

JUNIOR REGULATION CHANGES

The below regulation changes have been approved by the Board of Directors and will go into effect January 1, 2001. Noted are the

section and changes in the *Conformation Junior Showmanship, Regulations, Guidelines for Judging Juniors in conformation, Juniors in Performance Events regulations*

Section 5 – Classes and Division

No entry may be changed or cancelled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received in writing or by telegram by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in the premium list to receive entries, except that a correction may be made from one age division to another. This transfer must be made at least one half-hour prior to the judging of any Junior Showmanship class at the show.

Section 4 – Approval of Judges

The criteria for eligibility to judge Junior Showmanship at an AKC All breed event includes experience in at least two of the following:

- Having been a Junior
- Being a Parent of a Junior
- Having been a Professional Handler
- Having taught an all breed handling classes
- Having judged Junior Showmanship at least three times at AKC All Breed Sanctioned Matches
- Having attended a seminar on judging Junior Showmanship in the last 24 months.

JUNIOR SEMINARS FOR 2001

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| January 6 | St. Paul, MN – in conjunction with the Land O'Lakes Kennel Club |
| January 13 | Freemont, NE in conjunction with the Platte Valley Kennel Club |
| February 17 | Denver, CO in conjunction with the Plum Creek Kennel Club |
| April 14 | Perry, GA – in conjunction with the Peach Blossom Cluster |



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AKC JR. NEWS



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JUNIORS AT THE CLASSIC

AKC is pleased to announce that a special competition will exist for juniors at the AKC~Eukanuba Dog Classic, which will be held Wednesday December 12, 2001 in Orlando, Florida. Criteria for eligibility for a Junior to enter are:

Five wins in an Open Class with competition, between the dates of January 1, 2001 and the closing date. One may still compete in this event if the qualifying wins are earned prior to reaching one's 18th Birthday.

Additionally, a grade point average of a 3.0 or equivalent for the past two complete semesters of work, as described by the school attended. An official school transcript must be submitted.

Eligibility for entry and ownership specifications is as described in the Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations.

The total number of entries will be limited to 100; those entries received in the mail with the 100th entry will be included. Preliminary classes will be held and judges will select a specified number of juniors to compete in the finals. No placements will be made in the preliminary classes.

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are reaching the conclusion of the second year of juniors being eligible to compete in all the Performance Events. We are very proud that juniors have participated in National Events. We encourage all juniors to learn, experience, and compete in any event for which your dog is eligible to compete. As of this printing, over 150 juniors have handled their dog to a title in one of the Performance Events. We look forward to seeing these figures grow in 2001.

Applications for Junior Scholarships are available by contacting 919-852-3814 or juniors@akc.org.

If you are currently a senior in High School or in college or some other form of secondary education you are eligible to apply.

Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Holiday Season.

JUNIORS AT AKC NATIONAL AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIP 2000



Six juniors competed at the national Agility Championship in Springfield, Massachusetts November 4 & 5 2000. To be eligible to compete the dog must possess an AX and AXJ title along with 4 qualifying legs with 100 scores in Excellent standard Class (A or B) and 3 qualifying legs with 100 scores in Excellent Jumpers with Weaves Class (A or B) between the dates of 10/2/99 and 10/3/00.

L-R- Jennifer Oberhelman, Elizabeth Ridley, & Katie O'Day. Not pictured- Tiffiney Williamson, Jennifer Crank, & Katie Moureaux

CONTINUING EDUCATION

BY CHRIS RYAN

As I stood in the Open Junior class, deciding to let my dog relax while the judge evaluated the herd of junior handlers, I watched the Hound Group end. While a professional handler confidently brought his dog and himself to the first place sign, I unknowingly thought, “It must be great to have a job where you win frequently and work only a few days each week.”

Four years later, I was unable to compete in Junior Showmanship since the disappointing day came for me—I *aged out!* But, I wanted to stay involved with the sport, learn more and possibly make some money. I started thinking about handlers in my area that I would like to have as teachers. For me, it is important that a handler behaves professionally, is a talented groomer and handler, show quality dogs and has interests beyond dogs. After considering my priorities and spending the next few weekends stalking some handlers (just kidding! I didn’t stalk them—I just watched and followed them constantly); I spoke with RC and Shari Carusi, which led to a successful working partnership and friendship.

While working for RC and Shari I learned a lot and had fun. First of all, as far as grooming is concerned, they specialize in terriers—need I say more? Luckily, after the first few weeks I stopped getting blisters, but they were worth it since I learned many grooming techniques. Even though most of the techniques applied to terriers, I realized I could use the methods to improve the way I groom other breeds.

Secondly, oftentimes at the kennel we would practice with the dogs. Having the opportunity to present dogs taught me how to



Chris showing his Malamute.

handle different breeds and dogs with different temperaments. Occasionally at shows I handled dogs, which taught me how to make a dog look its best. The experience was valuable, not only for the sake of having more knowledge, but also, it made me realize the importance of presenting a dog effectively.

Thirdly, RC and Shari have interests beyond dogs. They provided me with valuable experiences, involving and not involving dogs. When we had time off, which was not often, they made plans to take me to the movies,

white-water rafting, hiking, fishing, canoeing, and to concerts. To maintain your interest and make the experience fulfilling, it is important that one do more than take care of dogs and go to shows. Actually, it is a lesson in life!

Most importantly, working for a handler gave me an accurate perspective of the profession. Unlike what I thought on that day I was in the juniors’ ring, handling is not a profession where you work only a few days a week and win constantly. In fact, it is a profession where you put in long days for at least six and some times seven days a week, and a day off has to be scheduled, as we all know dogs need to be cared for everyday. Also, the hectic schedule of a handler often means missing family gatherings, birthday parties, graduation parties, cookouts and other events that typically are held on weekends. Without working for a handler I would not have realized what it is like to devote so much time to a profession and how rewarding a profession can be.

Finally, I strongly suggest that all Junior Handlers take some time to work for a professional handler; whether or not you are interested in handling as a profession, the experience is valuable and enriching. You will be given an opportunity to learn about many breeds, running a business and an aspect of the sport you may be unfamiliar with. Before making a commitment to work for someone, talk to him or her and see what his or her personality is like. Also, be sure that he or she is professional and takes care of his or her dogs. With these values in mind, you should learn a lot and benefit immensely since you will be participating in your hobby and doing your job simultaneously – an ideal combination.

Juniors in Puerto Rico

BY MICHAEL SAUVE, AKC EXECUTIVE FIELD STAFF

I recently was assigned to shows in Puerto Rico. Part of my assignment was to do a Junior Showmanship Seminar with the assistance of Manuel Rodriguez. (Enough to make me hyperventilate) Much to my surprise it was the most pleasant part of my weekend.

My evening with fifteen enthusiastic, smart,

polite and charming juniors made a true believer out of me—and my time was well spent. These juniors exemplify all of the positive aspects of participating in the AKC’s Junior’s Program.

Because of the infrequency of shows in Puerto Rico (they only have four), the smallness of the entries (400 dogs) makes the

shows seem to be much more of a family event. The juniors helped in all aspects of the shows and they performed admirably!

Their skills in presenting dogs were only surpassed by the polite and respectful attitudes and their sportsmanship. Their talent at presentation was demonstrated by the fact that we had four different and deserving winners over the four shows.

I came away thinking long live Junior Showmanship!!!

MY WORLD DOG SHOW EXPERIENCE

BY LAUREN HOUSE

Editors note: Lauren at age 12 qualified to go to the World show by winning the Open Junior class at the Long Beach Kennel Club December 1999.

I was sent this year by Pedigree Dog Food to the World Dog Show in Milan, Italy, June 22–25 to compete in Junior Showmanship. The show was spread out over 4 different days with different groups of breeds being shown each day. There were approximately 64 rings with an entry of 16,000 dogs and 150 Junior Showmen. In each of the four days about 40 Juniors were entered. Three juniors from each of the day's class were selected to compete in the finals.

I competed on the first day. I was given a Siberian Husky named Am/Italian Ch. Saharaswindriders (Winnie) to show. Winnie and I hit it off right away. He was a great show dog and did everything I asked him to do. Winnie and I made the cut the first day along with a girl from Portugal and a girl from Poland.

Sunday night came and all the final Juniors plus 7 additional Juniors were all judged again in the Ring of Honor. The judge was from Italy and she didn't speak English so I had to guess what she wanted us to do. She again chose the three of us from the very first day as her 3 finalists. The judge then had us switch dogs, and I got a beautiful Whippet. In the end the announcer started with the 3rd

place and called the girl from Poland, so there were just 2 of us left, then they called my name as 2nd place. The crowds were cheering for all three of us, and the press photographers were all inside the ring taking pictures. It was great. The whole trip was fantastic, I saw more breeds of dogs than I had ever thought possible and got to watch the different ways they were shown.



Poster and photo showing Lauren House with Winnie.

Montgomery Kennel Club



Open Senior class waiting to go in the ring



Open Junior class waiting to enter the ring



(L-R) Novice Senior class with judge Sue Weiss

IS THERE LIFE AFTER JUNIORS?

BY DINA RAICHEL

Your eighteenth birthday is approaching, and it means the end of your career as a junior. Now what? Does your involvement in dogs end? It certainly shouldn't... and if you are about to age out or are comfortably aged with a number of years left competing in juniors, you might want to think about what options may allow you to remain a member of the dog community. You are already lucky to be involved in a sport which knows no age boundaries (outside of the juniors, of course), but there is a great deal outside of the show ring that can not only keep you involved, but can be helpful in shaping your future career.

Years after my juniors career ended, I am a veterinary student working toward having a career preserving the health of dogs as well as many other species. So far I've been lucky enough to have worked with dogs, cats, birds, dolphins, whales, walruses, seals, sea lions, penguins, elephants, fish, otters, and even the occasional ferret. Even with my wide range of experiences with animals, I see my time in juniors as invaluable in directing me toward my future career. I spent time outside the ring learning about breeding, whelping my own litters, vaccinations, and anything else that piqued my interest at the time. I loved what I learned, and it showed me that I was very interested in veterinary medicine.

Is a career as a veterinarian the right direction for you?

As a teenager who is already involved with dogs, you might already be considering becoming a veterinarian. You also might not quite be sure that you want to take all those "weed-out" college courses (like organic chemistry and physics) that are required for veterinary school. The good news is that at 18 you are old enough to volunteer at a local veterinary hospital. This is a great way to see what a day in the life of a vet is really like, and if it seems like a career you would like



to pursue. You will learn a great deal just by observing the daily operation of a veterinary hospital. The experience is sure to bring insight into the pros and cons of a career of veterinary medicine. Veterinarians sometimes deal with difficult issues in their jobs, such as euthanizing an ailing beloved family pet. You might thrive on being a supportive figure in such times, or you might not feel comfortable taking such a role.

Remember that there are many different areas of veterinary medicine today. There are not only many areas of specialization (such as oncology and surgery), but also various species that a vet may choose to treat (small animal, equine, food animal, etc.). You might think of a vet as that person who vaccinates your dogs, but veterinarians also work at zoos, farms, the government, and any other place you would find animals.

I want to go to vet school, now what?

If you are on your way off to college soon, but are considering veterinary school in the future, now is a great time to start planning! Talk to your college's pre-vet advisor or call the admission office at your veterinary school of choice to find out about their requirements (each school can have different prerequisites). This will not only help you plan your class



schedule, but it will allow you to plan your education outside of the classroom. Remember that although grades are important, so are activities! Remaining involved with dogs is always a great activity. If you go to school away from home and cannot manage to get to dog shows, how about volunteering at the local shelter? Even if you only volunteer to walk the shelter dogs occasionally, you'll be doing something great for the dogs while getting your own doggie fix away from home.

Is all the work worth it?

I've made a long journey from my junior days to veterinary school. I went to college and received my undergraduate degree in Biology, worked in various animal hospitals, received a master's degree in Anatomy, got married, and I even worked with marine mammals at an aquarium. Getting admitted to veterinary school was not simple. And I would be lying if I said that vet school was easy, but it certainly is rewarding.

Betty, my long-retired juniors dog, is over sixteen years old now. Would I be here today if it weren't for all that she has taught me (and still is teaching me)? I don't think so, and I'm so happy that I have a partner like her who took me through my junior years, high school, college, graduate school, and now veterinary school. Chances are that if you're involved in juniors, you are lucky to have a partner like Betty with whom you'll be able to mature with. Take advantage of it, and learn all you can. It will be worth it, you have my word.

ONCE A DREAM, NOW A REALITY

BY BRANDI GRIDER

My name is Brandi Grider. I am fourteen years old and live in Del City, Oklahoma with my two Chinese Cresteds, and English Setter, and a Weimaraner. I also co-own 3 English Setter bitches that live with their breeder fifteen minutes away from my house.

When I was eight years old, I became interested in showing dogs, so I researched different breeds and the art of dog handling. I never missed watching Westminster or Crufts on television. Finally, when I turned twelve, my parents allowed me to obtain a

On August 5 & 6 2000 was the annual Junior Achievement Challenge (JAC) match sponsored by Jack Onofrio Dog Shows and the Oklahoma City Kennel Club. The first and second place winners from each class both days advanced to compete for Best Overall



show dog. I found that I liked the English setter the best. Grooming would be a tough task at first, but I knew that I could master it.

I located a breeder with a dog that only needed a major to finish. On May 3, 1999, we lost our house completely in the Oklahoma City tornado, which, ironically, inspired me to name my kennel Twister Kennels. Four days later the breeder and I met, and I signed the registration papers.

I started in Juniors with my English Setter and was fortunate to be successful and earn eligibility to compete in Open fairly quickly. With the help of my mentors, Tim and Linda Carroll, we have continued to evaluate what dog I will show in Juniors.

JAC Junior Handler. Ralston Purina donated as first prize a complete Hewlett Packard computer system, which included a seventeen-inch monitor and a color printer. On the day of the finals, I decided to show Sally. Three Judges combined their individual scores to determine the overall winner. I was awarded the top honors. This was special to me, even with this being a match; it was my last day to compete in Open Juniors before I aged into Seniors.

I will be taking my Smooth Collie, Sonny to Westminster in February to compete in Breed and Junior Showmanship.

Good Luck to all that are competing, and I look forward to seeing you in the ring!



JUDGING PROCEDURES

The Judges of Junior Showmanship are instructed to use procedures consistent with those in their conformation judging. The exception is that the Judges are instructed to watch each Junior set up their dog. This is to allow the judge to assess the rapport the Junior has established with his or her dog. Gaïting patterns that judges use are to be consistent with those used in conformation judging as well, a down and back, an L or a triangle depending on the layout of the ring.

The question is often raised about the courtesy turn. Whether or not it should be used or not? The response is it would be up to the Junior and whether or not it would be worth while for the dog or not. In other words will it help get the dog going.

The Judges are advised to reward the Junior that disappears into the background and all you see is the dog. Or in other words any actions that draw attention away from the dog and to the Junior themselves should be penalized. These might include, excessive hand motions, arm movements while moving their dog, staring the judge down or even if the dress of the handler distracts from the dog. An example might be a black dog against a black background would not allow the dog to be seen.

Good luck in the ring!!

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DOGS

BY MARY LYNN BUTCHER

When I think of my participation in the sport of dogs, I not only think of the Junior Showmanship and breed rings, but also of the many other sports I have participated in with my dogs. Through my career of showing dogs I have been able to work extensively in some areas and only been able to dabble in others. But in all the areas I have shown my dogs, my character has grown in the strengthening of the special bond I have with my canine friends and the many experiences we have gone through together.

I was five years old the first time I showed in Juniors. My parents were showing at a fun match and after being prompted by many people, I agreed to show in Juniors. I went in the ring barefoot, with my mom and our Belgian Sheepdog, Minni, not knowing the first thing about how to show a dog. I came out of the ring smiling and have been hooked ever since.

When I turned nine, I joined my local 4-H club and started showing in County and State 4-H shows. 4-H has been a great experience for me. I have made a lot of friends in the past several

years and we have shared many fun times together. 4-H has allowed me to participate to a fuller extent in the sport of dogs. Because of 4-H's diverse levels of obedience and acceptance of mixed breeds, many people who might not be able to participate in AKC for various reasons can still enjoy the sport of dogs through 4-H.

Through the years I continued to show Minni in 4-H and AKC Junior Showmanship. Together we had many wonderful wins and great times. When I was twelve, I got my first puppy, also a Belgian Sheepdog. I named him Roci and was determined to train and show him in every sport possible.

When Roci and I started showing in



Mary Lynn and Roci preparing to compete.

Novice A, we were very successful. After earning his Companion Dog title, we competed for sixty days, qualifying a total of nine times. Of our qualifying runs, we received five first places and four second place finishes. We also competed in 4-H, winning our Novice B class at the County Fair and placing 4th at the Ohio State Fair competition.

With lots of work through the winter, Roci and I were ready for Open this past spring. In our first three shows, Roci earned his Companion Dog Excellent title. We placed each day, earning a first, second (tied for first), and third. Roci received

some very nice scores of 196, 197 and 193. I was hoping to win the Dog World Award, but missed by just a few steps. A Dog World award is given to any dog that competes in three consecutive obedience trials and scores 195 or better. On the third day of competition, after all the exercises were completed, I was putting on Roci's leash when he decided to let out a couple of victory barks- just two steps from being out of the ring. The judge took off two points, giving us 193—two points short of the needed 195 for the Dog World Award!

Through my 4-H club, Roci and I also participate in agility. We compete in USDAA's Junior Handler program and competed in AKC agility for the first time earlier this sum-



Mary Lynn and Roci practicing in conformation

mer. Roci loves agility- he is a speed demon! I have found that agility is one of the most likely places that Roci will goof off, particularly in the outside shows when a single string encloses the ring. I have been embarrassed several times by his goofy antics. The fall we will be pursuing our AKC Novice agility titles, something Roci and I both are looking forward to experiencing.

As I start college this fall, even though I know that my life will change, I plan to continue working with Roci. I have some very high goals for us to reach, and I have learned that there is never a better time than the present to go for them. In addition to my goals of completing Roci's championship (only one more major!) and earning some agility titles this fall, we are currently training in Utility. I plan to get his UD, and time permitting on my part, his UDX and, who knows maybe an OTCH. Tracking and herding have both sparked my interest as well. Roci is a very intelligent dog and loves to work; as long as I have time, he will be ready to learn, participate, and excel in any sport. I have been very blessed to be loved by my wonderful Belgians, and to have been helped by many people. I feel that with my strong roots in training and showing dogs, I will always be involved in the sport in some way.

I want to encourage today's Juniors to explore all avenues in the sport of dogs. Not only does the dog world offer wonderful and exciting sports, but it is also encouraging Junior participation by providing many special programs and award systems specifically for us. The dog world is beginning to realize that Junior Handlers are not limited only to the showmanship ring—we are successful in all fields of the fancy. More importantly, people are recognizing that not only are the Junior Handlers, but we are tomorrow's professional handlers, judges, and dog trainers—we are the ones who will carry on the sport. To all Juniors out there: congratulations to you for being a Junior! It takes a lot of work and dedication—and remember, always have fun with your dog no matter what you're doing!



Mary Lynn and Roci practicing on the "A" Frame.

THE LITTLE BLACK DOG

BY CARISSA BOETTCHER

I live in Waukesha, Wisconsin. My name is Carrissa Boettcher. I am currently attending the University of Wisconsin- Madison majoring in Biology and Zoology.

I will have to be honest and tell you that it all started with a little black dog. We purchased a show quality, female Schipperke puppy after much research. Her name is Abbi. I watched my mother take her into the training classes and became interested, it didn't look too hard, maybe I could do it. I decided to give it a try after closely watching the way people handled their dogs during shows and classes. My mom also helped with questions and support. Abbi and I began classes and right then I knew I had found something that I really loved. We trained and had fun in the ring. We became a team. We had clicked!

I began in Novice Senior and within a few shows I moved to Open. While in Juniors I showed Abbi in Conformation as well. I believe that the competition in any of the Open classes is of the highest caliber. The picture that each team makes for the judge must be perfect or there is no placement, to win a placement or even make the cut is an honor. That is why I cherish my two Best

Junior Handler wins and all of my other placements. I only had two years in Junior Showmanship and they went so quickly. I intend to continue in the breed ring, cheer on the Junior ring, and to start obedience.

I have always had a love and interest in animals and this sport surrounds me with



Carissa Boettcher with two Schipperkes.

that. My goal is to complete my college education and continue in the sport of dog competition in the breed ring as well as agility, obedience, and herding. The enjoyment that I receive every time I enter the ring feeds my enthusiasm. I would like to work closely with a professional handler and learn from their expertise, maybe some day taking the lead in a wonderful profession. My ultimate goal is to show the male Schipperke that I finished when he was 8 months old at Westminster when he matures. I fully intend to play an active role in dog showing during and after college. I will never give it up! And it all started with a little black dog.....