

day she runs, another at Dog Beach, a play day with a friend throwing the ball in the yard, with one or two days off. Sweet Pea knows herself when she needs to stop and rest. She needs to keep her good leg strong by working it.

Sweet Pea has begun a fairly new dog sport: nose work. This is much like the search dogs who find drugs and bombs, but here the dogs seek out the odors of birch, anise, and clove. It is the perfect sport for a dog with three legs, and she loves it. This is one area where she can compete with all the four-legged canines.

Karen has to challenge Sweet Pea's brain as well as her body. She works her with rally signs and obedience commands. As Sweet Pea becomes more comfortable with strangers and has more control of her fears, Karen plans to see if she could become a therapy dog in the future.

From death row to a happy, giving Chesapeake, Sweet Pea has found a forever home with Karen Anderson.

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## Curly-Coated Retrievers

For out column this month, Marian Morris continues sharing barn hunt information.

### Barn Hunt Fun PART TWO

The most basic class in barn hunt is the Instinct Test, which is a one-time pass/fail run. It only requires that the dog identify the tube with the rat from three visible tubes in a row on the ground within one minute.

In the Novice class, the dog has two minutes to find one live rat tube, and the dog must also perform one climb and a trip through the tunnel. On the course are also a tube filled with litter and a clean tube.

The Open class involves two rats

to find, and there are two litter tubes and one clean tube on the course, with a time limit of two and a half minutes.

Things continue to get harder with the Senior class as, though the time limit is increased to three and a half minutes, there are four rats to find on a course that includes three litter tubes and one clean tube.

In the Master class there will be a total of 10 tubes, and from one to five of these may contain rats; the others will contain litter. The number of rats will change randomly for each dog, and the time limit is four and a half minutes. Also, in this class the handler must tell the judge when he thinks all the rats have been found, which makes it very difficult.

Three passing runs are required for Novice through Senior titles, with the Master title needing five passing runs.

The rats are in very secure tubes and are never harmed or mistreated in any way. Most of them are, in fact, well-loved family pets owned by barn-hunt participants.

The barn hunt sport is owned and regulated by the Barn Hunt Association and was started by Robin Nuttall. It sets down and enforces all the rules, certifies the judges, awards titles, and sanctions barn hunt activities. The BHA maintains a very good website that has listings of all the rules, judges, upcoming events, and awarded titles and breed statistics. In order to obtain a registration number for taking part in the tests, one must contact the BHA. Information can be found at [barnhunt.com](http://barnhunt.com).

Although barn hunt is independent of the AKC and UKC, both of these organizations will recognize barn hunt titles and include them in the dog's pedigree.

My two Curly gals and I have been competing in barn hunt for nine months. We have a Master title and an Open title—but most

importantly, we are having a blast! —M.M.

Thank you, Marian, for a most interesting and informative column.

I can also attest to the fact that it is indeed fun, and just recently, here in Florida my two Curly-Coated Retrievers took part in a barn hunt match. As Marian said, it was a blast.

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## Flat-Coated Retrievers

### Re-homing the Adult Flat-Coat

The Flat-Coat is a friendly but very loyal dog. All dogs are creatures of habit, and every change of home causes the dog to feel more anxious and insecure, therefore changes should be accomplished with careful thought and planning. Be sure that the dog going to a new owner is an appropriate choice for the new home.

It is very helpful to have preliminary visits and work sessions between the dog and the prospective owner or family, including any pets, but the preliminary visits should not include any separations from the former owner or foster family. Once the dog changes home, there should be no visits with the former owner, as these only upset and confuse the dog.

The Flat-Coat adjusts more easily if the change is done early in the day, since all dogs feel more insecure at night. Everything should be ready for the new dog in the home—food and water dishes, familiar food, a crate of size and type the dog is used to, and appropriate toys. The former owner or foster family should send to the new home a piece of bedding and/or toys with familiar scents to be kept with the dog for at least two weeks.

If the dog is being picked up by the new owner, there should be a