

just imported a really outstanding male and we were thrilled to have the opportunity to breed Kaylee to him. But even though we had decided to breed Kaylee, we still wanted to run her in another NAVHDA Utility test. We didn't have time to run her in a spring test since she was bred in April, so we decided to run her in the fall. We also wanted to test her with the great folks at our home chapter, the North Central Wisconsin NAVHDA chapter. Unfortunately, the test was scheduled for August 24th... just nine weeks and six days after Kaylee whelped her first litter of puppies. But after taking her out for a quick training session when the pups were two weeks old, we were pretty convinced that she could be ready in time.

We tried to take her out running a couple of times a week while the puppies were sleeping. It was really pretty amazing to watch Kaylee. She didn't really need any reinforcement in her training. She retained almost everything from her previous training and the two hunting seasons under her belt. When test day arrived, Kaylee was ready to go. There were a few times during the test when I was definitely holding my breath, but I should have known that Kaylee wouldn't let me down. She is really the sweetest dog and it was great to have her just lay with her head in my lap between our turns in the field/water. It was almost like she was trying to reassure me. When the scores were read at the end of the day, we were thrilled to hear that she had finished the day with 198 points and a Prize I. I wish that she could have been there for the score reading because I know exactly what she would have done. Just like any other time that I say Kaylee's name, she would have just looked up at me with those soft amber eyes and quietly thumped her tail on the ground, oblivious to everyone around us. I cannot describe how wonderful it is to have a dog that is so in tune with me all of the time.

I would like to take a minute to extend a huge thanks to all of the members of the North Central Wisconsin NAVHDA Chapter. We have a huge membership and we have been lucky to make many friends and have lots of help training along the way. I would also like to especially thank Gary Engebretson for all of his encouragement (yes, I heard you trying to help Kaylee and me at the test) and for being the best neighbor ever!

I feel like I have been very lucky to have been blessed with Kaylee. She is that once-in-a-lifetime dog and I couldn't find a better companion (except my husband who lets me spend so much time working on "dog stuff"). We are very excited to just relax the next few months and go hunting. Next week, we are heading to Wyoming to chase Sage Grouse and we'll be driving down to Iowa in October for pheasants. And then we're heading to Nebraska in December for some late season pheasants and quail. Oh yeah, and then there is the hunting here in our own state of Wisconsin... doves, waterfowl, Ruffed Grouse, Woodcock, squirrels, and rabbits. Hmm... I wonder if I'll have time to get a deer license this fall?? I should also mention that we did decide to keep one puppy out of Kaylee's litter. She was originally sold... but after keeping her a few extra weeks for her new owner, we decided that we just couldn't part with her. So far, little Acadia vom Coraschatten seems to be a carbon copy of Kaylee and I have every expectation that she will live up to the high standards set by her mother before her.

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