

A DIFFERENT KIND OF AGILITY

(Featuring Helene Benson and her dogs)

Some of our members are participating in a form of Agility specifically for Small Dogs.

TDAA = Teacup Dogs Agility Association, a separate registry which provides an agility venue for dogs 17" and under at the shoulder, no big dogs allowed. The agility equipment is all scaled down in size, and the distances between the obstacles are shorter. That means tighter quicker turns for the dog to get from one to the next obstacle, so the smaller the dog, the easier it is for them to accomplish. Also, the shorter courses and shorter distances between obstacles make it a more achievable goal for those of us who are senior citizens and have a hard time meeting the time requirements on an AKC-regulation size course!

TBAD is Teacup Beginner Agile Dog, meaning the usual three qualifying runs over the usual agility equipment of tunnels, A-frame, dog-walk, and multiple jumps of different types. The course is set by the judge just as in AKC.

Other titles that can be earned are:

TIAD - Teacup Intermediate Agility Dog (2nd level)

TSAD - Teacup Superior Agility Dog (3rd level)

TG1 - Teacup Games 1 (1st level of teacup games titles)

TG2

TG3

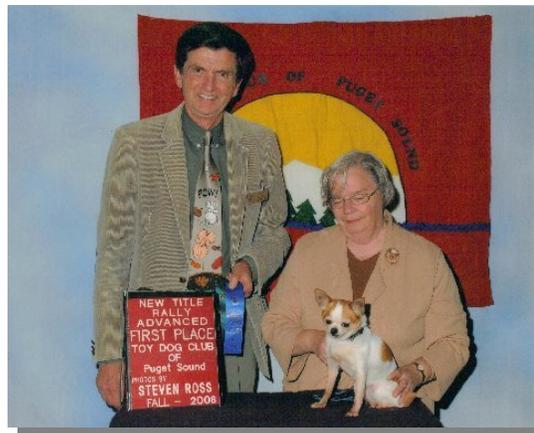
TACH - Teacup Agility Champion (requires 10 qualifying scores in standard agility with at least 3 1st wins & 10 qualifying scores in games with at least 3 1st place wins after you complete all the requirements for your TSAD & TG3)

On a Games course usually the handler picks their own course, accumulating a certain number of points for each obstacle successfully completed within a prescribed time limit.

Helene Benson and her 11-year-old Smooth Chi Lina have been on a roll lately.

Three months ago she completed her TBAD title

**U-CD Tytte Baer's
Maybelline (LINA) Am/Can
CD RA NAP NJP TG1 TBAD CTL3-H**



(Teacup Beginner Agile Dog). (TDAA). Two months ago she completed her RA title. (AKC) and a bonus leg. - 1st in Adv B. One month ago she completed her CTL3-H title (CPE) and another leg toward her CTL3-R title. Lina, at age 11, can still hardly contain herself when she comes out of her crate and sees the agility course set up in front of her: "oh goody goody goody, is it my turn yet, can I run now, can I please?" Her enjoyment is obvious to all, and she has quite the fan club watching for her to appear.

Two months ago Helene's Herc, who turns 11 next month, and is still going strong, earned the first two legs toward his RAE title in December. RAE requires ten "double-Q" scores, that is, qualifying scores in both Advanced and Excellent classes at the same trial, after achieving the RE title. All of his agility and rally accomplishments follow a cardiac arrest/resuscitation just one year ago; not bad for a dog who died for 10 minutes!

**U-CD Am/Can CH
Kandiland's Legend's Sugar
Babe (HERC) Am/Can CD RE
CTL1-H**



His half-sister Emma, at age 5, just earned her first AKC agility title, Novice Jumper Preferred, over New Year's weekend; she is the very first agility dog for her 72-year-old co-owner/handler Barbara Anderson. She earned her CGC last summer, in the

process winning over the CGC Evaluator, who was an avowed NON-lover of Chihuahuas -- until she met Emma the Wonder Dog! Emma also completed her RA title and her TG-1 title (TDAA)



**CH Snowcrest's I Emma
Ghost (EMMA) RA CTL1-H
CTL1-R**

CPE = Canine Performance Events, is another separate registry, with its own set of rules and regulations. A dog progresses up through 5 skill levels earning partial titles. Eventually reaching C-ATCH or CPE Agility Trial Champion.

Lina is at Level 3, hence the 3 in her titles; Emma and Herc are Level 1 dogs (just graduated to Level 2 where they are titled).

For more info on TDAA, see their website:
<http://www.k9tdaa.com/TDAAevents.htm>

Submitted by Patricia Larrissey, Obedience Chair.