

## **Coffee: Good to the Last Run**

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This month's guest columnist is Victoria Ford, the owner-handler of the first Miniature Pinscher in the history of the breed to achieve the Master Agility Champion (MACH) title—MACH Windy Acres Coffee AllisGood, CGC.

In 1998, When Coffee was 1 year old, we entered our first agility trial. He was very talented, but we needed more ring experience. Together we learned and grew in this competition. A year later I had thyroid surgery, and a tumor was found to be cancerous. It was an enormously challenging time.

Coffee (pictured below) was there for me throughout, as were as my agility friends. When we went back to competing, Coffee seemed in tune with my health. At one trial, Coffee refused to leave the start line. I was upset, but later when I went to the doctor it was determined that my estrogen level was one-eighth normal. I believe that Coffee knew his mom was ill.

In January 2000, we resumed competing and qualified to go to the AKC Agility Nationals. We were very excited. But four months before the Nationals, I hurt my knee, requiring three months of physical therapy and orders from the doctor to stop agility training. After the physical therapy, we attended the Nationals anyway, and although we didn't do as well as I had hoped, it was an experience and honor.

In July 2002, we entered an agility competition and two double-qualifying runs. At this trial, I was determined not to shoot myself in the foot. On the first day, Coffee was wonderful, with two good runs. On the next day, he decided I was under too much pressure, so when I told him "Chute", he decided to try the end of the barrel where the fabric was attached. That is a Min Pin for you, always adding spice to your life!

That afternoon, we finished 11 seconds under time with a fourth place. Monday was "Q Day" for us. It was the last day at this trial. No pressure, but everyone was pulling for us, hoping I did not mess him up. Coffee's run was wonderful, good and clean, and fast. We had to wait for 20 dogs to go until our next run. When it was our turn, I prayed, then said, "We competed in the top 10 percent at the AKC Nationals. We can do this—ignore everyone watching, do every obstacle, and keep your eye on the dog!"

We started running well. The crowd cheered us. Coffee achieved his MACH title and made his victory lap carrying a garland of red, white, and blue silk flowers. What excitement! —V.F.

Congratulations again to Victoria and Coffee on their accomplishments. Our beloved Min Pins offer more than just a pretty face; they are talented, tenacious little dogs with the potential and ability to achieve great goals.

Please visit the MPCA web site at [www.minpin.org](http://www.minpin.org). —Faith K. Gordon, 15 Elkhart St., Lackawanna, NY 14218; [Maudminpin@aol.com](mailto:Maudminpin@aol.com)