only command the dog once," Anderson said. "You can't tell her, 'that's good,' you can't tell her, 'that's wrong.' The judge asks if you're ready and you give the dog



Dee Dee Anderson's Dream, a 4-year-old golden retriever, won top honors in the AKC National Obedience Invitational championship on Sunday. Anderson and her husband, Billy, train Dream.

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one command and she has to perform.

"So my dog performed."

Rather than perform for a treat, Dream "does it to please me," Anderson said. "She does it because she loves me. She loves to be with me."

At home, Dream likes to kick back with her canine housemate, Kit, an 11-year-old golden retriever.

"They're best buddies, they hang out together," Anderson said. "I think Dream just told Kit about winning."

Next to wanting to please Anderson, Dream "likes to put on a show," Anderson said. "She grew up with

my grandfather, who died two years ago at age 99. This man never went to a dog show but watching Dream grow up, he said, 'This dog's gonna be really good. She's going to be something special.'"

Anderson, who owns DD's Dog Training, has more pictures and information about Dream on her Web site at www.ddsdogtraining.com/mainpage.htm.

For more information about the competition and winners, see www.akc.org.

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