

DC M'I Spy of Hathor Farm SW, VCD1 RN TDX OA AXJ
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"Shag" Born 7/13/2000

Sire: Ch. The Eiger of Hathor Farm SW, CD TDX SE

Dam: DC I Spy American Maid W, TD

In January 1999 I was competing with "The Eiger," Shag's sire in obedience when I met and quickly became fast friends with Selma McNamara, of I Spy dachshunds. "The Eiger" was an almost complete genetic match to "Seja" and he carried many of the traits that she was looking for, including a harsh coat, beautiful head and expression, and a willing to please attitude. A year and a half later she bred "Karma" to "The Eiger" and the pick puppy was to be my stud fee. I was at a point where I was not so interested in adding another dog to my home and, in all honesty, I tried contacting many people who had shown interest in my dogs to see if they would like one, but we were going through one of those periods where no one seemed to want a dog "at that time." The largest male pup stood out in Selma's yard. He would carry around sticks (or whatever) so proudly and you couldn't help but be enamored with his attitude. Eventually, "Shag" came home with me while I ostensibly continued my search for a good home for him...For fun, like with all my puppies, I put a tracking harness on the little squirm, and we started a simple training progression. The rest, as they say, was "history." Shag took to tracking with skill, dedication and enthusiasm I had never personally seen before. Within a few weeks with limited training he was able to run quarter mile long TD length tracks and showed no signs of slowing down. In November, at 3 months of age on unfamiliar cover, he ran the alternate track at a test and became certified to enter a TD. AKC requires competing dogs to be 6 months of age and so we continued to expand his skills well on our way to TDX level before a local TD test came around. In March 2001 Shag passed his TD handily, and when we came home I immediately submitted his entry into a TDX test across the state "in the dry" of Spokane. We survived the draw and were in. On May 6, 2001, at 9 months of age, again on unfamiliar ground with dry cover neither of us had ever experienced before, Shag dragged me through the half mile, 3 hr. old TDX track in a little over 11 minutes, stopping ONLY while I took water at his intermediate articles. My tracking mentor, Sil Sanders, was one of the judges, as was Barbara Adcock, from California who admitted to not having ever seen a dachshund track before. For once the spectator gallery was able to watch large parts of this test and we received a standing ovation when Shag found that final article. I had promised myself I would not do any field or rabbit work until he had earned his TDX and the national specialty field trial in Portland was coming up the very next month. Shag had little difficulty switching to rabbit scent and earned two second placements that week. We were not able to go to any field trials until the following year's nationals in Illinois, where he finished his FC with a first place and a best open at the largest dachshund field trial in history, winning over 59 open dogs and then 63 open bitches. The very next day at the 2002 national in his first effort at running with "the big guns" in the Field Champion Dog class Shag was called back in 6th place, and held on for an award of merit. He has since had a distinguished field career, placing in the Top Ten for DCA's merit point awards in 5 of the last 6 years, (in 2007 placing 12th) earning 22 Absolute wins, including the 2004 national specialty trial, and ranks among the top lifetime field champion merit point earners.



Shag's field career would have more than enough to earn him a place in dachshund history yet it turned out that it would be just part of his success. The boy has a tremendous talent in many things performance. The same year he finished his Field Championship at DCA 2002 he also won the DCA specialty triathlon competition, qualifying in four events (tracking, field, agility and obedience, where a sneeze and a misstep cost him the High in Trial award his first time in the ring.) He is one of the few dachshunds who managed to reach the Excellent level in Agility when the rules still required a dog his size to jump in the 12" class. Even so, for years the one holdup to his accomplishing titles in all the AKC venues was his frustrating (to me!) "just miss" performances in Earthdog. Finally, in 2006 at the DCMA host test in Georgia, he managed to put it all together to earn his second leg under judge Lois Ballard. It was an honor to accomplish this goal under some one who would so personally be able to appreciate it.

Shag's obedience and agility careers were unfortunately interrupted when we moved to an area where training opportunities are limited and our instructor suffered a stroke. He lost his composure in the noisy shows and arenas. In April of this year, after a several year hiatus from competitive obedience, we entered the DCA national obedience trial in Dallas. Thanks to all the efforts of the organizers who created an ideal ring environment, "Shaggie" was once again able to perform to his ability during his national specialty run. He earned the DCA High In Trial award with a score of 198 out of a possible 200 points. Winning the national HIT had long been a dream of mine, and those moments in the ring with him performing with the style and attitude he is so capable of will remain among my most cherished memories.