

My Lovely Little Missy



BIMBS, RBIMBS, GRCH Surefire Lil' Miss Tasz of FS, CGC, HCT, JHD, TDI

This is a subject that is very close to my heart and one that I could talk about for hours to anyone willing to listen. I purchased Missy as a bouncing, bright eyed 12 week old puppy from Rhonda McMahan at SureFire Shepherds. I had been searching for a new female puppy to add to my breeding program here at Foxhunt White Shepherds. I had actually already placed a deposit the day before on a yet unborn puppy from an upcoming litter from another breeder, when I happened into a conversation with Mona Perrson of Hallmark Shepherds. She told me she had heard that I was getting a SureFire puppy. Being a big fan of Rhonda's stud dog Tumbledown's Super Sonic, I had already visited Rhonda's site the week before and hadn't found what I was looking for. I told Mona "no" that I was getting a puppy from another breeder. A few days later Mona's words were still at the fore front of my thoughts and I decided to visit Rhonda's site again. I looked at her available litters, but to no avail. Even though I had just looked a little over a week ago, I went to her Available Older Puppies and Adults page. There, at the top of the page was a new pup listed, I immediately knew this was the pup I had been searching for. With a spark of mischief in her eyes so bright it reached right out of the pictures and grabbed me! I contacted Rhonda and informed her I was interested in this pup, dutifully I asked her several questions and requested that she send me a few more photographs. I then contacted the other breeder and explained my situation to her, she was very understanding and allowed me to back out of the puppy sale. I again contacted Rhonda and began making the necessary arrangements, when suddenly Rhonda was called away to care for her elderly parents in another state. She put me in contact with Keslie Joyce of Starr Shepherds as she was to handle the details for us. In a few days my new little girl was on her way home to Florida. I was so excited it seemed forever before she finally arrived. My husband Tim and I made the trip to the airport late one evening to pick up our little girl off the last flight of the day. Everything went smooth as clockwork and within 20 minutes of our arrival I had our new baby in my arms. She came bouncing out of the airline crate happy to have human contact again. After a quick trip to the grass to potty we were on our way home. As Tim drove, Missy and I got acquainted. She was more beautiful than even her photographs had revealed. By the time we arrived home Missy and I had already formed a strong bond that still remains between us to this day.



Missy 8 weeks old at SureFire Shepherds

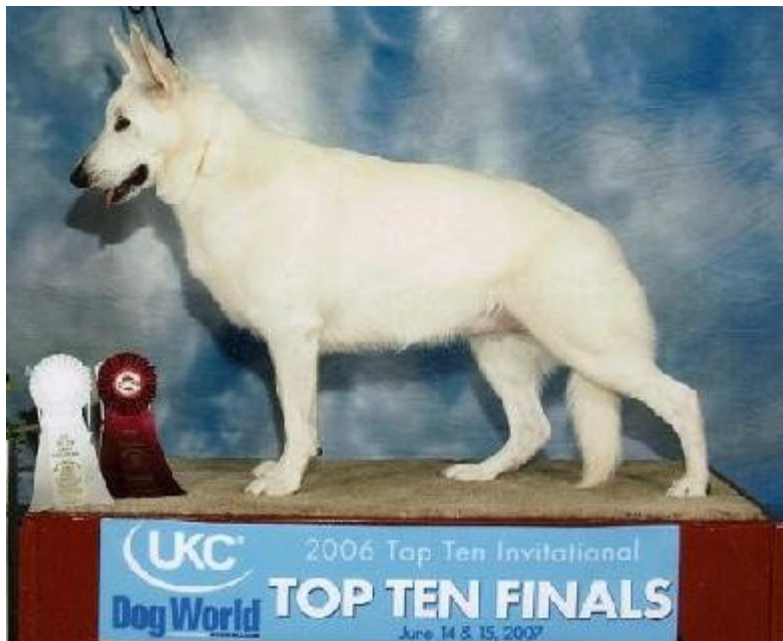
I began puppy kindergarten and showing Missy in UKC Novice Puppy classes and she did very well taking home several Best Novice Puppy wins. When she turned 6 months old her show career took off like a shot with Missy taking home many of the the Best of Breed wins and placing in at least the top three spots in Group. I couldn't believe it, this little puppy was on a roll! She easily finished her Championship at the tender age of 9 1/2 months. She loves showing and prances around the ring with movement that screams "Look at Me!" with the attitude to match, she manages capture the attention of almost every judge we have had the pleasure of showing under. Living up to her name - Surefire Lil' Miss "Tasz" of FS, she is a little whirlwind in the show ring.



Missy's Champion Win at 9 1/2 months

Sadly, Missy injured her elbow playing in the creek near our home. With only 2 majors toward her Grand Championship, her show career came to an abrupt standstill. I was heart broken, not only for what I figured would be her missed chance to be a Grand Champion (a title she truly deserved), but for all the other adventures we hadn't even had a chance to venture into. Missy was a good hunter and I knew because of her hunting drive that she would have proved to be a good herding dog. Something I had never done before and wanted desperately to have a chance to learn about. After all, White Shepherds were bred to herd and I so wanted us to have that chance together. I tried everything my vet recommended and researched the Internet for as much information about this type of injury as I could find.

Among other things, I massaged her leg several times a day and whenever we were sitting quietly watching television. Amazingly, her leg began to heal, she began moving better and better. After completing her AKC Canine Good Citizen Test, passing her Therapy Dog International certification and doing several Therapy Dog visits, I finally decided I would try putting her back in the show ring. Our first weekend back showing didn't go well, Missy began slightly limping again and the judge excused us from the ring. I wasn't about to give up, she had come a long way in her recovery and I think we were both just as determined to beat this injury. We went home and took it easy and continued the massages. Our next show would be in June, the 2006 UKC Premier. Florida to Michigan was a long trip, but an enjoyable one. Missy won an Award of Merit in the Champion Class and best of all she didn't limp once! In October 2006 we attended a 4 show weekend in Perry, GA. where Missy shown brightly in the show ring again and earned her Grand Championship. She went on to win Best of Breed almost every show we attended and numerous Group 1 and 2 wins. I was ecstatic, my girl was back! Missy finished out the 2006 show season as the #7 top ranking White Shepherd in UKC after only showing about half of the show season. She also ranked #8 in the American White Shepherd Association Top Ten for 2006. In June of 2007 we attended the UKC Premier and competed in the 2006 Top Ten competition with Missy earning the Award of Excellence. What a prestigious win, I couldn't have been happier for my little girl!! I just had to share this wonderful news with someone I knew would be as excited for her as I was, I called Rhonda as soon as we got back to the campgrounds. We left Premier for the long trek back home with Missy's rosettes proudly displayed in the window of our motor home.



Missy wins the Award of Excellence!

In November of 2006 our dream came true and Missy and I attended our first Herding event in Daleville, AL. we went with the hopes of earning her Herding Capability title over the weekend event. To my surprise Missy did better than I could have ever imagined, completing not only her Herding Capability title, but also earning her Junior Herding Dog title and was given the award for the Most Promising New Herder! I couldn't have been more proud of my wonderful little girl, she never ceases to amaze me.



Missy & I in Daleville, AL. November 2006

Missy continued showing in conformation throughout 2007 earning multiple Best of Breed and Group wins. She managed to earn enough points to stay ahead, gaining enough points to not only reach the Top Ten ranking, but to hold the #1 position for the entire year. What a great feat, there are so many really beautiful White Shepherds that compete for Top Ten ranking throughout the year. In April of 2007 Missy had the honor of winning Best in Multi Breed Show, I had wished for this magnificent win for her and there are no words to express how I felt that glorious day! In May of 2007 she took the honorable win of Reserve Best in Multi Breed Show in Perry, GA. Missy finished out 2007 as the #1 Ranking White Shepherd for UKC.



Archer, FL. Missy wins the Best in Multi Breed Show

In November we bred Missy to our top Grand Champion stud dog, Starr SureFire SuperHero of FS (Hero), on January 10th my little Missy who is all of 60 lbs. and 23" at the shoulder

delivered 4 large beautiful, healthy puppies ranging in birth weight from 1 lb. 4 7/8 oz. to 1 lb. 2 1/8 oz. Everything this little girl does, she does Big!



Missy and her 4 wonderful little babies at 1 day old

As soon as she's finished nursing her babies, we will be busy working to get her back in show condition, we will be attending the 2008 UKC Premier in June in Kalamazoo, MI. where Missy will be competing in the 2007 Top Ten competition...

Even with all of her wonderful accomplishments she is still just my "Princess", my most beloved, loyal & faithful friend. My Lovely Little Missy.



Missy & I watching the Herding events

*Written with love by:
Scarlett Sanders
(Missy's Mom)*

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