

RAT TERRIER MAKES BREED HISTORY WITH AKC HIGH IN TRIAL

by Dawn Kennedy



Photo by Dawn Kennedy

Recently, I was witness to something that earned my respect for a breed very new to AKC. My friend Kris Walden, of Holiday, FL, was showing her AKC registered Rat Terrier in Obedience for her first weekend of trials. On Sunday, I went up to watch and videotape her run. I'm glad I did, because I got to be there to watch a very special moment in Obedience.

"I have high hopes for her in Obedience," says Kris. "but little did I know that at her first weekend of trials she would surpass my expectations and make breed history by being the first Rat Terrier to ever win an AKC all-breed High in Trial!" The pride and love Kris has for this dog is quite apparent when she talks about Kyra, her happy little Rat Terrier who lives to please her owner and loves to work in obedience. Kyra helps prove that the versatile Rat Terrier really can do it all.

The noteworthy event happened out of the Novice B class on May 8, 2011 at Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg obedience trials in St. Petersburg, Florida, under respected judge Ron Roberts. It was only Kyra's second day in the obedience ring but she had her eyes on the prize and looked like a seasoned pro. Her win was well earned with a 195 ½ and can be viewed on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRgkXm38SCQ>.

A well bred Rat Terrier, "Kyra" is formally known as U-GR CH Ratitatt Franibur Mix N Match CD CGC. She earned her CD in 3 trials, in the ribbons each time with two 1st places and a 2nd. Kyra has also recently earned two UKC CD legs, again with placements.

Kris says, "Kyra is ready for the real fun to begin now, Open and Utility! She absolutely loves her little dumbbell on the retrieving exercises and adores all the jumping. She has so much fun doing *anything I ask of her*. Kyra will be competing soon in upcoming trials the Open class for her CDX title. She is my little best friend and soul mate." Kyra's breeder is Valerie Luchsinger of Ratitatt Rat Terriers in Ohio, and Kris says she can't thank Valerie enough for sharing this happy and loving little dog with her, whose intelligence and desire to please make a winning combination.

Kris Walden has been actively participating in the sport of Obedience for over twenty two years. She says her passion has always been to produce a happy and motivated performance dog both in the competition Obedience ring and during training. She certainly got that with Kyra, who is owned, trained, handled and very loved by Kris Walden.

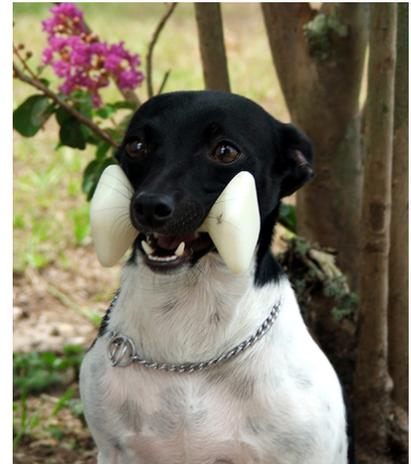


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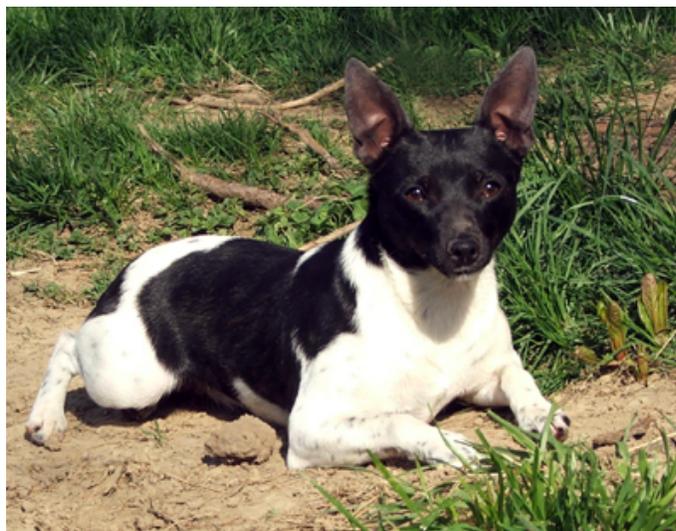


Photo by Valerie Luchsinger

