

Sassy Takes AKC Agility's Highest Award

On December 18, Pembroke Welsh corgi Sippiwisset Wind Blown (Sassy) earned AKC Agility's highest award, the MACH (Master Agility Champion) at the Agility Club of New Hampshire's agility trial, which was held at American K9 Country in Amherst, New Hampshire. Sassy is owned, trained, and handled by local dog trainer Fiona Petersen of Andover.

AKC agility is comprised of three levels of difficulty: Novice (beginner), Open (intermediate), and Excellent (advanced). Dog and handler teams move up through the ranks by earning qualifying scores, also known as Qs. Novice and intermediate dogs are given a little leeway for error, but at the advanced level, the dog must have a perfect score and run the obstacle course under the allotted time. To earn the MACH title, the team must earn 20 double qualifying scores (QQs) and 750 speed points – no easy feat.

Sassy and her handler train with agility coach Kendall Fairchild, one of the top handlers in the country. Fiona says they would never have achieved this goal without him: "I'm not a naturally talented handler, and Sassy isn't an easy dog to run – she can be very independent, and she stresses easily.

"We've also both been sidelined with injuries, including a very serious



one this past spring for Sassy. It's nothing short of a miracle that she was able to continue doing agility at all.

"She's an awesome little athlete – she's only 9.5 inches tall and weighs 15 pounds, tiny for a Welsh corgi – and she's very fast – she runs 10 to 12 feet a second! Ken is a great instructor and has given me a lot of guidance to help me run Sassy successfully."

Asked if she has a new agility goal, Fiona said "Of course – doing it all over again to earn MACH2. As long as Sassy loves the game, we'll keep playing!" 🐾

Where Are They Now?

Chelsea Graff

By Mary Ofenloch
Andover Service Club

When Chelsea A. Graf, Second Lieutenant, USAF, was a senior at Newfound High School, she realized the value of pursuing an undergraduate degree and the financial commitment associated with it. Chelsea is the daughter of Andover Service Club (ASC) member Alex Graf and her husband Bob. Alex informed



Chelsea of the ASC merit scholarships, which could help to defer the cost of her education at Daniel Webster College in Nashua. So Chelsea compiled a resume consisting of her high school accomplishments, as well as her goals for the future in the military.

As a senior in high school, Chelsea was vice president of the National Honor Society and head of the Student Council Dance Committee. Chelsea performed lead roles in seven theatrical productions and was a varsity volleyball player during her high school years. Her outreach to the community included fundraising for victims of Hurricane Katrina, speaking and assisting at March of Dimes auctions, and serving as a Civil Air Patrol Search and Rescue ground team member.

Chelsea's parents instilled in her a work ethic, which she says is responsible for her attitude of responsibility to family, community, and country. She worked as a waitress and housekeeper in her parent's restaurant and inn, The Danbury Inn and Alphorn Bistro in Danbury. Chelsea was also employed as a security officer at Concord Hospital.

In 2006, Chelsea was awarded a \$1,000 ASC merit scholarship in memory of Nicholas Meier, a former Marine who perished in an automobile accident on Route 4. Chelsea says, "With the assistance of the Andover Service Club scholarships, and others, I began college in the fall of 2006, where I enrolled in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and completely submerged myself in the college lifestyle."

As a player of volleyball, lacrosse, and a cross-country runner, Chelsea was recognized for various Coach's Awards and NCAA Academic Awards. "I developed strong study habits and maintained a competitive GPA that placed me on the Dean's List," Chelsea added.

She was inducted into the Arnold Air Society, a nationally acclaimed service organization, where she served as Northeast Area Chief of Protocol and commander of the Charles L. Vancanti Squadron. Because of her passion and hard work, in the fall of 2009 Chelsea was selected to lead the Corps as Cadet Wing Commander. At the Military Ball in May 2010, she received the Distinguished Graduate Award for her detachment. "We are so proud of her!" exclaimed Alex and Bob, Chelsea's parents.

On June 7, Chelsea reported to Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Florida, where she is a student in the Undergraduate Air Battle Manager Training Schoolhouse, learning to effectively provide pilots with the information needed to accomplish the given mission.

"With graduation around the corner, I have aspirations of being assigned to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, as an Air Weapons Officer," Chelsea added. The radar aboard the Boeing 707 E-3 AWACS will make her job possible.



... and now (receiving her USAF commission in 2010)

When asked if she has advice for future graduating high school students, Chelsea emphasized the importance of hard work and study, as well as community involvement, in order to achieve lifetime goals. Also, applying for scholarships is extremely important, especially in today's economy.

The Ladies of the Andover Service Club welcome women of all ages who wish to be of service to the community. If you would like to become a member, please fill out the form below and mail it to: Andover Service Club, PO Box 22, Andover 03216. You need not be a resident of Andover, as active members include ladies from Danbury, Wilmot, New London, Bristol, New Hampton, Franklin, and Springfield, as well as Andover and East Andover. 🐾


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