

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST DOES IT AGAIN!!!

by Marilyn Suthergreen

Dalmatians in the Pacific Northwest are once again putting themselves into the Dalmatian History Books in 1981. March 1, 1981 was a big day.

My Dal, Can OTCH BEAUTY—SWEET CINDI Am/Can UDT, and I traveled over the mountains to Richland, Washington, to compete in Richland KC's 3rd Tracking Dog Excellent Test. I was feeling terribly under the weather with a nasty cold. Cindi had been diagnosed at the end of December as having chronic pancreatitis, something which I believe she has had for a long time. Since she was put on Viokase enzymes that she gets every time she eats anything, she has gained weight and stamina and seems to be a new dog. So even though we drew track 5 (the last one of the day), around 12:30 PM) and the weather was quite warm, Cindi persisted to become the first Dalmatian in our breed's history to become a Tracking Dog Excellent.

The track was nearly all sagebrush. The terrain was quite hilly. At one time, Cindi was traveling so fast that we left the judges (Barbara Van Der Cook and Del Kennedy) far behind. They didn't see us pick up the second article. The last turn of the track was on the crest of a ridge with the wind blowing across the track and away from the turn, apparently spilling scent down the far side of the hill. Cindi went down this hill and cast for nearly 15 minutes. I was exhausted and had given up, but all I could do was run around behind her untangling her lead from the sagebrush. Because she was consistently working, the judges did not blow their whistles (bless their hearts!) even though she was quite a ways off the track. Finally Cindi turned and went



Marilynn Suthergreen and
Can OTCH Beautysweet Cindi AM UDTX
and judges at Richland, WA

back up the hill almost to the feet of the judges. All of a sudden, her head whipped around to the left as she caught the scent. Down the hill she went in a straight line right on the track (the judges told me later). I slipped and leaped and galloped along behind constantly having to yank Cindi's lead out of the sagebrush. Cindi didn't seem at all bothered by these short stops when hung up on a bush. All of a sudden, there she was with the final article in her mouth, even though she was panting heavily. It is, by far, the most exciting title we have earned. It is Cindi's 10th, counting her Canadian OTCH, and she is 10 years old. She will be 11

on June 2, 1981.

Of the four other contestants, one was a Labrador who failed, and the other three were English Cockers all owned by the Whitalls from Canada. They have many tracking titles to their credit and two of their three Cockers already had Canadian TDX's along with Mexican and Bermudan TD's. Two of their three dogs passed, one being the first American TDX titled English Cocker.

Meanwhile, back in Seattle that same day, Pat and Bob McNeal had their Dal, Canadian CH Hil Dal's Lucky Lindy Can CDX TD. Am/Can UDT, entered in the Seattle KC show. She needed only a major to finish her American CH, and Seattle was a major. Lindy went home that night Am/Can CH Hil Dal's Lucky Lindy Can CDX TD, Am-UDT.

Two weeks later, Bob and Lindy traveled to Canada and earned their final UD leg. So now Lindy's titles look like this:

AM/CAN CH, Can OTCH Hil Dal's Lucky Lindy Am/Can UDT.

This makes her the second Dal in our breed's history with all those titles, the Ham's Biscuit Bugatti being the first.

A week after Cindi earned her TDX, Lindy also entered in a TDX test. But all dogs entered that day failed, so they will have to wait until another day to give that a try. She is still being trained for it, however.

The McNeals also own Can OTCH Jessica Spangles Am/Can UDT. Cindi, Jessie, and Lindy are all entered in a Canadian TDX test in October, 1981. I can't imagine the possibility of 3 new TDX's all at once, but we're sure going to try.