

## New: Coursing for All Dogs

Why should sighthounds have all the fun? The AKC's newest sport allows all dogs to sprint, gallop, or galumph into the exciting world of lure coursing. The Coursing Ability Test (CAT) is for dogs of any breed and mixed-breeds at least a year old and individually AKC-registered or -listed.

To pass the test, a dog running alone must pursue a lure, completing the course with enthusiasm and without interruption within a given time. Dogs that pass the CAT three times will earn a Coursing Ability (CA) title. Ten passes and they earn a Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA) title, and 25 passes results in a Coursing Ability Excellent (CAE) title.

The inaugural Coursing Ability Tests were run in February. Among the first wave of CAT-titled dogs was Moxie the Bulldog—also titled in obedience, agility, and rally. Moxie is owned by Bea and Clay Page, of Rome, Georgia. We asked Bea, an accomplished breeder and handler, for her thoughts on entering such an unlikely dog in a coursing event. Here's what she had to say:

"Bulldogs are highly popular as pets thanks to their unique looks and laid-back dispositions; however, they aren't particularly well-known for excelling in physical activities. They have a reputation for making good couch potatoes, but you have to turn up the volume on the T.V. when chilling out together because their snoring gets pretty loud!

"Moxie not only lounges around, but also has a built-in enthusiasm for playing and a propensity for learning—traits that make her easy to train, and round her out as an ideal companion for me because I love to participate in AKC dog sports. I've never let the often-heard comment, 'Bulldogs can't do that!' hold me back from trying. Instead, after we are success-

*"Remember: if Bulldogs can do it, your dog can, too!"*



ful, I aim to inspire others by telling them, 'If my Bulldog can do it, any dog can do it!'

"We did very little in the way of preparation. The day before the tests began, we teased the Bulldogs with a white plastic bag to see if they'd show interest, which they did by pouncing on it and biting at it. Then we tied the bag to a light rope and dragged it behind my golf cart to see if they'd chase it. That didn't go as well. Moxie chased it for a few yards, then broke off. My friend's Bulldog, E.T., did the same, so we figured they weren't likely to run after the lure for a full 300 yards—the established distance for flat-faced breeds in a Coursing Ability test—but we wanted to go and just have fun anyway.

"Imagine our surprise and delight (and that of everyone watching) when at the test, both Bulldog girls stayed the distance after the lure with the heart of a sighthound! We were hooked then and there!

"It was a spectacular event all around as dog after dog had a turn and their instinct to chase prey automatically came to the fore. How fantastic to witness purebreds and mixed-breeds alike, of all different shapes and sizes, have an absolute blast participating in lure coursing. I whole-heartedly suggest that everyone allow their dogs a chance to experience this wonderful sport that most take to so naturally and thoroughly enjoy. Moxie is now Sittingbullies Wildwood Mockingbird, CDX, RE, OAP, OJP, CA."