

# AKC JR. NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE AKC JUNIOR ORGANIZATION, VOL. 5, NO. 3 WINTER 2002

## EDITOR'S NOTE

We are very pleased with the response and attendance for the Junior competition at the AKC/Eukanuba Classic. The response to this first time event was overwhelming. The list of those who met both criteria, the five wins with competition in the Open Class as well as having maintained a 3.0 grade point average or equivalent, is in this issue.

Plans are already under way for the 2002 event. The date is Wednesday, December 11, 2002. The location will remain the same in Orlando. The criteria will remain the same. The five wins with competition in Open are to be won between the dates of January 1, 2002 through October 7, 2002. Transcripts must be received in the Judges Education Department by October 18th. The individuals meeting both qualifications will receive

their invitation from the Superintendent, MB-E. Please continue to check the AKC Web site and future issues of the Junior News for additional information.

The AKC Junior Scholarship Applications are now available. The deadline for receipt is February 15, 2002. Scholarships are available to those who are currently seniors in High School or currently enrolled in college or post graduate work. Those interested in receiving an application should contact [alr@akc.org](mailto:alr@akc.org). The summer issue will provide the results.

The recognition of Juniors competing in the various performance and companion events continues to increase. We encourage Juniors to participate in as many events as they possibly can with their dog. We are pleased that Juniors have handled their dogs to Master and Excellent level titles in many events, including Agility, Earthdog, Coursing, Field Events and Herding.

We are also pleased with articles that have submitted by Scholarship recipients sharing their experiences. Thanks to all that have supplied articles and photographs, your participation is the success of the Junior Newsletter. Please check out the Junior section of the AKC Web page as it has been updated and we hope to include candid photos and additional Junior articles.

My special thanks to the parents, who supported our efforts at the Classic, the sport of purebred dogs has a bright future! Best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!



*Above are the 2001 Finalists (top row-L-R) Dr. Donald Sturz-judge, Kristin Heiden, Whitney Meeks, William Ellis, Ashley Albro, Erica Johnson (bottom row-L-R) Christine Engelsman, Katie Shepard, Krystle Bounds, Allison Johnston, Chelsea Brandenburg, Brittany Wight, and Jennifer Hollow.*



*Above are the placements (L-R) - Finals Judge Dr. Donald Sturz, 1st/Best Junior Kristin Heiden, 2nd Krystle Bounds, 3rd Jennifer Hollow, 4th Christine Engelsman, and Valerie Stern Iams.*

# EXCHANGING LOYALTY

BY STEPHANIE AHLBOM

*Editor's note: Stephanie is a 2001 Junior Scholarship recipient*

For Many of us, turning eighteen marks a sad time – the end of eight fun-filled years competing as junior handlers. But, for me it opened up a new opportunity as an adoption counselor at my county's SPCA.

Having competed for nine years in 4-H events, obedience, junior showmanship, and agility, I had accumulated a host of seemingly trivial canine knowledge. For as long as I can remember, I had always anxiously awaited the bittersweet 18th birthday. Due to insurance reasons, employment at the shelter was restricted to individuals over the age of eighteen. So, the day after my 18th birthday I started my job at the shelter. Not only was the shelter a place where I could apply my talents, but it also served as a tool for giving back to the dogs who had helped me become a stronger person.

At the shelter, customers, always proclaim, "I could never work here." However, these are



**Zachary and Stephanie in an Open Senior Class.**

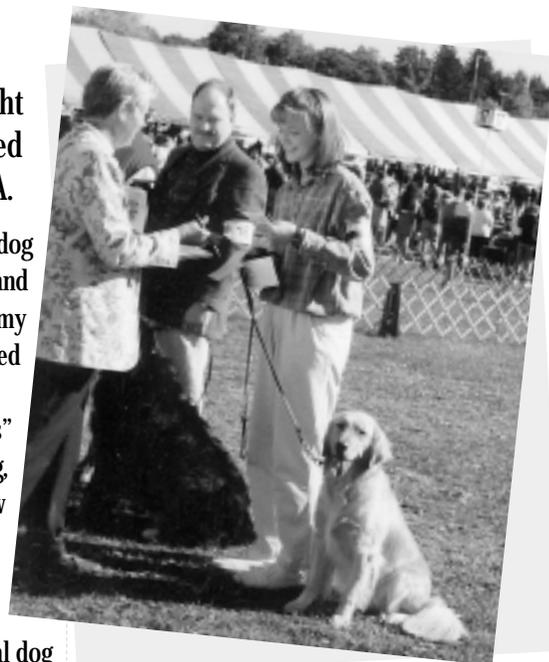
the individuals who cannot look beyond the thousands of abandoned and euthanized dogs. What makes the job worthwhile is the great joy of witnessing the adoption of a 12 year old beagle, or the opportunity to prevent the surrender of a dog by counseling troubled dog owners over the phone. It makes you realize that there is more to life than getting a 200 in Utility or finishing a championship. After helping an individual who is at their wits end

about their dog's separation anxiety (the dog had literally destroyed the owner's home and the vet recommended euthanasia), my Golden Retriever's problem with a crooked sit on a recall seems (and is) trivial.

I officially entered the "world of dogs" at the age of nine when I got my first dog, Teddy, from the same shelter where I now work. During the first two years of his life, Teddy and I had more trials and tribulations than love and fun. His antics led to my involvement in 4-H and my local dog training club. In hindsight, I am appreciative of him, as he fostered my love of obedience and strengthened our relationship.

In sixth grade my mom allowed me to get a pure-bred dog for my birthday to show in AKC dog shows and junior handling, something I had desired to participate in for many years. After a year of research (which resulted in memorizing every breed standard) to find the perfect dog for me, I ended up with Zachary, a Chinese Crested Powderpuff, from the top local breeder, and sired by the #1 Crested at that time. The only problem was that Zach's breeder hadn't intended for him to be a show dog. At three

months old, not many thought Zach would succeed in the world of dogs. He was slightly large, was owned by a Junior, and acted too scared at first to walk proudly in the breed ring. But only three months later I entered him in his first AKC show, and to everyone's surprise, he won! Not only is he now a champion in my heart, but also in the eyes of the AKC. Even though he is now neutered, we still compete in Veterans. Watching his attitude shine in the



**Stephanie and Angel finishing her CD**

ring still brings a tear to my eye. He is a true show dog in spirit.

I have been blessed by my four dogs. They comfort my frustrations, even when they are the cause of them. Every morning they provide the inspiration for me to succeed and every night they serve as my "depressors" after a long day of college classes. It is a joy to help their fellow, less-fortunate canine relations.

Not only do I find my job as an adoption counselor very beneficial to the community, but I also reap great personal satisfaction. From every prospective puppy buyer that I educate to each neutering certificate that I issue, I am helping make a positive difference in our local dog community. Hopefully, by combining my college education with my background in juniors, I can reach a broader audience and help them understand not only the benefits of a purebred dog, but also the responsibility that goes along with ownership.

Juniors is more than just about getting the wins to complete a title or qualify for Westminster. Instead, it is about growing as an individual and accumulating skills for the future. I encourage everyone to apply their talents to other areas outside of the ring and wish everyone good luck.

# SUMMER IN THE OLD COUNTRY

BY NICK URBANEK

had a 'jolly good' summer but now its back to the 'bloody' books.

If you haven't guessed it yet, I spent the summer in England as an intern at the Waltham Center for Pet Nutrition (WCPN). I had wonderful opportunities to learn, make international contacts, and travel. The main research base for Pedigree Masterfoods, WCPN opens its doors to young students around the world, offering the chance to learn in an industrial research setting.

As a member of the Gastrointestinal (GI) team I worked on a cutting edge research project. Given sole responsibility to search for a bacterial strain in cats, I learned and applied contemporary microbiological techniques. This meant long hours working in a lab- isolating, growing, testing, and identifying bacteria. Daily tasks outside the lab consist of analyzing data, organizing reports and keeping a detailed lab book. With any extra time, I shadowed the veterinarian on his rounds, observed surgeries, and assisted with endoscopies. The research aspects of this internship greatly aided in building my independent capacities.

In any corporate setting it is important that team members stay informed and be cohesive. This requires meetings to confer on ideas, sharing personal progressions, and reviewing future plans. These meetings are also used to sustain team morale and address company-wide issues. The meetings really helped sharpen my interpersonal skills.

*Networking...* I am sure it is not the first time you have heard the word, and I cannot stress how important it truly is; having contacts is the key to opening doors. I obtained the WCPN internship through personal contacts. Having worked at WCPN has created a whole new vista. It opened doors into Pedigree as well as an international job market. I built a reputation at Waltham on hard work. Hard work does not go unnoticed; when others see your effort they are willing to help. When I departed WCPN, the possibility of returning next summer was offered. Although it is an excellent opportunity for further experience and references, I do not plan to accept.

In addition to the professional contacts, I made friends with vibrant people. Gill, my lodging provider, is known throughout Waltham for her kindness, sincerity, and work ethic. Together, we shared many laughs, delicious meals, and lively company. Gary, who is Gill's fiancé, Sergeant of the local police force, and beer & whisky connoisseur, showed me the delights of English and Scottish beverages. My manager, Marie-Louise, a fiery Welsh, taught me more about BUGS than I ever imagined. Nick, the staff veterinarian, opened my eyes to a unique side of the veterinary field. When it comes down to it, it truly is the people who made my internship stimulating, valuable, and worthwhile.

When not at Waltham, I hit the rail. The United Kingdom's railroad system is extensive. With rail pass in hand, I made the most of my weekends. England being so rich with history, it was not hard to find interesting destinations. Bath, once a Roman stronghold was my first stop. York (or Jorvic), ancient Viking port in the north, captivated my curiosity for two days. It was surrounded by a stonewall which served to protect the guts of the city. Like so many cities in England, the church is the focal point. The York Minster was absolutely breathtaking. The minute detail that went into these buildings is something that is lacking in modern architecture. The sites of London beckon my return. Big Ben, Parliament, Westminster Abbey, London Tower, and Buckingham Palace topped my list. London's extensive galleries and renowned theater consumed many hours of my time. Some of my fondest memories are of the sporting events I attended. At Crufts, I was privileged enough to witness a beautiful Best In Show line up, as well as Mari-Beth O'Neill judge the Pedigree International Invitational. What's more I watched Venus Williams and Andre Agassi smash balls across the grass courts of Wimbledon. For my final expedition in England I snapped photos of Tiger Woods and David Duval at The British Open Golf Championship. The last week of my stay, I wandered the Highlands.



Scotland, although wet, has some of the most amazing scenery and diverse wildlife in all of the United Kingdom. I stood in the lush green valley where sixty percent of Braveheart was filmed. I was able to watch sea otters frolic and whales surface off the Isle of Sky as well. It was the perfect way to end a remarkable summer.

Overall, my summer was stupendous. I have never experienced anything quite like it. Working with professional handlers for the summer is enjoyable, but it does not compare to the experience I had in the United Kingdom. The chance to study and travel abroad doesn't come around every weekend. The only real question is how to top it next summer!

## THE GREEN RIBBON

BY ALINA CLARK

She wasn't quite gaiting as well as the rest  
Her coat wasn't spotless, her ears not the best

I stood her correctly as par the breed  
Baited and ready for judge's decree

The placings were fair, efficient, and fast  
I was in third, another was last

I'd already NQ'd in the obedience class  
And now I felt like I'd run out of gas

We went home tired, muddy and wet  
My mother looked down at my sleepy pet

She told me that this was the last show of all  
My faults were too many and wins were too small

Now I've aged out and I look back and sigh  
My career in Juniors was so short I could cry.

Below are the Juniors who qualified for the Classic; an asterisk denotes that they entered the show.

- \* Ashley Albro GA
- \* Amy Aho VA
- \* Michelle Ahmann WI
- \* Melissa Alison FL
- Kathryn Arensau CO
- \* June Beckwith SC
- \* Katherine Bevan OH
- \* Brianna Bischoff TX
- \* Emily Bisso LA
- \* Krystle Bounds MD
- \* Meghan Bradley TN
- \* Chelsea Brandenburg MI
- \* Shawna Brooks CA
- Sarah Byington CO
- \* Jacklyn Calvert WY
- Jamie Campbell MD
- \* Tyler Cegler MT
- \* Kara Colt MI
- \* Sarah Grace Conn KY
- \* Kourtney Coutu RI
- \* Jessica DiPerna MI
- \* Alex Ditlow PA
- \* William Ellis FL
- \* Christine Englesman IL
- \* Michelle Esch CT
- \* Jesse Fisher IL
- \* Heather Fodrey CA
- \* Chelsea Goss FL
- \* Brandi Grider OK
- Bridgette Haggerty CO
- \* Kristin Heiden IL
- \* Jennifer Hollow MA
- \* Emily Horton ME
- Emily Hussey IL
- \* Cassidy Jackson CA
- \* Kendra Jeffrey PA
- \* Erica Johnson GA
- \* Allison Johnston NC
- \* Elizabeth Kaunzner MN
- \* Rachel Kehoe VT
- \* Anna Kodet WI
- \* Katie Konesky NY
- \* Peter Kubacz NJ
- \* Lindsey Kuhn OH
- \* Laura Lang TX
- \* Brandon Lenk VA
- \* Tiffany Linnemann FL
- \* Michael McGuire CA
- \* Lauren McNeil NY
- \* Whitney Meeks NC
- \* Lindsay Taylor Merritt TX
- \* Erik Miller NE
- \* Maryke Nau WA
- \* Megan Nelson CT
- Peggy Plutchak CA
- Timothy Plutchack CA
- \* Whitney Perry MA
- \* Cassidy Powers NJ
- \* Jennifer Reed TX
- \* Genevieve Ridderhoff TX
- \* Renee Rizzo IL
- \* Shelby Roberts NC
- \* Ashley Sample MO
- \* Madeleine Saucy OR
- \* Kelly Schur IL
- \* Katherine Shepard MO
- Savanna Skinner WA
- \* Holly Smith OR
- Bethany Sutton ME
- Ashley Tripoldi NJ
- \* Staisha Vaught IN
- \* Ashley Wenglik PA
- \* Haley Whitcomb FL
- \* Brittany Wight MD
- \* Emily Wills KY
- \* Erin Zimmerman PA
- \* Lauren Zimmerman PA



*Mr. Cheauré and Denny Kodner addressing the attendees of the luncheon.*





*Judges Frank Sabella, Michelle Billings, Anne Clark, Pat Laurans, and Jane Forsyth who came to congratulate the Juniors.*



BY JENNIFER BATTISTA

The first time I saw dogs soaring through an Agility course, I was hooked.

When I was given my Shetland Sheepdog, Abbi, on Christmas Eve two years ago, my aspirations to compete in Agility became a reality. The following summer we signed up for a formal class, and when Abbi turned two this past September, we entered our first trial. We have been very lucky so far, finishing our NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ, and AXJ titles, winning ten blue ribbons and a high in trial.

Abbi and I have been very successful so far in Agility, in part from excellent training we have received over the last two years. In a typical week, I attend usually two training classes, one agility class and one obedience class. Obedience training has definitely been beneficial to our agility training. Obedience skills carry over into agility and improve teamwork. Good teamwork between a dog and handler is a must in Agility. It almost develops subconsciously, but can be very visible and appreciated after running a different type of dog. Abbi understands my movements and signals and vice versa, so we can maneuver successfully through a course. However, when I run my sister's Border Collie, Sarah, who works much faster and farther away, she does not understand what I want and I don't understand what she is doing, so we "crash and burn".

I try to train with Abbi at home for at least twenty minutes every day on various pieces of equipment that my Dad has built. The first summer he built a couple of bar jumps, and we used fence holders for weave poles. Last summer, he built a tire jump, small dog walk, and we use a plank for a teeter base. Many excellent construction plan ideas can be found in the magazine Cleanrun. We have been lucky to train with various instructors in many different places. All our instructors are excellent, and each has different emphases and techniques to offer. Plus, we became exposed to different kinds of distractions and different kinds of equipment. This has made Abbi and me more rounded.

The biggest problems I encounter are with knocked bars, weave-pole entrances, and missed



*Jennifer and Abbi*



*Jennifer and Abbi practicing on the seesaw.*

contacts. For knocked bars I have found the book by M. Christine Zink DVM, Ph.D, and

Julie Daniels, *Jumping from A to Z*, extremely helpful. This book provides information and exercises to improve your dog's jumping, which in turn will decrease the number of bars the dog knocks. To improve weave-pole entrances, the biggest thing for us is practice. I send Abbi to the weave-poles from various angles from both the left and right sides of the poles. I have found clicker training useful in this situation. Whenever Abbi enters the weave poles correctly, I click, so she knows exactly what I want. When she became consistently successful we added various obstacles and situations leading up to the weave-poles to practice entering the weave-poles when moving at top speed. Training the downward contacts on the dog walk, A-Frame, and teeter, is a

constant and evolving process. I often use a target placed at the ground in front of the contact zone at a certain distance so that, when Abbi touches the target with her nose, her front two feet are on the ground and her back two feet are still on the obstacle.

Equally important and sometimes more difficult is training myself. The position of your body has a vital role in agility, communicating to your dog the path you take. You cannot see yourself, so it is difficult to tell where your body actually is. Sometimes I think that I had my shoulder pointing towards the tunnel when it was actually pointed towards the jump. For this reason I try to have someone videotape Abbi and me when we compete. Reviewing the tape, you can actually see what you were doing and why courses, refusals, and other such faults happened. In one run, I saw that I turned my shoulder towards the next jump when Abbi was still in the air, which caused her to try and turn herself. As she turned she dropped a foot and knocked down the bar.

By watching other handlers run their dogs through an Agility course you can also learn a great deal about handling. You can recognize mistakes, as well acknowledge aspects you yourself want to develop. To me, the most important thing about training in Agility as well as any other sport is to stay positive, patient, and of course to have a great time. The hard work will pay off!

I thoroughly enjoy competing in Agility. I love to be challenged with new and interesting courses, and show everyone what we can do. Abbi and I are currently working for our MXJ title, and hope one day to be efficient enough to chase a MACH.

## A JUNIOR MOM SAYS ... LET THEM GO, LET THEM LEARN ...

BY DEBBIE BECKWITH

"Mom I am so glad that you are not like all those other kids' parents!" Ok, What do you mean?

"Every kid that came out of the ring today had someone telling them what they did wrong!"

What a compliment, but this child's older sister taught me early on that you have to let your junior go learn and enjoy. Not just once, but, over and over and over again.

These kids are truly amazing. A parent helps them get started, usually provides some kind of dog, and teaches them to gait the dog on the left side. From this

point on it's up to the Junior Handler and the four legged partner. They are a team capable of teaching each other all the ropes. What better way is there? Parents, when the team is clean, well fed, well disciplined (not military), compatible and safe, we must back off, and let them grow up in the dog fancy together. All we should do as Moms and Dads is watch over lovingly, and let them fall! Be a good sport and teach good sportsmanship by example. We all have to learn to lose, it is hard to be a good loser. We win a lot, but we also lose!

I always say, "have fun" it's a ritual. My two girls recently went on a show weekend with a friend of ours. When calling in to report on the outcome, the conversation went something like this... "younger sister won both days and I had fun". The older sister and I had a good laugh, I knew she got dumped bad, but we could laugh! This makes dog shows fun. Yes

*continued on page 7*

“Race Rory?”

Kathy Britton, our Basenji's breeder, had just suggested the idea to me. It was appealing, though I had always thought only Greyhounds could race. She told me about an upcoming coursing event and after some discussion with my family, we decided it was a worthwhile idea. We were told that no necessary equipment was needed for our dog, since he was only going to take a few qualifying tests. So on a cold and rainy Saturday, we drove to our destination, not really knowing what lay ahead.

When we arrived we met Kathy and she fully explained the process to us. The event was called Lure Coursing, because the dogs are lured to follow the course by a 'fake rabbit'. This fake rabbit was actually three plastic bags tied together, but the dogs were convinced that this white object 'running' through the grass was worthy prey. The lure is strung on a wire around a large field, and an operator controls its speed, keeping it out of the dog's reach but close enough to entice it.

We watched the test dog run the course to ensure its proper operation. After this had been successfully completed, the Junior Courser participants ran individually. Junior Courser is a level that dogs reach after they have passed two qualifying tests. Once they reach the Junior Courser level, they can compete alongside other dogs.

After several dogs had run the course, it was our turn and Rory and I stepped up to the starting point. I had held him in my arms and let him watch the previous dogs run. I had enthusiastically whispered into his ear, “Look at the bunny! Go get him!” so by the time we were ready to course, he was thoroughly excited and ready to run. I had fastened a 'slip collar' on Rory, which is a special type of collar designed for racing, that allows you to pull one end when ready and let your dog loose. I informed the attendant at the starting point that this was my first time in this event, so that she would be able to further explain the process to me. First, she told me, she will ask the judge, the operator, and the handler (myself) if we are ready. If all have answered “Yes”, then she will shout, “Walk your hound”, and I will walk Rory a few steps forward. Immediately she will say,

“Tallyho!” and I will let the dog loose. I answered, “Yes” and she shouted, “Walk your hound” and then “Tallyho!” but Rory was still connected to the collar! In my nervousness, I had pulled the wrong end of the collar! Fortunately, I was

allowed to start over and this time Rory sped away. He disappeared into a dip in the meadow. I didn't see him for a few seconds. Had he gone off the course? Not to fear! Soon he emerged and came around the corner towards me. The operator stopped the wire and Rory grabbed that rabbit and if I had not caught



*Ariana and Rory*

him, he would have begun shredding it (like many other dogs had playfully attempted before him!).

Rory had passed the first test! I was given a green ribbon in recognition and Rory received much praise. I was very proud of him. However, we were far from done! The first step had been completed but there was another day and another test to follow.

Fortunately, the next day was drier. We drove back to the course field and soon we were getting ready for our second test. However, I noticed something. The course was a different and more complex pattern. Would Rory be able to follow its many curves? Soon we were once again at the starting point. This time Rory sprang forward without any difficulty. In a moment or so he was rounding the final corner. He stopped and I put his collar on again, relief flowing through me. We had finished and passed! Rory was now officially a Junior Courser!

Reaching the Junior Courser level was exciting and fulfilling. I was able to observe many different dog breeds race and Rory was able to have fun and learn a new skill. There is a huge spectrum of opportunities for Rory and me in Lure Coursing, and I can't wait to experience them!

dog shows are a family sport. By going to dog shows we get to travel with our dogs, stay in hotels, camp, swim in the ocean, eat out, make lots of friends, get dressed up, go to parties, get excused from school for Westminster, National Specialties, and Invitationals. Yet, not every member of the family likes to show. Number 3 boy child did his duty and worked through Novice junior. Then decided he would rather not get so dressed up! Once in a while he takes a whim to compete and of course we let him.

He would really rather be on the Lure coursing field releasing the sight hounds. To tell you the truth, so would I. So sometimes the girls go off in another direction while we head for the open fields.

Listen to this voice of experience:

**DON'T:** get on top of the junior ring, back off and let them breathe. I often watch from the set up or not at all, just so I **DON'T** get in the way. Less stress for me too.

**DO:** let them get to be friends with other juniors. This can be a tough crowd. The circle really does get bigger every weekend.

**DON'T:** greet the child as they exit the ring. They are still dealing with the experience and learning. Be it triumph or failure.

**DON'T:** blurt out what they should have done. You were not in the ring! We are not juniors anymore and I never was! There will be an appropriate time later in the day, (after the fact) when your child will be ready to listen, just make suggestions. Given enough time most children will come up later and ask about their performance.

**DO:** enjoy watching the kids play dog show with each other. A game all of the gang seems to find time for. This is where juniors share skills, teach one another and learn a lot more than just how to show a dog.

**DO:** hang around the show site and let the kids watch Groups and Best in Show. At least on the first days of the shows. This is where juniors pick up awesome skills watching the star dogs and their handlers working together.

Well its another weekend and “Oh ma, we lost.” What goes through our minds? What are we saying? This costs money! We packed all day, drove all night! That new dog got sick all the way and had to be cleaned 6 times. How can you keep losing your show lead? I don't know where your pin brush or your show shoes are! There is a dollar in the tack box for liver. “Are you guys on time for the ring?” Yes, Mom. “Ok, then, kiss kiss, good luck and **HAVE FUN!**” Oh and you dogs, do a good job for the kid ok?

# THE ORTHOPEDIC FOUNDATION FOR ANIMALS, INC.



## **Junior Scholarship Program**

The OFA, a non-profit foundation, is pleased to announce its new Junior Scholarship Program.



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The program is designed to reward young dog enthusiasts who make a significant contribution to an area of canine health. It is open to juniors from 13 to 17 years of age. Initially, for the 2002 calendar year, the OFA is offering a single \$500 scholarship award. Based on the level of interest shown during the initial year, the number of scholarships and their amounts may increase.

The only official criterion for the scholarship is that the juniors make a significant contribution to some area of canine health. Further boundaries will not be placed around the criteria in order to encourage the juniors to be creative in their approach.

The recipient of the 2002 award will be selected by the OFA Board of Directors at their fall board meeting and will be announced at the December 2002 AKC Classic in Orlando. For younger award recipients, the scholarship funds will be placed in escrow until the junior is enrolled in a post high school educational program.

The application deadline is October 1, 2002. The application should include the following:

- Cover letter requesting consideration for the OFA Junior Scholarship
- Contact information including name, age, address, and phone number
- A summary of their project, what they gained from it, and how it contributed to an area of canine health
- Any other supporting documentation to illustrate the Junior's achievement

Questions regarding the program should be addressed to Eddie Dziuk at [edziuk@offa.org](mailto:edziuk@offa.org) or (800) 442-0418

Applications should be submitted to the following address:

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals  
Attn: Eddie Dziuk  
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