



# AKC/USA Agility World Team

August 24, 2009

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## Support the TEAM!

*By Nancy Gyes*

Support the AKC/USA Agility  
World Championship Team

Help the AKC/USA  
Agility World Team  
bring home the medals  
like they did in 2008!

*Every sport on the globe has  
national and international  
competitions; badminton,  
chess, golf, football,  
synchronized swimming,  
bowling and even card  
games like bridge have  
international competitions.*

*It is what drives the best of  
the best to reach for the  
stars. It is what inspires us  
to accomplish more, to be  
better trainers, and to find  
our own greatness in our  
hobbies at local and  
national competitions.*

Last year the AKC/USA Agility World Championship Team brought home 2 gold medals. They have high hopes again for some great performances at the event this year which will be held September 18 to 20 in Dornbirn, Austria. Our gold medalists Marcy Mantell and Marcus Topps are ready to lead our team to the podium again, but before we go, we need your help.

The team has now completed two practices and more are scheduled during our trip to the event. However these practices are expensive. Despite attempts to keep every expense to a minimum, costs to travel to practices and to the Agility World Championships, is well over \$5000. per team member. This covers airfares for both dog and handler, hotel, car, uniforms, entries, etc.

The AKC/USA Agility World Team has a great primary sponsor! [ilovedogs.com](http://ilovedogs.com) generously pays a large portion of the huge expense involved in sending the team to practices and to the competition. The American Kennel Club funds the remainder of the expenses. The American Kennel Club is a big company, but similar to most large companies in today's economy; budgets, profits and programs have been cut.

In order to help this year's team realize its fullest potential, we would like to add additional practice time at a soccer facility to the schedule. Practicing on similar footing to what the team will compete on at the event will give us a decided edge. We need additional funds to pay for this practice day as well as other team expenses which are above and beyond our budget. We have an incredible team and I know they have the potential to do very well in Austria.

Over the years we have received support from many individuals and the team members themselves, as well as from companies like Clean Run. This year I am asking the agility community for its support. Please help give them every advantage in preparing for the event; little things like an extra practice in the right location could make a difference in the outcome in Austria.

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*“Why should YOU help with a donation to the AKC/USA Agility World Team?”*

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Every agility handler in the USA has been affected by those that have represented our country at international competitions. The USDAA has been taking teams to Europe to compete since the early nineties, the AKC has sent their teams since 1996. When those handlers strive for excellence and the ability to compete internationally, they improve their own performances as they set examples for all of us at the local and national trials. These handlers are your instructors, or your instructors' instructor, or your classmates or your friend. They are the professionals who write the articles and books, make the videos, and come up with entire systems for agility handling that in turn makes YOU a better handler and dog trainer. Without the lofty goals of international competition, these handlers might never have raised their personal game to the level that you can learn from them and improve your own skills in our sport.

We need to support the teams that dare to dream, that dare to take our sport to the next level, that dare to test their ability against the best of the best. Do you recognize names from this list of past and present AKC World Teams? Have you competed against them at a local trial, or been taught by them at camps, seminars or via magazines, books or videos? If your answer is yes, then they have affected your agility career.

Linda Mecklenburg, Elicia Calhoun, Ann Braue, Barb Davis, Marcus Topps, Diane Bauman, Jane Simmons Moake, Marcy Mantell, Jen Pinder, Wendy Pape, Joy Bishop, Barb Bicksler, Debbie Brink, Robyn Brock, Gerry Brown, Roger Coor, Katie Conn, Jennifer Crank, Ashley Deacon, Melanie Del Villaggio, Laura Dolan, Maggie Downey, Cheryl Fisher, Channan Fosty, Dana Frick, Steve Frick, Dee Anna Gamel, Nancy Gyes, Pati Hatfield Mah, Geri Hernandez, Karen Holik, Paulena Hope, Marietta Huber, Carrie Jones, Helene Juice, Judy Keller, Linda Kipp, Nancy Kleinhans, Sherry Kleuver, Jean Lavalley, Joel Lavalley, Kathie Leggett, Barb Lombard, Stuart Mah, Joan Meyer, Lori Michaels, Karen Moureaux, Katie O'Day Trachte, Chris Parker, Alison Parr Tickle, Daisy Peel, Ali Roukas, Andrea Samuels, Erin Schaefer, Paulette Schwarzendruber, Kim Sisak, Terry Smorch, Denise Thomas, Glenda Timmerman, Donna Webster Nelson.

What about these names? Sharon Nelson, Becky Woodruff, Mary Ellen Barry, Stacy Peardot Goudy, Rachel Sanders, Dan Dege, Jim Basic? Those are just a few of the other well known handlers that have been on *other* international teams over the years. Would you give *them* your support? My husband Jim Basic and I have supported the IFCS teams each year since they have traveled to compete, even though we do not ourselves tryout for the Team. All of the international teams deserve our support. Whether you do AKC agility or not, those that represent the United States represent YOU and they deserve our patriotic support for both the individual effort as well as for the global acclaim of the USA. Dog agility may never be an Olympic sport, but we can still show our loyalty by helping all of those who represent our nation. Won't you please help?

Thank you in advance for your generosity to Team USA!

Nancy Gyes  
AKC World Team Coach and Supporter

Send a donation check made out to the:  
**AKC/USA Agility World Team**  
via:

Nancy Gyes  
10711 Crothers Road  
San Jose, California.  
95127

Or you can donate via paypal using my email address,  
[powerpaws@aol.com](mailto:powerpaws@aol.com)

Put in the comments that the donation is for the AKC/USA Agility World Team.

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