

Teaching Surf Instructors to Teach



National Surf Schools and Instructors Association Instructors and Coaches Training Manual



History of Dog Surfing

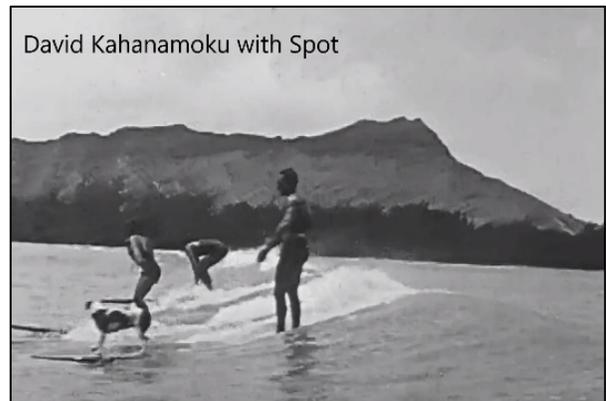
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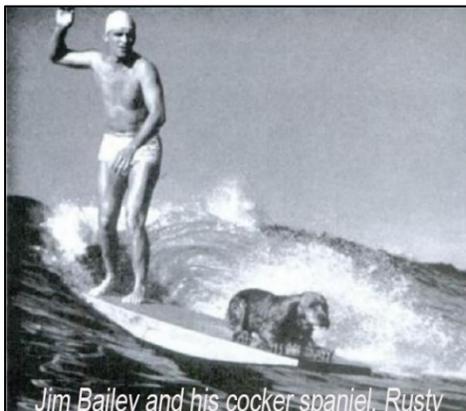
Historically, surfing dogs have been documented as early as the 1920s in the United States, particularly in California and Hawaii. Currently competitions and exhibitions that feature surfing dogs have occurred in various coastal areas of the United States, such as Del Mar, California, Imperial Beach, California, Jupiter, Florida and Hawaii.

In the 1920s, a silent film titled *Surfing at Waikiki Beach, Hawaii: Sons of the Surf* depicts David Kahanamoku with his dog Spot on a wooden plank, a public domain film from the *US National Archives*.



And, in the 1930s, a silent film titled *On The Waves in Waikiki* depicts Phillip K. Auna and Night Hawk, his terrier, surfing together on a wooden surfboard in Hawaii. The terrier was able to perform the hang ten surfing maneuver on the surfboard.

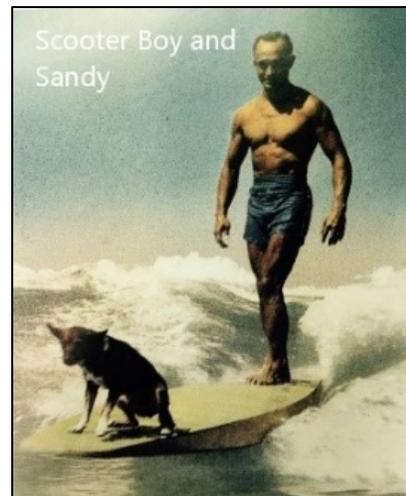
This is truly a time-honored surf world novelty, when the surfing dog owner trains his pet to ride waves, usually on the nose of the board with the owner standing behind, sometimes seen riding



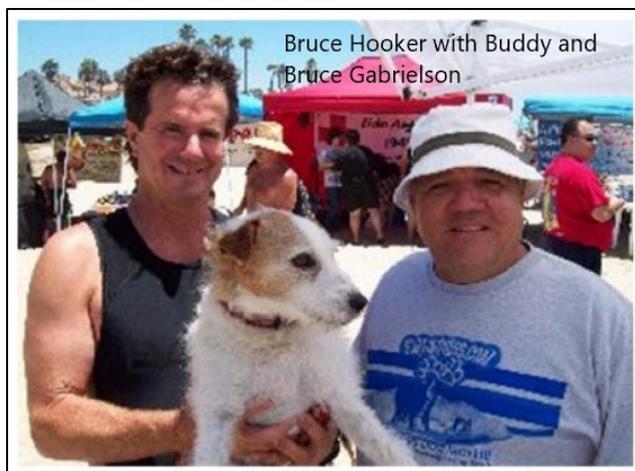
solo. In 1944, a full-page image of a “World-champion dog surfer, named “Rusty” was published in *National Geographic* magazine.

Over the decades the surf media has featured bodysurfing dogs, dogs on bodyboards, including a Labrador from Honolulu named Kam who surfed in a semi-prone position while drinking beer from a bottle. Threats were occasionally made to alert the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, but surf-dog owners countered by claiming the animals enjoyed riding. “Every time

I pick up my board,” one surfer said, “he’s running back and forth across the yard, jumping up and down, he can’t wait”, a common sight today. In the 1950s, UPI published a photograph of beachboy Joseph "Scooter Boy" Kaopuiki and his dog Sandy, a “poi dog” mutt from Waikiki surfing in Hawaii, which was published in newspapers throughout the United States. Sandy was a stray dog in the 50s, the locals taught him to surf. He loved the beach life, and was really fond of surfing. Sandy eventually became a local celebrity. During this time, they were featured in the television show *You Asked For It!* as well as in California surf moviemaker Bud Browne’s early films. As Grady Timmons wrote in his 1989 book *Waikiki Beachboys*, Sandy “could go anywhere in Hawaii, scatch on any door and get a place to sleep, go into any restaurant and be served.” and “was known as "the dog-gonest surfer you have ever seen”. When Sandy died in 1958, the Waikiki beachboys bore his ashes to sea in a flotilla of canoes – *Encyclopedia of Surfing*



Max, a terrier mix belonging to Dave Chalmers, both from San Diego, California, first appeared in *Surfer* magazine in 1977. Three years earlier, Chalmers trained his pet by taping dog biscuits to the nose of his longboard. Max surfed dozens of breaks between Santa Barbara and the southern tip of Baja California, Mexico; He appeared in surf movies, was featured in several forms of media in the late 1970s through the 1980s, and including a television appearance on the show *Amazing Animals*. *Surfer* magazine published “Max’s Last Ride,” a two-page article about the 15- year old dog’s final surf session, in 1989. “It was a beautiful sight,” the magazine reported. “Chalmers and Max gliding along for 60 yards, in perfect trim, with Max rocking back and forth on the nose. - *Encyclopedia of Surfing*



Bruce Hooker and his dog Buddy from Ventura, California have been surfing together winning numerous tournaments, including the first four Surf Dog Surf-A-Thons, and became the Fido face of dog surfing thanks to appearances on *Animal Planet*, *Pet Star*, *ESPN*, *CNN*, *NBC* and the *CBS Morning Show*. In, 2011, the 14-year-old Jack Russell terrier became the first inductee into Surf Dog Hall of Fame as part

of the Helen Woodward Animal Center's Surf Dog Surf A Thon.

In the past few years 8-year-old Abbie and her owner Michael Uy has won dozens of medals in dog surfing competitions and even achieved being recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest ride by a dog on a surf board. She rode a wave for 65 yards on September 25, 2011, at the Surf City Surf Dog competition in Huntington Beach, California, to set the record. Abbie recently was the first dog of three to be inducted into the Huntington Beach Surfing Walk of Fame. She is now the longest competing and most awarded surf dog.



Surf Dog Ricochet is a female Golden Retriever dog from San Diego. She is one of the original competing surfing dogs that started the dog surfing contest circuit. She entered her first surf dog competition when she was 15 months old. She was a competitive surfing dog for several years that typically placed in the competitions.

Ricochet is also the canine ambassador for surfers with disabilities and referred to as a SURFice dog, because she surfs with kids with special needs, people with disabilities, wounded warriors, and veterans with PTSD as an assistive aid.



Ricochet was raised and trained by Judy Fridono as part of Fridono's non-profit 501(c)3 organization, Puppy Prodigies Neo-Natal & Early Learning Program. This organization trains dogs to be service dogs for people with disabilities.

Dog surfing, in the early days, whenever it was performed, was treated as a demonstration sport, usually as a sidelight to a main surfing competition. It entertained the non-surfing crowd and helped draw attention to the main event.

It wasn't until 2006 that surfers began to organize dog surfing competitions in California. Annual Dog surfing contests have become more popular these days, most raising funds for local animal rescues and shelters and other non-profits. Two Southern California competitions have been running since 2006. In the later part of 2013 and on, there was a surge in dog surfing competitions worldwide, and their popularity increased.

The following is a list of the surf contests, past and present, that have been held, or are currently still being held, around the world.

- **Helen Woodward Animal Center's Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon, Del Mar Dog Beach, California.** One of the most popular contests is The Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon which takes place every September, at Del Mar's Dog



Beach, located in San Diego County, California. The event promotes the dog-human bond while raising awareness and vital funding for orphan pets and community programs at Helen Woodward Animal Center, since 2006

- **Loews Coronado Resort’s “Ruff Riders” Surf Dog Small Wave Challenge.** Contests in Imperial Beach California have been held each year since 2006. Unleashed by Petco Surf Dog Competition 2014, Imperial Beach Surf Dog Competition, since 2016. The Loews Coronado Bay Resort surf dog competition was an annual event held yearly since 2006. In 2014, the name of the event was changed to Unleashed by Petco Surf Dog Competition. In 2016, ownership and the name changed to Imperial Beach Surf Dog Competition.



- **Surf City Surf Dog, Huntington Beach Dog Beach, California.** This is a world-famous premier event on the dog surfing circuit and has been held annually in late September in Surf City USA since 2009. The event brings together the community, surfers, dog lovers, families and pets for a day of fun and fund raising at one of Southern California’s most popular dog beaches, Huntington Dog Beach.



- **Surfin Paws Dog Jam, Huntington Dog Beach, California, 2009.**



- **Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge, Huntington Beach, California.** This is an invitational contest that has been held since 2009.



- **Maboroyal KJ Cup Dog Surfing Contest, Shonan Tsujido Beach, Kanagawa, Japan, since 2010.**



- **Noosa Festival of Surfing, Australia - The Noosa Surfing Dog Championship.** This contest is held at Noosa Dog Beach, in Queensland, Australia and is officially called the Vet Shop Australia Surfing Dog Championship. It has been held annually since 2012.



- **Ohana Surf & Skate, Galveston, Texas.** The Ohana Surf & Skate Dog Competition helps raise money for the national Humane Society, but it has also helped raise awareness for the Galveston Island Humane Society’s dogs, since 2013.



- **Florida International Dog Surfing Championships, Cocoa Beach, Florida.** This is called the Ultimate Pawsporting Event - Dog Pro Cash



Money, and includes a sudden death surf off, professional dog surfing, Dock Diving, Frisbee jumping, American Idogs auditions, and adoptions, since 2013. This event is presented by the The East Coast Dog Surfing Association at Lori Wilson Park in Cocoa Beach, Florida every November.

- **Cerritos Dog Surf Competition, La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico.** The annual dog surf competition at Cerritos Beach has raised proceeds for local dog rescues since 2014.



- **Easter Pro Am East Coast Dog Surfing Championships, Cocoa Beach, Florida.** This event has been raising money for local charitable organizations since 2014. Come spend the day on the beach, bring your dog, and show your support for this 2-day grassroots event.



- **Duke's Oceanfest - Going To The Dogs SurFur ComPETition, Honolulu, HI.** Hang four at the Going to the Dogs surFUR competition at Kūhiō Beach in Waikīkī. This is where Dogs, cats, ducks and more can get their toes on the nose as part of the larger Duke's Oceanfest event. Participating dogs receive goodie bags and are awarded a variety of prizes, which may include trophies, medals and gift cards. Duke's OceanFest is a non-profit, week-long water sports festival sponsored by Hawaii tourism every August since 2015.



- **Hang 20 Surf Dog Classic, Jupiter, Florida.** This event is become much more than a surf dog contest, it's become the most anticipated community event of the year. This is a fun day in the sun, benefiting the Furry Friends Adoption, Clinic & Ranch supporting its mission of saving the lives of homeless dogs and cats in the community since 2015.



- **Paws on the Beach, Saunton Sands Beach, North Devon, United Kingdom.** This event is organized by Dogs Helping Kids and is their main annual fundraising event. Paws on the Beach raises money to help train new dogs into Certified School Therapy Dogs that work in schools to help reach kids and have a positive influence and has done so since 2016.



- **World Dog Surfing Championships, Pacifica, California.** This event known officially as the Norcal Dog Surfing Event & World Championships. It is the only annual dog surfing contest in Northern California and was founded in 2016. It is organized by TasteTV which is where the concept for the sport originated.



- **Pups & Sups St. Augustine, Florida.** This event supports a worthy non-profit charity, K9s For Warriors, raising money to support this important charity that obtains, trains and provides service dogs for our Veterans in need doing so since 2018.



- **SUP for Pups Intracoastal Challenge.** This is a competitive 5K event that takes place at Pioneer Park in Deerfield Beach, Florida. The purpose of this challenge is to raise money for injured rescue dogs and marine life. The charity pledges that 100% of all profits from the challenge, which began in 2019, will be used for this purpose.



Most competitions include dogs of all abilities and provide equipment and assistance in the water from various organizations. including lifeguards. Dogs compete in different weight classes, from small to extra-large divisions. (see under Contests and Other Fun Stuff). The serious shredders and talented competitors are sponsored, have websites, social media sites like Facebook, and Instagram pages, and surf with customized equipment.

In January, 2020 from the 8th to the 10th, the National Surf Schools and Instructors Association attended the Surf Expo in Orlando, Florida as an exhibitor, and received interest relating to certifying



surf dog instructors. Based on this interest, the NSSIA, founded by Bruce Gabrielson, added surf dog instruction to its certification coverage in 2020 and started developing instructor training material to support this certification.

NSSIA exhibitor's space at the Surf Expo, Orlando, FL, January 8 -10, 2020

SUMMARY

There is a distinct and documented dog surfing history in the U.S. as early as the 1920's, and through the decades, largely in California and Hawaii. The documentation includes silent films, articles in the US National Archives, and the National Geographic. More currently surfing dogs have been featured or used in surf movies, articles in surfer magazines, and other periodicals, and even on TV. There are even surf dogs that have been inducted into the Huntington Beach Suring Walk of Fame. Some of the more famous current day surf dogs includes Abbie Girl, the most decorated competition surf dog, who has broken world records, and appeared in a number of TV ads; and Ricochet, one of the first surf dogs in the contest circuit, and well-known for her philanthropy work. The first organized surf dog competitions started in 2006 in California, and are now held in many places around the country, and even the world. These competitions are listed and briefly discussed. Starting in 2020, the NSSIA added surf dog training to it's curriculum of certifying surf instructors.

