

## **PWDCA Register Of Merit Program**

The PWDCA Register of Merit program is an acknowledgment of outstanding working ability and versatility in the Portuguese Water Dog. It consists of four levels: the first level is the Bronze Register of Merit (BROM); the second level is the Silver Register of Merit (SRM); the third level is the Gold Register of Merit (GROM); the fourth level is the Platinum Register of Merit (PROM).

### **Award Requirements**

**BROM:** To be eligible for the Bronze Register of Merit, a dog must have four titles from at least three different areas of competition.

**SRM:** The Silver Register of Merit expands on the degree with which the working dog must perform. To be eligible for the Silver Register of Merit, a dog must have five titles from at least three different areas of competition. One of these must be either a PWDCA water title or an award.

**GROM:** The Gold Register of Merit expands on the degree with which the working dog must perform, as well as allows honors to be recognized for an outstanding single accomplishment(s). To be eligible for the Gold Register of Merit, a dog must have earned at least six titles/awards from at least three different areas of competition. Two of the dog's titles must be PWDCA titles (e.g., AWD and WWD). The dog must have earned an award, or have earned a title from a fourth area of competition. A minimum of two advanced titles are required (the WWD counts as one of these). Finally, there must be either an additional advanced title, an award, or an advanced PWDCA water title.

**PROM:** The Platinum Register of Merit recognizes the truly versatile dog. To be eligible for the Platinum Register of Merit, a dog must have earned at least ten titles/awards from five different areas of competition: four of which must be PWDCA water titles (e.g., CWDX), and two of which must be

awards.

## Definitions

**PWDCA Titles:** AWD, WWD, CWD, CWDX.

**Awards– AKC & PWDCA:** no substitutions

- A. #1 PWDCA Obedience Dog (either Novice, Open, Utility, Overall, or Top Average)
- B. #1 PWDCA Conformation Dog in breed points
- C. #1 PWDCA Conformation Dog in group points
- D. #1 AKC Agility PWD
- E. AKC National Agility Champion (NAC)
- F. AKC National Obedience Champion (NOC)
- G. \*\*AKC All-breed Best in Show
- H. \*\*AKC All-breed Obedience High in Trial
- I. \*\*AKC All-breed Obedience High Combined (utility/open classes)
- J. PWDCA National Specialty Best of Breed
- K. PWDCA National Specialty Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed
- L. \*PWDCA National Specialty Award of Merit OR Select Dog/Bitch
- M. PWDCA National Specialty High in Trial (obedience)
- N. PWDCA National Specialty Obedience High Combined (utility/open classes)
- O. PWDCA National Specialty Agility High in Trial
- P. PWDCA National Specialty SuperDog winner

\*Only one of these awards will count for a given year.

For A, B, C, and D awards are calculated on a calendar year basis. In addition, a lower level ROM award does not count as an award towards a higher level ROM award. **NOTE:** Each type of award (A-P) may be applied only once when accumulating these awards for the ROM program.

**Titles– Areas of Competition & Accepted Organizations**

- A. Agility titles - AKC, CKC
- B. Conformation titles – AKC, CKC
- C. Obedience titles- AKC, CKC
- D. Tracking titles – AKC, CKC
- E. Water titles – PWDCA, PWDCC

**Novice Titles:**

- A. Agility (NA, NAP, NAJ, NJP, NF, NFP)
- B. Conformation (CH)
- C. Obedience (CD, GN)
- D. Tracking (TD)
- E. Water Titles (AWD)

**Advanced Titles:**

- A. Agility - OA, OAJ, OAP, OJP, OF, OFP, AX, AXP, AXJ, AJP, XF, XFP, MX, MXP, MXJ, MJP, MXF, MFP, FTC1, FTCP1, TQX, TQXP, MACH, PAX
- B. Conformation - GCH
- C. Obedience - CDX, UD, UDX, OTCH, GO, VER,
- D. Tracking - TDX, VST
- E. Water Titles - WWD, CWD, CWDX

**Equivalent -Titles**

Except for water titles, titles qualifying towards a ROM award are American Kennel Club (AKC) and Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) Equivalent titles awarded by those registries will both count towards the ROM award (e.g., an AKC CD and a CKC CD are considered two titles, although from one area of competition).

PWDCC water titles earned under equivalent rules and judging criteria are considered equivalent to PWDCA water titles. Titles from either PWDCA or PWDCC may be used- not both for the same level of competition.

**Non-Eligible Titles and Awards-** Rally titles flyball, free-style, CGC (Canine Good Citizen), therapy dog, PWDCA Producer of Merit awards, temperament test certifications and any other title or award not specifically list in the Title or Awards sections above do NOT count towards ROM awards.

**Accepted Registries for Titles:** American Kennel Club (AKC) and Canadian Kennel Club (CKC).

**Accepted Registries for Awards:** American Kennel Club (AKC) and PWDCA awards will be accepted towards a ROM award. Only those awards listed above will be recognized (A-P).

## General Requirements

1. Dogs applying to receive any level ROM award must have all current health data / test results on record in the on-line PWDCA Health and Litter Database. If the dog has not been health tested in one or more areas, not tested must be noted for those health test.
2. It is the sole responsibility of the ROM award recipient to provide to the Awards Committee all information necessary to verify a ROM award (i.e., photocopies of all title certificates pertaining to the ROM award).
3. ROM awards may not be used in advertising until the ROM award recipient has been notified in writing by the Awards Committee that its dog has met the requirements for the ROM award. (A ROM award cannot be advertised as "pending notification.")
4. All required information must be submitted to the Awards Committee by the published date due for that year, usually 45 days prior to a National Specialty, in order to receive the ROM award at that year's Specialty. It is the responsibility of the ROM award recipient to ensure that there is adequate time for the committee to verify all information; otherwise, a ROM award may be postponed until the following National Specialty.

5. In the event that a National Specialty is not held during a calendar year, then the Awards Committee will mail the ROM award to the recipient. Any recipient not attending the Awards Banquet will have their ROM award mailed to them within 30 days after the banquet.

6. Dogs must be owned or co-owned by a PWDCA member in good standing at the time that it earns the final title that qualifies dog for a ROM award.

## Award Procedure

1. The ROM applicant completes Awards Application Form and emails (preferred) or mails to the designated Awards Committee Member ("ACM") along with photocopies of all relevant title certificates. Include an email address for communications from the Awards Committee related to the application.

2. The ACM verifies applicant's PWDCA membership, dog's current health data on record in the PWDCA Health and Litter Database, and the application documentation. The applicant will be notified if additional information is required or if there is a problem with the application. The ROM award designation may be used in advertising upon recipient's receipt of written confirmation of the ROM award from the ACM.

3. A high resolution photo of the dog or dog/handler team must be included with the application for use in the awards banquet program. Photos may be scanned and emailed (preferred) or mailed. Original photos will be returned.

4. In the event that a dog who has received a ROM award is later stripped of a title (by the awarding registry), or it is discovered that incorrect or falsified documentation was provided to the Awards Committee, the Awards Committee and/or PWDCA Board of Directors retains the right to revoke a ROM award. Any dog/recipient that has a ROM award revoked shall be listed in two future PWDCA club publications.

Send all applications to:

Leslie Arner, Awards Committee

[Leslie.arnier@gmail.com](mailto:Leslie.arnier@gmail.com)

28373 Alamar Rd, Valley Center CA 92082

Questions? Contact Leslie Arner (760)749-7904

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Amended as to General Requirements #2 by PWDCA BOD 1/2011

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