

ABdFC Versatile Bouvier Awards Program (2-17-2017)

The Bouvier des Flandres is a versatile dog and maintaining that characteristic contributes to the health and standards of our breed. The breed's heritage should be apparent in modern dogs. The ABdFC Board of Governors feels that awarding the titles of Versatile Bouvier Basic (VBB), Versatile Bouvier Excellent (VBX), Versatile Bouvier Champion (VBCH) and Versatile Bouvier Grand Champion (VBGCH) will help maintain these breed characteristics. However, award titles are not restricted to just our breed's "heritage". Since we do very little droving of cattle down farm roads today, other titles also represent what Bouviers do in modern times. The focus of these annual award titles is to encourage owners to train and enjoy their Bouviers in a variety of ways, with heritage venues earning higher point values than activities that are not necessarily heritage in nature. Versatile Bouvier titles are awarded once a year at the ABdFC Annual Awards Dinner, held in conjunction with the National Specialty. Each Member team will receive an Award Certificate and a medallion or plaque signifying the level of each team's accomplishments. The Bouvier's name and titles will appear on the back. Awards earned will be Bronze-tone for VBB, Silver-tone for VBX, Gold-tone for VBCH, and a plaque for VBGCH. There is no cost to the Applicant.

TITLE LEVELS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Versatile Bouvier Basic (VBB) - total 7 points

- 5 points required from **Categories I-XII**, this must include two 2-point title activities
- 1 point required from "Owner Service Activities", maximum 1 point allowed
- Total points must include 1 point minimum from Category I-Conformation

Versatile Bouvier Excellent (VBX) - total 10 points (includes 7 pts. accumulated from VBB)

- 7 points required from **Categories I - XII**, this must include one 3-point major
- 2 points maximum required from "Owner Service Activities", includes 1-point from previous title
- Total points must include 1 point minimum from Category I - Conformation

Versatile Bouvier Champion (VBCH) - total 15 points (includes 10 pts accumulated from VBX)

- 11 points required from **Categories I-XII**, this must include two 3 point majors
- Minimum of 2 points must come from the Heritage Category
- 3 points maximum required from "Owner Service Activities", includes 2-points from previous titles
- Total points must include 1 point minimum from Category I - Conformation

Versatile Bouvier Grand Champion (VBGCH) - total 20 points (includes 15 points accumulated from VBCH)

- 16 points required from **Categories I-XII**, this must include two 3-point majors plus one 4-point major. One of these majors must come from the Heritage Category.
- 3 points from "Owner Service Activities" from VBCH is accepted
- Total points must include 1 point minimum from Category I - Conformation

POINT TALLY NOTES

- The Bouvier named on the application must be owned by an AMERICAN BOUVIER DES FLANDRES CLUB member at the time the application is submitted.
- Points from "Owner Service Activities" are mandatory for all titles as outlined below.
- A minimum of 1 point from Category I - Conformation, is required for all titles.
- Points from the Heritage Categories are required for titles VBCH and VBGCH as outlined above.

The highest title earned in any Category will be counted for that Category. If a category contains subsections, the highest subsection points will be counted and not combined for total points. The highest title earned in a subsection will be the one counted, or if a tie exists between subsections, then one of the highest subsections' titles is to be selected for that Categories points. No more than 2 points may be awarded from Category XI and Category XII.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

The following are acceptable means of documentation for titles. Please do not send originals.

- Photocopy/snail mail or .pdf scan/emailed AKC Points and Title Progression report.
- Photocopy/snail mail or .pdf scan/emailed AKC title certificates.
- A photocopy/scan of certificates or awards from organizations other than the AKC/American titles is required in order to receive credit under a particular Category. These must be earned through a local, state or national organization, or affiliation with such an organization.
- Verification for credit for Owner Service Activities requires the signature of a witness or published documentation.
- Verification for Category XII will need to be evaluated by the Versatility Committee. Contact the Program Chair for specific credit approval.

***FOR INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS:** This ABdFC awards program is organized around AKC/American dog club titles. However, foreign titles may be accepted under the condition that titles meet or exceed the standards for AKC titles here in this program description. It is the responsibility of the International Member to provide detailed, qualifying information about foreign titles earned. Credit will ultimately be determined by the members of the Versatility Committee.

If you think your Bouvier has met the requirements for a Versatile Bouvier Award, please fill out the Versatile Bouvier Application Form provided on the website and send it along with the required documentation to the current Program Chair:

Karen Kimbrough
511 Rocky River Road
Austin, TX 78746-5341

If you have any questions about eligibility, please contact Karen Kimbrough at: 512-328-0832, or email: bluedogmama@yahoo.com

Titling Categories

Categories are listed below describing the points earned for each activity. The program will try to keep up with the newly recognized AKC events in which Bouviers can obtain titles.

OWNER SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Required for every title

This Category requires the applicant Member to have a certain minimum number of activities oriented toward community service. The Member's activities must be distinctly different in nature. For example, teaching 3 classes at the Member's local Kennel/Training Club would be considered one (1) activity.

Your activities are not limited to the ABdFC and/or to Bouviers but should be dog oriented. Here are just a few examples of qualifying activities--Chairing a committee for your local kennel club/community organization, holding an elected volunteer office or board position, writing an article for a journal or magazine, teaching a class/seminar for an organization, participating in demonstrations such as a "Meet the Breeds Day", or volunteering at a local shelter/rescue group.

***Once you have documented a Service Activity, the points earned for that activity will apply to all of your dogs for the purpose of the Versatile Bouvier Program for a period of five years. The time limit starts with your first submitted activity.**

Verification for each activity requires signature of a witness or published document. If you are unsure as to whether an activity will qualify for this Category, please contact the Program Chair.

Required points from this Category are:

- VBB - 1 point required - for one activity
- VBX - 2 points total required - two different activities, accumulated from previous title
- VBCH - 3 points total required -1 point each for three different accumulated activities
- VBGCH - 3 points taken from the VBCH award

CATAGORY I - AKC CONFORMATION (1-point minimum required for all titles)

The purpose of this category is proof that the Bouvier meets, or exceeds, the breed standard, and has no disqualifying faults.

1 point (minimum requirement for all) - Obtain a written, signed and dated statement from an AKC judge licensed for Bouvier des Flandres attesting to the fact that the Bouvier in question meets, or exceeds, the breed standard, and has no disqualifying faults other than alteration.

1 point - Winners Dog or Winners Bitch with competition when there is no competition for first place.

2 points - Five or more points earned towards an AKC Championship.

3 points - An AKC Champion/GCH

4 points - AKC CH with ROM

HERITAGE PERFORMANCE VENUES (Required for VBCH and VBGCH)

CATAGORY II- HERDING

- 1 point - Herding Tested (HT) or AHBA or ASCA equivalent
- 1 point - Pre Trial Tested (PT) or AHBA or ASCA equivalent
- 2 points - Herding Started (HS) or AHBA or ASCA equivalent
- 3 points - Herding Intermediate (HI) or AHBA or ASCA equivalent
- 4 points - Herding Excellent (HX) or AHBA or ASCA equivalent
- 5 points - Herding Excellent Masters (HM) or AHBA or ASCA equivalent
- 6 points - Herding Champion (AKC or AHBA or ASCA)

CATEGORY III- DRAFT DOG/ CARTING

All points associated with Draft Dog/Carting require a title certificate from an approved American Draft Breed Club or Association. Please submit a copy of this title certificate awarded if title is not on your AKC record of titles. Points can be earned in any of the following two venue subsections, but only the highest pointed title in one subsection will count.

Individual

- 2 points - Novice Draft Dog (NDD)
- 2 points - Advanced Novice Draft Dog (ANDD)
- 3 points - Draft Dog (DD)
- 4 points - Master Draft Dog (MDD - ABdFC)
- 5 points - Master Draft Dog Excellent (MDDX - ABdFC)
- 6 points - Champion Draft Dog (CHDD - ABdFC)

Brace

- 2 points - Novice Brace Draft Dog (NBDD)
- 2 points - Advanced Novice Brace Draft Dog (ANBDD)
- 3 points - Brace Draft Dog (BDD)
- 4 points - Master Brace Draft Dog (MBDD - ABdFC)
- 5 points - Master Brace Draft Dog Excellent (MBDDX - ABdFC)
- 6 points - Champion Brace Draft Dog (CHBDD - ABdFC)

CATEGORY IV- WORKING DOG SPORT (WDS)

Points earned in this category require documentation from the Bouvier's SchH/IPO score book or an AKC WDS Title certificate. A SchH/IPO title requires the Bouvier to qualify in Obedience, Tracking, and Protection tests at one trial.

- 4 points - SchH/IPO-1 (IPO 1)
- 5 points - SchH/IPO-2 (IPO 2)
- 6 points - SchH/IPO-3 (IPO 3)

CATEGORY V- TRACKING /NOSE WORK

Tracking:

- 2 points - Tracking Dog (TD) or Tracking Dog Urban (TDU)
- 2 points - SchH/IPO FPr Level 1 (FPr 1) or SchH/IPO FPr Level 2 (FPr 2)
- 3 points - Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX)
- 3 points - SchH/IPO FPr Level 3 (FPr 3)
- 4 points - SchH/IPO FH Level 1 Tracking test (FH 1)
- 4 points - Variable Surface (VST)
- 4 points - SchH/IPO FH Level 2 Tracking test (FH 2)
- 5 points - Tracking Champion (CT)
- 6 points - IPO-FH International Tracking Test

Nose Work:

- 1 point - L 1 Element
- 2 points - NW1
- 2 points - L2 Element
- 3 points - NW2
- 3 points - L3 Element
- 4 points - NW3
- 5 points - Elite 1

CATEGORY VI- ACTIVE DUTY

Bouvier's qualifying in this category must have actively worked in the area for a minimum of 6 months AND possess certification by a recognized state or national organization.

- 3 points - Detection (explosives, drugs/narcotics, bugs, cadaver)
- 4 points - Street Service (police, military)
- 4 points - Search and Rescue Certified by an American/nationally recognized SAR organization or FEMA Certified

NON-HERITAGE PERFORMANCE VENUES

CATEGORY VII -OBEDIENCE AND WDS OBEDIENCE

The purpose of this category is to demonstrate training, conditioning and behavior in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs. Points can be earned in any of the two venue subsections, but only the highest pointed title in any subsection will count. A maximum 6 points is earned by attaining the AKC Obedience Trial Champion title (OTCH).

Obedience:

- 1 point - Beginner Novice (BN)
- 2 points - Companion Dog (CD) or Preferred Companion Dog (PCD)
- 3 points - Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) or Preferred Companion Dog Excellent (PCDX)
- 4 points - Utility Dog (UD) or Preferred Utility Dog (PUD)
- 5 points - Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) or Obedience Master (OM)
- 6 points - Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH)

WDS Obedience:

- 2 points - SchH/IPO BH or SchH/IPO UPr Level 1 (UPr 1)
- 3 points - SchH/IPO UPr Level 2 (UPr 2)
- 4 points - SchH/IPO UPr Level 3 (UPr 3)

CATEGORY VIII - RALLY

- 1 point - Rally Novice (RN)
- 2 points - Rally Advanced (RA)
- 3 points - Rally Excellent (RE)
- 4 points - Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE)

CATEGORY IX - AGILITY

Points can be earned in any of the following three venue subsections, but only the highest pointed title in one subsection will count, with a total of 5 points maximum earned from this Category reflecting AKC Master Agility Champion/MACH or Preferred Agility Champion/PACH.

Standard:

- 1 point - Novice Agility (NA, NAP)
- 2 points - Open Agility (OA, OAP)
- 3 points - Agility Excellent (AX, AXP)
- 4 points - Master Agility Excellent (MX, MXP)

Jumpers:

- 1 point - Novice Agility Jumpers (NAJ, NJP)
- 2 points - Open Agility Jumpers (OAJ, OJP)
- 3 points - Agility Excellent Jumpers (AXJ, AJP)
- 4 points - Master Excellent Jumpers (MXJ, MJP)

FAST (Fifteen and Send Time):

- 1 point - Novice FAST (NF, NFP)
- 2 points - Open FAST (OF, OFP)
- 3 points - Excellent FAST (XF, XFP)
- 4 points - Master Excellent FAST (MXF, MFP)

Agility Champion:

- 5 points - AKC Master Agility Champion (MACH) or Preferred Agility Champion (PACH)

CATEGORY X -COMMUNITY/HEALTH CARE SERVICE

Dogs may participate in a variety of activities including Animal Assisted Activities, Animal Assisted Therapy, Crisis Relief, Reading Education or Court Room Assistance as well as helping their owners on a daily basis as Assistance Dogs. Owners of Therapy Dogs must present proof of registration with a local, state or national organization. Service Dogs that have been trained/certified by a specific recognized organization, should present documentation. All other dogs working under the Service Dog title that have not been formally certified will require a letter from the ABdFC member documenting training. Contact Program Chair for questions/assistance.

- 1 point - AKC Therapy Dog Novice - THDN (10 visits)**
- 2 points - AKC Therapy Dog - THD (50 visits)**
- 3 points - AKC Therapy Dog Excellent - THDA (100 visits)**
- 3 points - Assistance Dog (Guide dog, Hearing dog, Medical Alert dog, Service Dog)**

CATEGORY XI- AKC RECOGNIZED EVENTS/OTHER TITLES

Any non-AKC titles from other organizations that are recognized by AKC can be accepted for Versatile Bouvier credit. Maximum of 2 points may be earned in this Category. Current accepted titles for this Category are as follows:

1 point - AKC Coursing Ability (CA), Barn Hunt Association Novice (RATN), or North America Diving Dogs Dock Junior (DJ) or Air Retrieve Junior (AJ), Farm Dog Certified Test (FDC), CGC-A or CGC-U.

2 points - Barn Hunt Association Open (RATO) or higher, North America Diving Dogs Dock Senior (DS) or Air Retrieve Senior (AS) or higher

2 points - North American Flyball Association Flyball Master (FM), or ONYX, or Flyball Dog Champion (FDCH)

CATEGORY XII - OTHER ACTIVITIES

The purpose of this category is to include recognition for an activity not otherwise defined. For example, a Bouvier cast in a stage production, used in a commercial, or recognized for an act of valor. Maximum of 2 points will be awarded for this Category. Documentation will be required such as videos and supervising witnesses. Points awarded from this category must receive approval from two members of the Versatility Bouvier Committee or Awards Chair.

Last Updated on (2-17-2017)