

VHOC Does It Again! Three Years in a Row, Top Dog Team Winners!



November 9th began as a beautiful fall day at Pikes Peak Park in Norco, California, where the 2013 Southern California Obedience Council's Top Dog Competition was held. VHOC's Top Dog Team competed with 16 SCDOC Obedience Clubs this year, 2 more than last year's competition. Our beautiful day ended in glory once again! For the third year in a row, VHOC's Team finished the day in first place, earning 1097 points out of a possible 1200!

For the Top Dog Competition, each participating club sends two dog and handler teams to compete in each of the three levels of AKC Obedience: Novice, Open, and Utility. There are two rings for each level of obedience. The teams accumulate points the judge awards each dog/handler for every exercise successfully completed. There are no "NQ'S" in Top Dog! The cumulative Round One scores determine team placements. The four highest scoring dogs in each of six rings from Round One advance to Round Two for an opportunity to earn an individual placement by receiving enough points from both Round One and Round Two to earn a spot in the top four of the level of obedience they are competing in.

We worked through some significant challenges leading up to and throughout the day of the event, notably having to make a substitution on our Novice team when Weegie decided to go into heat right before the event, and two injured team members; Tink, who had a broken foot, and Dawn, with a torn ligament in her ankle. Each of these awesome team members came sporting a medical walking boot! Tink did the entire Open run in her boot, and Dawn, while only having to do the group exercise as an alternate, came in good spirits and "dressed to kill" with rhinestones decorating her boot. Lucky rhinestones they were indeed! We have dubbed this year's team the "Git 'er Done" team, in more ways than one!

We were thrilled that 3 of our 6 team members finished in the top four from Round One and advanced to Round Two: Kim and Lizzie for Novice, Joyce and Jill for Utility, and Patti and Chili, also for Utility.

Here are the individual Team Stats:

NOVICE

Kim & Lizzie did a fabulous job and finished Round One in 3rd place out of 16 dogs with an incredible score of 198! They advanced to Round Two, and then were called back a third time for a run-off for 4th place, which they won with a beautiful heeling pattern. They finished in 4th place overall out of 32 dogs from both Rounds.

Scott and Ally did a great job in Round One and came in 8th out of 16 dogs. We were very happy to have them on our team this year and they earned VHOC a nice, big bunch of points with their performance.

OPEN

Sharon and Flynn put in a very nice Open run for our team. A bobble on the broad jump gave them a hit, but they still finished a very respectable 6th place finish out of 15 dogs in their Round One ring.

Tink and Cher also did a wonderful job in Open. Cher was a very brave girl to do such a good job heeling next to her Mom wearing a boot almost as big as she is! These two also earned our team a nice bundle of points, and finished Round One in 5th place out of 15 dogs. They missed a run-off to advance to Round Two by just a half a point!

UTILITY

Joyce and Jill had a beautiful Round One, although Jill decided to pick her own glove, which wasn't the one the judge was looking for! The rest of their work was nice enough to make up for that, and they found themselves advancing to Round Two, finishing Round One in 4th place out of 13 dogs in their ring. Round Two brought out Jill's "Sinatra" side on the directed jumping and the moving stand. At 10-1/2 years old, I'd say she's entitled to say "I Did It MY Way"! Good job, Jill! She finished both Rounds 11th out of 28 dogs. Darn nice for a girl who's been around and seen a lot in her life!

Patti and Chili, well, you could say they took the cake on this day! Chili had a good Round One. She almost blew her signal sit by anticipating, but Patti's quick arm saved it in time. They finished Round One in 1st place out of 15 dogs with a score of 194! They advanced to Round Two and Chili went above and beyond and did a super job! She scored a 197 and finished both Rounds in FIRST PLACE out of 28 dogs!

WAY TO GO, TEAM! We "Got 'er Done"!

We owe a very special thanks to:

Tink Ten Eyck, who can pull things together in a pinch faster than a speeding bullet! Thank you, Tink...you know what I'm talkin' 'bout!

Cindi Malchose, who put together our raffle basket, brought us all lunch, and still found time to play paparazza with her camera to capture the day with some great photos. Thank you, Cindi!

Karla Spitzer, who came with lots of food and a camera, and also captured some great shots of the team in action. Thank you Karla!

Joyce Davis, who also came equipped with her camera and got great shots of the team! Thank you, Joyce!

Nancy Giltner, who had to leave Miss Weegie home, brought us all coffee and was our official Cheerleader this year! Thank you, Nancy!

Scott Friedman, for being the man on our team! It's about time we had one! Thank you, Scott!

Last but not least, Carole Raschella who, every year, volunteers her time to design our awesome T-shirts, even when she doesn't have any time! Thank you, Carole!

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2013 TOP DOG TEAM!

We are very proud of all of you, the "Git 'er Done" Top Dog Team of 2013!

Patti Rovtar & Cindi Malchose

2013 VHOC Top Dog Co-Captains