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American Eskimo Dogs

In the last installment, in the June issue, we learned about MACH48 Kody's road to the title of Lifetime Top MACH dog. Now we learn a bit more about Kody and his owner, Denise Schneider.

KODY AND DENISE, AN AGILITY TEAM EXTRAORDINAIRE PART II: THE REST OF THE JOURNEY TO MACH 48

What further goals do you have with Kody?

Denise: Kody turned 14 years old on December 14, 2022. At this point in his agility career he has earned all goals I have set for us (and then some!).

At some point will you put Kody in Preferred?

Kody recently earned MACH48—after that MACH, I moved him to Preferred. He is now loving running in 12-inch height.

Are you training your dogs differently now than you trained Kody?

Training contacts with my other dogs was different. All the other dogs after Kody

learned a running contact from the start. I also think in general the agility training has evolved too. I have trained four other dogs in agility after Kody. The last three spent more time on foundation on the flat work early on when they were puppies. In addition, the Premier classes did not exist when Kody first started agility. My recent dogs have learned Premier elements from the start of their training.

What are the other dogs you run besides Kody, and what are your goals for them?

I honestly just set goals for my dogs as things progress, I really focus on the enjoyment of the sport within reaching small goals. The goals evolve as we go. I am a competitive person and always want to improve in everything I do. However, I never even thought 48 MACH's or the Lifetime MACH Dog title could be a goal when I first started agility with Kody. It just kind of happened!

After I started running

Kody in agility and agility competition became part of regular life, my husband Geoff wanted to participate.

In 2011 we welcomed Lexi to our family. Lexi was primarily Geoff's agility dog. We both trained her. Geoff focused on running her in the regular classes and I ran most of the premier classes. Lexi was the first American Eskimo Dog to earn both the Premier STD title and the Premier JWW title. She qualified for the 2017, 2018, and 2019 AKC Nationals. She was the #2 Eskie invited to the 2018 AKC Invitational.

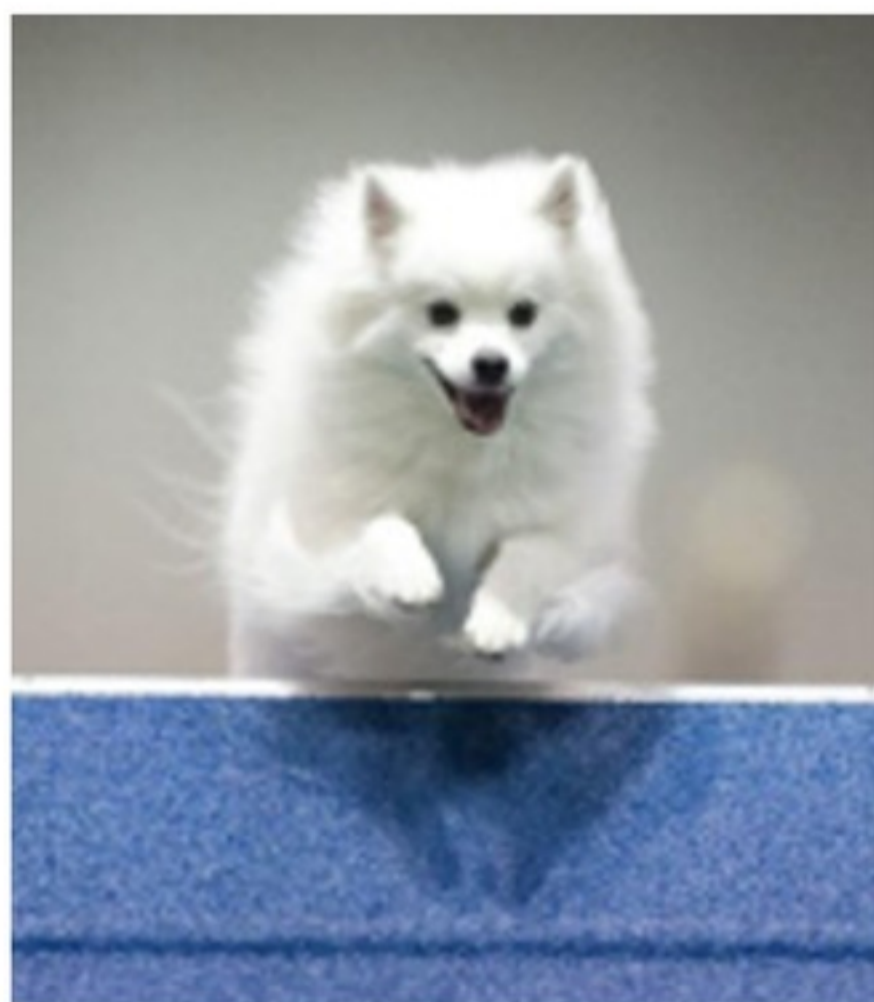
Lexi ranked within the top of the breed in the calendar years 2016, 2017, and 2018. She earned seven MACH titles, and then we lost her unexpectedly in November 2018 to an illness at the young age of 7.

In 2015 we welcomed Zoey to our family. Zoey has the drive and love for this sport that I always dreamed of wanting in an agility dog. She showed the desire and demonstrated

BREED COLUMNS



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American Eskimo Dog Kody—
MACH48 SR Extreme Curiosity,
MXS12, MJS13, MFB, TQX, T2B5,
CGC, TKA—trained and handled
by owner Denise Schneider



COURTESY DENISE SCHNEIDER

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the skill of running the premier style courses early on. My goal with Zoey soon became the Agility Grand Championship. In June 2021 Zoey became the first American Eskimo Dog to earn a Grand Championship.

In 2018 we welcomed Lucky and Gypsy to our family. These two pups are in progress and training. Lucky is at the Open level, and Gypsy is in Excellent.

I have always enjoyed the AKC Invitational. The Invitational is such an amazing event to showcase all breeds. It was a goal of mine for Kody, Lexi, and Zoey.

Kody's first invitation was in 2013. He has been invited and participated in this event for 10 years (2013–2022). He is a two-time finalist in the 16-inch height (placing fourth in 2014 and 2nd in 2016).

Lexi was invited in 2018, but unfortunately was only there in spirit after passing away.

Zoey has been invited for

four years (2019–2022). She is a two-time finalist in the 12-inch height (placing fourth in 2022).

Have you ever competed in agility venues other than AKC?

No, I have focused my time in AKC.

Have you ever thought about getting a different breed?

Yes, at various times I have contemplated getting another breed. I will always have an Eskie, I love the breed. But you never know, I might surprise you with another breed in the agility ring someday ...I won't comment here what breed that might be, because then it would not be a surprise!

Do you do any other dog sports besides agility?

No. Agility it is!

Is there anything else you would like to add?

My husband Geoff is responsible for introducing the Eskie breed into my life. He had an Eskie prior to when we met. Once we started dating, I was looking to get a dog of my own,

and he suggested this breed. We found Misty—my first Eskie—at a local rescue. Misty was an awesome pet, and such a fun girl. After she passed away, I spent an entire weekend contacting breeders from the AEDCA breeder-referral list looking for another dog.

It was Barbara Byrd, of Southern Ridge American Eskimos, whom I spoke to on a late Saturday evening in March 2009. She had one puppy remaining from her current litter. Three days later Kody came to live with us in Ohio.

Fun facts about Kody:

From the time he was a puppy, Kody likes to take the toilet paper from the roller, and at age 14 he still does this. We live with all bathroom doors closed!

Kody loves to cuddle with us on the sofa—but at night when he's sleeping, don't bug him!

Kody knows when he's going for a walk before we even get to the sidewalk. He does this certain "happy dance" (as I call it) down



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the steps, across the driveway. Kody literally grabs the leash in his mouth as he is jumping in circles down the front steps and to the driveway to head out. He only does this for walks—nothing else.

Kody goes crazy when he smells pizza or grilled chicken.

So, how did I get started in agility? It is very simple. I took Kody to a puppy obedience class, and the instructor there shared with the class information about other things to do with your pup—and agility was one of them. *Hmm*, I thought. That sounded interesting. I contacted a local trainer (who ended up being the first agility Instructor of our career).

We started taking classes in July 2009. I quickly enjoyed the challenge of teaching my dog, and me learning a new sport. In the fall of 2009 Geoff and I went to watch a local agility trial. I was clearly engaged and in awe of the athletic dogs on course, the thrill I

witnessed in the handlers at the end of successful run, the enjoyment the dogs were having, and so on. I knew I wanted to do this.

Sitting in the bleachers watching a trial with me, Geoff said, “There is no way you are going to get Kody to do this.” “Watch me!” I said, and the rest is history!

Agility is truly a bond with your dog that can never be replaced! I am forever grateful for all the times I have stepped to the line with all my dogs.

In honor of Kody, MACH48 SR Extreme Curiosity, MXS12, MJS13, MFB, TQX, T2B5, CGC, TKA.

Major thanks once again to Denise, Kody, and Jay for this incredible story about a most awesome, legendary, and historical Eskie in our midst. Indeed, Kody will forever be remembered for his agility expertise and record-setting accomplishments.

—Stella Brown
[American Eskimo Dog Club of America](#)

Bichons Frises

BREEDER GUIDELINES: BEFORE YOU BREED

Breeding dogs is a huge responsibility, and the Bichon Frise Club of America encourages all member-breeders to follow appropriate guidelines before breeding any dog. For comprehensive information on breeding, please see AKC’s [Guide to Responsible Dog Breeding](#).

As much as you would love to have puppies right away, there are many things to consider prior to breeding. Of course, you want your dog to be a good representative of Bichons Frises, both in conformation and temperament, but this is just the beginning. You should wait until she has had at least one season before breeding. Many breeders prefer to wait until after the bitch’s second birthday so that she will be completely mature physically and mentally.

Genetic testing is recommended for both the sire and dam to ensure they are