

FRONT & FINISH[®]

The Dog Trainer's News

July 2018

2017 First & Foremost Rating System

Amazing OTCH Laars

Suffering Has It's Rewards

by Marsha Smith



NEW Feature!

Performance Akitas

By Deb Fletcher

Highlighting Piper~First UDX Akita

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AKC Obedience ring!**

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History is made in the
AKC Obedience ring!

Piper you did it, the first princess to earn a UDX!



Koma-Inu Jakita's Music Maker UDX GN RN CGC TDI
owner: Jerry Howard



for those wondering what
dedication it takes to achieve
this monumental plateau in the
AKC Obedience ring, here is
the mountain Piper and Jerry
climbed to achieve their
phenomenal success...

UTILITY DOG EXCELLENT:

To earn a Utility Dog Excellent
Title, the dog must have received
qualifying scores in both Open B
and Utility B at 10 separate
licensed or member Obedience
Trials!



Piper you make our
Akita breed proud!



written by Piper's owner Jerry Howard:



I have been training and showing dogs in obedience competition since 1971. Most of the dogs I have shown (Weimaraner, Dachshund, Husky, Corgi) were not what was considered to be your usual obedience breeds. Piper is my 4th Akita. Piper was purchased from Judy Dunn at Koma-Inu Akitas & Shibas. Judy was very knowledgeable about the kind of temperament, structure and attitude I needed to compete in obedience. Piper was bought to be a family member with the intent to also do obedience to show that Akitas were just as capable of competing in obedience as the more typical breeds that were competing in obedience.

Piper started her obedience career in May, 2009 and earned her CD titled in 3 shows with a 1st place score of

197½+-. She went on to earn her Rally Novice and Graduate Novice titles with 1st and 2nd placements. She completed her Open CDX title in December, 2010. Utility proved to be a challenge, but we persisted and completed her UD title in October, 2013, while also earning her first UDX leg in the same trial. It was a long road and a lot of work to the UDX title. In spite of health issues with skin allergies and 3 surgeries to remove 19 tumors Piper kept going to earn her UDX title on January 24, 2016. During this time, she earned 9 OTCH points and 135 GM points. Piper's performance in obedience earned us the honor of being invited to the AKC National Obedience Championship in 2016 as the #1 ranked obedience Akita for 2015. Unfortunately, due to Piper's age and the rigorous nature of the Nationals, we will not be able to attend the Nationals. We will continue to compete and attempt to complete the GM title as long as Piper is willing and healthy enough to do so.

Piper has earned accolades from many of the judges she has competed under. In addition, her gentleness with puppies, friendly nature, and ability to remain calm around aggressive dogs has helped others socialize their dogs. A wonderful ambassador for the breed, Piper, by her very nature, has helped to improve the public perception of the Akita.

But more than anything, Piper has been my best friend, my love and my life, giving of herself in good times and bad. She is always there for me and always trying to please and do what is asked of her. I have been truly blessed to have such a great dog in my life.



Jerry Howard - Koma-Inu Jahita's Music Maker (Piper), UDX, GN, RN, CGC, TDI

performance
akitas.com