

AKC JR. NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE AKC JUNIOR ORGANIZATION, VOL. 4, NO. 1 SPRING 2000



(L to R) Judge, Mr. Frank Sabella, awarded the Best Junior Handler for 2000 to Nicholas Urbanek 18, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania. Nicholas also won the 1999 Pedigree Chum International Junior Final at the Crufts Dog Show in Birmingham, England. Second place, Lindsay Balder 17, Wayland, Michigan; Third place, Carley Simpson 18, Lynnwood, Washington; Fourth place, Ryan Wolfe 18, Mira Loma, California.



The remaining finalists were (L to R); Candice Walker 16, Portland, Oregon; Katie Batzner 17, Sheboygan, WI; Carissa DeMilta 17, Downingtown, PA; Amber Challenger 17, Vallejo, California.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This JR NEWS carries the Westminster coverage. It was my pleasure to be assigned to steward in the Junior Ring this year. We were able to get the group photos taken successfully at the beginning of each class, with order forms distributed if you were interested. It was such a thrill to observe the very talented Juniors that are competing. It was also my opportunity to get to meet more of you. It is especially thrilling to get to share in your success.

Mr. Sabella's judging of the Junior finals this year was the thirty-year anniversary of the last time that he judged the Junior finals at Westminster. In 1970, I was fortunate to be one of the finalists. The winner that year was Dr. Patricia Haines, veterinarian, breeder, exhibitor, delegate to the American Kennel Club and past Board Member. Dr. Haines is also the breeder of the Pointer of this year's Junior winner at Westminster, Nick Urbanek. In future issues we will highlight some of the previous Westminster winners and what they are doing in the Sport of dogs today. Should you have any information please submit.

It is very pleasing to receive so many articles from Juniors to utilize in the JR. News. Topics such as sportsmanship, conduct, parents, participation in seminars and dress discussed by Juniors themselves are great resources. It is hoped that more of you will participate by submitting either articles or topics that you would like to see discussed for future publications. Do you have a special story you would like to tell?

The Junior Scholarship applicants for the 2000-2001 school year, numbering over 60, overwhelmed us. The Summer issue of the JR NEWS will feature the recipients.

The success of the Juniors participating in the Performance Events has been overwhelming and we hope that the number of Juniors participating in multiple events will continue to increase.

WORKING TOWARDS A GOAL

BY VALERIE LATHAM

Hi my name is Valerie Latham; I am 11 years old. My dog's name is Fiesta's Chips N Salsa CGC, NA, NAJ, CD, AKA Riley. He is a 4 year old Australian Shepherd. I received Riley from a breeder when he was nine weeks old. The breeder wanted a junior handler to show him, not someone's Mom.

Riley and I started in puppy class and stayed there for a long time, then we went to a Junior Handling class which was a lot of fun. But when we saw agility my parents knew they were in trouble. Trying to find an agility class that would still allow me to make my bed time was impossible, which meant that year I was probably the only kid that Santa brought a ring full of

agility equipment to. Riley and I trained for almost a year before we started showing in agility and obedience. In January 1999 we received our first NA leg, and before Thanksgiving we had earned our CGC, NA, NAJ, CD, and one leg towards our OA title. Four titles in one year for anyone is cool, but for Riley and me it was awesome. Our goals for this year are completing an



Valerie shown here working Riley through the weave poles.

OA, OAJ, and CDX titles. I would like to do tracking too, but then there goes my bedtime.

OUR STORY

BY CLIFFORD HARPOLE

For as long as I can remember, I have always watched the Westminster Dog Show on TV. I never imagined that I could be running around the show ring myself. No, I haven't been to Westminster yet, but I'm dreaming of going with my own dog. I've already been promised by my parents if I get the 8 wins it takes to be entered at Westminster, I'll get to fly to New York and show at the "Garden".



Lola and Clifford are much requested speakers at area elementary schools and are allowed in the buildings because of her Therapy Dog Title.

My interest in the sport of purebred dogs all started with a pet quality Dalmatian, Dixie Bell, and numerous county fairs. My brother and I each paid for one-half of her, and got out of it a stubborn, hardheaded, yet intelligent family pet and a good starting show dog. I was first only interested in Obedience, until Cindy Bellis-Jones, my 4-H leader, later introduced me to conformation and junior showmanship. I was then hooked for life.

Dixie Belle and I did very well at the Kentucky State Fair: I won my class in Beginner's Showmanship (a class of more than 30), and came in second in the Non-Sporting Group. Cindy and the Junior Showmanship judge told me that to continue in the sport, I needed a bigger, better dog.

I ran to the information highway, the Internet, and began the search for the perfect show dog for me. I knew I wanted a dry mouthed, short haired, minimal shedding, big dog. There I met the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog: a big, beautiful tri-colored canine, which fit

all of my requirements for that perfect dog. I asked a good family friend, who is also a Purina Dog Food Rep., Eddie Wiley, to help me find this perfect dog. I must have bugged him for months.

"Did you find me a dog yet?" I would ask.

"I'm working on it," he would always answer. Finally, he told me the truth. He was talking to the breeder/owner/handler of the Westminster Best of Breed and 1998 Swiss Mountain Dog of the Year, Kristin Kleeman. The rest is amazement and a blur.

We got in touch with Kristin, who is now my teacher, leader, friend and hero. She invited the family down for their first interview on her farm in my hometown, about 15 miles from our house. We drove there early one spring day after school, and I saw Lola Bunny for the first time. I was in love. Kristin allowed us to take her home for the night, to see if she'd fit in with our five other dogs. She settled in made herself at home. We worked out a co-ownership deal with Kristin, and Lola is now mine.

Lola Bunny also has her own story. Debbie and Jerry Kennedy were looking after her before I came into the Swissy world. They had lost their own Swissy, Hoss, to cancer, and Lola was there to make it easier for them. I never had the pleasure to meet this gentle giant, but I am currently showing one of his sons. It was an assembly line of badgering to get me my wonderful show dog. Sometimes it seems things are just meant to be. I was working on Eddie to get

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VOLUNTEERING AT THE AKC JUDGES INSTITUTE

BY MEGAN NELSON

Editor's note: We are requesting volunteers to help as handlers in the afternoon as well as for the Junior Seminar for the 2000 institutes. The locations and dates are below:

June 5 – 9 Lancaster, PA; July 31 – August 4 Portland, OR; October 9 – 13 Lancaster, PA (Advanced Sporting Institute); If you are interested please contact the Judges Education Department at (919) 852-3814 or juniors@akc.org

Often in the Junior fancy there are issues that remain unresolved that the juniors and judges themselves would rather have laid to rest by the AKC. Issues regarding ring procedure, judging criteria, et. cetera. Our facet of the sport is unique in that there is no set “standard” for the “perfect” junior handler—this leaves judges and exhibitors alike in a rather vague position as to what should be preferred in each performance. Indeed, it would be nearly impossible to write up a “junior’s standard”, as differing tastes and styles would leave all concerned in a state of utter confusion.

However, the AKC has, through new regulations, rules, and this newsletter, begun to truly refine our part of the sport and to offer newfound support on all sides. We have come a very long way from the impromptu competitions thirty-five years ago to Junior Showmanship being accepted into (and even admired by) the mainstream fancy. Kudos to the AKC for their hard work, as well as to the juniors themselves who have, by competing seriously, and demonstrated their proficiency in handling. However, there’s still a long way to go.

Enter the AKC Judges Institute. These seminars are held twice a year, where one morning is devoted to Junior Showmanship. Facilitated by the respected Mari-Beth O’Neill, it is attended by the people who are working towards their Judging Approval and wish to take it seriously. The institute also presents a rare opportunity for juniors to voice their opinions in an environment that

not only welcomes, but also encourages, them to do so. I was in attendance at one of these symposia in Denver, Colorado, this past summer as one of the speakers who presented to judges to enhance and enrich their experience by exposing the concerns of the nation’s juniors. Unfortunately there was only one other junior in attendance (a very knowledgeable young lady from Colorado), and while I feel that we were both able to present a well-rounded view of the situation at hand, more input is necessary.

The American Kennel Club can revise and

re-revise the rules, they can add wonderful opportunities to us through scholarships and performance events, **but they can never be truly effective without us to tell them what it is that we want.** The judges can become more specialized, they can learn about our part of the sport and show genuine interest in what we do, but again, nothing worthwhile can be achieved if we are not there to give our ideas. The AKC, the judges, and the juniors must work together in balanced partnership so that our wonderful program can continue in its promising direction. We are the future of this sport. If we do not become involved now, then we will never be able to learn from and carry on the example of our elders. I implore you, attend these institutes—even if you fear public speaking, consider it



Megan Nelson, from Cheshire CT, showing her Sheltie, participated at the 1998 Judges Institute in Denver CO.

your duty to the sport to stand up and do so. The judges and the AKC are willing to listen—**you have to be willing to speak out!**

OUR STORY CONT'D

me a dog, Eddie was working on Kristin, and Kristin was working on the Kennedy's to give up this wonderful animal. The Kennedy's made the hardest (and now they say the best) decision of their lives to give Lola to me, a kid they have never met. I now thank them for that.

Well, Lola Bunny and I worked very hard getting in shape for the AKC show ring. We had our debut at the Hodgenville, KY show where

we surprisingly got a 3 point major our first time together in ring. This was evidently a good omen, because I recently put Lola's championship on her. I have also put her Canine Good Citizen, National Championship, Therapy Dog, and Temperament Testing Titles on her over the summer. She is still my 4-H dog and we took 3rd overall in Sub-Novice B Obedience and 1st in the Working Group at the Kentucky State Fair for 1999. I have moved up into the Open Junior Class and have recently achieved

my first pink ribbon in Open. It has been quite a journey with this dog.

My success is all due to the great people I have met the “Dog World”. I owe it all to Kristin, Debbie, Jerry, and Eddie, among the few I could mention. They trusted me with this beautiful, loving show quality dog. I have support everywhere I go and have made a lot of friends that I never would have become acquainted with if it were not for Lola Bunny. Thank you all so much.

JUNIORS PARTICIPATING IN WESTMINSTER

Congratulations to all juniors who competed at the Westminster Kennel Club on February 14 & 15 2000. Each of the juniors listed qualified by placing first in 8 Open classes during the year. This year there were 33 states represented as well as Canada.



Monday Preliminary Class – Judge Edd Bivin



Monday Preliminary Class – Judge Patricia W. Laurens



Tuesday Preliminary Class – Judge Edd Bivin



Tuesday Preliminary Class – Judge Patricia W. Laurens

Alaska

Sammie McDowell
Stevie McDowell

Arizona

Audra Lambie
Holly Niece
Joleen Kenniger
Amanda Nance
Shauna Nance

Arkansas

Homer Allbritton

California

Cassidy Jackson
Ryan Wolfe
Wyatt Delfino
Rashelle Brown
Amanda Giardino
Christopher Radcliffe
Kristen Kelly
James Plutchak
Amber Challenger
Elizabeth Jordan
Tyson Pate
Michael McGuire
Kristy Siefkin

Colorado

Karen Beardslee
Cassandra Noe
Leslie Lovell
Sarah Byington
Sabrina Barnhill
Kristina Chandler
Bridgette Haggerty

Connecticut

Susan Jacob
Megan Nelson
Justin Yllanes

Florida

Billy Ellis
Kathryn Swegle
Haley Whitcomb

Georgia

Lindsay Fetters
Amanda Bedell
Jessica Bartholomew
Grahm Swayze
Ashley Albro
Juan Saucedo

Hawaii

Krysten Takahashi

Illinois

Renee Rizzo
Erin Gimbut
Meagan Ulfers
Kristin Heiden

Iowa

Trisha Kimrey
Andrea Larsen
Randi Moore

Kansas

Erin Brandon

Louisiana

Emily Bisso
Reece Avants
Rebecca Howard
Christie Gehling

Maryland

Shannon Mort
Rebecca Clas
Tracy Rudd

Maine

Bethany Sutton

Massachusetts

Lindsey Waterman
Whitney Perry

Michigan

Nicole Ashby
Melanie Cotter
Jessica DiPerna
Kala Brown
Kara Colt
Chelsea Brandenburg
Lindsey Balder

Minnesota

Angela Copeland
Howard Spiess Jr.
Lindsay Hiltner
Elizabeth Kaunzner

Missouri

Veronica Valentine
Katie Shepard
Mileah Wilson
Megan Sample

Montana

Tyler Cegler

New Jersey

Debbie Schwartz
Lauren Schwartz
Kriste Kaemlein
Ashley Cuzzolino
Ashley Tripoldi
Claudette Dupont
Peter Kubacz

New York

Deirdre Dunbar
Samantha Waldorf
Kimberli Schultz
Lauren Galory

North Carolina

John Cox II
Allison Johnston
Matthew Williams

Ohio

Kathy Caton
Jason McIlwaine
Katherine Bevan
Michelle Jarus
Christopher Dunbar

Oregon

Eve Rivinus

Pennsylvania

Nicholas Urbanek
Tracy Brabham
Kenra Jeffrey
Carissa Demilta
Howard Huber III

Tennessee

Ashli Thomas
Rachel Kent
Andrea Montgomery

Texas

Sarah Snider
Christopher Keith
Laura Chamness
Genevieve Ridderhoff

Vermont

Rachel Kehoe

Virginia

Emily Harrison
Janice Hayes

Washington

Dawnell Emmett
Eva Dawson
Jennifer Dawson
Maryke Nau
Jennifer Holmberg
Joshua Blankenship
Emily Mott
Kerry Edinger
Carley Simpson
Cameron Simpson
Matthew Grimes
Jessica Andersen
Candice Walker
Jessica Schlecht

West Virginia

Leslie Shaffer

Wisconsin

Anna Kodet
Katie Batzner
Amy Marshall
Shannon Wilson
Nicole Madrigano
Kaleena Ryf
Jennifer Nee

Canada

Jeannette Warner



JUNIORS AND MY LIFE

BY CANDICE WALKER - FINALIST WESTMINSTER 2000

Junior Showmanship can be classified as two things in my life. It was either the best thing or the worst thing to happen to me. Let me explain, juniors use to be my life. Every weekend we would go to a show and it was all about juniors. I let my parents push me so hard that it became a nightmare to show. All my mother cared about was me winning. Whether I won or lost she would be waiting at the ring entrance to criticize what I had done in the ring. She has made me feel that I had never done well enough for her. I may not have proven it to her, but I know

myself that I have done well. The point that I want to get across to everyone is don't let juniors become your life. Enjoy it but also enjoy everything else the fancy has to offer as well. And a word to parents, **support** your juniors, don't take it to the extreme.

Things now have changed in my life. Currently I am working with Ellen Cottingham. I have been apprenticing with her for the past two years in which I have learned more from her than I ever did in just showing in juniors. This experience has helped me expand my knowledge of different

breeds and learn the care and grooming of these breeds as well as what it takes to be a good handler.

I still haven't forgotten about juniors, I still show once and awhile on weekends when we don't have many dogs. When I do show now it is more enjoyable than when I used to show every weekend.

Remember juniors can be an experience. You can make it good and enjoy it or you can take it to the extreme. It's your choice. Enjoy it while you can but remember the fancy has so much more to offer.

THAT SPECIAL LOOK

BY JENNA L. DELL

A large part of Junior Showmanship is the picture that you make with your dog. This picture includes your appearance as the handler. Your appearance also shows whether or not you are serious about the sport of showing dogs. To look good, you want to wear comfortable, but casual clothes—not the fancy dress you wore to Aunt Suzy's wedding. Juniors should wear clothes that contrast with their dog's coat color, so that the dog stands out.

Ladies should wear a dress or blouse and skirt of appropriate length. You need to be able to bend easily without exposing anything.

That means clothing should not be too tight—too loose—too short. Skirts and dresses that are too long are also a no-no because they will



Jenna pictured winning first place in Junior Handling.

hide your dog. Girls should also have their hair away from both their dog's and their own faces. Remember nobody wants to see you fussing with your hair, as pretty as it is, all the time! Also, please leave jewelry that will cause distraction at home.

Boys should wear a sport coat or sweater, tie held down by a tie tack, dress pants, and a

pressed shirt. Make sure if you are wearing a sweater to keep it buttoned so it looks neat and stays out of your dog's face. A good rule of thumb is IF THE JUDGE IS NO LONGER WEARING HIS JACKET, YOU MAY TAKE YOURS OFF ALSO, BUT BE PREPARED TO WEAR A JACKET JUST IN CASE!

Everyone's clothing should have pockets in order to store bait. [Bait is a food treat you give to your dog.] Both boys and girls should wear serviceable, non-slip, comfortable shoes, and not the latest fashion statement! Try to get shoes that have rubber or crepe soles so you won't lose your footing.

TIPS OF THE TRADE:

- Wear clothes that make your dog stand out.
- Both clothes and shoes should be comfortable.
- Do not wear clothes that are too tight or too loose.
- Make sure skirts are of an appropriate length.
- If wearing a sweater, make sure it is buttoned up.
- Choose clothing that has pockets for bait.
- Hair should be out of your face and not requiring fussing.
- Leave dangle jewelry at home/use tie tack.
- If the judge is no longer wearing a jacket, you can take yours off also.

Now go out there and have fun! Good Luck to everyone.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

BY JANE FLOWERS

Editor's Note: The Professional Handlers Association and the Dog Handler's Guild were asked to contribute information about the apprenticeship program that their organizations offer. The following was submitted by Jane Flowers, Secretary of the Dog Handler's Guild. Information from the PHA will follow in a future issue.

In my role as secretary of the Dog Handlers' Guild (DHG), I receive numerous requests from the fancy, not only in the USA but from all over the world, about how to become a professional handler. My response begins with the fact that there is no school in existence to learn how to become a professional handler. I explain that most people get their start showing their own dogs, but that the ideal way to learn this profession is to apprentice for an established professional handler. Working for at least one professional handler for several years is the only effective way to learn about the care, grooming and presentation of various breeds. There is also much to be learned from an established professional handler about the business end, including handler/client agreements, insurance, making entries, dispersal of ribbons and tear sheets, travel planning, kennel and equipment maintenance, etc.

The DHG has a membership category for assistants to be members. This membership class wears a pin with the DHG insignia with a green background. The DHG strongly promotes the concept of apprenticeship as the most effective way to learn the dog handling profession.

In preparation for writing this article, I requested input from the DHG membership about their experiences to share with you.

Stan Flowers began his involvement with dogs when he was nine years old, when he began working for a Boxer breeder in his hometown of Kankakee, Illinois. He attended dog shows with his employer, where he met many of the prominent handlers of the day, including Larry Downey. When Stan was in high school, he began working for Larry on weekends. In 1952, Stan won the Dog Writers' Association award for Best Junior Handler. When he graduated from high school, Stan made the decision to make dog handling his profession. He worked full time for only room and board for four years for Larry, while he learned all facets of the dog business. In 1954, he acquired his assistant handler's license from the AKC. While working for Larry, he showed nearly every recognized breed. In 1958, he was granted a full

license, when he established his own full time handling business. In 1963, Stan became a founding member of the DHG, along with George Ward, Dick Cooper, and



Stan Flowers shown going Best in Show when he was 18 years old.

Larry Downey. For the last forty years, Stan has continued to work as a full time professional handler. In 1988, he received the Fido Handler of the Year award. Stan credits his success to his years of work with Larry Downey, which got him off to the right start in this profession.

Vanessa Everett believes that it is very important to apprentice for reputable professional handlers that were taught the old-fashioned values, such as good sportsmanship, both in and out of the ring, which is a sign of a good professional. In her affiliation with several professional handlers, she learned how to properly trim, condition and present different breeds. One important skill to learn is how to show each dog to his or her best advantage. Also of great importance is to learn the right way to deal with people to develop loyal clientele, how to deal with the ups and downs of winning and losing, and how to manage the campaign of a top winning dog. Vanessa says she learned from a young age about the commitment, hard work and responsibility of the profession, which should not be taken lightly. The welfare of the dogs comes first, before your own personal welfare, and this is more important than winning. There is always another dog show, but you can't bring back dead dogs, due to neglect. Vanessa believes that just because some "handler" is doing a lot of winning does not mean they are professional. She also

emphasizes that the true professional is friendly and courteous to others, both in and out of the ring, whether winning or losing. She recommends that junior handlers and parents need to observe what goes on in the ring and also spend time watching behind the scene to identify the true professionals.

AKC JUNIOR SEMINARS FOR 2000

Saturday April 15 – Harrisburg, PA

Saturday July 8, in conjunction with the
Farmington Valley Kennel Club Show –
W. Springfield, MA

Friday July 21, in conjunction with the Astro
Hall Series Dog Show – Houston, TX

For more information on these seminars
contact Amy Reid, 919-852-3814,
juniors@akc.org.



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PEDIGREE® BRAND DOG FOOD JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP COMPETITION RULES

Effective January 1, 2000 all Junior Showmanship shows sponsored by PEDIGREE® will be calculated as follows for prize distribution.

OPEN JUNIOR and OPEN SENIOR: At all PEDIGREE® sponsored shows, the winner of each class will be given one (1) point for each competitor that he/she defeats, as recorded by the American Kennel Club (AKC). At the end of the year the Open Junior and Open Senior with the most points will be invited to the PEDIGREE® Awards Dinner in New York City during Westminster 2001. In addition, the winner of Open Senior will be sent to the 2001 Crufts Dog Show in England. The winner of Open Junior will be sent to the 2001 World Show in The Netherlands. Each winner will be allowed one (1) chaperone, which must be a parent or legal guardian, and be approved by PEDIGREE®.

In the year that a Junior observes the

birthday that moves them from Open Junior to Open Senior the rules will be as follows:

Birthdays before July 1, the junior will be into Open Senior (per AKC rules) and will have all of their earned wins and points (from Open Junior) applied to their competition in OPEN SENIOR. Thus, when the birthday falls on or after July 1, the junior continues to compete for the PEDIGREE® Best Open Junior Award (until January 1 of the following year).

In the event of a tie in Points: The junior with the most victories (first place finishes) will be the winner. Should there be a tie in both points and victories, the junior with the highest amount of Second Place finishes will be the winner. Third and Fourth places will be considered should the tie continue.

For the full list of Pedigree sponsored shows, either contact Pedigree or go to www.infodog.com.

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