

# Goodbye Tess

My friend Tess died in November. To the world she was known as Am/Can OTCH Splashdown Tess of Culynwood, WCX, but to me she was a good friend. I will always remember the way she met me when I visited her home - feet tapping excitedly on the kitchen floor, lips curled back in a friendly smile, body and tail curved in greeting. She always disobeyed Dee Dee's order to stay in the kitchen so she could come up the steps to the living room to see me..

I knew Tess as a puppy and watched her grow. She had been shipped from the East to know several homes before Dee Dee took her in. But that never bothered her - see was friendly with everyone.

Tess was to become the youngest Golden ever to earn her UD and WCX. Later, she was to accomplish a feat everyone said was impossible. Obedience sages intoned, "You can't campaign a dog all year and expect to do well at the Gaines Classic." But Tess proved them wrong. She not only earned enough OTCH points to place second in the nation in 1985, but she won the Superdog Division at the Classic that same year. It couldn't be done, but Tess did it. At that time, she was the youngest dog every to win that title and the only breedable bitch.

Tess was an outstanding competitor and an outstanding dam as well. She had three litters, the oldest of which is only four, but already her progeny are making their mark. Five of them have achieved their UD and several have OTCH points and are multi-High in Trial dogs.

She wasn't the prettiest or flashiest Golden ever to work an obedience ring. However, she was willing, consistent, accurate, and one of the best obedience Golden in history. Her sons and daughters promise to carry on that tradition, so she will not be forgotten. I know I'll never forget. Tess was a good friend, and I'll always remember her smile.

So, goodbye, Tess -- I miss you.

Judy Myers