

Alicia Lund, Knoxville, TN – First time to Finals

I have been training dogs for about 7 years and competing in USBCHA trials for 4 years. I am entered in Nursery, but my young dog, Nora, has run in Open. She made her debut in June at Cedar Stone Farm SDT and qualified for the double lift. I ran my first dog, Frank, for many years. He was an amazing first dog and taught me so much about this sport. His only flaw was having a beginner as a trainer. Having young Nora come up and be such a fun partner has made Frank's retirement a little easier to bear.

I purchased Frank in my early 20s as a puppy from an Oklahoma rancher, intending to do Agility. However, when he was about 2 years old, I attended a beginners herding clinic in Arizona and was immediately hooked. I started taking weekly lessons with Sue Bradley in Arizona; she was an amazing instructor who helped me get a great start and continues to be a close friend.

Right now I work Nora a few times a week to keep her sharp, but mostly focus on keeping her fit and healthy. I plan to get out to some flat fields and practice outruns, as our home fields are very hilly.

Nora turned 2 in June and has proven to be an amazing teammate. She is so consistent and very rarely makes a mistake. I love her forward movement and directness. Sheep seem to respect her but not fear her. I have trialed her on all types of sheep and have yet to come across any she couldn't move. She reads sheep extremely well and seems to understand exactly how much pressure to put on to keep them moving nicely without much direction from me.