

Melanie Behrens



Melanie is a dog trainer, a USDAA agility judge and a licensed veterinary technician. She directs the canine rehabilitation facility at Flannery Animal Hospital in New Windsor, NY, providing physical therapy for dogs after surgery or injuries, or just for conditioning or treatment for arthritis. She lives in Pleasant Valley, NY with her husband and three dogs.

Melanie first started doing agility with "Red," a Rhodesian Ridgeback in 1998. Red taught her a great deal about how to motivate a dog, as well as how to train a dog with a limited attention span and would not repeat things. Red has earned his USDAA PJ1, NADAC O-NAC and O-NJC, and AKC OA and OAJ titles. Running Red has given Melanie a different perspective about agility. It's not just about winning, it's about having fun with the dog you love.

Melanie now has four border collies, Willin', Elf, Zim and Dance, who represent the other side of the coin in agility – fast dogs that love agility and require very timely handling skills. Willin', Elf and Zim have their Agility Dog Championship titles in USDAA, and their MX and MXJ titles in AKC. Willin' also has his AKC Tracking Dog title and has attained the Platinum Lifetime achievement Award in USDAA Agility (500 Q's!). Elf has achieved DCH/LAA Gold and has her AKC MACH title. Zim shows great promise and is becoming a sheepdog as well as an agility dog.



Melanie attends agility seminars and camps every year in order to remain current in her training and handling skills, and often competes in the USDAA Nationals Cynosport event.

Melanie is also a USDAA Masters judge and has been judging since 2001. Judging has developed her knowledge of the rules and design requirements for each class and has helped her develop a keen understanding of ways for all teams to succeed even in the events that require strategy to succeed.

*"And if you give me ... weaves, walks and time, and you show me a sign, I'll be willin' to be movin'!"
- Lowell George (paraphrased by Melanie)*

Classes Taught by Melanie:

- 🐾 Beginner Agility Advanced Beginner Agility
- 🐾 Intermediate Agility Agility Workshops