

Finn (Finn of Roan Inish, UD JH VDEM HRD and area search dog)



Finn came into my life when I thought I didn't need him and now I don't know what I will do without him. I still had Ben, but my team mate knew that he wouldn't make it all the way back and sent Finn to me when he was 9 weeks old. He has taken me places I never imagined. Multiple cadaver searches, untold wilderness searches, to New Orleans after Katrina for body recovery. The first to pass the VDEM cadaver standards. Whatever I ask of him, he does it. He's earned the highest AKC obedience title, Utility Dog (UD). He picked up his first duck when he was 6 years old (he thought for sure it was a trick and it took 15 tosses of a wing clipped pigeon before he realized that even though he wasn't allowed to chase critters, picking up birds was ok). He got his AKC Junior Hunter title and North American Hunting Retriever Association Started Retriever title easily.

He easily passed his wilderness certification, however, his handler was another story. That's the story of his career, he is stuck with me at the other end of the leash. But, he's allowed me to tag along and has made me look good. The one memory that I will always keep of him was from his work in the 9th Ward of New Orleans after Katrina. He's on a rubble pile, walks out to the end of a 2X12 that was sticking out of the pile about 30' in the air like a diving board. He goes to the end, the board swaying with his weight, and checks for scent as easily as if he were standing on flat ground. Then effortlessly turns around and saunters back to the pile and gracefully navigates his way down to the ground.

In his free time he likes to sleep on my bed and chew on Cora's ears, if she'll let him.