

# DOG OF THE MONTH

August 2007

By Sheila Jweid-Webber

On December 4, 1992, Patty and Joe Dorion proudly announced the arrival of seven English Springer Spaniel puppies to AlMar's Legacy of Lacey. The fifth puppy born was named Tippy because she had a white tip on her tail. I changed her name to Legend of Moonhill because she was the fourth dog in her line to have her name start with "L" and she was born on Moonhill Road. She came to live with us in the beginning of February after a three hour ride with her howling all the way.



We started obedience training that spring and agility at eight months old. I entered her in her first breed show in August, and to my surprise, she won. So we kept showing. We came in second a lot after that. I couldn't get past that so we eventually gave it up. Next we started her obedience career. She did very well earning her American Kennel Club CD, Companion Dog, CDX, Companion Dog Excellent, and Utility Dog (UD). She finished her title on January 23, 2000 (Catie's birthday). By this time, we were



already doing agility. In Legend's first agility, she came in first place in her class and was the high-scoring Sporting Dog. She finished her Novice Agility Title two weeks later on October 8, 1995. A year later, we finished our Open Agility Title (it took longer back then because there weren't that many trials). The following year, she finished her AKC; she earned her AX, Agility Excellent Title and in 1998, she completed her MX, Master Agility Title and her AXJ, Agility Excellent Jumper.



We stopped doing AKC agility at this time because it is expensive and I was also showing Merlin. A few years later, the AKC would start its Preferred Program so older dogs could compete. So we started again. She then earned her NAP, NJP, OAP, and OJP titles. Legend also competed in NADAC/ASCA and USDAA agility programs. She earned titles through the Elite Level (highest level) in NADAC and the Advanced Level in USDAA. In obedience and agility, Legend earned a total

of about 28 titles.

Legend was also a Canine Good Citizen and Therapy Dog, going on visits to nursing homes. We were members of Schenectady Dog Training Club and JAZZ Agility Club where she also earned club recognition in both obedience and agility. Legend was not

only beautiful and smart, she was also a mother. On January 22, 1997, she gave birth to nine puppies, two girls and seven boys (all healthy). We kept two of the puppies, a girl (Lazer) and a boy (Merlin). Merlin went on to be a breed champion and an agility champion. My daughter, Catie, trained Lazer in agility, and they are competing at the highest levels. Legend was an early ambassador for agility in our area



appearing on Channel 6 News with Tom Maley introducing agility and JAZZ agility to the Capital District. She also marched in numerous Memorial Day Parades in Scotia and Thanksgiving Parades in Schenectady. She took part in many obedience and agility demonstrations. She qualified for the national competitions in AKC in Atlanta, GA, in 1998 and Springfield, MA, in 2000. She went to the USDAA Nationals in Fairhill, MD, in 1999 and 2000. She was high-scoring English Springer Spaniel in 1996 in Open Agility.

Legend retired in August 2003 to a couch-potato life. She was a great pet and a loving member of my family. She passed away on her own terms at home on May 21, 2007, at the age of 14.