

Paws to Dance



The Newsletter of the Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc.
August 2013

A Late Summer Ramble with Joan

Several years ago I received a card from a friend with this quote from Albert Einstein. "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

Part of the fun and the joy of freestyle is in teaching others. Every class has its own chemistry. We may teach the same material but perceptions differ. Each class is similar but different. Each has its own chemistry; a single class may have different reactions and perceptions to experiences. Different folks, different strokes, all the same, all different. What makes the difference? Is it the movement presented in an artistic and creative manner? Is it in the uniqueness of our approach? Personally I choose Movement and the artistic and creative approach.

There is, from a teacher's point of view, joy in listening, watching and sharing perceptions. It is the give and take artistically and creatively experienced as a group. There is no teacher, no student. We are all learning visually, kinesthetically, non-verbally and at the same time, students and teachers. As a team, we perceive doors are opening. The learning is in the perception of doing and seeing as an experience. Perceptions may or may not lead to learning. The discussions following creative and/or artistic work internalize the learning and make the experience part of us. Freestyle teaching is unique in its sharing and in the manner it is learned. Freestylers can do the work much sooner than they can talk it. My point is the only way to learn this material is to teach and to experience it. Even the bubble is not the same. This is different. It is in the quote above. The joy yet to be experienced **is to teach others**. Ask Elaine, Ann, Kristen, Sally. Teaching DogWork Freestyle is completely different. It is unique.

We need to push doors open and take leaps of faith. Our dogs have taught us to trust as they do. Our four legged partners have consistently shared their perceptions and knowledge with us. Now it is our turn to trust and share by mentoring and/or teaching others. Share the "rhythm of my heart" with some one else. Find a friend or fellow dog trainer and you just might open a door. Invite them to a guild meeting and everyone help, focus on the work, the rhythm, the shape, the dynamics, the joy and the fun of being together sharing and celebrating. Trust the DogWork.

What do we teach teams:

1. To move as one, each 1/2 of a whole design; one to enhance and frame the other as they move in and

through the presentation space, a single entity, with the focus on either the dog or the team.

2.To craft movement choreographically with music to fulfill the definition and the Federation rules.

3.Each presentation is tailored uniquely to their team, not an imitation, but an expression of their joy in training and working as one.

4.Each team mate/partner has responsibilities to ensure success. The visible design an image, a shape of one, dynamically expressing honor, respect and trust.

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FROM THE BOARD

The board approved the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee, and thanks the committee members for their service. The nominating committee consisted of Elaine Nabors as the Nominating Chairman and Beth Berry as a nominating committee member.

The slate consists of:

Member of the Board for Education- Joan Tennille

Vice President of CFF- Susan Collage

Member of the Board for Guilds-Kerri Elfvin

Nominations from the floor must be received by the recording secretary by 1 October 2013, and must be accompanied by a note (email is acceptable) from the nominee accepting the nomination. Ballots will be included in the November Paws.

Freestyle Titling Events

November 2 and 3, 2013

Colonial K-9

30 Big Spring Lane

Stafford, VA 22554

www.colonialK9.com

Sponsored by the Sirius and the Carolina Canine Freestyle Guilds

Performance space is 40 x 50 ft

Ring is fully matted with permanent 3/4" rubber mat

For the premium list, trophy donations and more information please see
www.canine-freestyle.org

Entries close at 6 p.m., Saturday, October 12, 2013

SHIRT HAPPENS!

Shown below is the new CFF tee shirt. It is 100 % cotton and shrinks a little on the first washing in cold water. We have the shirts in medium, large, extra large and 2X. The shirt is royal blue and the design is basically yellow. A color picture of the design is on the CFF web site. The shirts were designed and produced by Doggyline.com. CFF is now an affiliate with them and whenever you buy something from them, when you indicate that you are a CFF member, CFF gets a little payment.

The shirt is \$ 25 plus postage and packaging of \$ 3.50 for a total of \$ 28.50. The shirt can be ordered directly from CFF by emailing Carl Tennille at ctennille@aol.com include your credit card information, or snail mail an order to CFF 14430 Overlook Ridge Lane, Beaverdam, VA 23015 with a check or credit card data. The CFF web site should be updated shortly to allow for ordering directly from it.

We are also going to be doing a survey to see what other types of goods people might be interested in having the design on, caps, tote bags, visors, jackets, hoodies, sweat shirts, etc.



Sirius Guild Run-Throughs

at Colonial K9

30 Big Spring Lane

Stafford, VA 22553

September 29, 2013

12:00 pm to 3:00

Each 10 minute run \$15.00.

This is the fully matted facility where the November competition will be held.

Complete registration information available online on the CFF Events page.

www.canine-freestyle.org/events.asp



By Marcia Barkley

Our big focus this summer is preparation for a demonstration at a special event in October. The event is a major fundraiser for a prominent rescue organization here in California: Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue. They deal with hundreds of beautiful dogs every year, and this event – held at an important museum in Sacramento – is expected to draw several hundred people, perhaps close to a thousand. And the CFF Gold Coast Guild will be prominently featured! Debbie Crain with Mayo (Australian Cattle Dog), and Sue Osborn with Dakota (German Short-haired Pointer), will jointly demonstrate some of the movements we commonly use. With some narration, we'll start with simple movements, add a little complexity, then show variations suitable for the two different dogs – and they do have very different ways of moving! We'll end with Debbie and Mayo performing one of their routines.

We have a total of just 15 minutes, so we won't have the opportunity to take this to the level we'd like. But we will have a table, and a new brochure that we hope will explain – as best can be explained in words – the rewards of our favorite dog sport. Wish us luck!

Canis Major Guild

By Julia Gregory

"Fair time" is rolling down upon us! As is our custom, we'll appear alongside the Obedience Club of Chattanooga at the Hamilton County Fair. As is the case for the Gold Coast Guild, our time is short, but our audience is large. We have the microphone for a time and hope to generate a good understanding of the sport. For the past two years we've attended the Wilson County Fair in



Lebanon, Tennessee during the month of August. Not enough people were available on that date so we'll have to pass this year. We'll miss going. They took excellent care of us and the dogs even in that brutal heat.

One of the greatest joys of "guild time" together is sharing the wacky things that have worked well along the road on our freestyle journey. I take this opportunity to share my latest with you here.

I think it's pretty widely known that most dog women train in the kitchen, but I wonder if everyone is taking full advantage of the potential found in the bath room? Milo first taught me the value of toilet paper. He used to be a persistent thief of used Kleenex from trash cans (until we moved them all too high for him to reach). Knowing his passion for this texture, I used squares of toilet paper as a final or jackpot reward (you have to give them time to chew). We have a septic system, so our toilet paper squares are easily carried in a pocket and safely digested. Next I became aware of Milo's evident pleasure in licking the clean water from my legs just after I stepped from the shower. This is a great reinforcement for distance work. Emerge from the shower. Open the door (the dog is waiting patiently on the hall rug). Ask for the movement (it was the stand from a down for us) in the hall. If the dog complies, I pat my naked thigh and let him lick my shins. If he does not comply; close the door, count slowly to three, open the door and try again. He gets two tries. I really thought I was finished with all the shenanigans in the powder room until I recently introduced into my home a new dog. He is an eager worker with only emerging self control in the shape of a beagle/terrier mix (I call him a terrigle – rhymes with terrible – no accident there). His name is Ooch. Ooch adores tooth paste; not beef flavored dog tooth paste, but tongue-shriveling, minty fresh,

3D whitening Crest tooth paste. I learned this by dropping my tooth brush ONCE! Several mornings ago, as I began to brush my teeth, Ooch flew into the bathroom behind me and plunked down on my left in his sitting I'm-a-good-dog-what-do-I-get-for-it position to wait for gravity to work in his favor. I turned to my right to see if he had flattened Milo in his precipitous flight through the door and Ooch followed the tooth paste to come to my right to sit and wait. (Milo was OK, by the way.) You probably see where I'm going with this. In a single session, Ooch has learned to switch sides when I look over my shoulder and all for a taste of tooth paste! So let me encourage everyone to watch those dogs carefully to find powerful, new re-enforcers and to not only think outside the box, but outside the kitchen as well.



By Leila Widgren

Greetings from the North Coast!

The midges have come and gone, the lake is teeming with aquatic and recreational life, and the temperatures and humidity have cranked up and caused us to cancel guild sessions already! It's a normal summer.

Our spring was anything but normal! Our May 4th and 5th titling event was the highlight of this year! We had 13 exhibitors and 17 routines that were presented before our judges Brandy Clymire, Gaea Mitchel, Elaine Nabors-Smith, and Betty Swenson. A huge thank you to our judges and to Cameron & Sara Foster, Carl & Joan Tennille, and Jim Moore for coming to Ohio to support us. Three teams earned titles and were presented with a special NCCF charm keepsake with a card that read:

“We have created this unique memento to remind you of your CFF journey. The

musical notes represent the wonderful music you have chosen to illustrate the warm relationship you have with your canine partner, whose paw prints are imprinted on your heart. Polished over time and collected on the shores of Lake Erie, the glass piece represents the CFF journey that brought you here by the training honed over time. The lighthouse represents a beacon and focus when the waters were rough. Your vision has brought you to this milestone.

Congratulations on achieving your CFF title today in this space, in this place, on the North Coast.

The North Coast Canine Freestylers”

Congratulations to the new title holders:

Kate Gibbons & Sylvia (Level 1)

Janet Dayton & Lark (Level 2)

Janet McBrien & Alex (Level 3)

It was an honor to experience Betty Swenson & Yahtzee's routine. This was Betty's sixth Highest Artistic score and she was awarded the sterling silver G clef necklace.

Sue Ann Branstein and Saily Lady won the North Coast Canine Freestyler Award for the highest scoring first time exhibitor on both days! This award was given in honor of Janet Dayton's greyhound, Pearl, who is at the Rainbow Bridge. Pearl & Ollie went with Janet and me to our first retreat in 2008. Pearly Jane was one of our freestyle inspirations. Vivid memories of her and Janet fill my mind every time I hear John Tesh's, "Garden City." How fitting it is then that an NCCFer won the award!

Exhibitors and Judges were treated to local maple syrup. It was fun to hear how folks were surprised about the taste of our sticky treasure here on the North Coast. Chardon, Ohio (a city close to our training center) is known for its maple syrup industry!

An enormous thank you goes out to the North Coast Canine Freestylers guild members and their families and friends who donated much and volunteered to make it all happen! THANK YOU!

Prior to our titling event, we had a Guild Session where we viewed colors that would look good with our dogs so that we would know what color outfits to wear at the titling event. I purchased $\frac{3}{4}$ of a yard of about dozen different broad cloth colors and we taped the “drapes” to agility wing jumps and then viewed the each of the dogs in front of the various colors and decided what looked best. I also captured the opening and closing shapes from routines in my video collection which had been used in a lesson on opening/closing shapes which we then used for a discussion on appropriate trial wear.

Just before Janet and I left for Elaine’s seminar in NC, I received an email congratulating us for becoming a full-fledged guild! It has been a long time in the making. A long time since my first email to Julia Gregory in 2008 and her immediate encouragement to “come on down to Tennessee” (thank you Julia – if it weren’t for you we wouldn’t be here in this newsletter!!!!) ... a long time since we stood in the back of the training center in Flintstone, Georgia and watched our first titling event and Janet and I looked at each other and said, “wow, this is cool... we can do this.”

We are busy planning for another introduction to freestyle class, planning how to incorporate what we learned at Elaine’s choreography seminar into our guild sessions and classes, and there is talk about a seminar. The possibilities are endless! “Our thoughts and imagination are the only real limits to our possibilities.” Orison Swett Marden

Thank you to everyone that has supported and continues to support us as the new guild on the block!

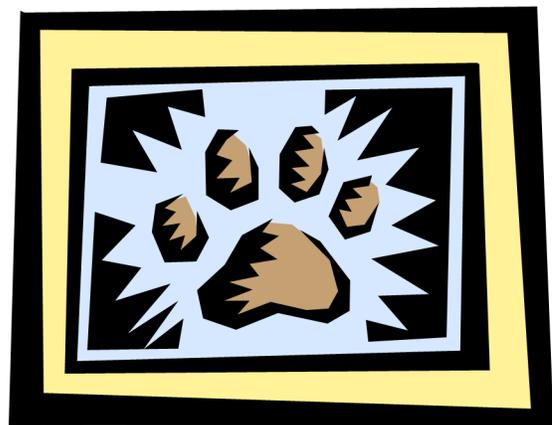
By Kathy Noble



Midsummer has arrived and the members of Sirius Guild continue to prepare for the trial at Colonial Canine in Fredericksburg, Virginia, which will be co-sponsored by the Carolina Guild on November 2nd and 3rd. The Premium List, which lists nearby accommodations information and other important information is available on the CFF website. The closing date is Saturday, October 12, which as we all know, will be here before we know it! The run-throughs have been scheduled for September 29th at the trial site, and entry forms for that are also available at the CFF website.

Routines are being developed and refined. As always, the aim is for the team to be “ready” but not bored, and to keep the enthusiasm going for both dog and handler so that the trial is exciting and remains fun. The members of the Sirius Guild are anxious to make this trial successful and enjoyable for all, and are working toward that goal.

Whether as a competitor or audience, we hope to see you there!



Canine Freestyle Federation Titling Events

Sponsored by the First Florida Freestylers Guild

Saturday June 22, 2013 Results

Level I

First Place Ann Holder's Toy Poodle Sylon Red Ginger

Rose RN **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Kerri Elfvin's English Setter Bentley

Level I Team

First Place Wendy Keighley's Labrador Retriever Lark

Second Place Amy and Gary Reinhart's German Shepherd
Treu

Level II

First Place Alice Johnson's Chihuahua/Jack Mix Matilda
Sue Johnson **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Virginia S Ruskuski's Australian Shepherd
Ibeski's Careless Wishes U-CD **NEW**

TITLE

Third Place Wendy Keighley's Labrador Retriever Lark

NEW TITLE

Fourth Place Mary K Hartney's Parson Russell

Terrier WayTo Go Duet's Spring Vision

Level IIB

First Place Elaine and Chad Nabors' American Pit Bull

Terrier Leonard's Brick In the Wall **NEW**

TITLE

Second Place Ann Holder's Toy Poodle Nanjac Firestarter

RN **NEW TITLE**

Third Place Leonor Kasten's Sealyham Terrier Spicey

Lucky Charm

Level III Team

First Place Leonor Kasten's Giant Schnauzer Kenro's

Zesty Ziva David, CFFIII

Marilyn Hulme's Beagle Lanbur Rosies Are Red, CFFIII

Level IV

First Place Marilyn Hulme's Beagle Lanbur Wild Pandemonium, CFFIII **NEW TITLE**

Second Place Leonor Kasten's Giant Schnauzer Kenro's
Zesty Ziva David, CFFIII **NEW TITLE**

Third Place Beth Berry's Chihuahua Emma Louisa, CFFIV

Highest Artistic Score

Elaine and Chad Nabors' American Pit Bull Terrier Leonard's
Brick In the Wall

The Grail Award

Awarded to the highest scoring team in Teamwork.

Elaine and Chad Nabors' American Pit Bull Terrier
Brick In the Wall

Sunday June 23, 2013 Results

Level I

First Place Ann Holder's Toy Poodle Sylon Red Ginger

Rose RN

Second Place Kerri Elfvin's English Setter Bentley

Level I Team

First Place Wendy Keighley's Labrador Retriever Lark

Amy and Gary Reinhart's German Shepherd

Treu

Level II

First Place Virginia S Ruskuski's Australian Shepherd

U-CD Ibeski's Careless Wishes

Second Place Wendy Keighley's Labrador Retriever

Lark

Third Place Alice Johnson's Chihuahua/Jack Mix Ma-
tilda Sue Johnson

Fourth Place Mary K Hartney's Parson Russell Terrier

WayToGo Duet's Spring Vision **NEW TITLE**

Level IIB

First Place Elaine and Chad Nabors' American Pit Bull

Terrier Leonard's Brick In the Wall

Second Place Ann Holder's Toy Poodle Nanjac Fire-

starter RN

Third Place Leonor Kasten's Sealyham Terrier Spicey

Lucky Charm

Level III Team

First Place Leonor Kasten's Giant Schnauzer Kenro's

Zesty Ziva David, CFFIII **NEW TITLE**

Marilyn Hulme's Beagle Lanbur Rosies Are Red, CFFIII

NEW TITLE

Level IV

First Place Beth Berry's Chihuahua Emma Louisa,

CFFIV

Second Place Leonor Kasten's Giant Schnauzer Ken-

ro's Zesty Ziva David, CFFIII

Third Place Marilyn Hulme's Beagle Lanbur Wild Pan-

demonium, CFFIII

Highest Artistic Score

Elaine and Chad Nabors' American Pit Bull Terrier
Leonard's Brick In the Wall

The Grail Award

Awarded to the highest scoring team in Teamwork.

Elaine and Chad Nabors' American Pit Bull Terrier
Leonard's Brick In the Wall

The event was held at the Harvest Fellowship Church in Jacksonville, Florida. The judges were; Brandy Clymire, Susan Colledge, Sally Kirschenman and Joan Tennille. A huge thank you goes out to the members of the First Florida Freestylers Guild who put so much effort into making this event a tremendous success.



Judges' Notes

JUDGES REPORT FROM THE FIRST FLORIDA FREESTYLERS TRIAL

By Brandy Clymire, Susan Colledge, Sally Kirschenman and Joan Tennille

Compiled by Ann Holder, Judging Chair

A very nice trial. It was a great facility, lots of parking, terrific hospitality and great food! Everyone involved did a top-notch job. The friendliness and obvious camaraderie toward everyone made for a well run trial. The only negative was the increasing heat by afternoon which took a little out of the dogs on Sunday. The planned change to a February trial date for the future will remedy this problem.

Level I:

“All choreography presented the dog well indicating an understanding of the concepts. “

“Leads were handled well.”

“Music choices were good.”

Level I Team:

These two teams had an obvious connection and some interesting patterns.”

Level IIA:

“The exhibitors did not look like first time exhibitors. Training was very even and showed that all handlers had worked hard and had their basics down well.”

“Minimal rushing of dogs.”

“Sufficient creativity to fulfill the definition.”

Level IIB:

“I was impressed with all three teams at this level because they really did try to focus on this dog's work and not the work they would have expected from the dog in their past.”

“Each presentation was expressed as a new beginning, a new journey and is the way the artistry of this level's performance should be expressed.”

“I was impressed with the good handling that supported and guided these novice dogs gently and smoothly.”

“Good choreography—a smooth and steady flow of movement

Level III Team:

“An extraordinary Level III Team choreography with clever, inventive designs, good transitions, clarity of performance with good technical skills expressed artistically.”

Such good work—a very challenging undertaking! Full of exciting and beautiful moments!”

Level IV:

“The music choices were good and the opening shapes for the most part evolved organically.”

“The dogs gave all they had despite the heat.”

TIPS FROM THE JUDGES:

“Remember that movement material needs to evolve from the opening shape.”

“Beginning handlers need to continue to work toward building trust and confidence in their team mate.”

“Human partners, please remember to keep your gaze inside the ring. If your eyes trace a line outside the pylons and your arm dynamically expresses Go Further! , the dog will do it! He will usually

return with equal enthusiasm if you don't communicate anger.”

“Although there were generally good music choices, please stretch yourself and open the door to other styles and genres.” Open your ears to what the dog likes!”

“Watch the balance of energy on the human partner. The dog feeds off the partner's energy and together this a part of the dynamics of freestyle. “ “Sucking in by the handler can cause pacing, flatness, loss of connection.”

In several presentations, both small and large dogs, the handlers were over-striding the dog. This plays havoc with reference positions and training relationships and choreographic and artistic scores will drop.”

“Avoid over-facing the dog by rushing movements and walking into dog to produce the movement.”

“A reminder to all handlers of small dogs: Please stand up straight! When you curl over and bend towards your dog, all your wonderful training creatively and artistically is thrown out the window.”

Level IV: “This level is about wisdom and the importance of knowing what you want to say and to say it simply with clarity. Generally the choreography was jammed with difficulty and it was exhausting to try and stay on top of so many themes creatively and artistically.”

“The Level IV people got overly complicated. I would have liked to see bigger moves that filled the space instead of many small efforts to show everything the dog could do.”

Level I Team: “Teams need to be aware of how spectators may be forced to view them. Even though you have a demonstrated connection to one another if you remain widely separated within the space you are forcing the spectators to choose which team to watch and the connection is lost. A closer proximity to each other would have emphasized the interesting patterns and contrasts and allowed spectators to see the whole performance.”



FFF Guild Jacksonville Florida: from left to right: Barbara with Giley, Dense with Merit, Penny (in back without a dog), Kerri with Bentley, Beth with Emma, Elaine with Vera, Gaea (standing), Kristen without a dog, Ginny with Annie.

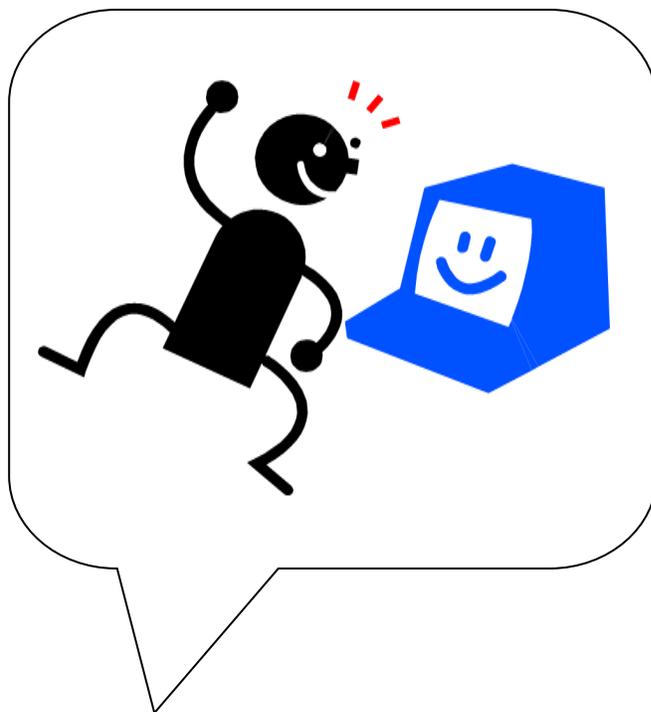
Photograph by Susan Roche. Susan is a Jacksonville amateur photographer who combines her love of photography with her other interests such as dogs, theatre and motorcycling. Her specialty seems to be in "action" photos and her goal, especially with dogs and theatre, is to capture the emotion between the actors or between the pup and the human companion in whatever activity they're engaged in. To see more of Susan's images, you can visit her website at www.4thWallVid.com. Be sure to scroll down below the slide show to see other galleries. You can contact her through her site or email 4thWallVid@gmail.com.

You Never Get a Second Chance to Make a First Impression

By Margret Janz

Editor's Note: I recently received this straight-from-the-heart appraisal from one of Elaine Nabors' newest students. Elaine teaches CFF freestyle in northern Florida. The First Florida Freestylers Guild recently hosted a tiling event in Jacksonville, Florida.

As a first time observer of canine freestyle my initial thoughts bordered on disbelief. How could both participants reach such a high level of training and togetherness? The trainer and the dog moved as if they were one; graceful and elegant. Then I watched the partners gradually branching out from one another into other moves at the more difficult levels of activity. I have never seen this level of communication between a trainer and dog. Awesome! It seems to me to achieve this level of communication between trainer and dog a feeling and show of mutual respect and caring would be necessary and it was obvious. Food and water bowls and toys and brushes were in full use as were soothing and nurturing conversations and praises from the trainers. What a great environment for all dog owners (and would be owners)! I plan to work in this direction.



New CFF Forum Coming Soon!

CFF is in the process of setting up a new Forum on Proboards. We hope to have everything moved over by the first of the year. Proboards handles all the upgrades and their board has many unique features including a higher level of security. The old board has been using outdated software that has been causing some glitches recently.

Visit the CFF Proboards site and get registered early. Go to www.caninefreestyle.proboards.com and follow the registration directions--they are quite easy to follow and I will check the board every couple of days to approve anyone who has registered but needs to be approved. Topics will be set up soon and you can start using it at any-time. Around the the first of the year, we will close down the old board set up a kind of archive of pertinent posts so that you will still be able to read some of the great stuff people have offered over the years. Register soon.

Rosie's World

By LanburRosies Are Red, CD, BN, RE, THD, CFF III



Wow, mom told me that it's time to write my column again so I thought "What has been going on in my world since my last column?" One thing came to mind immediately – my new teammate, Ziva!

Mom and Lee Kasten decided that they wanted to do a Level III team freestyle routine. So I'd like to introduce you to Ziva, a black giant schnauzer. She's BIG! We had to find music that would work for Ziva and me (and I'm a little beagle!) so Miss Lee and mom looked at a bunch of music and finally came up with "Road to the Faire" which Ziva and I like a lot. I didn't realize that I was going to have to increase my athletic ability to do this routine. I knew something was up when mom put the dining room chair in the middle of the living room and said "under" and she expected me to go under the chair. I thought she was nuts but give me a treat and I'll do anything. At our first team practice, Miss Lee set Ziva up and I heard that word "under" and mom expected me to run under Ziva. My first thought was that mom was going to be committed. She had finally lost it. With a little coaxing though, I tried it but I was really scared that Ziva wouldn't like it. Thank goodness I didn't have anything to worry about – Ziva didn't have a clue of what I had done, 'cause she's so BIG! Then came my next challenge in the athletic department. Mom put a big pillow in the living room and told me to jump over the pillow. Then she put a box out there and I heard "jump." Like I said, I'll do anything for a treat. Little did I know that this was a preparation for our next team practice. The pillow and box became a "stretched out Ziva." Let me tell you, I jumped extra high to make sure I cleared my teammate. Did I mention that she's BIG?

Well, we've been practicing our routine for a while and we're getting pretty good so we went to the First Florida Freestyle trial in Jacksonville. It was really, really hot but Ziva and I tried our best to do a good job. I think the heat bothered Ziva more than me since she's BIG and BLACK! When she stretched out for me to do my jump, she looked at me and said "Don't even think about it!" I thought "Right, got it!" and veered off to run past her. I think mom and Miss Lee were surprised because I have never missed that jump. But there was no way I was going to make Ziva mad 'cause she's so BIG! Even though we didn't do that move, we still got 1st place and a new Level III Team title!

Well, that's it from Rosie's World. See you next time.



CFF, Inc.
c/o Julia M. Gregory
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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