



DWAYNE FOLSOM dives in his Fort Lauderdale backyard pool with his dog Shadow last week. Folsom created diving gear for Shadow after the dog tried to follow him diving. AP PHOTO

Scuba enthusiast trains his dog to dive

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) Shadow does more than dog paddle. The Labrador retriever dives underwater in doggie gear.

"She has no fear of it," said Dwyane Folsom, who got Shadow from the Broward County animal shelter about two years ago.

Folsom said he got the idea to take Shadow diving by watching her on a boat. She wanted to follow Folsom diving and would jump out of the boat, watch him go underwa-

ter and dog paddle after his bubbles.

Folsom designed and tested underwater breathing systems for the dog. "There were a few times when I had to grab her out of the pool," he said in Monday's editions of the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel.

The gear lets Shadow remain underwater for 20 minutes. She wears a plastic globe over her head and is connected to Folsom's air tank.

Dr. Jim Grubb, president of the Palm Beach County Veterinary Society, said Labrador retrievers love the water and it's OK to take a dog diving as long as the animal wants to go.

The 3-year-old Shadow has about 30 dives to her credit in about eight months.

"I knew she wanted to be with me everywhere I went," said Folsom, who has been diving for 20 years. "I take her everywhere I can."