

## Breed First - Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH)



### OTCH Highpoints Mundy's Muse CD, CDX, UD

Barbara Brenneman

#### By Barbara Brenneman

The competitive edge in all of us makes us hope for that one special dog. Rarely, but sometimes, that dream comes true; we become part of a unique team and travel the road to excellence. "Brandi" (Highpoint Mundy's Muse) and I had that kind of relationship.

We brought Brandi into our home when she was only 5½ week old. Play training started when she was about 10 weeks old—very basic exercises such as sit, down, come and stay. By the time she was about a year old she was trained through Open. Jump heights at this young age were kept to a minimum. I did not have her jump full height (26") until she was about 1½ years old.

In the beginning of 1982 we went to our first AKC obedience trial—the Bayshore Companion Dog Training Club. I knew Brandi was capable of doing a good job, but was not sure how she would react to all the people, dogs, and other distractions.

She did a commendable job at Bayshore—a score of 197½ and fifth place overall from a very large Novice class. Her next two shows earned us scores of 197 (1<sup>st</sup> Prize), and a 198½ (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize). These high scores in three straight shows earned Brandi a Dog World Award.

By the summer of 1982, Brandi was showing great promise in her Open training. By the fall of the year, I decided it was time to think about trying for her Companion Dog Excellent (CDX). In November, off we went; four shows, 4 qualifying scores and three first prizes.

Much of 1983 was devoted to teaching Brandi the Utility exercises. Several times, however, I stopped Utility training and switched back to her Open work. Because of her high scores in Open she had qualified for the '83 Gaines Regional Obedience Competition (to qualify one must obtain three scores averaging 193 or better). September '83, found us in Greenville, South Carolina competing against some of the top obedience dogs in the country. It was a real thrill to be participating in the Eastern Regional with a fast, precise, happy working Saint Bernard—among all those Golden Retrievers, Border Collies, and Shelties. Brandi made quite an impression on spectators and judges! And after the three classes were done she had moved up in the placings to tenth place making her eligible for the 1983 Gaines Classic in California. (I opted not to participate because of the stress Brandi would be subjected to, due to the long flight to California.)

Alternating between Utility and Open before the Regional was hard on Brandi. However, by January 1984, she had a good understanding of Utility—good enough to enter her first trial (at Princeton Dog Training Club) and earn her first Utility leg. In her enthusiasm to complete all the exercises, she was not as precise as I would have liked, but a qualifying score of 188 points at our first trial in Utility A was still a job well done.

By March 1984, Brandi had earned her UD—in only five trials. Now it was on to the big time—a try for an Obedience Trial Championship. Competing against all of the top competitors in Open B and Utility B was a little scary at first, but it did not take long before I realized she could hold her own. For almost 1½ years we were on the road every weekend traveling up and down the East Coast. Not an easy task for someone with a family, a full-time job, several other animals to care for, an orchestra to play in, and instructing obedience training classes at Princeton Dog Training Club. (At the end of 1984 we had earned 13 OTCH points, in November 1985 we had 66 points, and on May 31, 1986 we earned our 100<sup>th</sup> point!) The points came no more than ten at a time, usually no more than two or four. Many weekends, after two shows and two classes each day, we came home with no additional points. Dedication, however, does pay off—we did it—we earned those 100 necessary points.

Brandi also has some breed points to her credit. However, an untimely bout with pyometra in 1984 ended her career in the breed ring.

During intensive training for almost anything, problems do crop up. Brandi's biggest problem has been and probably always will be her fear of ring gates. Anybody who has trained dogs realizes how hard it is to work out a problem caused by fear. The exercise that has suffered the most because of her "ring gate phobia" was the send out in the Utility Directed Jumping exercise. We have persevered, however. Patience, firmness, and praise during Brandi's training have helped her through the problem.

Brandi, besides her short career in the breed ring and her extensive obedience career, has done some advertising for Milk-Bone, Aspen Leaf in Colorado, Reader's Digest, and a bank in South Carolina. We were also featured, in 1983, with two other Gaines Regional Winners on "Saturday Morning Live" on Channel 5 TV in New York.

It was an extreme pleasure to be on Brandi's team. We were devoted to each other and it showed. She tried extremely hard to please me. That kind of commitment from her was extremely important down the long road to the OTCH. "My heart goes out to you Big Dog!"

"I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference."

Robert Frost

**OTCH Highpoints Mundys Muse  
CD, CDX, UD**

**Barbara Brenneman**



**First & Only Saint Bernard to Earn a  
Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH)**

**May 31, 1986**

# First & Only Saint Bernard To Earn The Obedience Trial Championship Title (OTCH)

## Saint Bernard National Archive's AKC Obedience/Performance Record For:

### OTCH Highpoints Mundys Muse UD

Barbara Brenneman

CH	Titles	Date	Trial or Test	Track	NA	NB	OA	OB	UA	UB	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	UDX	HIT	A	N	S	#	M F
1986-OTCH		February 28, 1982	Bayshore CDTC, NJ			197.50															
1986-OTCH		March 13, 1982	Rockland County KC, NY			197.00					1										
1986-OTCH CD		May 02, 1982	Penn Treaty KC, PA			198.50						2									
1986-OTCH CD		May 09, 1982	Trenton KC, NJ			192.00															
1986-OTCH CD		May 22, 1982	Allentown DTC, PA			197.00															
1986-OTCH CD		May 29, 1982	Monmouth County KC, NJ			198.00					1					1	1				
1986-OTCH CD		November 13, 1982	Lower Camden County DTC, NJ				193.00														1
1986-OTCH CD		November 14, 1982	Morris Hills DTC, NJ				197.00				1										2
1986-OTCH CDX		November 20, 1982	Dauphin DTC, PA				196.00				1										3
1986-OTCH CDX		December 18, 1982	Philadelphia DTC, PA				196.50				1										4
1986-OTCH CDX		January 29, 1983	Princeton DTC, NJ					189.00													5
1986-OTCH CDX		February 20, 1983	Staten Island CDTC, NY					194.00													6
1986-OTCH CDX		February 27, 1983	Bayshore CDTC, NJ					198.00													7
1986-OTCH CDX		April 16, 1983	Harrisburg KC, PA					196.00													8
1986-OTCH CDX		May 22, 1983	Berks County DTC, PA					196.00													9
1986-OTCH CDX		August 13, 1983	Mid Coast KC of Maine, ME					196.50				2									10
1986-OTCH CDX		September 02, 1983	New Brunswick KC, NJ					193.00													11
1986-OTCH CDX		September 05, 1983	Schooleys Mountain KC, NJ					196.50													12
1986-OTCH CDX		September 16, 1983	Pocono Mountain KC, PA					195.00													13
1986-OTCH CDX		September 17, 1983	Lehigh Valley KC, PA					188.50													14
1986-OTCH CDX		October 15, 1983	Catonsville KC, MD					196.50													15
1986-OTCH CDX		October 16, 1983	Rock Creek KC, MD					193.50													16
1986-OTCH CDX		January 28, 1984	Princeton DTC, NJ						188.00												17
1986-OTCH CDX		February 26, 1984	Bayshore CDTC, NJ						188.00												18
1986-OTCH UD		April 14, 1984	Harrisburg KC, PA						189.50												19
1986-OTCH UD		May 08, 1984	SBC of America #11 CT				196.50				1					2		1			20
1986-OTCH UD		May 10, 1984	New England SBC, CT				197.50				1					3			1		21
1986-OTCH UD		July 22, 1984	York KC, PA				197.00				1										22
1986-OTCH UD		July 28, 1984	Lackawanna KC, PA				198.50				1					1	4	2			23
1986-OTCH UD		July 28, 1984	Lackawanna KC, PA							194.50						1					24
1986-OTCH UD		August 03, 1984	Perkiomen Valley KC, PA							194.50											25
1986-OTCH UD		August 11, 1984	Mid Coast KC of Maine, ME				196.50														26
1986-OTCH UD		August 31, 1984	New Brunswick KC, NJ				196.00														27
1986-OTCH UD		September 01, 1984	Newton KC, NJ				197.50														28
1986-OTCH UD		September 03, 1984	Schooleys Mountain KC, NJ				194.00														29
1986-OTCH UD		September 15, 1984	Lehigh Valley KC, PA				192.00														30
1986-OTCH UD		September 23, 1984	Valley Forge KC, PA				197.00									2					31
1986-OTCH UD		September 23, 1984	Valley Forge KC, PA							194.50		2				2					32
1986-OTCH UD		October 05, 1984	Hatboro DC, PA				197.50														33
1986-OTCH UD		October 15, 1984	Carroll KC, MD				198.00														34
1986-OTCH UD		October 15, 1984	Carroll KC, MD							195.00						3					35
1986-OTCH UD		November 03, 1984	Black Mountain KC, PA				194.00														36
1986-OTCH UD		December 08, 1984	Dauphin DTC, PA				197.50									4					37
1986-OTCH UD		December 08, 1984	Dauphin DTC, PA							195.00						4					38

CH	Titles	Date	Trial or Test	Track	NA	NB	OA	OB	UA	UB	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	UDX	HIT	A	N	S	#	M F	
1986-OTCH UD		December 13, 1984	Catonsville KC, MD					198.00					3								39	
1986-OTCH UD		March 17, 1985	DOTC of Maryland, MD					196.50													40	
1986-OTCH UD		April 13, 1985	Harrisburg KC, PA					196.00													41	
1986-OTCH UD		April 14, 1985	Rhode Island KC, Ri					196.50						4							42	
1986-OTCH UD		April 27, 1985	Wilmington KC, DE					193.50													43	
1986-OTCH UD		May 04, 1985	Philadelphia DTC, PA					195.50													44	
1986-OTCH UD		May 05, 1985	Trenton KC, NJ					198.00					3								45	
1986-OTCH UD		May 12, 1985	Lancaster KC, PA					195.50					3								46	
1986-OTCH UD		May 19, 1985	Long Island KC, NY					198.50					3								47	
1986-OTCH UD		May 24, 1985	Union County KC, NJ					194.50													48	
1986-OTCH UD		May 25, 1985	Monmouth County KC, NJ					195.00													49	
1986-OTCH UD		May 26, 1985	Mid Jersey CDTC, NJ					198.00				2									50	
1986-OTCH UD		June 08, 1985	Greenwich KC, CT					197.50						4							51	
1986-OTCH UD		June 15, 1985	Sryn Mawa KC, PA					196.00		1											52	
1986-OTCH UD		June 16, 1985	Burlington County KC, NJ					197.00								5					53	
1986-OTCH UD		June 16, 1985	Burlington County KC, NJ							194.50				3		5					54	
1986-OTCH UD		June 22, 1985	South Hills KC, PA					196.00													55	
1986-OTCH UD		June 23, 1985	Kittanning KC, PA					196.50						3							56	
1986-OTCH UD		June 29, 1985	New England SBC, MA					198.50		1						6					57	
1986-OTCH UD		June 29, 1985	New England SBC, MA							199.50	1					6	5		2		58	
1986-OTCH UD		July 20, 1985	Nita Nee KC, PA					199.50		1						7	6	3			59	
1986-OTCH UD		July 20, 1985	Nita Nee KC, PA							193.00	1					7					60	
1986-OTCH UD		July 21, 1985	York KC, NY					197.50			2					8					61	
1986-OTCH UD		July 21, 1985	York KC, NY							196.00				3		8					62	
1986-OTCH UD		July 27, 1985	Lackawanna KC, PA					196.00						3		9					63	
1986-OTCH UD		July 27, 1985	Lackawanna KC, PA							195.50				4		9					64	
1986-OTCH UD		July 28, 1985	Bald Eagle KC of Williamsburg, PA					197.00						3		10					65	
1986-OTCH UD		July 28, 1985	Bald Eagle KC of Williamsburg, PA							196.00			2			10					66	
1986-OTCH UD		August 10, 1985	Mid Coast KC of Maine, ME					198.00		1						11					67	
1986-OTCH UD		August 10, 1985	Mid Coast KC of Maine, ME							197.00				3		11					68	
1986-OTCH UD		August 24, 1985	Newton KC, CT					198.00		1						7	4				69	
1986-OTCH UD		August 25, 1985	Great Barrington KC, MA					195.50								12					70	
1986-OTCH UD		August 25, 1985	Great Barrington KC, MA							198.00	1					12					71	
1986-OTCH UD		August 30, 1985	New Brunswick KC, NJ					196.50						4		13					72	
1986-OTCH UD		August 30, 1985	New Brunswick KC, NJ							196.00						13					73	
1986-OTCH UD		August 31, 1985	Newton KC, NJ					195.00						3		14					74	
1986-OTCH UD		August 31, 1985	Newton KC, NJ							194.00						14					75	
1986-OTCH UD		September 01, 1985	Sussex Hills KC, NJ							192.00											76	
1986-OTCH UD		September 02, 1985	Schooleys Mountain KC, NJ							192.00											77	
1986-OTCH UD		September 05, 1985	Rockland County KC, NY					198.00		1						15	8	5			78	
1986-OTCH UD		September 05, 1985	Rockland County KC, NY							195.00				3		15					79	
1986-OTCH UD		September 14, 1985	Lehigh Valley KC, PA					197.50				2				16					80	
1986-OTCH UD		September 14, 1985	Lehigh Valley KC, PA							195.00				4		16					81	
1986-OTCH UD		September 15, 1985	Berks County KC, PA					196.00								17					82	
1986-OTCH UD		September 15, 1985	Berks County KC, PA							195.00						17					83	
1986-OTCH UD		September 22, 1985	Northwestern CT DC, CT							195.50		2									84	
1986-OTCH UD		September 28, 1985	Suffolk OTC, NY					196.00								18					85	
1986-OTCH UD		September 28, 1985	Suffolk OTC, NY							196.00						18					86	
1986-OTCH UD		October 06, 1985	Saccarappa OC, ME					196.00						3		19					87	
1986-OTCH UD		October 06, 1985	Saccarappa OC, ME							195.50				3		19					88	
1986-OTCH UD		October 12, 1985	Palisades KC, NJ					195.00								20					89	
1986-OTCH UD		October 12, 1985	Palisades KC, NJ							196.00						20					90	
1986-OTCH UD		October 13, 1985	Ramapo KC, NJ							196.00				4							91	

CH	Titles	Date	Trial or Test	Track	NA	NB	OA	OB	UA	UB	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	UDX	HIT	A	N	S	#	M F	
1986-OTCH UD		October 16, 1985	Dauphin DTC, PA					198.00						4	21						92	
1986-OTCH UD		October 16, 1985	Dauphin DTC, PA							191.50					21						93	
1986-OTCH UD		October 20, 1985	Shrewsbury DTC, MA					197.50							22						94	
1986-OTCH UD		October 20, 1985	Shrewsbury DTC, MA							197.50			3		22						95	
1986-OTCH UD		November 02, 1985	Black Mountain KC, PA					198.00			1				23						96	
1986-OTCH UD		November 02, 1985	Black Mountain KC, PA							196.00			3		23						97	
1986-OTCH UD		November 03, 1985	Ulster DTC, NY					195.50							24						98	
1986-OTCH UD		November 03, 1985	Ulster DTC, NY							195.00			3		24						99	
1986-OTCH UD		November 09, 1985	OTC of Rhode Island, RI					199.50				2			25						100	
1986-OTCH UD		November 09, 1985	OTC of Rhode Island, RI							196.00				4	25						101	
1986-OTCH UD		November 10, 1985	Nathan Hale OC, CT					194.50						4	26						102	
1986-OTCH UD		November 10, 1985	Nathan Hale OC, CT							195.00		2			26						103	
1986-OTCH UD		November 15, 1985	Ladies DC, MA					196.00						4	27						104	
1986-OTCH UD		November 15, 1985	Ladies DC, MA							196.00		2			27						105	
1986-OTCH UD		November 17, 1985	Mt Nittany DTC, PA					194.00					3		28						106	
1986-OTCH UD		November 17, 1985	Mt Nittany DTC, PA							195.50			3		28						107	
1986-OTCH UD		November 24, 1985	Springfield KC, MA					198.00			1				29						108	
1986-OTCH UD		November 24, 1985	Springfield KC, MA							194.50				3	29						109	
1986-OTCH UD		November 25, 1985	Holyoke KC, MA					195.50						3	30						110	
1986-OTCH UD		November 25, 1985	Holyoke KC, MA							195.00				3	30						111	
1986-OTCH UD		January 25, 1986	Princeton DTC, NJ					194.00							31						112	
1986-OTCH UD		January 25, 1986	Princeton DTC, NJ							192.50					31						113	
1986-OTCH UD		February 16, 1986	Staten Island CDTC, NY					188.00							32						114	
1986-OTCH UD		February 16, 1986	Staten Island CDTC, NY							190.50					32						115	
1986-OTCH UD		February 22, 1986	1st Co. Gov. Ft. Guard, CT					195.50													116	
1986-OTCH UD		March 08, 1986	Rockland County KC, NY					195.00							33						117	
1986-OTCH UD		March 08, 1986	Rockland County KC, NY							193.50				3	33						118	
1986-OTCH UD		March 09, 1986	Saw Mill River KC, NY					198.50			1					9	6				119	
1986-OTCH UD		March 16, 1986	DOTC of Maryland, MD							195.00											120	
1986-OTCH UD		March 29, 1986	Western Penn KC, PA					193.50							34						121	
1986-OTCH UD		March 29, 1986	Western Penn KC, PA							193.00					34						122	
1986-OTCH UD		April 05, 1986	Vacationland DC of Maine, ME					192.50							35						123	
1986-OTCH UD		April 05, 1986	Vacationland DC of Maine, ME							191.00				4	35						124	
1986-OTCH UD		April 06, 1986	Lewiston Auburn KC, ME					196.50			1				36						125	
1986-OTCH UD		April 06, 1986	Lewiston Auburn KC, ME							196.50					36						126	
1986-OTCH UD		April 12, 1986	South County KC, RI					198.00				2			37						127	
1986-OTCH UD		April 12, 1986	South County KC, RI							191.00				2	37						128	
1986-OTCH UD		April 13, 1986	Rhode Island KC, RI					196.50						2	38						129	
1986-OTCH UD		April 13, 1986	Rhode Island KC, RI							196.00	1				38						130	
1986-OTCH UD		April 24, 1986	Kanadasaga KC, NY					188.00							39						131	
1986-OTCH UD		April 24, 1986	Kanadasaga KC, NY							195.00				3	39						132	
1986-OTCH UD		May 05, 1986	Delaware Water Gap KC, NJ					195.00				2									133	
1986-OTCH UD		May 10, 1986	Chester Valley KC, PA					193.50							40						134	
1986-OTCH UD		May 10, 1986	Chester Valley KC, PA							193.50					40						135	
1986-OTCH UD		May 11, 1986	Windham County KC, CT					197.50			1				41	10	7				136	
1986-OTCH UD		May 11, 1986	Windham County KC, CT							192.00				3	41						137	
1986-OTCH UD		May 17, 1986	Albany OC, NY					194.00						3	42						138	
1986-OTCH UD		May 17, 1986	Albany OC, NY							197.00	1				42						139	
1986-OTCH UD		May 18, 1986	Berks County DTC, PA					195.00				2									140	
1986-OTCH UD		May 24, 1986	Monmouth County KC, NJ					194.50							43						141	
1986-OTCH UD		May 24, 1986	Monmouth County KC, NJ							191.00				3	43						142	
1986-OTCH UD		May 25, 1986	Mid Jersey CDTC, NJ					198.50						3	44						143	
1986-OTCH UD		May 25, 1986	Mid Jersey CDTC, NJ							191.00				4	44						144	

CH	Titles	Date	Trial or Test	Track	NA	NB	OA	OB	UA	UB	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	UDX	HIT	A	N	S	#	M	F	
1986-OTCH UD		May 31, 1986	St. Lawrence Valley DT, NY					196.00			1				45						145		
1986-OTCH UD		May 31, 1986	St. Lawrence Valley DT, NY							196.50		2			45						146		
<b>Class score averages and placement totals:</b>					ERR	196.67	195.63	195.88	188.50	194.67	26	17	31	20	45	10	7	1	2	146			
<b>Qualifying Scores:</b>					152	0	0	6	4	88	3	51											

\*Code\* A = All Breed Trial; N = SBC of America's Trial; S = Saint Bernard Independent Specialty  
# = Number of Qualifying Scores in the Classes of Open and/or Utility

© This Article is Copyrighted by John Cox  
The Saint Bernard National Archives