

## VERSATILITY AT ITS BEST – VCD3 BOUVIERS

Let us ponder the word “versatile.” Synonyms that come to mind might be “multipurpose”, “adaptable” or “flexible.” One of the ways that the American Kennel Club defines “versatile” is the awarding of a VCD title. They state, “The Versatile Companion Dog titles are titles that are designed to acknowledge and reward owners of all breeds that compete in Obedience, Agility, and Tracking events. The VCD titles are a way to showcase their tremendous talent in so many areas.” These are the requirements for a VCD title:

Versatile Companion Dog 1 (VCD1) - CD, NA, NAJ, TD or CD, NAP, NJP, TD

Versatile Companion Dog 2 (VCD2) - CDX, OA, OAJ, TD or CDX, OAP, OJP, TD

Versatile Companion Dog 3 (VCD3) - UD, AX, AXJ, TDX or UD, AXP, AJP, TDX

Versatile Companion Dog 4 (VCD4) - UDX, MX, MXJ, VST or UDX, MXP, MJP, VST

Versatile Companion Champion (VCCH) - OTCH, MACH or PACH and CT

Since the inception of the program in 2001, 13 Bouviers have earned VCD1 or VCD2 titles. Only two of the 13 have earned a VCD3; Briarlea Roxy V. Bouvier Topline VCD3 UD MX MXJ TDX AD and CH CHDD Adara's Jubelen Jedi VCD3 UDX VER RE PT MX MXJ XF DD BDD BH THDX CGCA VBCH. We tip our hats to these dedicated teams for demonstrating the true versatile nature of our breed. Here is a little insight into the performance careers of these two exceptional VCD3 Bouviers:



### **The First...**

#### **Briarlea Roxy V. Bouvier Topline VCD3 UD MX MXJ TDX AD**

On October 5, 2008, Lynn Beihl of St. Louis Park, MN and her male Bouvier earned their TDX and completed their requirements for this prestigious title. A VCD3 title holder must have earned at least a Utility Dog (UD) obedience title, Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) title and Excellent Standard and Jumpers (AX/AXJ) agility titles. Competing at such an advanced level can

be quite an adventure.

Lynn said the following about their road to a VCD3 title:

“Rocket” was bred by Ria van Elven of Bouvier Topline Kennels and imported from Holland in the spring of 2002 by Sunny DeYoung and Penelope Ogden. He came to live with us later that summer. We started obedience classes that fall when he was 6 months old and agility classes when he was a year old. We also started tracking the spring of his first year. Rocket loved it all. He enjoyed working; it was all play to him. He'd retrieve anything. Retrieving his "toys" became a powerful training reward and motivator.



We are very fortunate to live in the Minneapolis area as we have access to very accomplished obedience, agility and tracking instructors as well as active clubs that hold numerous obedience and agility trials and tracking tests throughout the year. I had trained and trialed in obedience before and had gotten CDX titles on two previous Bouviers. I also trained in Utility but never completed the title until Rocket. He is my first agility dog, so all of his agility titles are firsts for me as well, as was the UD and TDX.

Rocket has had other major accomplishments during his performance career. At age 3, in 2005, Rocket earned his CDX and was ranked the number 1 Bouvier in Open A by Front and Finish trainer's magazine and tied for 9th place in the Herding Group. We also started to compete in the USDAA agility venue where he earned his AD (Agility Dog) title. The rest is Bouvier history....

**The Newest ...**

**CH CHDD Adara's Jubelen Jedi VCD3 UDX VER RE PT MX MXJ XF DD BDD BH THDX CGCA VBCH**



Chris Jurey tells us about him and Jedi's journey to a VCD3 title:

The AKC Versatile Companion Dog (VCD 1-4) series is based upon completion of ever-higher performance titles in Agility, Obedience, and Tracking. Earning a VCD3 requires Excellent agility titles in both Standard (AX) and Jumpers (AXJ), a Utility Dog (UD) title in Obedience, and a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) title. Unfortunately, there are not enough hours in the day or days in the week to train in all of the performance events available to Bouviers. Needless to say, there are not enough weekends in the year for trialing in the various venues either.

When we got our boy, Jedi, I decided to concentrate on only two disciplines at a time. At first, we attended puppy classes and conformation run-thrus. At six months, we started weekly agility classes at 12" jump heights. After earning a conformation Championship (CH) at fourteen months, we began weekly obedience classes. Over the next two years, we trialed our way through 24" novice and open agility and obedience titles and ultimately qualified for both excellent agility titles and utility dog. During this period, I was also able to earn my own key to the nearby Medina Swarm Agility Club facility. This allowed us to continue our training 24/7.

Now came the crazy period when we attended agility classes twice a week while trialing towards and earning our Masters (MX and MXJ) titles. The once a week obedience classes continued as we built our double QQ's towards the Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) title. We also started weekly tracking classes. This proved the most difficult as tracking takes a lot of time to lay and age tracks and lots of open space with varying terrain. Trainers and training partners are also in short supply. Fortunately, I was able to hook up with a very active Schutzhund club. Unfortunately, AKC and Schutzhund rules and trials are very different yet the training techniques are applicable to both. It took more than a year to qualify for the Tracking Dog (TD) title and the VCD2. After finally completing the UDX title at the age of four, we retired from obedience to concentrate on agility and tracking.



In November of 2015 after three attempts, we passed our Tracking Dog Excellent trial, thereby completing the requirements for the VCD3 title. Our efforts are now geared towards building double QQ's for the Master Agility Championship (MACH) and training for the very difficult, less than 5% pass rate, Variable Surface Tracking (VST) title. This would qualify us for the Champion Tracker (CT) and would be the last title needed to earn the coveted VCD4.

My biggest regret is that I do not have enough free time and must continue to work to pay for more classes and trials. Next to my time with my family, there is nothing more I would rather do than work with my buddy Jedi.

All Bouvier owners can take great pride in these historical accomplishments. Rocket and Jedi are excellent examples of what our Bouviers are capable of attaining. They are truly exceptional teams.

#### ~ Bouvier VCD Title Holders:

VCD1 - 9/01/02. CH Ursus Borealis Denali VCD1 OA OAJ

VCD2 - 11/14/2004. CH Vallihi Yo-Tusk VCD2 AX AXJ

VCD1 - 7/3/2005. CH Susant's St Louis Legend VCD1 CDX

VCD1 - 8/28/2005. Valkyrie-Cacharel V Rovika VCD1 RA OAP OJP

VCD1 - 9/1/2007. CH Sleeping Lady's Sassy Lassy VCD1 RA MXJ

VCD1 and VCD2 - 5/14/06. VCD3 – 10/05/08. Briarlea Roxy V. Bouvier Topline VCD3 UD MX MXJ TDX AD

VCD1 - 9/8/2012. Skyhi Derby Gp23 VCD1 RE HSAs OA

VCD1 and VCD2 - 4/8/2012. CH Skrattegaard Chas'N Rainbows VCD2 UD GN GO RAE2 HSAs HIAd MXP  
AJP XFP

VCD1 - 6/30/2012. VCD2 11/30/2012. Quiche Chance Are At Normark VCD2 UDX OM1 RE

VCD1 - 2/24/2013. CH Margaux's Goodnight Gracie VCD1 RA HSCs HXCs OA OAJ NAP NJP NF DD

VCD1 and VCD2 - 10/20/2013. VCD3 11/01/15. CH CHDD Adara's Jubelen Jedi VCD3 UDX VER RE PT MX  
MXJ XF DD BDD BH THDX CGCA VBCH

VCD1 and VCD2 - 11/10/2013. DC Skrattegaard Breakin The Rules VCD2 GN GO RAE HSAdsc HSBd  
HIAdsc HIBd HXAdsc HXBd AX NAP NJP NF

VCD1 - 5/31/2015. CH Sleeping Ladys Hanna At Bouvieracres VCD1 BN RN CGC