

## Dog of Talent Medal 2026



**Puck**, Saluki, Perth WA

**Aligned Charity:** Afghan Hound and Saluki Rescue

**Impact area:** Canine sport, versatility and wellbeing

**Role:** Multi-discipline sport and wellbeing dog

**Community supported:** Canine sport community, students and rescue organisations

**Years of impact:** Since 2018

**Why this matters:** Puck exemplifies talent built through partnership, versatility and purpose, demonstrating what is possible when dogs are supported to thrive both physically and mentally.

*“Puck is my constant companion, my teammate, my teacher, and my safe place. What we share isn’t defined by titles or ribbons, but by a partnership built on trust, patience, and a shared love of doing life together.”* **Danielle, Puck’s human**

Puck’s talent is defined not by a single discipline, but by his extraordinary versatility and willingness to engage across a wide range of activities. As a Saluki, a breed often misunderstood as independent or difficult to train, Puck challenges assumptions through consistency, enthusiasm and focus. His achievements are the result of a strong partnership built on mutual understanding and respect.

Across Australia, Puck has competed successfully in lure coursing, conformation, tracking, track and search, bikejoring and canicross, earning top-level titles and recognition across multiple disciplines. He is a three-time Lure Coursing Dog of the Year, has achieved Best in Field honours, and holds breed-leading titles that reflect both sound temperament and adaptability. These accomplishments are significant not simply for their prestige, but for what they represent. A dog encouraged to learn, problem-solve and enjoy purposeful work.

Beyond competition, Puck’s talent is applied in quieter but equally meaningful ways. He attends Guildford Grammar School as a wellbeing dog, providing calm support to students, particularly during periods of high stress. His ability to move seamlessly between high-energy sport and gentle emotional presence speaks to the depth of his training and temperament.

Puck’s story highlights that talent is not limited to performance. It is found in balance, consistency and the joy of shared purpose. Through sport, wellbeing work and advocacy for rescue, Puck demonstrates the far-reaching impact of supporting dogs to engage their minds and bodies in ways that suit them.

*“Puck is an outstanding ambassador for dogs bred and trained with purpose. His versatility across disciplines reflects not just talent, but a deep partnership built on trust, patience and understanding.”* **Robyn Adair, Judging Panel**

*Note from the Awards Founder Kerry Martin: This award was created in honour of my dog Summer, whose life celebrated the joy, curiosity and capability of dogs when given opportunities to learn, move and thrive.*