

Lynn and Rocket's "Excellent Adventure" **Another Milestone in Bouvier History - Versatile Companion Dog 3 Title**

Some of you may remember the 1989 film "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure." Like in the movie, training and competing in companion/performance sports can be a little bit like science fiction and a whole lot like a comedy. I am sure this is true especially for those who have earned all of the titles required to obtain a Versatile Companion Dog title.

The Versatile Companion Dog titles were created by AKC to reward owners of all breeds who compete in Obedience, Agility, and Tracking events. Since the inception of the program in 2001, six Bouviers have earned VCD1 or VCD2 titles. Only one has earned a VCD3; 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.



I recently heard from Lynn and she told me the following about their five year "Excellent Adventure" 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....

All of us can take great pride in this historical accomplishment. Lynn and Rocket are excellent examples of what our Bouviers are capable of attaining. They are truly an exceptional pair.

Other Bouvier VCD title holders

The AKC permits the use of the letters following the name of each registered dog that completes titles as follows:

- Versatile Companion Dog 1 (VCD1) - CD, NA, NAJ, TD
- Versatile Companion Dog 2 (VCD2) - CDX, OA, OAJ, TD
- Versatile Companion Dog 3 (VCD3) - UD, AX, AXJ, TDX
- Versatile Companion Dog 4 (VCD4) - UDX, MX, MXJ, VST
- Versatile Companion Dog Champion (VCCH) - OTCH, MACH, CT

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**