

BRIDGET & MARK WELSCHER



I met up with Bridget and Mark Welscher at the Agility Trials held recently in Vero Beach on November 15th. Bridget is a native of Florida. Mark moved to Florida at the age of 5 from Topeka, KS. The two met at a combat shooting competition. The rest is history! They have been active in the dog world for 15 years. They started out training in Shutzchund with their Shepherd and Golden Retriever. Bridget and Mark had a German Shepherd named Zack that they trained with the Titusville Police Department several years back. Eighteen month old Zack then ended up with the Glennville, Georgia Police Department. He was instrumental in a series of drug busts before he was retired.

They began training their Pembroke Corgi named Toby at IRDTC and became Club members in 2002. Toby was in Conformation competitions for the first year and a half of his life. He always placed first through fourth place. He has AKC Rally titles CD, CDX and also has his first five legs for his first RAE. He has passed both the CGC and ATT test. Toby is currently working on his Utility. He needs one more leg on Novice Agility Jumpers. His parents are hoping to finish up his Utility and graduate in Novice and Open.

Toby has been published twice in the Pembroke Corgi Club of America annual for his Titles.

Toby has made quite a few accomplishments for an eight year old. Next on the list they would like for Toby to become a Therapy Dog.

Before moving to the Panhandle, Bridget and Mark helped Elena McKnight and Dani Champagne with IRDTC demos at the local Elementary Schools and Libraries. Bridget was an assistant instructor from 2005-2008 with Dayle Narehood, Dani Champagne and Terry Harville. Mark was an Instructor for the Intermediate Class from 2004-2005. Both were on the DCOF team for 6 years. They did Canine Fest in Merritt Square Mall several years running and have helped out with Paws in the Park for Elena McKnight. Bridget has also helped Elena administer the Canine Good Citizenship Test for several years. They have also done the Palm Bay Christmas Parade with IRDTC.

Toby is very lucky to have such great active parents! The Welschers are just one more example of the wonderful members that make up IRDTC.

Written by Michelle S. Green

