

TOP DOG 2017

On November 18, 2017, all the participating Southern California Obedience Clubs found ourselves at our old stomping grounds at Pikes Peak Park in Norco for the annual Top Dog Competition. The weather was great and the day did not disappoint. The camaraderie of this friendly competition between clubs was alive and well, as was the presence of the unexpected that always cleverly finds its way to this day.

Our VHOC team was very diverse this year - our dogs were youngsters and oldsters, accomplished and unseasoned, along with, as always, a diversity of breeds. We even had a new mom on the team who recently completed her puppy raising duties!

NOVICE

Jada (Rottweiler) and Gwen Fiorito represented us well in the ring! The judge loved her. She just came back to work after raising her puppies! The little ones must have really taught her how to go in circles because her figure 8 was beautiful! Her exercises were nicely done and she barely missed a call back to the second round by only 1/2 a point!

Dash (Standard Schnauzer) and Sharon Clarke were our second working team. Dash just turned two years old and had age appropriate FUN in the ring.....he was really fun to see! This was his very first time in an obedience ring! Amongst his gleeful leaps and bounces, he presented some very nice stretches that showcased his potential for competition obedience. He felt joyfully drawn to the judge while setting up for his recall, so much so that he set himself up right between the judges legs - what a cute, cute boy! He earned himself a respectable qualifying score!

OPEN

I would like to preface this by saying that I am very proud of these two Open teams. Coming from different dog sport venues, they both worked very diligently to prepare for their Open exercises!

Mikko (Australian Shepherd) and Monica Nolan left their canine freestyle dancing shoes home for the day to give Open a try. Mikko is new to Open and gave it a great effort, in spite of the heat when he got into the ring. The broad jump was his waterloo in training, and he did a wonderful job in the ring with it. His ring nerves got in his way on some of the work, but we're very proud of his effort.....he really is a good boy and tried very hard!

Lexi (Golden Retriever) and Paula Geigle temporarily hung up their agility shoes to take a shot at Open. They sure got a surprise when a handler in the opposite ring and Paula both tossed their dumbbells towards each other at the same time for a retrieve. Lexi galloped out to get hers, but the dog from the other ring passed his and got to hers first – then took off back to his handler with it. She did not know what to do with that, but got a re-throw so it was all good!

UTILITY

Caper (Golden Retriever) and Joyce Davis were our stars this year! Caper did a great job in her first round. She did her Directed Jumping go-outs to a line of dogs doing a group stay in the opposite ring - twice! That is no small feat, but she pulled it off beautifully! This team got our only call back for Round Two! She did a beautiful job in the second round and finished the day

as the 4th place Utility dog!! Congratulations, Joyce and Caper! Well done!!

Pippi (Rottweiler) and Patti Rovtar started out great.....then Pippi decided she should take her glove to the judge, and when the judge turned her back on her, she then thought maybe the steward should have it. Oh boy, Pippi Pippi Pippi! I had to call her back, so we lost those points! She thought it was kinda fun to front to the judge, so she did it again on part 2 of the Directed Jumping! No call back for Miss Pippi!

Every year we have one special dog that starts the day with a 200 and ends the day with a 200 along with a belly full of cookies!! This is our Utility Alternate, who has no other job all day. For Top Dog 2017, this was Gidget (Corgi) and Amy Balchum! Thanks for being a part of our team!

At the end of the day, VHOC ended up with enough points to finish in 7th place out of 12 competing obedience clubs.

Cindi and I are very proud of our Team this year - it truly was diverse in many ways and everyone worked hard to represent VHOC well!!

Patti Rovtar and Cindi Malchose
Top Dog Co-Captains