

## ***Robbie-the-Rocket, CDX***

Approximately nine years ago, my husband and I were seeking a second Dalmatian to add to our household. I was very involved in training and showing our 4-year-old Dal at that time, which made my husband feel that he had no dog, as we were always off to training classes, matches, or trials.

We had looked at several litters of puppies, and were not really finding what we wanted. Then, our friend Barbara Dwyer gave us a call.

“You should come and look at this Dal I have been fostering,” she suggested. “He gets along well with all people and all dogs!”



We weren't really looking for a rescue dog, but with her recommendation, we thought we could at least take a look. We went to her house, bringing along our 4-year old Dal, Lucca, and our son's Dal, Snoop. We were all invited into Barbara's back yard to allow the dogs to meet and play, and she was absolutely right about the temperament of this sweet and beautiful rescue boy. He thought everyone was just fine!

Thus, Robbie came home with us, to be my husband's dog. I don't remember how long that lasted before I had the urge to start training Robbie, too. I guess it was the realization that I could go back into Novice again (which seemed like a welcome vacation from working on Utility)! My poor husband had to give up one more dog to the Obedience world!!!!

Although most of my training time was devoted to getting the UD title for my older Dal, we managed to fit in some time for Robbie, as well. Robbie loved training and completed his CD in 2002 and his CDX in 2004, receiving DCA Top Spot rankings for both titles. I began showing him in Utility this year (2006), and hope he can earn that title, as well. Robbie will turn 10 in January, which is the age Lucca was when we had to retire him from the Obedience Ring, due to a ruptured disc in his neck. Needless to say, this has made me realize that our time for competition can be cut shorter than we sometimes expect. So we may make it to Robbie's UD, and we may not, but we are enjoying the journey, regardless of the outcome. And he constantly reminds me that the more time we spend training, the stronger the bond we develop.

Far more important than our performance titles is the immense pleasure we have gained from sharing our home with this wonderful dog. He remains a loving, easy-going pet, who is sweet and gentle with people of all ages.