

PWDCA Register of Merit Program

The PWDCA Register of Merit (ROM) 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 (SROM); the third level is the Gold Register of Merit (GROM); the fourth level is the Platinum Register of Merit (PROM).

Eligibility for Award

BROM: To be eligible for the Bronze Register of Merit, a dog must have four titles from at least three different areas of competition. Awards are not eligible at the Bronze level.

SROM: The Silver Register of Merit expands upon the degree to 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. The Junior Water Title is not eligible as the water title.

GROM: The Gold Register of Merit expands upon the degree to which the working dog must perform, as well as allows honors to be recognized for an outstanding single or multiple 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.

The required six titles must meet the following criteria:

1. Two of the dog's titles must be PWDCA titles (e.g., AWD and WWD or any combination of water titles except the JWD).
2. The dog must have earned an award, OR have earned a title from a fourth area of competition.
3. A minimum of two advanced titles are required (the WWD counts as one of these).
4. There must be either one additional advanced title, an award, or an additional 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., AWD, WWD, WWDX, CWD or AWD, WWD, CWD, CWDX), and two of which must be awards.

Areas of Competition and Acceptable Titles

PWDCA Titles: AWD, WWD, WWDX, CWD, CWDX, MWD (note: JWD is not an eligible title)

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 (All-Breed) points
- D. #1 AKC Agility PWD
- E. AKC National Agility Champion (NAC)
- F. AKC Preferred National Agility Champion (PNAC)
- G. AKC Agility Invitational Breed Medallion winner
- H. AKC National Obedience Champion (NOC)
- I. AKC All-Breed Best in Show
- J. AKC All-Breed Obedience High in Trial
- K. AKC All-Breed Obedience High Combined (utility/open classes)
- L. PWDCA National Specialty Best of Breed
- M. PWDCA National Specialty Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed
- N. *PWDCA National Specialty Award of Merit OR Select Dog/Bitch
- O. PWDCA National Specialty Obedience High in Trial
- P. PWDCA National Specialty Obedience High Combined (utility/open classes)
- Q. PWDCA National Specialty Agility High in Trial
- R. PWDCA National Specialty Superdog winner

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

NOTES:

1. For A, B, C, and D awards are calculated on a calendar year basis.
2. Each type of award (A-R) may be applied only once when accumulating these awards for the ROM program.
3. ROM awards do not qualify as awards for the ROM program.

Titles- Areas of Competition & Accepted Organizations

- A. Agility titles - AKC, CKC
- B. Conformation titles - AKC, CKC
- C. Obedience / Rally titles - AKC, CKC

D. Scent titles: Tracking - AKC, CKC; Scent Work Combined Titles – AKC only; SAR – AKC only

E. Water titles - PWDCA, PWDCC

Novice Titles:

A. Agility - NA, NAP, NAJ, NJP, NF, NFP

B. Conformation – CH

C. Obedience / Rally - CD, GN, RM

D. Scent – TD, TDU, SWN, SWNE, SAR-U2, SAR-W

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, T2B, T2BP, PAX, MACH, PACH

B. Conformation – GCH

C. Obedience / Rally – CDX, UD, UDX, OTCH, GO, VER, OM, OGM, RACH, CKC RCH

D. Scent – TDX, VST, SWA, SWAE, SWE, SWEE, SWM, SWME, SAR-U1

E. Water Titles – WWD, WWDX, CWD, CWDX, MWD

Equivalent Titles

Except for water titles and scent work (not including tracking), 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, but the same level of competition cannot be used from both organizations.

Non-Eligible Titles and Awards: Rally (RN, RI, RA, RE, RAE), lure coursing, herding, flyball, CGC (Canine Good Citizen), ATT (AKC Temperament Test), FDC (Farm Dog Certification), Trick Dog, Fetch, Therapy Dog, CKC Scent Detection, PWDCA Producer of Merit awards, freestyle, other temperament tests, and any other title or award not specifically listed in the Title or Awards sections above do NOT count towards ROM awards.

Accepted Registries for Titles: PWDCA, PWDCC, American Kennel Club (AKC) and Canadian Kennel Club (CKC- except CKC Scent and SAR).

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-R above).

General Requirements (*PLEASE READ CAREFULLY*)

1. Applicants **MUST** be current members of the PWDCA.
2. Dogs must be owned or co-owned by a PWDCA member in good standing at the time of application for a ROM award.
3. 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. The dog's health record must be updated for the year in which you are applying for an award or certified that no changes or updates are needed. To do this, log into the HLD; click on "My Dogs" (upper left of PWDCA HLD front page) to produce the table of all of your dogs; then click on the dog's name to show the dog's data; then look to the far right of the page where you will see two buttons ("Submit update for this dog" and "Confirm Data is Current"). If you need to update the dog's health data, use the "Submit" button to do so. If no changes are needed, click the "Confirm" button. When you click the "Confirm" button, you will get a message that states, "All information confirmed complete as of [month] [date], [year]" and you are all set and can Logoff.
4. It is the sole responsibility of the ROM award recipient to provide to the ROM Administrator all information necessary to verify a ROM award following the steps listed here and on the ROM Application.
5. Applications for multiple ROM levels may be submitted in a single year. Applicants applying for an advance ROM who have not received the lower levels in prior years (i.e., applying for the SROM before receiving the BROM in a prior year, etc.), should fill out the forms for the prior award(s) in addition to the highest award applied for.
6. All required information (ROM form and photo of dog) must be submitted to the ROM Administrator by the published due date for that year, usually 45 days prior to a National Specialty, 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 ROM Administrator to verify all information; otherwise, a ROM award may be postponed until the following National Specialty. Any recipient not attending the

Awards Banquet will have their ROM award mailed to them within 30 days after the banquet.

7. When filling out the ROM award form, list ONLY the titles applicable to the ROM level for which you are applying. Do not list titles that are not acceptable for ROM awards (i.e., no CGC, tricks, therapy, etc. titles). List only the owners that you want printed on the certificate. If you are a breeder and submitting forms for one of your owners, list ONLY the actual owners of the dog and the address to which you wish the certificates and medallions sent (if not attending the National).
8. 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.
9. ROM awards may not be used in advertising until the ROM award recipient has been notified in writing by the Awards Committee that their dog has met the requirements for the ROM award. (A ROM award cannot be advertised as "pending notification.")
10. 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.

Awards Procedure

1. The ROM applicant goes to the club website (<https://www.pwdca.org>), clicks on the dropdown menu item of Activities & Events => Awards Program. Then the applicant scrolls down the page to the Register of Merit – ROM link where the instructions and application form are found.
2. The ROM applicant then downloads the [Awards Application Form](#) to their computer and opens it in a PDF reader program. The applicant then complete the Awards Application Form and emails or prints and mails it to the ROM Administrator, along with all relevant supporting documents and a high resolution photo of the dog or dog/handler team. Include an email address for communications with the ROM Administrator related to the application. **Incomplete applications will be returned.**
3. Before submitting the application, the ROM applicant should go to the [Health & Litter Database login](#). After logging in, the applicant will see a “My Dogs” link on the upper left of the landing page. Click on that link to produce a table with the listing of

all of the applicant's dogs. Click on the name of the dog for which the applicant is making a ROM application. When the dog's page loads, look to the right where there are two buttons: "Submit update for this dog" and "Confirm Data is Current". If the applicant needs to add health data, click the "Submit" button and add the data as instructed. If no changes are needed, click the "Confirm" button and a message will appear that says, "All Information Confirmed Complete as of [month] [day], [year]". The applicant can then logoff (upper right corner of the dog's page).

4. Submit the application with all necessary **title/award documentation**. For proof of titles, sign into the Members Only section of PWDCA.org and scroll down to Titles and Awards to access the titles databases. For any qualifying title that is listed in the AKC or PWDCA water title databases, no additional documentation is required. For each title used for the ROM award, check the box in the application to indicate whether the title is listed in the PWDCA.org title databases. The *Dog's Full Registered Name* should list ONLY the titles that are acceptable for the ROM program (no extraneous titles like CGC, TKN, JWD, etc.).
5. For awards or titles not listed on the PWDCA website, you must provide supporting documentation for the title or award. The free AKC report is accepted for all AKC title documentation, or you may submit copies of the **highest** level title certificate from each venue of competition. Canadian (CKC) title certificates **MUST** be scanned and sent in the application email or must be copied and mailed as hardcopy with the printed application form.
6. 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 (at 300 dpi or above) and emailed (preferred) or mailed. Original photos will be returned.
7. It is preferable that all supporting documents, application, and photo be sent to the ROM Administrator in one email, with the applicant's dog's call name listed in the subject of the email (e.g., Fido BROM), or all together in a single envelope if submitting by mail. If it is not possible to send all documentation in one email, please contact the ROM Administrator.
8. The ROM Administrator verifies the applicant's PWDCA membership, dog's current health data on record in the PWD 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 ROM Administrator.

9. If the applicant is a breeder applying for a person who owns one of the breeder's puppies, please include ONLY the names (under *List of all registered owners of the dog*) that the applicant (or owner(s)) want printed on the certificate and list only the address to which the certificate and medallions should be mailed to if not attending the National.
10. If sending the application through the postal service or other carrier, do not send via certified mail or "signature required."

Send all applications to:

Kari Lavalli via email to karilavalli@gmail.com

or mail to:

Kari Lavalli, 4 Pleasant Street, Blackstone, MA 01504

Questions? Contact Kari Lavalli at karilavalli@gmail.com or call 508-928-1310 or 774-287-7550.

Final approved by PWDCA BOD 12/2010

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

Revised 6/13/2012

Revised 5/9/2013 by PWDCA BOD

Revised 4/25/2017 to change administrator contact information, add TDU to list of Novice titles, and correct typographic error in Awards note on page 2.

Revised 1/16/2019 to include MWD title

Revised 1/16/2020 to change administrator contact information, and correct information on how to update health information in HL&L

Revised 10/25/2020 by PWDCA BOD

Revised 1/1/2021 to reflect approved Board changes on titles accepted and to correct information on how to access award information due to new club website changes

Revised 11/16/2025 to reflect Board-approved changes on titles accepted, to improve wording on what information is needed on the application (both dog's name and owners), and to correct information on how to update health information in the new HLD.