



C-ATCH HERMES ChST, ChCL, NAC, JS-O, GS-N, RS-N, PS1, PD1

Eight years ago Hermes was a “free to a good home” puppy. His mother and nine brothers and sisters had been neglected and then dumped off on someone’s doorstep during a cold fall evening. All eleven dogs needed to find homes as soon as possible or else they would be off to the pound. I heard about the puppies and went to take a look . . . It was truly love at first sight! Hermes was the most adorable little puppy I had ever laid eyes on and he was also the most outgoing pup of the group, most of the other puppies were very fearful and hid when I tried to touch them. Not Hermes, he waddled right over to me and insisted that I pick him up. Needless to say I took him home with me.

Hermes and I started our agility training when he was six months old and 7 and ½ years later we are still addicted! Despite him being a “sloth dog” in the ring for many years, despite several bouts with Pancreatitis, despite major stomach surgery in the summer ‘07 and despite collapsing from a toxic kidney infection in May of ‘08, Hermes and I have kept right on going with our agility goals. We have managed to overcome both his health issues as well as his past lack of motivation in the ring (he was painfully SLOW). Most people would no longer believe that Hermes use to be a “sloth dog” with little motivation to play at agility trials. Nowadays he runs his little heart out and often bites ME when I’M not fast enough!

To date Hermes has scored 26 agility titles including his C-ATCH. Hermes also has earned his CPE ChST and ChCL championships. We compete in the Elite Jumpers level of ASCA and are in USDAA Advanced/PII after just a few trials. Hermes really seems to enjoy USDAA and recently qualified in highly competitive Performance Grand Prix and Performance Versatility Pairs tournament events (thank you to our wonderful pairs partners Kara and Guinness!). Hermes is currently working on C-ATCH 2 (needing only 5 more Q’s!) and is in training for competitive APDT Rally Obedience.

As much as Hermes loves agility his passion lies in performing and learning tricks -- of which he knows a multitude. He can do everything from rolling over and crawling to balancing on exercise balls to walking backwards under my legs. His latest trick involves walking backward more than 20 feet then spinning in a circle.

Although Hermes is creeping up on his eighth birthday (his “made up” birthday is October 16th) he still runs and goofs around like a 3 year old and I hope that we’ll be playing agility together until he’s well into his teens.

Who knew that the little husky-mix no one wanted would become one of the best things to ever happen to me.

I love you, my darling Hermes, and you can continue to bite me whenever I need it.

Tara Baggerman, proud mama of Hermes