



COLLIE 'ACHIEVERS'



The beauty of the Collie excelling at his job!



One of the most wonderful things about the Collie is its amazing versatility. It excels at competition, while its herding heritage makes it a strong yet gentle and faithful worker. No matter what activity, the Collie is eager to please—a quality which makes for a great “partner.” We hope that you, your family and your new Collie will enjoy a happy, active life together.

Beyond being a beloved home companion, the Collie can be trained to perform a wide range of duties, sports or activities that the family may also become involved in. For children especially, canine activities instill important character qualities. Young people who compete in the performance ring learn sportsmanship, dedication, poise, graciousness, self-confidence and self-esteem in addition to an abiding respect and love for the Dog. Teamwork between owner and Collie is extremely satisfying to experience whether you are a child or an adult. However, all activities at home—whether your Collie is a “star” athlete or king of your front yard—begin with training.

OBEDIENCE Everyone wants a well-mannered dog as a pet. To ensure you have one, training should be an integral part of your dog’s life so that it can become a “canine good citizen.” Obedience training teaches your Collie to obey commands, be attentive and work with you. It’s never too late to get started. Join an Obedience club or training class in your area for hands-on experience. Supplement this through reading; many excellent books and websites are available today about training and raising your puppy. (See *Resources Chapter 12.*) After completing basic Obedience training, next is competition Obedience training for those wishing to enter this sport.



Therapy collies “help” children read as part of the READ program

RALLY Recently, the AKC developed this series of “entry level” training titles that are easier than Obedience. Designed as an introduction to that sport, Rally starts dog and owner at a beginning level in preparation for advanced Obedience work later on. Besides being fun, Rally enables both handler and Collie to experience teamwork and the thrill of competition. Not surprisingly, Rally is rapidly growing in popularity!

AGILITY Welcome to the exciting sport of Agility, where dogs fly through air, jump through hoops, scale A-frames, effortlessly run obstacle courses and

perform a bevy of other amazing feats. Collies are “athletes” who do well at all of this. They love the activity and exercise, but they especially love working with (and pleasing) their owner!

HERDING is an instinct found in most Collies, who are able to move livestock from place to place with uncanny precision. Watching a good herding Collie do its job is truly magical. The Collie’s intuitive sense of where to be to round up the stock and move it along is amazing. To determine your Collie’s degree of herding instinct, have it tested by an accredited herding association, club or expert in your area.

TRACKING Tracking is a fascinating part of search and rescue work to find people who are trapped or lost. As a sport, Tracking demonstrates the dog’s ability to recognize and follow human scent. It enables Collie and owner to work together outdoors while demonstrating the dog’s amazing sensory skills and intelligence.

THERAPY/SERVICE The extraordinary bond between dog and man, as shown by these many activities, is legendary. Yet there is another way dogs serve their humans: by giving comfort and companionship to the ill, hospital-bound and elderly, and by helping those who are physically challenged lead an active life. Collies are a natural choice for this role. Along with the Collie’s soft fur, loving, gentle nature and friendly face comes the warmth and joy that are an unmistakable part of true Collie character.

GETTING STARTED

Collie, all-breed, obedience and sporting clubs hold frequent training classes throughout the year. Look for the classes in your area or visit the AKC website: www.akc.org/events/obedience/training_clubs to learn more.



CHAPTER 11: Breeding & Exhibiting

