

History of the Bulldog Club of America (BCA) Performance Hall of Fame (PHOF)

– by Bea Page

For decades, renowned Bulldogger, Ed Scully, maintained databases of American Kennel Club (AKC) titled Bulldogs going back to the earliest days, and he freely shared the data he compiled with the public via the BCA website. Sufficient appreciation cannot be doled out to Ed for his undying dedication, diligence and record keeping. In more recent years, changes to the BCA website & protocols resulted in Ed's databases being removed, and in his golden years, Ed expressed a desire to have someone else take over maintenance of the data for BCA. Ed is no longer with us, but his legacy and good works live on. Phil & Beth Handrick were asked by BCA to assume responsibility for the databases. They have Ed's original data and also receive monthly new titles reports from AKC and have assimilated the information into their own system. Hopefully, the data will eventually be once again be available on the BCA website for public viewing. In the meantime, I have created my own database that incorporates the records that Ed maintained thru 2013 and to which I have added subsequent years' titles and keep current with monthly updates. All the BCA Performance Hall of Fame awardees, along with voluminous other achievements, are posted on my website, so everyone interested can look, learn & enjoy. www.WildwoodKuvaszBulldogs.com

Around 1990-91, Ed Scully (along with Ruth Williams, who chaired the BCA Hall Of Fame committee back then) came up with the idea of giving Bulldog Club of America (BCA) recognition to Bulldogs that excelled in Obedience & Tracking – the only two AKC Companion Events in existence at the time. The BCA's Hall of Fame already had programs for Bulldog sires & dams who produced a specific number of champions, breeders who bred a specific number of champions, and individuals who made outstanding contributions to the BCA, but nothing had been put in place prior to Ed & Ruth's proposal, for Bulldogs to receive HOF status based on exceptional non-conformation achievements. In 1992, the BCA approved a Hall of Fame program for Bulldogs that had attained an Obedience Utility Dog (UD) title or a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) title. At that time, thirteen Bulldogs held UD titles and one held a TDX. Because tracking fell under the auspices of obedience, the original program was referred to as the BCA Obedience Hall of Fame. Ed kept a database of the Obedience HOF inductees that was part of the data that used to be on the BCA website, but little else was publicized in the initial years of the program, and few BCA members were even aware of its existence, to include later chairs/members of the Hall of Fame committee.

In 2007, after becoming familiar with the BCA recognition program for Bulldogs that excelled in Obedience & Tracking, I explored the idea for BCA to add the sport of Agility to its Obedience Hall of Fame. Agility had been implemented as a titling event by AKC in 1994. By 2008, five BCA member-owned Bulldogs had titled at the Excellent level and deserved to be honored. I contacted Carla Ehntholt, the current chair of BCA's Hall of Fame committee. Discussion ensued which included feedback from Betty Fisher (who writes the Train-A-Bulls column in The Bulldogger) and consultation with Ed Scully. Betty & I sought input from members of an online Bulldog Performance Group and I then drafted and submitted a proposal to Carla for the 2008 BCA National Council meeting. Performance Bulldoggers, Betty Studzinski and Kaler Howard, who attended the National Specialty that year, graciously agreed to avail themselves in person should the council need clarification of any elements of the proposal, and I was available by phone. The BCA subsequently approved modifying the HOF program and changing its name from Obedience HOF to Companion Events Hall of Fame. AKC's Companion Events are comprised of the sports of Obedience, Tracking, Rally and Agility, so the name change reflected growth of the program to include an Agility category. Other additions made during this revision were to expand the Tracking category by adding the newer Variable Surface Tracking (VST) title, and to create a plateau in Obedience for dogs that went on to a Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) title. The minimum criteria established for induction into the newly established Companion Events HOF as of 2008 were: a UD title in AKC obedience, a TDX or VST title in AKC tracking, or any excellent level title in AKC agility (AX, AXJ, AXP, AJP, XF or XFP). Additional requirements set by BCA were AKC registration for the dog and BCA membership for the owner at the time of qualification. Note: The HOF committee specified that dogs enrolled in AKC's Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) or Indefinite Listing Privilege (ILP) do *not* meet the BCA's AKC *registration* requirement since these awards are reserved for dogs documented as purebred. Once the new Companion Events Hall of Fame was in place, a new plaque was purchased by the HOF Committee (largely paid for by generous donations from Performance Bulldoggers).

Time marched on with no changes until 2021 when I submitted a proposal that was approved to add the sports of Rally and Scent Work, along with more Plateaus. Scent Work launched as an AKC titling program in 2017. By mid-2021, four Bulldogs had titled at the Master level, so this relatively new sport with challenging upper levels was added to recognize Bulldogs with this level of excellence. The official name of the program was changed to Performance Hall of Fame since Scent Work is not a Companion Event and the term "Performance" had come to be widely accepted as a label for sports other than Conformation. Rally had heretofore not been included because titling criteria for the top level when Rally first started in 2005 was Excellent (RE) which was deemed to not be challenging enough to warrant Hall of Fame status. However, in late 2017 AKC launched the Master class and Master title (more difficult than Excellent) and a new Rally Champion (RACH) title. By early 2021, four Bulldogs had attained the RM title and two Bulldogs had attained the RACH title, so Rally was then welcomed into the Performance HOF but required high scores (above 90) at the Master level for sufficient merit. Two new plaques were purchased (again, largely paid for by generous donations from Performance Bulldoggers). One plaque is for Inductees and the other plaque is for those who go on to higher achievements and reach the First & Second Plateaus. During this revision, the requirement for the dog to be BCA member-owned "at the time the achievement occurred" was changed to "at the time the HOF award is applied for", to accommodate worthy dogs whose owners became members subsequent to the achievement. Also added to eligibility criteria in keeping with the BCA's commitment to the preservation of the purebred Bulldog: Dogs displaying disqualifying standard color faults are not eligible for HOF awards.

Just as for the other HOF divisions, the HOF committee is tasked with verifying the eligibility of Performance HOF applicants each year, updating nameplates on the plaques, and displaying the plaques annually during National Specialty week. Each year, at the BCA National Specialty awards banquet, new HOF Inductees and Plateau recipients are announced & presented with their commemorative certificates.

Owners are officially asked to apply for their awards with these deadlines:

July 31st for a September National Show, August 31st for an October National Show, September 30th for a November National Show

Because I track titles, and am aware of qualifiers, as a courtesy to BCA members, I inform the HOF Chair of eligible dogs each year on their behalf.

Current Criteria

OBEDIENCE

Induction requirement to demonstrate Excellence:

Utility Dog (UD) title

1st Plateau: Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) title

2nd Plateau: Utility Dog Excellent 2 (UDX2) title

TRACKING

Induction requirement to demonstrate Excellence:

Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) or Variable Surface Tracking (VST) title

AGILITY

Induction requirement to demonstrate Excellence:

Agility Excellent (AX) or Agility Excellent Preferred (AXP) or
Agility Excellent Jumper (AXJ) or Agility Excellent Jumper Preferred (AJP) or
Excellent FAST (XF) or Excellent FAST Preferred (XFP)

1st Plateau: Two Excellent titles plus one Master title

2nd Plateau: Agility Championship (MACH or PACH) title

RALLY

Induction requirement to demonstrate Excellence:

Rally Master (RM) title plus 10 Master Scores >90

1st Plateau: Rally Master 2 (RM2) title plus 11 Master Scores >90

2nd Plateau: Rally Championship (RACH) title

SCENT WORK

Induction requirement to demonstrate Excellence:

Scent Work Master (SWM) title

1st Plateau: Scent Work Master Elite (SWME) title

2nd Plateau: Scent Work Detective (SWD) title

Inductees must be AKC registered (not ILP or PAL enrolled), must not have a disqualifying color fault per the AKC/BCA breed standard & must be owned by a BCA member at the time of application.

Huge appreciation to the following Bulldoggers for their generous donations in 2009 for the purchase of the initial Performance Hall of Fame plaque:

Betty Fisher, Jean Marie Hill, Tiew Honig, Kaler Howard,
Ikuko Jones, Cheryl Knapp, Bea & Clay Page, Jane Pharr, Betty Studzinski,
Melanie Trichler, Pat Wright

&

Huge appreciation to the following Bulldoggers for their generous donations used for the 2019 purchase of new plaques for the Performance Hall of Fame.

Dr. Chelsie Bentz & Pat Bentz, Lucy Weber Hayes, Mrs. Jean Hetherington,
Eydie Hoepfner, Tiew & Ron Honig, Ikuko Jones, Cheryl Knapp, Bea & Clay Page, Debbie Perkins,
Susan & Charles Reighard, Betty Studzinski, Dr. Dorothy Wysaski

Here is a photocopy of an article written by Carla Ehntholt for the Sept 2009 issue of The Bulldogger in which she explains the BCA Hall of Fame programs as they existed at the time:

BCA HALL OF FAME
What, When, How to Qualify
Submitted by Carla Ehntholt, chairman

The "What"

The BCA Hall of Fame was established and the original criteria for qualification was set at the National Council meeting in September 1973. For Dogs (Sires), a minimum of ten (10) Champions of record must be sired. For Bitches (Dams), a minimum of four (4) Champions of record must be produced.

A Breeder or Co-breeder must have bred a minimum of 10 Champions and must be a member of the Bulldog Club of America. The owner of any qualifying dog or bitch must be a member of BCA in good standing. An application for consideration for these awards would need to be submitted by the breeder for himself, or owner of the dog in the case of a Sire or Dam.

In May 1980, specifics were brought to the Council regarding the reorganization history of the Bulldog Club of America in 1950, and the qualifications above were amended slightly. A Breeder or Co-breeder may be considered for the BCA Hall of Fame, on an individual by individual basis, if they had bred 10 or more Champions prior to 1950 whether they were members or non-members of BCA. This individual would be approved for induction at the discretion of the Hall of Fame Committee.

The same rule was applied also to Dogs who had sired 10 or more Champions prior to 1950 and Bitches who had produced 4 or more Champions prior to 1950. The HOF Committee is continuing to review those candidates and have inducted several of them in the past three years.

Also in May 1980 a new category for BCA Hall of Fame was established for individuals who had made Outstanding Contributions to the Bulldog Club of America, the organization. Since BCA, the organization, is divided into Divisions, each being part of the parent club, member contributors at the Division level would also be considered. The criteria set for this award at that time was:

A person must have been a member of BCA in good standing and be deceased at the time proposed. He or she also must be nominated from the Division level by one of the eight Divisions of BCA. A Division may nominate a maximum of two individuals each year; and only two possible candidates may be selected by the HOF Committee each year for induction from the maximum possible of 16 candidates.

Initial rules governing the Division nomination process and the HOF Committee approval process for the Outstanding Contributor to BCA award were also established at the May 1980 meeting. These rules were to become effective with the year of the 1981 National Show. A Division is not obligated to submit a nominee each or any year. However, only two will be considered from a Division.

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and the Tracking Dog Excellent, with a 1st Plateau of the Variable Surface Tracking (VST).

An additional achievement category for Agility was also approved. Dogs may achieve BCA Hall of Fame recognition for any of the following achievements: Agility Excellent, Excellent Agility Jumper, Excellent Fast, Agility Excellent "A" Preferred, and/or the Excellent Agility Jumpers With Weaves "A" Preferred. The Bulldog qualifying in any of the Agility areas must be an AKC registered Bulldog and the owner must be a BCA member in good standing at the time he qualifies.

The "When"

The only approved time constraint given to the nominations made for consideration of any BCA Hall of Fame award originally was for the Individual Contributor award. The nominations from Division Secretaries for this award were to be submitted six months prior to the National Show, which would have been in the Spring of any year.

With the onset of the electronic computer age today, the Committee has been able to relax a bit when accepting nominations. The HOF Committee of today aims to govern itself by a philosophy of *inclusion* rather than *exclusion* when making such determinations.

In 2007, the Committee proposed to set a deadline of one month prior to the National Specialty Show or September 30 each year, whichever came first for all HOF awards. This would be the date when any applications would be submitted by members for their dogs and when a Division must have submitted its nominees for the Individual Contributor Award.

With the advance notice of, at least, one month, enough time would be allowed for the Committee to confirm through AKC that the candidate is in deed qualified for the recognition. The BCA National Council approved the imposition of this deadline. The HOF Committee considers the deadline as a safeguard when having to deny recognition at the National Show for any Dog, Breeder, or Contributor not submitted in time to confirm their qualifications.

Confirmation of qualifications has been greatly improved over the years with computer information technology and with the AKC providing a faster and more efficient method of tracking Show wins and breeding statistics.

The "How"

Any member of BCA who believes he or she is qualified to receive the Hall of Fame award for any category may, and should, submit a list of dogs which support their belief, with their names, the AKC numbers and the date or approximate date on which the dog finished its Championship, or AKC qualification in the case of the Companion Dog Hall of Fame. This information may be submitted in writing either through US Postal mail or by e-mail to the chairman of the HOF Committee.

Carla Ehntholt, the current committee chairman, can be reached via cehntholt@ameritech.net, or by mail at 5318 Texas St., Houston, TX 77011. Please include your current address, e-mail address and telephone number with your application.

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The name of a nominee candidate who is not accepted in a particular year when submitted may be resubmitted in subsequent years. A nominee candidate need not have been a resident of the nominating Division. The candidate may have come from any period of time since the inception of the Bulldog Club of America. The nominations of candidates must be submitted by the Divisional Secretaries to the Hall of Fame Committee six months prior to the National Show.

The nomination letter is to include a critique of contributions and accomplishments of the candidate in respect to BCA as an organization. This nomination critique will be read and printed as submitted. The decision of the Hall of Fame Committee may not be countermanded.

It was in November 2004 when the Council approved an Amendment to the criteria for an Individual Contributor nomination and award. The Amendment was approved to include "living" as well as "deceased" members in good standing of BCA; however, the living person must have achieved over 35 years of dedicated and extraordinary service to the organization and no longer be active as such in the organization. All other criteria for "deceased" persons would also still apply.

The Plateaus of Excellence for each of the original Hall of Fame awards were established at the National Council meeting in 1991. Plateaus for Stud Dogs are 25 Champions, 50 Champions and 75 Champions. Plateaus for Brood Bitches are 8 Champions, 10 Champions, and 12 Champions. Plateaus for Breeders are 25 Champions, 50 Champions and 75 Champions.

For each of the Plateau levels of accomplishment, an additional Certificate would be awarded at the Banquet, and a rosette in different colors of metal (bronze for 1st, silver for 2nd, and gold for 3rd) would be applied to the nameplate on the respective plaques. The "rosette" or "star" if you will, has proved to be a complicated task, and the Committee is working toward the goal of having the stars on each qualified candidate's nameplate as soon as possible.

At the November 1992 National Council meeting, it was proposed and approved to add another new category into the BCA Hall of Fame – the Obedience Hall of Fame. To be considered for this category, a Bulldog would have to attain a Utility Degree (UD) or a Tracking Degree of Excellence (TDX).

A plaque of recognition for this category was not approved at the time, and only a few Bulldogs were recognized over the years. As time passed, and with changes in the Committee, the consideration and award to any Bulldog for this accomplishment was lost until 2007 when the current Committee was summoned to review and consider more extensively the criteria for the Obedience Hall of Fame. At the 2008 National Council meeting, new and more explicit criteria was established.

The BCA Hall of Fame for Obedience was changed to the BCA Companion Dog Hall of Fame, as corrected by the AKC representative at the time. A plaque for the category was approved to be purchased and past dogs' names that had achieved the approved awards were to be applied.

The levels of recognition for the BCA Companion Dog Hall of Fame will be the Utility Degree, with a 1st Plateau being the Utility Degree Excellent (UDX).

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Once a candidate has been inducted into BCA Hall of Fame, the application process for Plateau level awards may not be necessary, as records for the dog or individual will continue to be monitored through the AKC.

A notice to the committee chairman by e-mail or letter in advance of the September 30 deadline is suggested and appreciated. The statistics of Champions for the Plateau levels will only need to be submitted if the AKC records are not available to support the Plateau nomination, or if the last Champion for qualification is finished within the last two months prior to the National Show and the AKC has not yet posted that Championship record on its website.

As we all know, dogs frequently change owners or co-owners. It is important to remember, any HOF Sire award or HOF Dam award will be given to the owners of the Sire or Dam at the time the last Champion get or produce finished, provided that owner was a BCA member in good standing at the time the title was earned.

For a Champion to provide eligibility for a HOF Breeder, that individual breeder must have owned the Dam of the litter at the time when the Champion was whelped, as well as be named as the Breeder on the Champion's AKC registration, and be a BCA member in good standing.

For example, *Ch. Big Shot* was whelped on May 1, 2000. His Dam was Little Mama, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Responsible Breeder on May 1, 2000. He was sold as a puppy to Mr. Showman and finished to his championship title. Mr. Showman then gave away *Ch. Big Shot* to Mrs. Loving as a pet where he lived to a ripe old age. Little Mama was sold to Ms. Puppy Whelp where she produced two more litters.

Assuming all of these individuals are BCA members in good standing, Mr. Responsible Breeder and Mrs. Responsible Breeder can individually or jointly use *Ch. Big Shot* as a qualifying dog for the HOF Breeder award. Mr. Showman and Ms. Puppy Whelp cannot. Ms. Puppy Whelp may apply for the HOF Brood Bitch award for Little Mama, provided Little Mama has whelped three additional Champions in the next two litters.

Mr. Showman is not eligible to apply for any HOF award unless, by chance, during the time he owned and showed *Ch. Big Shot*, *Ch. Big Shot* sired 10 Champions.

The HOF Committee will attempt to make contact with all individual candidates for HOF awards in the month prior to the National Specialty Show, either to confirm receipt of that individual's application and its confirmation, or to ask for an e-mail application to be sent. It will attempt to confirm attendance at the National Specialty Show where the award will be given.

Certificates may be mailed if a self-addressed 9" x 12" envelope with postage is provided to the committee chairman. Priority Mail envelopes are perfect for this mailing. If the committee chairman is unable to reach an individual candidate, and a written application has not been received by the Committee, that award will be postponed until such contact can be achieved.

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