

National Obedience Invitational
December 2012

On December 15th and 16th Pepsi and I were invited to compete in the AKC National Obedience Invitational, (NOI) held in Orlando, Florida. This event is strictly for the top obedience dogs in the country and by invitation only. Pepsi was not only invited but ranked #4 Labrador retriever in the county!

My goal was to just have fun and enjoy this wonderful journey and path she set us on. I wanted to enjoy spending this quality time with her & this new experience we were about to share. After all, these would someday become memories to treasure a lifetime.

Never before had we attended a prestigious event such as this, nor experienced the challenges, stress and pressures that an event of this magnitude had to offer. We trained and prepared both mentally and physically for several months leading up to the event. We were ready.

Much to my surprise, when we arrived in Orlando, the walk from the hotel to the Convention Center & then to the obedience area was over a mile walk each way. We then had to be at our best & were required to compete in each of the 8 rings; a total of 20 exercises per day. Over the course of 2 days we completed 40 exercises in total, competing against over 130 of the top dogs from all over the country. Sometimes we had to run from ring to ring without even getting a chance to barely catch our breath.

Pepsi proved we had been ready and prepared. She was up, happy and full of energy. As always, Pepsi did everything I asked of her and more. We finished in the top 25%; the goal I had set for us. More importantly, we had a blast.

On our last time in the ring, I savored each moment & each step we took together. I already knew she had done an amazing job and had given me more than I could have asked for. I wanted to be sure she knew it. Once we stepped out of the ring, I took her somewhere private to tell her how proud I was of her, how awesome she was, and how lucky I was to her in my life. All the while she licked the tears of joy from my face.

Thank you Pepsi for taking me places I have only dreamed to go. I look forward to the next adventure and path you set us on.

Karen

P.S. A special thank you to Sue for my amazing and special girl.

Below are just 2 videos from the event, Enjoy!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwR3CVo25KM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsOMmkPVLsA>