

AKC JR. NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE AKC JUNIOR ORGANIZATION, VOL. 6, NO. 2 SUMMER 2003

EDITORIAL

BY MARI-BETH O'NEILL

Congratulations to this years Scholarship Recipients!!! Information about the recipients, criteria and how to apply can be found within this issue.

We are looking forward to this years AKC Eukanuba Invitational, December 3, in Long Beach, California. We encourage you to send in your transcripts ASAP if you have already won the five wins with competition. As we get closer to the last day for competition and if you are in need of the final win you may send your transcript in advance.

A topic that this office deals with regularly is eligibility of dog for entry in Junior Showmanship. You are reminded of the ownership eligibility and if ownership is not eligible all awards will be canceled.

Substitution of dogs by Juniors is a topic that is raised on a routine basis. You are reminded that a dog may be substituted only once per show, up to one half hour prior to the scheduled time for the Junior Showmanship Class to begin. The Junior must have the AKC number of the substitute dog. The ownership criteria must be met.

Also, there is some exciting news about the Junior Newsletter. In the next few months we will be preparing to launch a new version of the Junior Newsletter. The new version will be electronic and will be sent via email and available on the AKC Website. By using this technology we will be able to send out more issues of the newsletter in a quicker manner. We hope you will enjoy this new format. Sign up instructions will be available soon.

Good luck with your endeavors, the Juniors who are participating in multiple events are increasing with more and more Juniors having handled their dogs to advanced titles in the Companion and Performance Events. If you have not tried one of these events with your dog, read the articles in this issue and see what you are missing.



THE JUNIOR HUNTER TITLE

BY HUNTER ESSLINGER

Training for a Junior Hunter title really starts when you go to pick out your puppy. My Grandpa picked out my Golden Retriever pup for me. I named her Hunter's Shining Star, Star for short. He tracked down a litter of puppies from a really good dog named Bailey. We got to go to Green Bay Wisconsin and spend some time with Bailey and his owner Dave Baumguard. He was really nice and gave me some tips on how to handle my dog. I started working with Star from the time I got her as a puppy. It is a lot of work,



especially for an 8-year-old. Mom and Dad said it was important for me to train with her if I was going to handle her in Junior Field Trials.

I got Star at the end of July and had her obedience trained and retrieving really well. We

were training her to come and sit to the whistle and used a list of commands that my grandpa used with his dog Quake. Quake is a Master Hunter. We watched him run in field trials a few times before we started all of this. That worked out well because my mom and dad decided to send Star with a professional trainer for the winter. We could not do that kind of training in the winter here in Wisconsin. The trainer takes the dogs to Oklahoma for a couple of months in an area where he can train with the dogs in water and on land. We went to Oklahoma to train with Star for a few days. The trainer was really nice and helped me with the commands and helped me with what to expect at a Junior Field Trial.

When Star came home, we started working at least 5 days a week with her. Like I said, obedience is very important because when you go to a trial it's like the dog knows it has to perform well and gets very nervous. Not to mention she was still a puppy, only about 10 months old. No matter how much training you do with puppies, they are just like us kids, we get nervous and excited and we make some mistakes. You have to try and be as calm as you can and take your time. That is the hard part. You have to pay attention to all of your dog's actions and reactions to things. My dad tells me I am really good at knowing when to send Star, when to wait and when to give her a command. The dog has to be able to mark birds well and have a good nose to find the bird in case she missed the mark a bit. The dog must also retrieve to hand and heel. The dog has to honor other dogs as well. At home, we use my dad's dog Pal (he is a Chesapeake Bay Retriever) to train with, so Star could get used to working with other dogs. We trained in fields and ponds because they make the trials pretty tricky sometimes. Your dog might have to swim through water and come out on

the shore on the other side, or have to mark the birds at 100 yards in high grass. You never know so you have to try and train in as many different areas as you can.

It is a lot of work, but it is a lot of fun too! You and your dog can win these neat ribbons and when you have passed enough Field Trials, your dog is titled a Junior Hunter. The people and the judges are really nice. You should contact the American Kennel Club and have them give you a Junior Handler Number and some Junior Certification Forms. The judge should fill out the forms when you participate in the trials. You will get a nice certificate from the American Kennel Club for being a Junior Handler.

Well, Star passed her Junior Hunter Test just before her first birthday. My dad decided to try one more trial this year before hunting season, it was for a working certificate. My dad ran Quake and I ran Star. Both dogs passed and did a great job. My Grandpa watched me at all of the trials. I sure had a lot of fun, even though I would get a little nervous before each trial. It was worth it!

MY OBEDIENCE ADVENTURE

BY CECILIA SCHMITT

My name is Cecilia Schmitt, I am seventeen years old and I live in Virginia. My obedience adventure started about six years ago when I began taking my Golden Retriever, Penny (Montana Gold, CDX, CGC), to a local obedience class. And the excitement hasn't let up since!

My family purchased Penny and her brother when they were puppies. We originally got them to be pets. Then I became interested in obedience competition!

I started training Penny when she was three years old and I was eleven. After I had been training her for two years, she got her Canine Good Citizen certificate. Six months after that I entered her in our first Obedience Trial.

We didn't qualify at that first trial, but I think we did provide some entertainment for the spectators! On the Long Down exercise, Penny decided it would be the perfect time to take a long roll in the grass.



Penny just had a grand old time, feet flying all over the place, wiggling around in the grass. Looking back on it, it really was awfully funny!

Penny did qualify our next time out and the time after that. On her second leg we got third place in the Novice A Class (we were actually tied for second, but lost the run off). The Penny failed two straight trials. She failed for trying to roll in the grass on the Heel Free, and for breaking the Long Down. Penny's excuse for breaking the Long Down was that two other dogs got up from their stays, and began playing a lively game of tag around the ring. Penny didn't join the fun but she did stand up. On October 3, 1999 Penny got her final leg. She finished her CD in fine style placing fourth in a large Novice A class. I showed Penny twice more

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

BY ADAM KING

To think that I would ever be involved in the world of dogs shows would have seemed unimaginable just a little over two years ago. After watching several dog shows on television, I knew that I wanted to show dogs. Though my parents liked animals, we had only a pet quality Lab that was bought from the newspaper, along with a small menagerie of other animals. After watching the shows, I researched every breed, both AKC recognized and not, and fond the Havanese. Though I do not care for most Toy Breeds, the Havanese is small enough to travel easily, but sturdy enough to be a 'real' dog. But no matter what I said, their answer was always a firm "no". We went to the 2000 Louisville Kennel Club Show and met Barbara and Michele

in Novice. She qualified both times and collected another fourth placement with her highest score yet of 191. I also won prizes for Highest Scoring Junior Handler at our last two Novice Trials.

I trained Penny for Open the winter of 1999-2000. She caught on very quickly and I entered her in her first Open competition in April of 2000. Penny qualified her first time out with a second place in Open A! She failed out next trial for not going down on the Drop on Recall. But she qualified the next day. She qualified with a score of 198 1/2 and took second place in a large Open A class. Penny's Long Down problems came back to haunt us at our next Open attempt. It had been overcast all day, but during the Long Down was when the thunder and a torrent of rain let loose. All the Open A dogs broke, including Penny.

Penny got her CDX on April 19, 2000. Her third leg wasn't pretty but at least she qualified. I showed Penny one additional time in Open. She qualified and took fourth place under less than ideal conditions (it had rained earlier that day and the ground was very wet). After Penny got her CDX, I decided to take a little break from obedience.

I had become interested in Canine Musical Freestyle and wanted to focus on that for awhile.

In 2001, I was ready to continue Penny's obedience career. I also began training Tarquin at that time. Up until then, Tarquin had been my parent's dog. I started showing him in obedience that fall. He finished his CD in four shows. I will start competing in Open with Tarquin in the next few months.

I have recently started showing Penny in Utility. We do not have any qualifying scores, but hopefully they will be coming soon! It is interesting training Penny and Tarquin because even though they were littermates, they are very different. Penny is very mellow and laid back and, well, Tarquin isn't! His official name says it all: De Oro Tarquin Can Bounce CD, CGC. Yes, he is very bouncy!

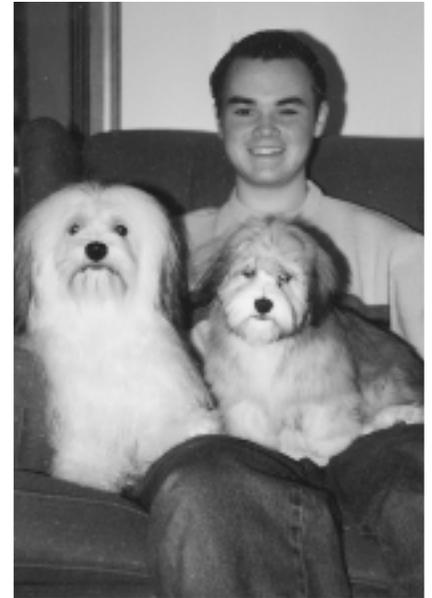
In 2001 I got a third dog. He is a Greyhound and his name is Silver (Suntiger Sterling Silver). I am doing obedience with Silver, but we still have a *long* way to go in that department.

Before I end my little tale, I would like to thank my obedience instructors Debbie Barrows and Devon Merritt. I would not have gotten this far without them. I also want to encourage everyone reading this to give obedience a try. It is more fun than you may think!

Johannes, and their Havanese "Buster" and "Bonnie." I knew that this was the breed for me immediately.

In September of 2000, I started corresponding with a well-respected Havanese breeder Rita Stern. She eventually called my parents and asked if it would be acceptable to send me a show puppy for Christmas, and suprisingly, my parents agreed to it. In December of 2000, "Pete" joined our family. I began showing Pete in conformation and he quickly finished his championship before he was a year old. We then bought our first bitch, "Gracie", who finished her championship before she turned nine months old.

In the spring of 2002, I decided at the age of 17 to try Junior Showmanship. I had specialed "Pete" with some success, but really wanted to show in Junior Showmanship at the Havanese National Specialty. It was the first time the classes were offered and I was determined to win Best Junior. Since I was in Novice Senior, it took me a while to find



competition in order to advance into Open, but I eventually obtained my wins in time to show at the National in Open Senior. I ended up winning Best Junior Handler, but the greatest part about the national was getting tips from a former Toy Junior Handler Tara Martin. She inspired me to try to qualify for both the AKC/Eukanuba Invitational and Westminster Kennel Club show even though I only had a couple of months to try. She also gave grooming and handling tips that have become invaluable.

Starting in late August of 2002, I began seriously trying to get my eight wins. Though I figured it was not likely to happen, my parents promised me that they would take me to Orlando and New York if I happened to qualify. I received all of my wins well within the allotted time and was able to show at both shows. I am so happy that I decided to give Junior Showmanship a try. I have made many friendships during my brief time and have also sharpened my handling skills. I am also lucky enough to be named one of the recipients of the Junior Showmanship Scholarship for 2003.

Though I have aged-out of Junior Showmanship, I hope to remain very active in the sport. I now co-own an English Setter with Melissa Newman that I have just begun showing. Though showing a Sporting breed is totally different than showing a Toy breed, I am adapting. I recently bred my first litter, and hopefully by the beginning of 2004 I will have a nice Havanese puppy to show in the Bre-By class. I have also judged Juniors at several matches and hope to apply for my license to judge Junior Showmanship. I would also like to become a conformation judge, and have already judges Breed and Group at several matches. Though I only showed a brief time in Juniors, it is a time that I will never forget!

JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

BY AMY REID

The American Kennel Club received eighty-one applications this year for the Junior Showmanship Scholarship. Forty-eight scholarships were awarded ranging from \$1000-\$5000. The recipients were from twenty-three states and participated in all aspects of the fancy. They included Obedience, Agility, Conformation, the Performance Events and qualifying for Westminster.



Please congratulate the following Junior Showmanship Scholarship Recipients:

Charlotte Anderson
Lindsay Balder
Emily Bisso
Krystle Bounds
Kathleen Burns
Mary Lynn Butcher
Tyler Cegler
Wyatt Delfino
Jenna Dell
Shalimar Distler
Kerrie Doerr
Jennifer Duffecy
Kerry Edinger
Jennifer Fish



JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *continued*

Lindsey Gaulke
Jenny Glei
Caitlyn Glick
Heather Grodi
Rebecca Helmke
Allison Johnston
Elizabeth Jordan
Adam King
Julia Kinsey
Kristi Klaus
Lisa Kleven
Lauren Kolb
Peter Kubacz
Brittany Lagaly
Brandon Lenk
Meghann Lord
Allison McGuigan
Emily Meyer
Shannon Mort
Marian Mossman
Kristen Nelson
Megan Nelson
Holly Niece
Shea Olsen
David Pittman
Sarah Purdy
Jessica Russ
Brandi Smith
Holly Smith
Melanie Tokarski
Ashley Tripodi
Nicholas Urbanek
Joshua Webb
Danielle Zezulinski



If you are interested in receiving a scholarship application for the 2004-2005 academic year, please send your name and mailing address to juniors@akc.org

The applications will be ready by November 2003.



LESSONS I HAVE LEARNED AS A JUNIOR HANDLER IN AGILITY

BY CAROLINE BEASLEY

Lesson #1: My dog loves to play agility whether we have a good run or a bad one! Laddie, my 4-year-old Shetland Sheepdog, is my very best friend and companion. He loves for me to play any game with him, but especially agility. He starts getting extremely excited and starts barking when he sees that we have pulled out suitcases and the tent.

Lesson #2: The best human friends I have, I discovered while running agility as a Junior Handler! For a while, it seemed like I was the only Junior Handler showing in agility in North and South Carolina. Then I met Blaire and Kendall Boyette from Raleigh, NC. We are all very close in age and go to many of the same agility trials. We are all showing at the excellent level, but all at different heights, which is great fun! Even our dogs get along well! We spend lots of time hanging out together with our dogs and just enjoying being together. Now I'm seeing more and more junior handlers at the shows we attend in North and South Carolina, but Blaire, Kendall and I will remain the closest of agility friends!

Lesson #3: Now that I am competing in Excellent B level agility, I have quickly discovered that it's always ONE thing that keeps Laddie and me from qualifying! If we fix weave pole entry problems; then the next time it might be pole knocking problems! Aargh! Luckily, every now and then we get a qualifying round to keep us going!

Lesson #4: The number of times Laddie and I qualify is in direct

correlation to the amount of time that we spend practicing! Oops! Sometimes it has been hard to find time to get schoolwork done, take care of my horse and still drive to our obedience club's agility field to get enough practice in to perform like we could and should. Laddie reminds me when it is time to practice, though; he's a bright Sheltie who gets very bored if I don't play agility enough with him!

Lesson #5: Good sportsmanship at all times was one of the hardest lessons I had to learn. But this lesson, which carries over to the rest of my life, is one of the most valuable from my agility career. When we first got started, it was fairly easy for Laddie and I to qualify; he got his first titles fairly quickly. Then, as the level of difficulty increased, the qualifying rounds came fewer and farther between. I had to learn that problems with a course were most often my fault and not my dog's. It was hard for me to learn how to deal with the disappointment, but, with time and maturity, I have come to see that not qualifying can also provide valuable information about how to handle the next run differently. Of course, if I had a choice, I would still choose to qualify!

Lesson #6: I think I'll stick with agility; I tried obedience and the seriousness of it dampened the fun I have with Laddie. My mom likes obedience, so I'll just let her do that with Laddie. She's tried to talk me into trying the new Rally obedience, saying it's a lot more fun, kind of like agility, but I think I'll just stick with agility.

LASSIE, ME AND AGILITY

BY JAMIE STONER

I looked at her, she looked at me. I could hear the barking and whines of the other dogs. I felt the fur on the ruff of her neck.

I looked at the course one more time and prayed that we do well. I felt the tension in the air as the timer said, "Go, when ready". I looked at her one more time and took off.

It all started when my parents and I went to the animal shelter on Hamilton Avenue to find a dog. Going down the last aisle, I was very disappointed in the selection of dogs available. Then I spotted a skinny, matted Collie looking dog. I was taken. I immediately fell in love with her. My parents did not agree. She was too big, too old and unhealthy looking. Well, I won this one. The Collie, I named Lassie, had a new owner and I had a new best friend. After we took her home, she was as wild as could be and definitely needed training.

I started obedience training with Lassie at Ringers Pet Dog Training. There we learned to handle and perform the basic commands - sit, down, come, etc changing Lassie into a well-behaved pet.

After graduation from obedience class, we continued training and we were introduced to agility at an Agility Fun Day.

We did have fun and I asked my parents if we could take agility classes at Splash and Dash, an agility-training club. The fun was still there but so was the work. But I knew I was hooked on agility. For two years we attended classes learning the many aspects of agility. Not only did I need to learn the commands and the importance of body language, but also the need to praise and correct Lassie with just the right voice and actions. I needed to put all this learning into action, which does take a lot of practice.

Once a week we did the formal training at Splash and Dash. Then,

throughout the week, I worked with Lassie at home. Not having any equipment of my own, we looked for someone who lived close by to share not only the agility equipment, but more important the knowledge and experience of running in agility trials.

We were introduced to Joanne Cook who lived a short distance from us and she became my tutor for the summer. I used her equipment to work with Lassie, and Joanne shared her experiences with me. This helped Lassie and I on problem areas we were encountering.

After three years of training classes, practicing and a lot of ups and downs, Lassie and I were ready to enter the ring.

Our first show in Northern Westmoreland Park did not go well. But, I signed up for the David Lawrence Convention Center Trial in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania in April of 2002. I was ready and I bought Lassie a four-dollar hot dog knowing she was going to do her best. I was ready to run when I walked up to the starting line and took off Lassie's leash. She completed the jumps, tunnels and weaves flawlessly but did we make time? While I was packing up, my friend came running up saying that not only did I qualify, I took first place as well! Now I couldn't be happier! So Pittsburgh was a wonderful success as Lassie won her first blue ribbon and started us on our showing career.

Lassie now has her Open Title and runs in Excellent. I show her almost every weekend in the summer and now have a total of seventy-one ribbons!

I have to admit it wasn't easy. It did, and continues to take a lot of work and time. My parents fenced in the yard, which is now filled with agility equipment that my father and uncle built for me. As we come across a problem area, I have a private lesson with Bruce and get suggestions on what to try to solve the problem. All this time and work is well worth it and pays off with the excitement and thrill of being at an agility trial. On a really good day you get that extra bonus of qualifying and winning a ribbon or two.

AKC FAMILY ANNOUNCES FIRST "WHY I LOVE MY DOG" CHILDREN'S ART CONTEST

WHO: *AKC Family Dog* magazine is seeking entries for a children's art contest themed "Why I Love My Dog." The entries should express why and how dogs bring meaning and pleasure to our lives. First-, second-, and third-place prizes will be awarded in three different age categories: 6 years old and under, 7 to 10 years, and 11 to 14 years. The first-place winner in each category will receive a \$100 U.S. savings bond, and all winners will receive an *AKC Family Dog* prize package, which includes *The Complete Dog Book for Kids* and the *AKC Gazette* "Sunshine World of Purebred Puppies" poster.

WHAT: *AKC Family Dog* is a new consumer lifestyle magazine for families with

purebred dogs. It provides a wide range of columns and feature articles from nationally recognized veterinarians, experts, and writers. Each issue provides "how-to's," news updates, and vital information to help pet owners learn about "all the best" for their purebred dog.

WHERE: Send all entries to:
AKC Family Dog Kids Art Contest
The American Kennel Club
260 Madison Avenue
New York, NY, 10016

WHEN: Entries must be postmarked by December 1, 2003.

For a complete list of contest rules see the Summer 2003 issue of *AKC Family Dog*.



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