

Moxie, The Little Rottweiler Who Could



By Diane Richardson

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Doranne Almann & Moxie
UKC Open Class -
Photo by Morris Klein

I met Dorianne Almann and Morris Klein when I was a volunteer for North East Rottweiler Rescue & Referral (1997-2005). In 2008, I moved much closer to their Hinsdale, NH home and it was then that I began to fully appreciate this story of an owner-surrendered puppy who turned into something pretty special.

At 5 months old, this backyard bred Rottweiler was surrendered by her owners to a shelter in Maine. She was an under socialized, undisciplined, destructive, pushy, high energy and incredibly smart puppy who overwhelmed her unprepared and inexperienced owners. An NERR & R evaluator went to the shelter to see the puppy

(which passed the evaluation) and brought her home to foster. This is where she earned her new name, Moxie, in honor of her spunk.

Her Maine foster toyed with the idea of adopting her; but, eventually decided against doing so. Moxie was sent to Dori and Mo for further fostering. Because of Dori's extensive Rottweiler experience (owned Rottweilers since 1984, titled two in Obedience, was a volunteer with NERR & R from 1999 - 2009 [which included being a board member from 2001 on and President from 2003- mid 2009]), Dori tended to foster some of the more challenging NERR & R dogs.

Dori had been contemplating obtaining a new dog who was suitable to train and show in obedience and after only a short time fostering Moxie, it became clear that she was that dog and Dori obtained an ILP# for Moxie in both AKC and UKC.



Dori & Moxie - Photo by Diane Richardson

As a team, they have obtained their AKC and UKC Companion Dog and Companion Dog Excellent (earned with placements in both venues and at the Novice and Open levels), AKC Rally Excellent, Bouvier des Flanders Club of America Carting Started, New England Draft Dog Club and Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America Novice Draft Dog titles plus USTTA Temperament Test and AKC Canine Good Citizen certificates, Therapy Dog International and Herding Instinct Certification.



Moxie - Photo by Emi Waldmer

For Moxie's 10th birthday weekend in December 2009, Dori and Moxie participated in a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of American back-to-back pack dog hike. Each day's hike was 8 miles and Moxie was required to carry 20% of her body weight (in her case 14 lbs). The Novice Working Pack title consists of 4 legs obtained from 8 mile back-to-back hikes, 10-mile hikes or a 5-mile primitive overnight hike. Moxie completed both days, earning her the first two legs of the title.

Moxie may be small at 22 or so inches tall and a whopping 69lbs; but, when you meet her all you see is a bright, happy, intelligent, driven dog that is all Rottweiler. If you ask Dori about what life with Moxie has been like, you will likely hear this:

"With Moxie, I caught lightning in a bottle. The promise I saw in her as a puppy in terms of talent is what I found in the dog. I was so lucky her first family didn't keep her, that rescue was there to help her, that she was sent to us to foster. She has been the cause of much joy and amusement. She has exhilarated and exasperated me. Life with Moo is neither boring or ho-hum. She is smart and has trained me as well as I have trained her. She has lifted me from the category of pet dog owner, equally inspiring me and causing me to tear my hair. Moxie gave me a gift - the realization of the teamwork possible between owner/handler and dog. She has enriched my life. Mox has not disappointed me. Truth be told - I have disappointed myself in terms of what I could and should have done with her. There were a couple of years where I did little with her, due to family issues. That is my one regret with Mox - that I did not make the time to work her more."

Moxie truly is UCDX North East's Full of Moxie CDX, RE, CS, NEDDC NDD, BMDCA NDD, TT, CGC, TDI, HIC (2 legs towards GSMDCA NWPD) the little Rottweiler who could, did and is still doing!



Dori & Moxie -
Photo by Rita Trojanoski