

After almost two years, it's time to once again try to get something accomplished with the changes needed to the Versatility titles, and we need your help. The posted proposal is the latest revision with changes based on many discussions with exhibitors in all venues, other breed clubs, many ACDCA members and several past ACDCA members.

The first thing you may notice is that Rally is listed as a separate venue. I know this was a major issue with the Board two years ago and it still is an issue with some members now, so I'd like to explain the latest rationale.

The third most common criticism of the ACDCA Versatility titles program as it now stands is that ILP or spayed/neutered ACDs are discriminated against because it is not possible for them to get a CH. Eliminating one of the five categories makes it much more difficult. Adding Rally as a separate category is a logical step. Most everyone agrees that Rally is easier than Obedience, but that it still should be included in the program. Adding Rally with restrictions addresses the "difficulty" issue. Only Rally titles of RA or higher would count. To preserve the "versatile" part of Versatility, Rally and Obedience titles could not be combined to meet QW or VQW requirements.

The rationale of allowing Rally and Obedience to count as separate categories for VQWX and higher is the result of the third most common criticism listed above as well as the second most common, that there isn't much offered by the club for the non-breeder or performance exhibitor. Yes, the ACDCA offers annual high point awards in all categories but these awards are all but impossible to earn with anything less than dogs competing at the top levels of the venues where they can compete for an unlimited period of time and often in more than one class per trial. The lower levels are mainly restricted to three qualifying scores. Allowing Rally (RAE only) to count for VQWX separate from an Obedience title makes the VQWX more attainable, providing a goal to encourage additional participation in the ACDCA for performance exhibitors.

Since I've mentioned the second and third most often heard criticisms, you may be wondering what the number one is. The number one most often heard criticism of the Versatility program (and the one that has specifically been responsible for several "new" members not renewing that I know of personally) is that the dog has to meet the title requirement while the owner/co-owner is an ACDCA member. It has been a rude awakening for new members to finish (another) title on their dogs and find out that they cannot get a Versatility title because the dog already had met the requirements before they joined the ACDCA. The "special circumstances" addition to the proposal is the result.

The other significant change is the requirement for a herding title to achieve a VCh. This preserves the original intent of the Versatility program. We feel that it is important for a dog receiving the prestigious title of Versatility Champion to exhibit ability to do what the breed was intended.

The proposal is being posted so that members have time to read it carefully, ask questions, offer suggestions, comments, criticisms or whatever before asking for a vote at the Annual Meeting. If you will all take a little time now to read it carefully and voice your opinion, we will have a proposal that is the best we can get to represent the wishes of the majority of the interested membership. Please let your voice be heard!

Many thanks,
Paula Mayes
Awards/Performance Chair

Proposed changes to ACDCA standing rules regarding Versatility Titles

8/3/08 revision

Replace existing section with "ACDCA Versatility Titles" section following. Primary points of change are adding Rally (with restrictions), updating responsibilities to coincide with current committees, correct wording on dog eligibility to not conflict with current practice of allowing ILP dogs to participate, inclusion of FAST agility titles, requiring a herding title for VCh, and providing a means for current members to qualify dogs who met requirements for titles while owners were not members.

ACDCA Versatility Titles

- I. The following Australian Cattle Dog Club of America Versatility Titles shall be recognized:
 - Qualified Worker (QW)
 - Versatile Qualified Worker (VQW)
 - Versatile Qualified Worker Excellent (VQWX)
 - Versatility Champion (VCh)
- II. The ACDCA award year shall be from January 1st through December 31st.
- III. To be eligible for an ACDCA Versatility Title, the dog must be recognized by the American Kennel Club as an Australian Cattle Dog and the owner or a co-owner must be a member in good standing of the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America when requirements for a Versatility Title are met.
- IV. Special circumstances: Upon completion of a new qualifying title meeting all requirements, a current member may apply to the Awards/Performance Committee Chair requesting a Versatility Title be awarded to a dog having previously met qualifying title requirements when the owner/co-owner did not meet membership requirements.
- V. The Awards/Performance Committee is responsible for verification of qualifying titles earned (see requirements below) and owner membership requirements prior to compiling a list of all dogs earning QW, VQW, VQWX, and VCh titles during the award year. This list shall be the sole verification for all awards related to ACDCA titles.
- VI. For qualifying titles earned, the *American Kennel Club Awards* publication and/or electronic reports supplied by the American Kennel Club shall be sole verification. It shall be the owner's responsibility to ensure that all errors are corrected and published by the American Kennel Club.
- VII. The Awards/Performance Committee shall provide certificates to dogs meeting title requirements.

ACDCA Versatility Title Requirements

Versatility Titles recognize a dog's versatility as evidenced by completion of AKC titles in different venues. All dogs meeting the requirements and receiving ACDCA Versatility Titles will be recognized at the National Specialty Awards Banquet each year for the prior award year's achievements.

AKC Venues and Titles Qualifying for ACDCA Versatility Titles

1. Conformation (CH)
2. Obedience (CD or higher)
3. Herding (HT or higher)
4. Agility (NA/NAP/NAJ/NJP NF/NFP or higher)
5. Tracking (TD or higher)
6. Rally (RA or higher – may not be used in combination with Obedience for QW or VQW)

Qualified Worker (QW)

Awarded to a dog that earns a combination of two titles from two different venues from the above list. (see Rally restriction above) The QW title will appear after the dog's registered name.

Versatile Qualified Worker (VQW)

Awarded to a dog that earns a combination of three titles from three different venues from the above list. (see Rally restriction above) The VQW title supersedes the QW title and will appear after the dog's registered name.

Versatile Qualified Worker Excellent (VQWX)

Awarded to a dog that earns a combination of four titles from four different venues from the above list. At least one of the titles MUST be CDX, HI, OA, OAP, OAJ, OJP, OF, OFP, TDX, VST or RAE. The VQWX title supersedes the VQW title and will appear after the dog's registered name.

Versatility Champion (VCh)

Awarded to a dog that earns a combination of four titles from four different venues from the above list. One of these titles MUST be an advanced level title of UD, HX, AX, AXJ, AXP, AJP, or CT. In addition, the four qualifying titles must include a herding title. This title supersedes the VQWX and will appear before the dog's registered name.