

My First Experience with Fast Cat

By Laurie Diane Brewer

I am a long time member of the Jackson Tennessee Dog Fanciers Association Kennel Club. I joined when they were having their first A match and starting to form as a club. About five years ago several members took an interest in Fast Cat and they began putting on Fast Cat performance events. I was afraid of it. I saw the plastic fencing and all I could think was that my dogs would run right through it. Our club puts on three Fast Cat events a year. The first weekend of May JTDFFA was holding an event and since it was a beautiful weekend I decided that it would be a good weekend to just go and see what it is all about while socializing Gambit. The first day we got there too late. I walked around with Gambit and let him see and sniff everything. So, the next day Jimmy and I got up with the intention of getting there before 11. Once we arrived I grabbed my



Southwind's Life Is A Highway With Mayflower "Gambit" owned by Laurie Diane Brewer, Jimmy C. Brewer and Brittany Buchanan

... when the lady in charge of lining up dogs to run yells, "We need a dog to run! You gotta a dog?" I stammered, "Yes, but I didn't bring him to run. I was just here to socialize with him."

checkbook and sought out our club President because I wanted to pay my club dues. I am talking with him when the lady in charge of lining up dogs to run yells, "We need a dog to run! You gotta a dog?" I stammered, "Yes, but I didn't bring him to run. I was just here to socialize with him." Well, before I could argue much more I found myself standing there with Gambit at the gate. Someone said, "Take his collar off!" I panicked and said, "NO! The collar stays on." Well, he had a name tag dangling on it and there is a rule that nothing can be dangling from the dog. I refused to take his name tag off so someone grabbed some tape and taped it to the collar. Next thing I knew I was riding in a golf cart to the other end of the run leaving Jimmy and Gambit at the gate. I had two leashes on Gambit. Jimmy was holding him with a harness lead. I had a snap-on leash. Jimmy went inside the run and then took the harness lead off of Gambit and got ready to turn him loose. I was standing 100 yards away on the other end clueless. There is a plastic bag on a rope being pulled around the run by a series of pulleys that Gambit chased as I yelled, "Get it! Get it! Get it!" I was not allowed to yell, "Come! Gambit!" His ears perked and his eyes lit up as he ran towards me at an easy lope. I caught him and everyone was cheering. Everyone was so complementary and positive telling me it was

a great first run. I was in shock and a bit overwhelmed. I snapped the leash onto his collar and stepped outside of the run. I was told he cannot pee inside the run area and females in heat are not allowed to compete. I made several green rookie mistakes because I didn't know any better. I basically stepped out of the truck and into the competition and learned by the seat of my pants. Gambit qualified both times. His second run he got distracted by the timer and wanted to check it out so his time was not as good. I realized I had to call out to him to get him back on track. One of the competitors told me that I could get closer and run backwards



GCH CH Buffalo Groves Glitter Mountain, "Glitter" owned by David, Marlene & Karissa Groves & Jade Chase & Caleigh Novak

The American Bloodhound Club Bulletin



GCHB CH Skipton's A Win For Winter CADS DJTKA "Winston" owned by Heather Buehner, Chris Flessner, Jessica Chrisopoulos and Tony Chrisopoulos

as he came to the end of the run. I checked out the stats on bloodhounds and Gambit's run is the slowest of all time. But, that day on a sunny Sunday



Ch Flessner's Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious "Boomer" owned by Heather Buehner, Chris Flessner, Jessica Chrisopoulos and Tony Chrisopoulos



Acadian-Cornerstone Danny KTD BCAT CGC owned by John White

afternoon everyone made us feel like superstars. It was a memorable and fun day.

If you want to learn more about Fast Cat go to www.akc.org and click on the sports and events tab. From there go to Performance Sports and click on Coursing, Cat & Fast Cat, click on it and then go to Fast Cat.

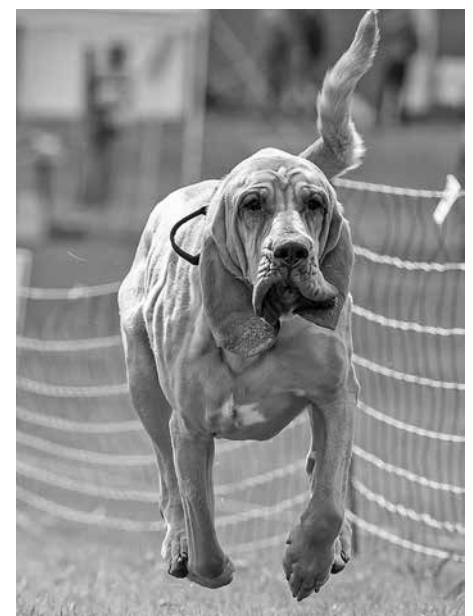


St. Francis In The Heat Of The Night FCAT "Virgil" owned by Karen McLachlan

Any questions you may have including about the rules will be there. You can also find shows near you from the site.

As always when I am learning something new I take a look at what others have been doing. I found the stats interesting. Acadian-Cornerstone Danny KTD BCAT CGC owned by John White was the first bloodhound as well as the only bloodhound to get a BCAT title in 2017. The next time bloodhounds show up in the Top 20 Fastest Dogs by Breed was in 2019 with: St. Francis In The Heat Of The Night FCAT who was one of two dogs that competed and ranked first and was also the first and at this time the only bloodhound to earn the FCAT title. Second place went to a bloodhound named

Crimper BCAT SWN SEA SBA CGCA TKN. In 2020 St. Francis In The Heat Of The Night continued to rank first and the other bloodhound placing in 2020 at second was GCH CH Wychway's Of Quartz She's Worth It RN BCAT. 2021 had eight
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Southwind's Living Life Country Style BCAT "Dooley" owned by Karen McLachlan and Brittany Buchanan



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"Glory" GCH CH Sleepy Hollows Scent of Glory TDX MTI RA CA owned by Karen Leshkivich

competitors. St. Frances In The Heat of the Night dropped to 3rd place. First place in 2021 went to CH Flessner's Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious FDC CA DN TKI. Second place went to GCHB CH Skipton's A Win For Winter CA DS DJ TKA. Fourth place went to Wychway's Teal Me About It BCAT. Fifth place went to GCH CH Wychway's Of Quartz She's Worth It RN BCAT. Sixth place went to GCH CH Wychway's Searching For Jellystone MTI CGCA CGCU TKI. Seventh place went to Wychway's Ferrous Of Them All BCAT ATT. Eighth place went to Peggy's Sweet Abigail Rose RN. Four of the competitors earned titles. Presently as I write this in 2022 first place and the fastest run of all time is being held by King

Douglas running at 22.98 MPH and second place with a new BCAT title is Southwind's Living Life Country Style BCAT.

As you can see, being the fastest does not require earning a title in the event so a competitor could compete for the fastest run and or titles. I enjoyed the day out with my husband and my dog. It was a very relaxed setting and I am fairly certain Gambit had a good time. I plan to do this with our club every time they hold an event in the future. Several joked with Jimmy that they were fairly certain that I am hooked. They are probably right.



"Dreamer" GCH CH Sleepy Hollows Olympic Dreams TDX MTX RAE BN CA owned by Karen Leshkivich