



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***DOGS ACROSS THE NATION JUMPED FOR JOY AT FIRST AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB EVENTS OPEN TO MIXED-BREEDS***

***-- Five AKC Canine Partners<sup>SM</sup> Enrollees Celebrate  
Becoming First Mixed-Breeds to Earn AKC Titles --***

**New York, NY**— A total of 29 American Kennel Club® (AKC®) licensed clubs hosted 75 AKC Rally®, Agility and Obedience trials during the inaugural weekend of events open to AKC Canine Partners program enrollees. Among the many firsts that took place this past weekend, five dogs earned six AKC titles at events in Bakersfield, California, Freehold, New Jersey and St. Louis, Missouri.

“We are excited that our mixed-breed entries in AKC Rally®, Obedience and Agility classes totaled more than 500 around the country during this first weekend,” said AKC Spokesperson Gina DiNardo. “Purebreds and mixed-breeds had the chance to show off their skills and highlight that it’s the time you spend training and bonding with your dog that really matters the most.”

#### **Nationwide highlights from the first weekend include:**

\*Michele Capone and her dog “Cheyenne” were the first AKC Canine Partners enrollees to compete. They ran in the Novice Jumpers with Weaves class at the Somerset Hills Kennel Club Agility Trial in Freehold, NJ on April 2, 2010.

\*Lynn Candiano with her dog “Rosie” and Sandy Mainardi with “Ginger” became some of the first competitors to put titles on their dogs. They earned the Novice Agility and Novice Agility Jumpers titles respectively at the Afghan Hound Club of Northern N.J. Agility Trial in Freehold, NJ on April 4, 2010.

\*At the agility trial hosted by the Gateway Agility Club of Suburban St. Louis, Lauren Murray Bennett and her dog “Timmy” earned their Novice Agility and Novice Agility Jumpers titles on April 4, 2010. Dana Pike Chamberlain and “Tangle” earned their Novice Agility title.

\*Sharon Stubs and her dog Katylee became the first mixed-breed team to earn a title in AKC Rally®. They earned their Rally Novice title at the Kern County Kennel Club of Bakersfield in Bakersfield, CA on April 4, 2010.

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\*Pam Vojtas and her dogs “Charlie” and “Quincy” had qualifying runs at the Dog Obedience Training Club of Hollywood Rally and Obedience trials in Davie, FL on April 3-4, 2010. Pam and her dogs were featured in the March/April issue of [AKC Family Dog Magazine](#).

\*The “We Have a Dream Team” formed the first competitive obedience team made up of two mixed-breed dogs and two purebred dogs. Named to express the new spirit of unity that has come to the sport, they competed in the obedience team competition at the Washington State Obedience Training Club event in Seattle.

**For more coverage and photos of the first weekend of events visit:**  
[http://www.akc.org/mixedbreeds/first\\_events.cfm](http://www.akc.org/mixedbreeds/first_events.cfm)

Dog owners who missed out on this exciting weekend shouldn't fret - there are more than 2,000 AKC clubs planning AKC Rally<sup>®</sup>, Agility and Obedience trials open to mixed-breeds in 2010, with more clubs signing on daily.

Mixed-breed dog owners who enroll in the AKC Canine Partners program will not only have the ability to enter the exciting world of dog sports at AKC events, they can save \$10 on the [AKC Canine Partners](#) \$35 enrollment fee if they list their dogs online by April 30. Enrollees will also receive many listing benefits such as lifetime enrollment in AKC Companion Animal Recovery Lost & Found Recovery Service, a complimentary 60-Day trial of the AKC Pet Healthcare Plan\*, a one-year subscription to *AKC Family Dog* magazine, a frameable Official Decree of Dog Fun and an AKC Canine Partners Decal.

The AKC Canine Partners<sup>sm</sup> program, sponsored by [MMI Genomics, Inc.](#) DNA Canine Heritage<sup>®</sup> Breed Test, connects mixed-breed dog owners and provides valuable information about training classes, clubs and AKC programs like [AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy<sup>®</sup>](#) and the [AKC Canine Good Citizen<sup>®</sup>](#) program. To find a training club in your area visit [www.akc.org/events/trainingclub](http://www.akc.org/events/trainingclub)

For more information about AKC Canine Partners visit [www.akccaninepartners.org](http://www.akccaninepartners.org). To find an event in your area, visit the [AKC Event Search page](#). Be sure to check the option "All American Dog/Mixed-Breed," to search for events open to AKC Canine Partner enrollees.

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**The American Kennel Club**, founded in 1884, is a not-for-profit organization which maintains the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world and oversees the sport of purebred dogs in the United States. The AKC is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Along with its nearly 5,000 licensed and member clubs and its affiliated organizations, the AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. More than 20,000 competitions for AKC-registered purebred dogs are held under AKC rules and regulations each year including conformation, agility, obedience, rally, tracking, herding, lure coursing, coonhound events, hunt tests, field and earthdog tests. Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Companion Animal Recovery and the AKC Museum of the Dog. For more information, visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

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\*Administered by PetPartners, Inc. Underwritten by Markel Insurance Company, 4600 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060, rated A "Excellent" by A.M. Best Company. Contact PetPartners, Inc. for terms and conditions. Eligibility restrictions apply. Not available in New York. Must be activated within 28 days of AKC Certificate Issued date.