

Keri was three years old when she got her first dog Smokey who was a purebred German Shepherd. Unfortunately his life was very short because of severe hip dysplasia. The next dog came from the pound and was perhaps an Elkhound or Elkhound / German Shepherd mix.

At the age of fourteen Keri was given a Shetland Sheepdog puppy for her upcoming 15th birthday / Christmas present. This dog was the first that Keri was totally responsible for. They enrolled in conformation and obedience classes and Keri was on her way in the dog world. Very soon Keri was competing in Obedience and Scent Hurdle Racing, apprenticing with instructors and taking many seminars.

By the age of 16 Keri was instructing obedience classes and over the next few years taught classes for many organizations in Winnipeg, Mb. These included Gateway City Obedience and Training Club, Manitoba Canine Association, Manitoba Terrier Association, Winnipeg Area Shetland Sheepdog Association, Can Do Canine Centre and Allsorts Dog Sports.

During this time Keri heard of a new sport developing in England. There had been a demonstration of Dog Agility at the Crufts dog show and Keri quickly jumped onto the bandwagon convincing friends and fellow club members that Agility was THE sport to play! At that time there were no organizing bodies or rules for that matter so Keri and friends did their best to start agility in Winnipeg. Keri and her dogs also toured with the Real Canadian Superdogs for the first ten years of their productions.

In 1989 Keri moved to Alberta and became Alberta's first Agility instructor. There are very few agility instructors in the Calgary area who have not been directly or indirectly influenced by Keri's instruction.

Soon after moving to Alberta Keri began competing in USDAA, a newly formed agility organization. Her Sheltie Fancy was the first dog in western Canada to compete at the Masters level as well as the first to qualify for the USDAA Nationals.

Over the years NADAC and AAC were also formed and Keri participated in them as well. She continued teaching classes, taking seminars and was invited by Sharon Nelson, founder of NADAC, to travel the US assisting with Agility seminars and Camps as well as judging NADAC trials and assisting with NADAC judging clinics. Most recently Keri did a second whirlwind tour with Sharon assisting in or instructing agility seminars for six months as well as helping to rehabilitate and re-home rescued dogs.

Keri has competed and earned many titles and awards with her own Shetland Sheepdogs, Kila, Sassy and Fancy and her Border Collies Tate, Power, Hurry and now Johnny Five. She has bred dogs that have left their mark on the world of dog sports. She has also trained and titled many other breeds of dogs for other people.

Although Keri is very proud of her own achievements, by far Keri's greatest pride is in knowing that many of her students have gone on to compete, earn titles and awards, and even

become the next generation of agility instructors.

Keri's dogs of the past...

German Shepherd ; Smokey

Elkhound mix; Smokey the Bear.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier mix: Chico

Soft Coated Wheaton Terrier; Kier

Shetland Sheepdogs, Kila, Sassy and her daughter Fancy

Border Collies, Tate and her son Power

Keri's present dogs are Border Collies Hurry and her sons Johnny Five and Devo.

A personal note:

The most noteworthy thing I can say about myself is that I have always been involved in some way with dogs. I have participated in Conformation, Obedience, Scent Hurdle Racing, Flyball, Superdogs and Agility. The moment I heard about agility, I knew it was the sport for me. My dogs and I have absolutely loved it and have not looked back.

Let me introduce you to the most recent dogs of the past... ..

Sassy (Sheltie) 1979-1989

Fancy (Sheltie) 1981-2001

Tate (Border Collie) 1986-2004

Power (Border Collie) 1991-2003

Sassy, excelled in obedience, with many high in trial awards and played flyball, scent hurdle racing and agility before there were titling programs in North America. Sassy loved to visit hospitals and Senior's homes and was always invited back.

Fancy, Sassy's daughter, also did very well in obedience, with many High in Trials and achieved her Flyball dog Ch, Scent Hurdle Ch and played agility in AAC, USDAA and NADAC. Fancy competed in her first agility trial at the age of 11 (qualifying for the USDAA Nationals) and continued to compete until the age of 18. For a year after that she played in Jumpers FEO, then for one more year she allowed people to feed and admire her at the trials.

Tate came to me at the age of three, suffering from many physical and emotional issues as the result of abuse. She became MY dog during the long drive home and in time became the wonderful dog I had known her to be. Tate also did well in Obedience with many High in Trial awards, earned her FD CH, Scent Hurdle Ch and competed in NADAC agility.

Power, Tate's son, did extremely well in the only obedience trial he was entered in, earning High in Trial. He also earned his FD CH and Scent Hurdle CH. He competed in AAC, USDAA and NADAC earning multiple NATCHs. Power has a few offspring playing and excelling in agility. Power was the only dog to have a visitor's pass and his name on a visitors list on a ward at the Children's Hospital.

All of the dogs participated in Superdogs and entertained at Senior's Homes.

Sassy, Fancy, Tate and Power were my constant companions and I miss them daily. I have many wonderful memories though, just ask and I'll tell you about them.

These days I have my hands full with, Hurry, a Border Collie bundle of energy, as well as her young sons Johnny Five and Devo. Hurry thinks the world revolves around her and makes me laugh every day. Johnny Five is a big, goofy, bundle of mush who wants to be with me at all times and tries very hard to be right. Devo is co-owned and lives with Jr. Handler Manon Hynes. Devo is short for Devotion because he is totally devoted to his girl.