

CGC & Flyball Dogs

By: Kathleen V. Dunn, Dog Trainer,
AKC CGC Evaluator

[www.kieranna.com/ KanineKelts.htm](http://www.kieranna.com/KanineKelts.htm)

I remember the day my "pound puppy", Megan, received her first Award... her CGC Certificate. It was 1997. It was a proud day for me. Megan was a Chocolate Labrador Retriever and had been rescued at 6 months old from the local animal shelter. We had gone through several obedience classes... the beginning class several times before I could get her settled enough to sit or down and it was nearly impossible to have her stay. She was so full of energy, excitement and life! Our other dog, Jaime, a Shetland Sheepdog (Sheltie) was so subdued and so very obedient. She received her CGC the same day. I was very proud of both of them, but especially Megan!



Laurie Jarrett & her dog, Leep, a JRT, of the "Gold Coast Flyers" Flyball Team received their CGC at the Tournament that weekend!

That day inspired us to go on further with dog training and we continued on in obedience, joined the local dog club, training in agility, tracking and flyball. I found she thrived in flyball. Before she passed on due to cancer, she had achieved her NAFA flyball dog champion title. Jaime our Sheltie also had passed on.

Since then, I have acquired another Sheltie, Patrick Ryan, and he has also received his CGC and a NAFA Flyball Dog title. Now, I am working with my other Sheltie, Dani Joy & our new rescue, a little Italian Greyhound, Skippy. Long after getting my first "award" of a CGC Certificate, I've become very active in our dog club and am now a dog trainer. What a thrill it is for me to see many rescues dogs and dogs of all breeds become Canine Good Citizens.

What a greater thrill for me to have been invited to be the CGC Evaluator at a NAFA Flyball Tournament. The Tournament was called "Operation Top Dog" hosted by the Flyball Team "Strike Force" in Redding, California.



I didn't have any expectations and many people in the flyball world are unfamiliar with CGC's and have no idea what it meant or entailed. I was confident that if they gave it a try, they would do well.



If anyone has ever watched a flyball tournament, first impression would seem that it is absolutely crazy... dogs barking, people screaming, dogs running, people running, speakers and announcements being made. However, flyball is a disciplined sport for both handler and dog. Dogs cannot be aggressive to be on a team, they have to come when called, they have to be handled by other people and they have to be used to distractions of all sorts. It takes a special kind of dog to run in flyball.

I set up my testing area far enough from the tournament racing field but you could still see and definitely hear the action. The day started slow. As each dog would come up and go through the test... and pass... the excitement started to spread from team to team and by the end of my first day, I had tested 12 dogs and ALL 12 had passed!!!

I was only scheduled to be there one day. However, others wanted me to come back. I returned at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon, racing had started at 8:00 that morning and would continue on until 6:00 that evening. I already had a line of people waiting to have their dogs tested. By the time I closed at 5:00 p.m. I had tested another 9 dogs and 8 had passed!

Yes, Flyball Dogs are Top Good Citizen Dogs!!!

Here are the stats:

21 Total Dogs Tested

11 were AKC/ILP registered

10 were not AKC/ILP registered

20 Dogs Passed – of the 20 Dogs that passed, the breeds were:

2 Mixed Breeds

1 Pug

5 Border Collies

1 Golden Retriever

2 American Cattle Dogs

2 Australian Shepherds

2 Shetland Sheepdogs

1 Belgian Malinois

1 Labrador Retriever

1 Danish Swedish Farmdog

2 Jack Russell Terriers

All of these dogs pictured (Koa, Honey, & Wee Bee) are from the Flyball Team "Strike Force", (except the Laurie & Leep noted above) passed their CGC at this Tournament !

