



ALL AMERICAN DOG

PARADE OF VETERANS 2026

Celebrating the lives and
accomplishments of our older
partners and friends!

2026 Parade

of Veterans

Livin' on the Edge "Keen"

Border Collie - Age 9
Handled by: Jim Nally, Maplewood, MN



Photo by Jim Nally

Keen is a 9 year old Border Collie who lives with his older sister (Shay), his younger sister (Nyx), and his new baby brother (Drift, who he really wishes would go back to wherever he came from).

Keen has been involved in agility, flyball, and herding. While his flyball and herding careers have been largely local, his agility career has seen him traveling the US and north into Canada. He's competed in states from Vermont to California and from Washington to Tennessee, and many states in between. He has also competed in the NADAC Championships in both Wyoming and in Ohio, and won the Large Group Challenger's Cup in 2023 when he lived up to his registered name, "Livin' on the Edge."

In his spare time, Keen likes chasing anything that you're willing to throw, herding his sister Shay until she gets annoyed enough to chase him, and swimming.

Minnesota Mixed

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Wilhelmina III "Willie"

Poodle - Age 9
Handled by: Barb Jaeger, Inver Grove Heights, MN



Photo by Sarah Kurtz (Sarah Kurtz Photography)

Willie spent the first three years of her life living with my mom. They were quite the pair, a tiny poodle and a tiny woman, both filled with determination and joy. The two of them had many adventures together.

When my mom died at the age of 91, Willie came to live with us. She is the most competitive member of our family - and that's saying something! She loves to play agility and has taught me more as a handler than I could have ever imagined.

Every day we get to run together is a gift!

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Kinnic Mac "Mac"

Border Collie - Age 9.5
Handled by: Lisa Bisson-Schafer, Le Sueur, MN



Photo by Mark Herreid (Herreid Photography)

Our kind, sweet, strong border collie, The Mac Man. What a ride! Agility has been a real adrenaline rush for Mac. He loves the sport! Mac's a handful when running agility courses but he's truly an honest partner who gives it his all.

Life in the agility world is such fun with our crazy boy, Mr. Mac Man!

We love you Mac!

of Veterans

Minnesota Mixed

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2026 Parade

Kinnic Eleanor “Eleanor”

Border Collie - Age 9.5
Handled by: Lisa Bisson-Schafer, Le Sueur, MN



Photo by Mark Herreid (Herreid Photography)

Eleanor is our heart dog. She's the queen in our household. Our pack of border collies bow down to this lovely girl. She's truly a gem and loves the agility challenges. L's a steady eddy who loves the game!

The years have passed quickly and now Eleanor is moving into her senior years; just like her owners. But we march onward as getting older is for the birds!

We love you Eleanor!

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Norwood's Born to Sparkle “Shay”

Border Collie - Age 10
Handled by: Gina Piz zo, Maplewood, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Its hard to believe that Shay is a double digit dog this year! It seems like just yesterday she was a 9 week old puppy sitting in an x-pen at this very trial.

Don't tell Shay she is a veteran because she doesn't believe it either. She still chases the other dogs around the yard and is teaching the new puppy some rules. Shay taught me how to work with a true thinking dog. Once I figured out how she processed information training was easy. She has always been our “steady eddie”. She is now retired from flyball and herding but we've started nosework to help keep her busy. She will continue to do agility as long as she wants to. I think we still have a lot of goals to achieve.

Because her litter was born on the 4 th of July their litter names were all related to fireworks. Shay's litter name was Sparkle so I chose to use that in her registered name..... because there was no way I was going to call her Sparkle!

Enjoy each run with your canine companion no matter what their age because you never know when this fantastic ride will end.

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Love that Lazlo “Lazlo”

Border Collie - Age 10.5

Handled by: Rhonda Noetzelman, Minneapolis, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

Lazlo loves it all: agility, flyball, obedience, tracking and so on.

Lazlo's independence was evident from the beginning. This independence led to a love of distance handling in agility. He especially LOVES chances.

As a senior, distance handling is still his joy - even if only in the backyard. He runs to the furthest part of the yard, turns, stares, and waits to be told to do something.

His registered name says it all, “Love that Lazlo”!

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2026 Parade

Willow's Pond Wing Me to Paris “Paris”

Papillon - Age 10.5

Handled by: Wayne Carlson, Edina, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

In 2022, Paris won the Mini Grand Championship at NADAC Champs and was featured in the Edina Magazine as well as being featured as the Top Gun Maverick of the Agility World on Channel 5 Live.

At 2 years she finished 3rd at Champs and went on to win three national championships, two seconds and a third. She has 12 regular NATCHs and 12 Versatility NATCHs. She is approaching 5 MACHS and is 4 Premiere Jumpers short of her AKC Grand Championship.

It is so awesome bringing her to the line in a chances event and directing her solely by lefts and rights to meet almost every challenge. We are so bonded she thinks she owns me and has the right to criticize me when my instructions are inadequate. I think she would defend me with her life.

She is a reincarnation of Pearlina, a Pomeranian that won the CPE Nationals and was 5th Place Preferred dog at the AKC Nationals. Sadly, I lost Pearlina after a lengthy illness with oral melanoma on the Friday prior to Valentine's day, 2016. Shortly thereafter, I started my search for a Papillon. Eventually, I was referred to a breeder in Davenport and learned of a litter born only hours after Pearlina's death. Thankfully, Paris would not stand in conformation and therefore was available. She took to agility like a duck to water - coming home as a born agility dog! Hard not to believe that there is a plan that has all these random events come together. I am so grateful for having this dog in my lifetime.

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Breed Club

2026 Parade

Shilohs Keep on Truckin' "Tucker"

Coton de Tulear - Age 10.5
Handled by: Sandi Schaible, Eagan, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

At 10 years old, Tucker still has the heart of a puppy, even when his body tries to tell him something different. Especially when he's racing around the living room in pursuit of his little sister and antagonist, Lani, who usually manages to stay one step ahead of him. A devoted agility enthusiast and travel pro, Tucker is always ready for an adventure! He is also a proud supporter of the dairy industry, never turning down ice cream or a whipped cream "pup cup".

But beyond his playful spirit and creamy cravings, Tucker's greatest love is his momma. Whether he's by her side during the day or patiently waiting by the door when she leaves without him, his loyalty never wavers. No matter how long she's gone, Tucker will be there, ready to greet her when she returns home.

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2026 Parade

Mizz MayZee May of Shiloh Cotons "MayZee"

Coton de Tulear - Age 10.5
Handled by: Lexy Schaible, Eagan, MN



Photo by Amy Johnson (Great Dane Photos)

MayZee greatly enjoys running agility. After surgery on both knees, she is running just as fast as she was when she first started. Last year she placed second at Champs, sharing the podium with Tucker. This year we keep expanding our goals. She is working on earning her last Chances Q for her NATCH. She's getting closer, with her last run being clean, but 0.04 seconds over time!

When not running agility, MayZee is living the best life as an only child. While she still needs time with her siblings, she's really enjoying the perks that come with being an only child. Like extra car rides and pup cups! No matter which house she is at, she is the protector of the house. Perched upon the back of the couch, she watches and judges everyone - including those pickleballers.

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Breed Club

2026 Parade

Koster's Barkin' At the Moon "Ozzie"

Mixed Breed - Age 11.5
Handled by: Denise Koster, Rochester, MN



Photo by Mark Herreid (Herreid Photography)

It's hard to believe Ozzie will be 12 in September. Where has the time gone? He has been retired from agility for almost 2 years. I'm grateful he still competes in disc and scent work. He enjoys a nice walk or relaxing in the backyard. I see more of this in our future as he slows down. I love you, Bubba.

Koster's Barkin' At The Moon, Ozzie CT-ATCH, O-NAC, O-TN-I, O-ICC, OJC, GR-O, TG-O, TN-O, OAC, NCC, WV-N, GB-N, Novice Versatility Award, JSA-O, RSA-N, JSA-N-OP, GSA-N, C-SWE, RLP, NW1, CCSS-L2, SCN, SIN, SEN, L1E, L1I, ORT

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2026 Parade

Tango

Boxer - Age 12
Handled by: Laura Delva, Pine Island, MN

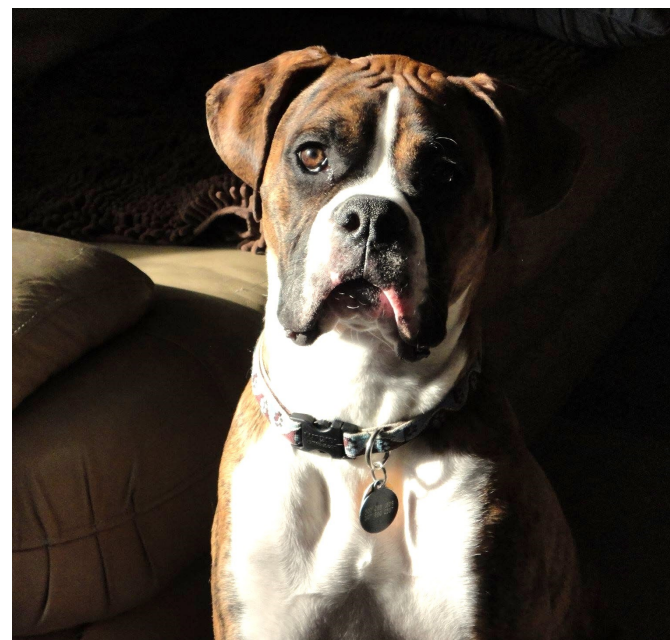


Photo by Laura Delva

I found Tango on Craigslist. He was so cute with his huge, white feet. You know what they say about big feet. He just kept growing and growing.

Tango has been a wonderful agility partner. He likes to do things right and to make me happy. His favorite class was Jumpers. I knew that he was ready when he would speak for me before his run.

He is retired now. He loves his walks, especially when we go someplace else to explore new areas. His favorite thing is laying on me while I watch TV. At least one of us is comfortable. He also likes to take the throw off the back of the couch and make a nest out of it.

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of Veterans

Minnesota Mixed

2026 Parade

Fairoaks Inferno “Blaze”

Australian Shepherd - Age 12.5
Handled by: Niki Manning, South St. Paul, MN



Photo by Mark Herreid (Herreid Photography)

Blaze is thrilled to be attending his 2nd Parade of Veterans this year.

Although his agility career was cut short due to injury 5 years ago, he's never let it get him down. He's still the happiest and goofiest boy around, running zoomies in the backyard and claiming all the toys as his own.

At almost 13 years old, he's proving that age is just a number.

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2026 Parade

Herdabout Take A Chance On Mee “Chance”

Shetland Sheepdog - Age 13
Handled by: Karl Schulzki, Thunder Bay, ON



Photo by Michelle Schulzki

At the age of 13, Chance has as much enthusiasm as when she started her agility journey. In 2015, she began the journey with more speed than discipline. She has taught me more about agility than I've taught her. Her willingness to play has made our journey a fun, and sometimes challenging, one.

At the age of 7, she gave up jumping due to needing bifocals to focus on the jump bar as she races towards it. She still revels in charging through hoops, tunnels and weaves. She reached NATCH status with a 3 non-jumping class NATCH.

At home, she took over the “Queen Bee” status at the passing of her mentor, Halo. She rules her younger brothers with an iron paw. In the last couple years she has slowed a bit but can still out-run both her brothers. With age she has mellowed and enjoys lounging almost as much as agility.

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Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

2026 Parade

MFR Bandicoot “Cooti”

Border Collie - Age 13
Handled by: Cindy Spangler, St. Paul, MN



Photo by Joe Fisher (Joe Fisher Photography)

Cooti, aka “The Cootinator”, “Miss Sassy Pants”, or “Cooth Vader”, came into my life after I led a People to People delegation of high school students to Australia in the summer of 2013. I named her after a small, Australian marsupial, the bandicoot.

She was born on July 16, 2013, at Mission Falls Ranch located at the foot of the Mission Mountains in Northwestern Montana. She is my first red Border Collie and she definitely possesses a fiery “red head” attitude! She has ALWAYS loved the game of agility, especially the weaves. Her first Q was earned in Weavers and I would occasionally spot her performing the weaves on her own in the backyard from my kitchen window!

Even at the ripe old age of 13, she gets very excited when I ask her: “Do you want to play agility?” She no longer competes in agility, but still enjoys coming to trials and cheering on her niece, Skye.

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Breed Club

2026 Parade

Chaparral Double Doux Gabrielle “Doux”

Pyrenean Shepherd - Age 13
Handled by: Leo Fuerst, Freedom, WI



Photo by Sharla Glick (Sharla Glick Photography)

Doux is a very sweet dog and a wonderful companion. She needs me as much as I need her!

In the agility ring she has shined - exceeding all of my expectations. I have been fortunate to enjoy so many thrills and memories.

Her breeder from Toronto, Canada said she is the perfect ambassador for the breed.

Thank you Doux for keeping me in the game!

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Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

2026 Parade

Lunatic Fringe - Still Frankie “Frankie”

Mixed Breed - Age 13.5
Handled by: Wendy Henes, North St. Paul, MN



Photo by Wendy Henes

Crazy hair and a name I never did change are what is behind her registered name: “Lunatic Fringe - Still Frankie”.

Early on, Miss Frankie Girl and I were never on the same page. It took quite a while to develop a mutual respect for each other. She was a handful and had been in and out of rescue 3 times. Our growing pains were worth it as I credit her with keeping me in the loop with flyball friends, helping me become a better agility handler and she got us into her favorite sport of Nosework. In this she excelled. She's earned many titles as well as earning NACSW's highest honor of Summit Dog Title, has won High in Trial at the CPE Scentsport Nationals, Level C, the highest level and earned an AKC Detective Title all at about age 11.

Now that she's almost 14 years old, she's showing her age. She is lacking cognitive abilities, has high anxiety pacing and has an idiopathic vestibular disorder causing intermittent vertigo. Despite all of these issues, this Nosey Girl is not lacking the heart it takes to persevere. She is so loved.

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Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

2026 Parade

Kobayashi Maru “Kobi”

Mixed Breed - Age 13.5
Handled by: Jamie Elvert, Rochester, MN



Photo by Carrie Tolzin (Wild & Uncurried Creations, LLC)

“Oh, the places you'll go!”

The first time I met Kobi, I was photographing rescue dogs for their adoption listings. My only impression of him at the time was that he was the most difficult dog I had ever photographed! He was so wiggly and obsessed with trying to snuggle the person holding his leash.

Several months later, I had finished school and was looking for a dog that would be both cuddly and a good agility partner - so, why not the dog who was too cuddle-obsessed to get a good photo?

Kobi quickly became the best adventure buddy. I learned about his intense prey drive, and he showed me the way to the new sport of Barn Hunt. While our agility career has been filled with more joyful NQs than titles and accolades, Barn Hunt was Kobi's passion. He earned RATCHX11 and for several years ranked as the #1 dog in Minnesota and in the top 10 for Mixed Breeds in the US. He was the inspiration to bring another rat sport, Happy Ratters, to Minnesota for the first time.

Recently, hearing loss has made the rat hunting game less fun for him (my buddy hates using just his nose), so this summer we celebrated his retirement from rat sports. I am overflowing with gratitude that at 13, he is still a fun and joyful agility partner! Now, if we could just convince him that his jump height really is 8", not 16"...

of Veterans

Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club

2026 Parade

MM Kona's Ruff Diamond Triumph "Kona"

Mixed Breed - Age 13.97
Handled by: Karen Magee, Rochester, MN



Photo by Karen Magee

Rescued as a last-chance adoption, Kona made her opinion of the meet-and-greet known immediately - putting a hole in Cris's jeans before anyone had even said hello. The owners were stunned we still wanted her. We took it slow, she came around, and she's been ours ever since. Best decision we ever made. She's part Border Collie, part Spaniel of unknown origin. When agility teammate Ted passed, Kona reluctantly stepped up to run the show, despite her objections.

Health issues have since retired her from agility competition, but nobody told Kona her attitude was supposed to retire with it. She's traded clean runs for full-time supervision of Management, and by all accounts hasn't missed a step in the "silent judgment and withering side-eye" department. In her spare time she still trains the packman Border Collies — mostly from the sidelines these days, but her standards haven't dropped an inch.

Trainer's Report, 2026

Trainees: 3 Border Collies (progress slow - brains still on backorder)

Specialties: Silent judgment, withering side-eye, executive oversight

Current challenges: Management's inability to keep up

Success rate: 100% (self-reported)

Still feisty, still in charge, still keeping Management in line 24/7.

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2026 Parade

Minikota's Sweet Music Man "Quincy"

Swedish Vallhund - Age 16
Handled by: Renee Foster, Shorewood, MN



Photo by Duane Laurila

WOW! SWEET SIXTEEN!

I still treasure every day as if it was his last. His head has a tilt and his gait is pretty rough but he enjoys being outside and he still goes on walks with the rest of the pack.

Here's to you Quincy, my soulmate, my companion, my treasure chest of memories.

Live long and continue to prosper.

"We're never too old to love and be loved. Cherish your senior companion." - Anonymous

"I love puppies, but there's nothing like the sweet soul of an old dog." - Anonymous

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Minnesota Mixed

Breed Club



2026 Parade

of Veterans



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Thank You!

Thank you to all for being a part of the 19th Annual Minnesota Mixed Breed Club's Parade of Veterans!

We are very glad to sponsor this event to honor the dogs who have touched our hearts and our lives for all of these years.

When you see these dogs and their handlers to-day, let them know how wonderful it was to see them out in the ring again. Give those dogs a pat, scratch, or a hug.

For today is a day to celebrate.

But, if you shed a tear or two, it only means that you understand that the your time in the ring with your canine companion is limited. Make sure you take advantage of every moment!



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