

#### MACH 4 Greta Von Schnapps, III, XF

On Thursday, February 24, 2011, at 1:30 p.m., my little black friend Greta, left us forever. That was a week ago today. To me, it already seems like an eternity. Where do I begin to put into words what Greta meant to me?

On a spring day in May of 1999 my family and I went looking for a Miniature Schnauzer puppy. Our previous Miniature Schnauzer, Maggie, had died a few weeks before this and I was determined to find another Miniature Schnauzer. After a long day of driving and searching, we finally found an ad for Miniature Schnauzer puppies in a little local paper at a gas station. We met the breeder at a wayside rest and met all the puppies in the litter, and Greta's mother, Kimberly's Mistletoe (Missy). Greta's eyes picked us! From that day forward, she was ours!



My life would never be the same! She was the smartest dog I ever had! She had more energy, drive and heart than I had ever seen in a dog! One day, our youngest daughter held up a hula hoop and Greta "jumped through it"! Greta and I started some agility training locally where it was still a very new concept. Greta seemed to "know the equipment", like she had done it before! She absolutely loved it more than anything! I knew then that this little dog needed to do this sport! As I have always said, "Greta brought me to this sport and taught me agility", and it is so true!

On September 29, 2001, Greta ran in her first agility competition at the Arrowhead Dog Agility Association's show at Proctor, MN. That was it! Greta and I were hooked!

On February 13, 2011, Greta ran her last agility competition! This was at the Miniature Pinscher Club of the Greater Twin Cities at On the Run in Ham Lake, MN. On that day Greta got her last Double Q. That was Double Q number 94! That was a 3 day show and Greta O'd in 6 runs and placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> in all the

runs but 1! She even acquired another Fast leg, placing 1<sup>st</sup> in that run! Greta ran like she always did, with all her heart!

It is so difficult to believe that just 11 days after that last run, Greta's life was over! But, that was just like my Greta! She was an all or nothing dog for her entire life! When she was forced to run in the 16 inch class, she never let that stop her! In her 9 years and 4 months agility career, she ran 359 qualifying runs, and placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>, 226 times! During those years, she qualified 7 years in a row for the AKC National Agility Championships. She ended her agility career with 94 Double Q's, and 5042 MACH points.

Thanks to Greta, and her love for this sport, I have traveled all over for agility competitions and met some of the nicest people in the world! For all my agility friends who read this, you will understand Greta's agility accomplishments. But even with all of those accomplishments, this doesn't even begin to explain what Greta was to me.

Greta's favorite thing about just being a dog was in the spring, when the grass finally appeared after a long winter, and she could roll on her back with sounds of total contentment coming from her. Greta loved traveling in the car with me for hours. I'm sure this came from all of our agility travels. She always claimed the front seat as "hers" as if to say "I get shot gun". If someone was riding with me, be it another dog or human, she was rather insistent about letting them know this was her spot! Many of you who know us and have been at shows with us know that Greta always made our arrivals known. She absolutely couldn't contain herself when arriving at a show venue! She always barked loudly to let you know that "Greta was now in the house". I know anyone at these shows would remember Greta "running the course", barking the entire run, even through the tunnels and through the table count. The first time I ran Liza on a course, without the barking I was used to, I felt like something was missing! At home, Greta always slept in her dog bed. But on the road, she loved sleeping with me, under the covers with her head on a pillow! When she was just 3 and 4 months old, she went to our cabin in Canada for the first time. One of my favorite memories during this time was her finding the baby mice and bringing them to us and she was so proud of what she had found! She loved being at the cabin. She got to be a "real dog", running through the woods, climbing on the hills and an occasional dip in the lake, but only up to her belly! Greta loved her family fiercely! Greta was never more vocal as when one of her "family" arrived home!

I am so grateful that I was blessed with such a loving, warm friend who loved me unconditionally! I am very grateful that she didn't have to suffer and that her life ended the same way she lived! I will never, ever stop missing her. I will always think of her when I walk to a start line and when the snow melts in the spring! Whenever I train a new puppy, Greta will be there with me too! Without Greta, there never would have been a Greta's Gym!