



The Dream

by Dee Dee Anderson

What is the dream we might have with our dogs? Do we dream of having the best conformation dog in the country who wins Best in Show many times? Do we dream of having the fastest Golden Retriever that wins every agility trial we enter? Do we dream of having the best marking dog that outruns those Labradors in field trials? Do we dream of earning many perfect 200 scores in the obedience ring? Do we dream of having the greatest Golden Retriever
(continued on next page)

DREAM



**National Obedience
Champion**

AKC
NATIONAL Obedience
Invitational
December 1 & 2, 2007
Long Beach
California

AKC
National
Obedience
Invitational

THIRD PRIZE

Dec. 17-18,
2011
Orlando,
Florida



The Dream, *continued*

ever? Do others stop us from dreaming? Do our dreams take us places we never thought we could go? Do we have bad dreams?

How My Deam Began

I got my first Golden on my 16th birthday. It was the best birthday present ever. I had wanted a Golden so badly after going to a dog show and seeing what I thought was the greatest dog ever: "Streaker" (Am-Can CH OTCH Sunstreak of Culywood UDT WCX OS OBHF). I begged my parents for a Golden for my birthday and they wonderfully came through! I got in touch with the local Golden Retriever club (Nor-Cal GRC) and asked to become a member as I planned to put an OTCH on my new puppy. The membership chair sent me back a nice letter saying I was too young to become a member, but I could become a junior member. He also said I had big dreams and wished me success with my new pup (named "Nuggett"). I met many Golden Retriever owners at Nor-Cal events and at one event, I found a Golden pup looking for a new home. This pup "Tess" was out of NAFC FC Topbrass Cotton OS FDHF. Tess would come home with me, and I would now have two Golden. I ended up breeding Nuggett and keeping a male pup. By the time I was 19, I had three Golden and was still living at home, but would get married the next year and start a new life. It took a lot of hard work and many shows but Nuggett would become my first OTCH, even after several people told me Nuggett was not OTCH material.

Tess (Am-Can OTCH Splashdown Tess Of Culywood WCX OD OBHF) turned out to be much smarter than Nuggett and earned her OTCH with ease. I was encouraged to enter the Gaines Classic Super Dog competition in Long Beach, CA in 1985. A friend of mine said to just go have fun and that I would get to see some of the best dogs in the country. Tess was doing great that year in the ring so I entered her in the Gaines Classic taking place in December. The competition was two days long. After the first day, amazingly I was sitting in 3rd place. Many friends came up to me to tell me I could win the whole thing. I went to bed that night and dreamed of every scenario and had a hard time sleeping. Tess and I would win the 1985 Gaines Classic and go down in history as the youngest team ever to win. Tess would go on to be the number one Golden by OTCH points, Delaney and Shuman systems. Tess would be the number two dog in the country ranked by OTCH points. It was a dream come true. Even more amazing was that I was invited to appear on the *Late Night with David Letterman* show with Tess by my side. Unfortunately, I lost Tess at the relatively young age of eight years old. It was so hard to move on with the other dogs. I received many nice cards from people and was told she was my once-in-a-lifetime dog – most commenting to me that "You will never have another dog like her."

It was hard for me to get over the idea that I had lost my "once-in-a-lifetime" dog. I was truly depressed for a while thinking about that. But then I thought, "This can't be it, there has to be more for me to accomplish in the ring." There is no question that Tess was great. I had also earned my first perfect 200 score with her. For me, earning a 200 score was something I only dreamed of as it rarely happened. But Tess earned not only one but three 200 scores!

After getting married, I had two children and many

Golden after Tess. All the dogs were very good in the Obedience ring and all would go on to earn multiple 200 scores as well as their OTCH titles. They would also go on to earn other titles in other events as AKC introduced them to us. I would not have time to campaign any of them past earning their OTCH titles due to the demands of the family I was raising.

"Dream" and "The Dream"

Dream (NOC OTCH DD's Dreams Do Come True UDX26 OGM RE TDX VCD1 JH WCX OBHF VCX CCA) came into my world on December 7, 2002, and left me on July 19, 2013. She was the last puppy born out of a litter of eight and the only pup to have a few white toes, white on her chest, and white on her chin. I had a conformation judge come look at the litter and the first thing she said was "You're not thinking of keeping that one," as she pointed to the white-toed puppy wearing the yellow collar. But for some reason, that yellow collar puppy started to grow on me. I thought I did not have the time to ever show her because of my family responsibilities and was thinking I would just have a pet. I really did not need another dog as we still had three Golden, but those three were retired from competition.

However, Dream would be so different from our other dogs. She had a more gentle personality and a silly side to her. It was like she knew how you were feeling. I think she could read my mind. Because she was the puppy in the house, she was the only dog I needed to train so she received a lot of attention. She went everywhere with me, riding in the front of the van right between the two seats. I had a box between the seat and she would put her front paws up on it so she could see out the front window. When I was driving, she would sometimes rest her chin on my arm as I held the steering wheel. She could ride for hours like that. She loved to see where she was going and, as we passed things, I would tell her what they were. Sometimes



Dream wins three High In Trials in one weekend (2011) the start of many weekends coming home undefeated. Dream had a total of 86 199.5 scores.

The Dream, continued



It wasn't until we took photos of Dream retrieving that we could see the perfection of her pick up and the force to her body while retrieving.

Dream jumping with ease at 10 years of age.

All photos by Chris Anderson.



I felt like I was spending way too much time talking to this dog. It was much safer for her to ride in a crate, so I started to only let her ride up front on short trips to the store. But she wanted no part of riding in the crate and would jump into the van and go right to her spot up front. If we had a passenger, she would make sure to tell them where she rode.

While my kids (two boys) were in high school, I spent many hours lying on their beds late at night during their turbulent adolescent years, hoping they would talk to me. I would not go to bed until they would talk and get things off their chest. They both had a hard time in high school for different reasons and I just had to get them through it. I wanted

them to dream – to dream about the good things possible in life. That is how Dream got her name – from my hopes that my boys would learn to dream. On some days when they would not get up to face the day, I would open the bedroom door and send Dream into the room and then close the door. Dream would do her thing and I would hear laughter coming from the room a few minutes later.

Dream's training was slow at first. I just did not have the motivation to train her. I guess I needed to dream of good times too. When she heeled as a very young pup, she could not control her front end. I told myself that she will never heel perfectly, it just is not possible. She threw her front paws up so high in excitement to heel with me. We would later call that her "happy feet," and when she had her happy feet on, I had to watch out. She wanted to move out and I had to make sure I could keep up with her.

Despite the ups and downs of family life, plus some health problems for me, I began to show Dream. She did very well, but in her third novice show, as she was heeling off leash, she came to a complete stop and it took a minute for her to even hear me calling her. Once she focused on me, we continued on just fine. In training, though, she would have a few moments like this and we started to say she was seeing ghosts. So I started taking her "ghost hunting!" We went to parking lots, shopping centers, parks and even train stations, which gave Dream a chance to see many different places and people. From all our expeditions, Dream gained confidence that she could work anywhere. "Ghost hunting" worked like a charm!

Dream was not the bravest dog and once I understood that, I was able to work with her. I would let many things go in training. As long as she did the exercise right, I was fine with that as I never expected her to be perfect. Dream would want only one thing from me and that was my praise and my telling her she was a good dog. She loved to be touched and she was happy being touched by anyone and everyone. She very much enjoyed a soft, gentle touch and stayed next to you as long as you petted and stroked. If you stopped, she would move a little closer just to make sure you really wanted to stop – because didn't everyone want to touch

her just a little bit more?

The National Obedience Invitational (NOI) came to the West Coast in 2006. At that time, Dream was only three years old, but she got an invitation so we went. We did not place that year but we had a great time and Dream did very well. This was my first year at the NOI and after that I dreamed of winning it some day.

The GRCA National came to the West Coast in 2007, and we went to that event. Dream was really "on" that weekend and won everything: earning firsts in Utility B

Dream's Lifetime accomplishments (note some 2013 year-end awards not yet known):

- 236 High in Trials
- 206 High Combineds
- 3,140 OTCH Points
- 32 Perfect 200s
- Won the 2007 AKC National Obedience Invitational
- Won High in Trial and High Combined at the 2007 GRCA National Specialty
- Won 2nd runner-up at the 2011 AKC National Obedience Invitational
- Qualified for the 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 AKC National Obedience Invitationals
- Placed four times in the Sporting Group at the AKC National Obedience Invitationals: 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2011
- Won the GRCA Toby-Trigger Trophy in 2010
- Won the Ric O Shay Barty Trophy in 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013
- Ranked in the top 10 Toby-Trigger in 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013
- Ranked in the top 25 All Breed in OTCH points in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012
- Won top Nor-Cal GRC obedience dog in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013

The Dream, continued

and Open B, High In Trial and High Combined. She also placed in agility and earned her WCX. We even showed in conformation in the Bred-By class. That did not go so well as Dream had her happy feet on!

Dream would earn five perfect 200 scores that year – something I only dreamed of doing and didn't think possible. We would be invited to the NOI again and this time, after the first day we were in third place. I went to bed that night dreaming of how nice it would be to win. Dream had to be clean the next day and I just kept telling her "do it any way you want too – just do it!" And that is exactly what she did – and we won! I was in shock and thought for sure it was a dream. Dream at four years old was a National Obedience Champion!

The next year we showed a little. People would come up to me and ask, "Why are you still showing her? What else can she do in the obedience ring?" I would respond, "Why would I not show her? She is so young and she is not close to as good as she could be." Not showing her would be like telling Tiger Woods to go play football after he won the Masters since he'd gotten to the top of the golf world. For me personally, I enjoy obedience as it is less stressful on my body than other events, even though I do like to title the dogs in other venues just to keep their minds sharp. I had no idea how good Dream could be and how far she would go. But Dream just kept getting better and better – she loved being in the ring. She always was a little off the first day of a circuit, but would pretty much win everything after that. Dream would go down in history as the only female (all breeds)

to earn over 30 perfect 200 scores. In fact, she had 32! She is ranked number 3 over all dogs (in terms of number of 200 scores).

The NOI moved to Florida in 2011, when Dream was nine years old. I decided to take her one last time; I knew it would be her last time as traveling long distances was becoming hard on her. That year, Dream would win 2nd runner-up with a new format for the competition that was introduced that year.

During the years I had Dream, I traveled all over the country with her, mostly to experience new places and meet people. I took my oldest son Chris on most of those trips and it would be just me, him, Dream and Chris's camera to keep a record of everything. We had many adventures together and so many great times. I wished the dream would never end, but sadly I would lose Dream in a dimly-lit parking lot late at night after competing in a trial this past summer. Dream had come bounding out of the motor home to ask me to do some heeling with her. I heeled about 30 feet and then stopped to go to my knees to give her some hugs, kisses, and praise. Dream was so happy. "Pet me here, scratch me there, kiss me on the forehead (as I did every time before we entered the ring)" was what she was telling me. But then she started to collapse to the ground and I knew she was going to leave us (no more details needed). My dream was over, and I was flooded with so many memories that were not a dream as I lay in the parking lot with Dream by my side.

I see so many talented Golden Retrievers and their owners featured in the *GRNews*. I hope you follow your dreams as you never know where they will take you – dreams do come true! I have been asked to answer the question "What was your secret with Dream?" My answer is that it was Love.

A memorial page for Dream is at
www.DDsDogTraining.com.



New 2014 GRCA National Trophy

We felt this was the best way to honor Dream and the dream we all have. So a new trophy will be given for the first time at the 2014 National Specialty (for the 2013 year-end results) in memory of NOC OTCH DD's Dreams Do Come True VCD1 UDX26 OGM RE TDX JH WCX OBHF VCX CCA.

It will be a bronze statue of Dream sitting on a rock holding her NOC ribbon in her mouth.

It will be awarded to the GRCA member owner or member co-owner of the Golden Retriever who earns the greatest number of High In Trials and High Combined (added together) during the year, and has an AKC or GRCA Agility, Tracking, Rally and Field title. The winner must have a title in each venue (Agility, Tracking, Rally and Field) to win the trophy. If there is a tie, the highest number of High In Trials will break the tie. NOTE: the owner shall be responsible for reporting eligibility in writing to the GRCA Trophy Curator no later than June 1 of the year following completion of the requirements, to be eligible for the trophy.