

Profile200

by

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Dee Dee Anderson wrote a very informative article about her dog, Chance, who is a grandson of her very first 200 dog (and Gaines Classic winner), Tess. She has also very generously provided us an overview of her philosophy of training. Dee Dee has been a very successful exhibitor and instructor for many years so I'm sure we'll all learn a lot from her profile. Read on —

"While talking to an Obedience Judge at a recent all breed show it was stated that 90% of conformation dogs could not come over to the obedience ring and earn a 170 score in Novice. For those of you who have earned obedience degrees, no matter the score, pat yourself on the back for you have accomplished something that most of the dog world has not! For those of you who have earned 200s, OTCHs, and High In Trials, you have probably put in more time than most people and/or you have a dog that is willing to put out time and time again. The point is "Obedience training is a lot of work," and that's what I tell each of my clients.



"I have heard people say "my dog will not earn an OTCH because I can't do that to him or her". What does "that" mean? Some people think you have to be cruel and punishing to your dog to earn an

OTCH, which is not true at all - you just have to keep working on the basics. All of my dogs love to work, but even they can get tired of continually working on the basics, so to avoid boredom that could result from doing things repeatedly, I do more than just obedience with them (by the way, Obedience has never been boring to me). I track them, do field work, and also run in agility. Another way that I avoid possible boredom is that I look at each show as a new challenge; each show is always different from the previous one, with different distractions, different ring conditions, etc., so I make preparing for each show a challenge, which keeps things interesting for my dogs, and me.

"When I train I always run through all of the exercises for the class(es) I am preparing to show in. That's right, I run through all exercises in order. If you are having trouble qualifying, try running through in order for a while so the dog knows what is coming next. You must also remember that in order for your dog to have fun, you have to be having fun too. That's enough about what I think ... now on to Chance.

"OTCH DD's Takin' A Chance UDX, TD, SH, WC earned his first 200 under judge **Mr. Jim TenEyck** on February 15, 1999 at the Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club show in the Open B class. Chance's 200 felt like the very first 200 I ever earned with OTCH Splashdown Tess of Culywood 14 years ago. Tess and OTCH DD's Tagalong Thumper TD,JH,WC (another 200 dog of mine) are Chance's

grandparents. Chance's sire is AFC Glenhaven Devil's Advocate MH, UDT, and his dam is OTCH DD's Cher.

"In addition to being Chance's handler, I am his breeder too. He came from a litter of six pups, five males and one female. He was the biggest in the litter. I had no plans of keeping a pup from that litter, but there was something about Chance that would not allow me to let him go. While in the pen with the rest of the pups, Chance would cling to me. If I was on the side of the pen opposite to him, he would sit and stare at me while the other pups would pace and whine. He was so cute and loving. I did not have to pick Chance from the other puppies; Chance picked me (no need for temperament testing!).

"During Chance's early training I taught him to speak and shake hands, which haunted me during his Novice career. When I would tell him to sit, he would sit and speak; when I told him to down, he would shake hands. Yes, he lost points in the ring; while all the other dogs in the group would be down for the group long down, Chance would be sitting next to me with his paw in the air, wanting to shake hands instead of downing (we made a lot of Judges smile). By the time we were done with Novice, we had worked out the problem of knowing when to sit, down, speak, and shake.

"Chance is soft in nature; he has never required much of a correction. Since I do not believe in bribing a dog (with food) to get it to perform, I believe corrections must be

made to have a trained dog. Chance makes me laugh when I should be correcting him. Over the last two and half years Chance's amazing consistency has won him High In Trial and High Combined every other time I show him; my only regret is that I was not able to show him more. Chance has eighteen 199.5 scores to his credit.

"Chance's love for life is unbelievable. He loves everyone; he does not have an aggressive bone in his body. He is known for his bear hugs, which he gives out often at shows, but only when I am with him. If I am not around he can only think of me. My husband said that Chance is a pain when I leave him home.

"If Chance could talk he would say 'What do you want to do now? I'll do anything, come on, lets play - you want to just sit there? OK, let me put my head in your lap'.

"Chance's ability to draw people to him has intrigued me over the years, Spectators will come from the other side of the ring to pet him. When Chance is out with me at a show, he will pick a person and call them over to him by making eye contact. It is almost as though he says to people 'come on, I know you want to pet me, its OK.'

"Chances obedience career almost ended twice. The first time was the result of being attacked by dogs on two separate occasions. Chance was severely attacked by a Rottweiler, and on a separate occasion he was attacked by a Borzoi. Both events induced more psychological damage than physical. I had severe problems with sits and downs as a result of the attacks; Chance was very nervous around other dogs after the attacks. I had to work very hard to build up Chance's confidence in the ring, but eventually (after I year), we worked through it.

"The second time I thought Chance's career had come to an end was about four months before he earned his 200. We had started Agility training, and he came up on three legs after a run. The next day there was no limp, not even a little one, but we stopped jumping for a few weeks. A month after that he came up on three legs again after running around the back yard. The next day no limp, but I did not let him run or jump for a few weeks just to be safe. A month later he came up lame again, which was three days before his 200 performance. Of course, no limp the next day. We went to the show as there was no sign of a limp. The limp was always in the front right leg, and he would put no weight on it at all until the next day. Chance was never put on any pain medication. At the show Chance was so up and on in Open, but I do not remember much except the broad jump. I must have left Chance too far back, because when he took off to jump he took off too far back. I thought he was going to crash the jump, but he made an extra motion in the air and cleared the jump landing very hard on his front; even the spectators moaned. If there was something wrong with him, this would be it. But no, no limp, just a straight front and finish. The next day we

went to the vet. Since there was no limp they suggested rest and coming back. I insisted on x-rays from toe to shoulder. I wanted to know what would make a dog come up on three legs sometimes and not others. They x-rayed and found what they thought was a tumor inside the bone of his leg just above the wrist area. The preliminary diagnosis was bone cancer. The only thing for bone cancer take the leg. First they would do a bone scan to see if it was cancer. I decided that I would never take his leg, so I did not run any additional tests. The vet suggested coming back in a month to see how fast the tumor was growing. So Chance did nothing for a month except for swimming once a week. I had to wade into the water with him so that he would not jump in. A month later (and no limp for a month) I took him back for x-rays. I decided to do the other leg too, just incase I was going to take the leg I wanted to make sure the other leg looked good. Well, the tumor is now a spot on his leg and he has it on both legs. It was decided that Chance was born this way and there was nothing to worry about because this was not causing him to limp. What was causing him to limp now showed up four months after the first limp. What showed up was a severe trauma to the wrist area. He was developing arthritis in his wrist, not bone cancer. So, after five months of no shows and no limp Chance is back. He earned his NA and NAJ titles and a High Combined. There are things he can no longer do, like go out in the field and run, and very little jumping. It has now been 10 months and no limp, so I think were doing just enough. Until just recently I had no Idea where he injured himself. But now I think I know where it happened - on the closed tunnel. Most closed tunnels are built off the ground just a little. Chance is a big dog, the entrance to the closed tunnel is not very big compared to the open tunnel which is flush on the ground. Chance runs fast like most dogs do going into the tunnels, and because the tunnel is a little off the ground, he must have hit his wrist going into the tunnel at full speed. Please look at your closed tunnel and add a protection to the bottom of it, or your dog may suffer a career ending injury from it.

"This 200 that Chance has earned is the icing on the cake. Out of all my dogs Chance has overall been the easiest to train. He is rarely perfect, but he is never boring. But the thing that I like best about Chance is that he is so much fun!"

Thanks for sharing, Dee Dee. I hope that you are able to keep that arthritis in his wrist under control. My fourteen year old Golden, Rocky, developed arthritis in his shoulder at the age of seven. He had dislocated it when he was four months old. At seven he started on glycoflex and it helped tremendously. Good luck and let us know of any future 200's!