

PENNY

by Joan Pivorum-Wehrle



Penny is my first agility and obedience dog. Performing is something that matches her well since she is a dog with "attitude". It is not surprising that she is a rather assertive dog. To begin with, she was the only one in the litter. When she was only weeks old she went into crisis; her mother was not able to produce milk. The breeder did not realize all her suckling was not providing her with nourishment until she showed some significant signs of stress. At the same time my first and very special sheltie Cricket was fighting pancreatitis. Penny's breeder tried different and creative ways to get Penny to eat, and Penny (whose name was Carla at that point) chose to start eating (and has not stopped since). She rallied, but unfortunately Cricket did not. I am convinced Cricket's spirit joined Penny's and a feisty little dog was created. Of course, it did not help that the breeder spoiled her rotten. She had been promised to someone else, but the breeder opted to sell her to me because I was so distraught at having lost my dog.

And so I became her human to train. And despite all my mistakes, she earned her Utility obedience title, earned elite NADAC titles, has her MX and MXJ in AKC, has her Performance Dog III title in USDAA, and finished her CPE 4 title (we chose not to go on to level 5). She has been joined in our household by 2 sable shelties with her breeding lines and one rogue tri-color. And guess who rules the roost?