

AKC JR. NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE AKC JUNIOR ORGANIZATION, VOL. 6, NO. 1 WINTER 2003

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Junior competition at the AKC/Eukanuba Invitational was once again rewarding. The increased number of Juniors who received invitations for this event reflects the dedication that we see through out Junior competition today. We are additionally pleased with the recognition that Juniors are receiving in the media, from local newspapers to National publications, stories about young people participating in all aspects of purebred dogs are being published. The added criterion for the Invitational of maintaining a grade point average has also been noted.

Plans are already underway for the 2003 AKC/Eukanuba Invitational, which will be held in Long Beach, California, December 3. The time frame for obtaining

the five wins has been changed to be consistent with the eligibility of dogs; five wins in the Open Class with competition must be earned between the dates of October 7 2002- October 6, 2003. Transcripts must be submitted to the Judges Education Department prior to

October 17, 2003 to verify grade point average. The criteria calls for having maintained a grade point average of a 3.0 or equivalent for the past two semesters or marking periods, you may submit a transcript upon receipt of the letter verifying the 5 wins in Open with competition to avoid the rush.

This issue contains coverage of the Invitational as well as stories submitted by Juniors who have achieved great success in the Performance Events. We encourage Juniors to participate in as many events as your dog may be eligible to compete. We are especially pleased with those who are already demonstrating this versatility.

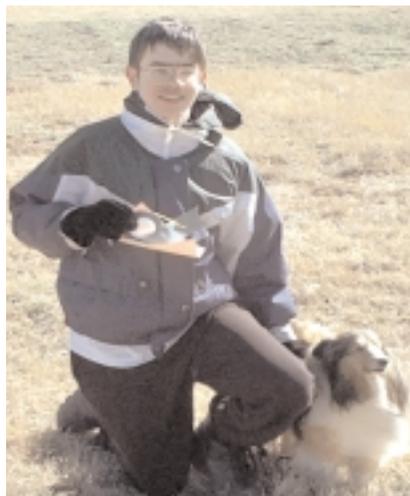


STARTING OVER WITH MISTY

BY JOHN M'CONVILLE

She's just a little thing, around 15" at the withers. Our "Misty" (Naho's Sugar and Spice) is now a 10 year old Shetland Sheepdog. Mom and Dad had shown dogs many years ago but went without having a dog around the house for many years after the kids came. Then Misty came into our lives.

My older brother, Jim completed the CD title on her, placing in each show in which she got the legs on her obedience title. With Jim off to college, Mom completed Misty's CDX and got two legs toward her UD, again with several placements, when tragedy struck. One early Sunday morning, Misty suddenly started howling. Her hip had come out of the socket. Surgery corrected the problem, but she could no longer jump and was retired...or so we thought.



I've been a member of the Dallas Shetland Sheepdog Club for a number of years and am now the newsletter editor and on the herding committee. Several members had gotten into herding and wanted our club to start having trials. My first glimpse of herding came while helping at our first match. It was a very cold, very rainy day in November, so I was

naturally assigned to be a runner. Never having done this before, I was ill prepared with only a light jacket on and wearing canvas shoes. One trip from the arena to the show secretary, and I was completely soaked and with frozen toes and fingers. Those herding people have to be crazy to compete under those circumstances. After helping out at another club's trials and going through our club's first trials, I was hooked and knew I wanted to compete. We then joined and became active in the North Central Texas Herding Dog Association.

Living in the city and trying to practice for sheep herding can be a problem when there's no stock near by. The answer was to improvise with "city sheep". I draped a piece of sheepskin over a wire basket on wheels and pulled it while walking backwards and directing Misty with "Walk up", "Away to me", and "Go by". To reinforce the commands, we would put all our patio chairs in a circle in the backyard. With me standing in the middle of the circle and Misty outside the circle, the herding commands were given to teach her the directions. Saturday mornings, we went to End Gate Ranch in Ferris Texas for lessons and practice. With her obedience training background, it wasn't long before Misty would follow directions.

Happiness is a green ribbon! Misty got her HT title in March 2002, and will be entered in trials in late 2002 to go for her PT. We don't intend to take her any further than that because of her bad hip, but it's still a thrill to compete and succeed.

Our Club is trying to encourage more young people to enter the sport of herding, and I urge all junior handlers with herding breeds to give it a try. It's great fun being out in the country, even on a miserably cold day, watching the dogs do what they were bred to do, meeting other enthusiasts and learning about this event. Even with a 10-year-old dog with a bad hip, I was able to compete and obtain a herding title on her.

AMANDA MITCHELL

BY AMANDA MITCHELL

My name is Amanda Mitchell. I am 16 years old and I live in Southern California. My Smooth Fox Terrier Danny, and I compete in Conformation, Junior Showmanship and Earthdog Trials. Danny recently earned his JE or Junior Earthdog Title. Earthdog Trials are really fun and non-competitive, so it is just my dog and I working as a team. We do not have to get dressed up or even trim whiskers! It is a great way to spend a day relaxing and enjoying my dogs company.

Earthdog Trials are for the "go to ground" terriers like Dachshunds and Border Terriers. There are four non-competitive class levels to test your dogs' natural and trained hunting and working abilities. I started Danny in the Intro to Quarry class this is a non-regular class that offers no title. In this class you can determine your dogs natural ability and instinct. Well, Danny definitely had natural instinct and took to the ground with no instruction from me. So the next Step was Junior Earthdog. Danny had to crawl through a 30 foot long by 9 inch by 9 inch tunnel buried underground within 30 seconds. Once he reached the

"quarry" (two rats caged at the end of the tunnel) he had 30 seconds to start working the rats. Working means barking, digging and scratching at the rats. Once he started working, he had to remain working for 60 seconds. This is where I needed to train him. He was really good at the tunnel, but once he got to the rats he would just stare at them. I have trained him to be well behaved for the show ring for so long that when he was supposed to show his true Terrier personality, he was reluctant to. My brother built practice tunnels at home. It took just a couple of

"Earthdog Trials are really fun and non-competitive, so it is just my dog and I working as a team."

times encouraging Danny to bark, dig and growl and he had it. At the next trial Danny earned his JE (Junior Earthdog).

Now we are training for his SE or Senior Earthdog Title. In this class the tunnel is more complex, with two openings and the dog must follow the scent line into the correct opening and

I must recall him out of the tunnel once he is done working. I think the recall will be the most difficult to pass. Now that he knows it's ok to work the quarry, I have to train him to leave it. Easier said than done!

A JACK OF ALL TRADES

BY JOSHUA FISHER

Training dogs to compete in multiple rings is no easy task for an adult let alone a twelve-year-old. This means that I work in the performance areas of Herding, Agility, Obedience and Tracking. I also compete in Conformation and Junior Showmanship. Fortunately, my dogs are Shelties and a Belgian Sheepdog, which gives them the intelligence, personality, and drive to succeed. They enjoy whatever task is given to them and they like to have a “job” to do. I like having versatile dogs, and this is a part of what my family is trying to accomplish in our breeding program.



This is not to say that it has not been difficult for the dogs, or myself, to learn and meet the requirements in each separate area in which we are working. We are constantly working together and bonding which improve the confidence and trust for our team. Some

days things go well and other days its back to the drawing board!

Originally I started out training in Herding and Agility when I was seven-years-old. I think these activities attracted me because they were like human sports and active. In herding, you can see what the dog was bred to do and watch it use it's instincts. If the dog shows interest you have to use some obedience skills because you need to have control over your dog while training. Obedience is also necessary for other activities or you will not be able to progress to the next level (even basic obedience helps). For example, if your dog won't listen to you in an Agility competition it may make up it's own course or get the “zoomies” instead of running the designed course. I'd say it's like cross-training in that the concepts overlap and improve your over all performance.

Next, I'd say Conformation and Junior Showmanship demand a “showier” side of competition, which require a different side of responsibility and confidence that I like. Grooming is an added factor in which to learn the proper presentation of the breeds is necessary. I learn the specific care that is needed for coat and condition. It is also

important to remember that proper condition and structure of the dog is necessary to compete in performance events as well.

I can name a few problems that I have encountered when training in multiple area. For instance, my sheltie “Rango” (Abbotsford Red Rover, HAS CD OA OAJ) does Herding, Agility and Obedience. I have recently started Tracking with him, but he wants to be too obedient, wanting to heel instead of moving out forward on the line. He kind of has a puzzled look standing in the 4 foot high grass field looking like “What I am supposed to do here”? Soon he figured out that he could use his nose to find a scent and the “goodies” along the way to an article. He still likes to stay closer to me but then this is new and he is a young dog. Once her gets the hang of it, there will be no stopping him.

Also, my Shetland Sheepdog “Raleigh” (Sentinel Justice Prevails PT HT NA) is being shown in Herding, Conformation, Agility and Junior Showmanship. He has a great attitude and a lot of energy. One time in Conformation, Raleigh got wound up and decided he wanted to do Agility. When the judge pointed to the table for examination, Raleigh saw his opportunity to do a “Michael Jordan Leap” on to it. What a surprise not to mention the leaps he sometimes does while he is being gaited! Sometimes I do not know what to expect from him and it can be frustrating, but I love him and have a good laugh when we get out of the ring!

Confusion about what to do, I would say, is the biggest problem for the dogs in the beginning. I think that as they get used to which ring they are standing in at the time they learn how they should behave. Sometimes a tip such as switching the type of collar from a fine Conformation collar and lead to a heavier linked collar can help them to understand that they are going from the Conformation ring to the Obedience ring. I also try and train more in the area in which we will be competing before the show. I also practice or warm up the dog at the show site (before we compete) to the show the dog which game we will be playing that day.

My training takes place most of the time at my home on my family's small farm. We have our own sheep, Agility equipment, and open fields in which to work. My mother and father help me train most of the time. I also have friends that train, work, and judge in some of the events in which I compete which I find very helpful. I have also attended a few training seminars.

Being a “Jack of All Trades” has had its bad points and good points. It is hard work and very demanding learning so many different concepts. It may take you longer to reach your goals in any one area because you and the dog are being spread around. On several occasions I have had to make a mad dash from one ring to another at the same show which is stressful but it's very fun and exciting. Also, it can be expensive to do so many activities and the effort to compete much greater. On the other hand, how can you resist the bonding time and success you get from working in multiple rings? I feel excited for my dogs' when we do well and show our versatility. I want to show others how wonderful the breeds that I work with can be! I also feel that being a “Jack of All Trades” will make me an even better dog trainer in the future. It has already brought me into a new group of friends that know how wonderful dogs really are.

BLAIR BOYETTE

BY BLAIR BOYETTE

My name is Blair Boyette and I live in Raleigh, North Carolina. I am 14 years old and own a three-year-old Australian Shepard named Lacey. We are best friends. We have a strong bond.

I started agility when I was 11 years old. All my training has come from a trainer and judge named Jan Santel. From the beginning Jan has believed in me and trained me to believe in myself. She has also helped me trust in my dog, Lacey, and in my own decisions. She encouraged me to get involved in AKC Agility, which I am glad that she did. Now it is my favorite thing to do.

When my mom tells me that I have a trial coming up, that is all I can think about. I even dream about getting to the trial, setting up the tent, putting out other supplies and saying hi to all my friends. Then I dream about being on the line, running the course, ending with no faults and being handed the blue ribbon! In reality, if I do not win, I still have the time of my life.



Blair & Kendall Boyette

Lacey and I have earned AX and AXJ titles. We are working hard at getting our MX and MXJ titles. We are hoping with all of our hearts to make it to the AKC National Agility Trials. I have a twin sister who also shows in AKC Agility with her Shetland Sheepdog. I have greatly enjoyed having her to talk to at the shows since there are not many junior handlers in our area. She also has earned several agility titles with her dog. I have made some very close friends with some of the adults at the trials. They are all so kind and helpful.

I want to thank the AKC for providing a good, safe environment to show in. If it weren't for agility, I know my life would not be as fulfilling. Being at an agility trial with my dog is the best thing in the world.

ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS

The rules for the eligibility of dogs have not changed. Dogs eligible to be shown in Juniors must be owned by the Junior Handler or the Junior Handler's father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather, or grandmother, including the corresponding step and half relations, or by a member of the Junior Handler's household.

Bitches in season are not eligible to be shown in Juniors. An eligible dog other than the one entered may be substituted. Such substitution must be accompanied by an official AKC number of the substitute dog. All such substitutions must be made at least one half hour prior to the judging of Junior Showmanship Classes at the show.

In accordance with Chapter 11 Section 3 of the **Rules Applying to Dog Shows**, Every dog must be entered in the name of the person who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed. A registered dog which has been acquired by some person other than the owner as recorded with the American Kennel Club must be entered in the name of its new owners at any show for which entries close after the date upon which the dog was acquired,

And application for transfer of ownership must be sent to the American Kennel Club by the new owner within seven days after the last day of the show.

AKC will randomly check the eligibility of the dog that a junior is exhibiting and investigate a complaint. In an instance where the ownership eligibility of the dog was not in accordance with the Guidelines for Juniors or the Rules Applying to Dog Shows the awards have been cancelled.

Junior Showmanship

**Conformation
Junior Showmanship
Regulations, Guidelines
for Judging Juniors in
Conformation, Juniors
in Performance Events
Regulations**



amended to May 8, 2001

published by

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

CHRIS BRIGHAM

BY LYLE JOHNSON

Chris Brigham has been around hunting dogs since his birth on March 29, 1987. When he was 3, his father carried him on his shoulders while running or training the family's first Brittany, Madison J. He also came along with his dad to the weekly summer training nights at Judi Dicoct's.

During the 93'-94' winter, the family decided to purchase a puppy from Judi Dicoct. Chris was able to see the puppies develop during the first seven weeks. He was able to play with them once or twice a week, as his dad and Judi tried to determine which puppy to take (they had had first choice). The adults liked the first born male but it was the second born known as "Human" that seemed to attach himself to Chris. When the final choice was made, it was "Human" that came home with him. "Human" became CJB's Special Spark.

Chris helped in the training and caring of Sparky over the years. He also helped in the Wisconsin Association of Field Trial Clubs/Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Hunting Dog Training Session in the spring. Chris also went to Badger Brittany field trials and helped where he could.

Chris spent the falls tagging along with his dad and friends in the grouse woods. He went through some of the thickest cover in Clark, Eau Claire and Florence Counties in search of grouse and woodcock.

In the spring of 1998, Bob Powell proposed breeding his Miss T Blue to Sparky. The breeding took place and the puppies were born in July. Chris's family had initially decided not to take a puppy but within the first hours of their birth the decision was made to take a puppy. Since his dad had his field trial and hunting dog, Chris lobbied that this should be his dog. His mother agreed and Chris began to evaluate the puppies.

Again, as Chris played with the puppies in the Powell's backyard, one puppy seemed to attach himself to Chris. This was the one that came home seven weeks later. Chris decided that he should be named CJB's Scooby-Dooby Doo and set his goal of finishing him as a FC and AFC.

The socialization and puppy training began immediately. In the fall, Chris was able to ride one day of the ABC Chicken Classic held at Buena Vista Prairie Chicken Management area near Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin.

Chris campaigned Scooby the following spring in a limited schedule. The season was a learning time for them with 5 placements. The fall season amounted to 3 trials with 3 firsts, 1 second and a third placement. His goal of getting a puppy and derby points had been completed.

Then came the hard part. Chris, Bob Powell and his father Jim agreed that Scooby would start the breaking process that spring. This meant they could no longer participate in derby stakes. It was decided that Chris would handle Sparky in Amateur Gun Dog Stakes. He handled Sparky to 2 firsts, 1 second and 1 fourth on a limited schedule between April 2000 and May 2001.

On the night before the last day of school in June 2000, Chris broke his femur in a bike accident. This resulted in a plate



and nine screws to patch his right leg. As soon as he could get around on crutches, he was coming to the weekly training sessions at Dr. Morrie Links. Bob Powell would discuss with Chris the goal for the night. Chris would then go out into the field on his crutches and handle Scooby on the pigeons in traps or on the ground. Bob would go along to assist Chris. Chris spent with the fall hunting with Scooby. Chris then started campaigning Scooby in adult stakes in March of 2001. He entered 7 trials in 2001 (14 stakes) and placed 7 times.

Chris at age 14 was able to finish Scooby's AFC at the Heart of Illinois horseback trial in March 22-24, 2002 with a 2nd in a 25 Amateur Gun Dog stake. In April, at age 15, Chris was able to reach his goal of attaining Scooby's FC at Iowa. Chris has been able to run Scooby in the ABC National Gun Dog championship the past two years. He has not been able to complete the hour, either year. This is his next goal.

Along the way, Chris has been helped and been offered encouragement by many top professionals and amateur handlers. This has made the whole learning experience fun for him.

LIST OF JUNIOR HANDLERS WHO RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO THE AKC/EUKANUBA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Samantha Knight
Danielle Butler
Brandi Grider
Breanne Dunaway
Brandon Lenk
Kristin Heiden
Sunni Dunn
Mia Corsini
Emily Horton
Katy Harth
Zara Gerc
Anna Ferrando
Lauren Mcilwraith
Laura Chamness
Joshua Fisher
Caitlin Abdo
Michelle Ahmann
Elizabeth Dubosky
Brittany Wight
Katherine Shepard
Allison Johnston
Cassidy Jackson
Megan McCartney
Megan Nelson
Analise Power
Whitney Perry
Cheslie Pickett
Sarah Ott
Adam King
Kelsey Cain
Jessica Becka
Malia Bowman
Rebekka Ebarb
Megan Mann
Jacqueline Nolan
Jessica Hanson
Jenna Gilreath
Michelle Jace
Chelsea Brandenburg
Amanda Antetomaso
Hannah Marlowe
Sarah Grace Conn
Agnes Wojnar
Zena Brenner
Shelby Roberts
Tara Richardson
Haley Whitcomb
Chad Malinak
Shena Munsch



LIST OF JUNIOR HANDLERS WHO RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO THE AKC/EUKANUBA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Rachel Marlowe
Rebecca Clas
Brittany Williams
Lyla Rudgers
Erica Johnson
Kim Bullard
Susan Schafer
Tera Kaminski
Lauren McNeil
Anna Kodet
Chelsea Goss
Jennifer Hollow
Rachel Heider
Lauren Zimmerman
Karen Beardslee
Michael Brunner
Meghann Bradley
Joyce Larioza
Kelly Schur
Cassidy Powers

Dylan Kipp
Leslie Schaffer
Adrienne Hill
Savanna Skinner
Sarah Lawson
Grahm Swayze
Kristin Keydel
Jacquelyn Ross
Katherine Bevan
Lindsay Kuhn
Hannah Bevan
Michelle Esch
Tim Terella
Tiffany Linneman
Sarah Albers
Jessica Rowden
Samantha Waldorf
Shannon Gorman
Ashley Albro
Erin Zimmerman



CENTRAL REGION TOP JUNIOR COMPETITION

The Sunflower Cluster Dog Shows will begin offering the Central Region Top Junior Handler Competition in April 2003. The competition will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2002. The states considered to be in the Central Region for this competition are: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota,

Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.

To be eligible the junior must reside in one of the Central Region states. In addition the junior must have earned 2 first place wins in Open Class with competition present within the Central Region states from March 27, 2002 to March 26, 2003. Wins at AKC sanctioned matches or Limited Junior

Showmanship classes do not qualify. Placements and awards will be Top Junior Handler and 3 Awards of Merit. Prizes will include scholarships and screen printed jackets.

Scholarships that are not redeemed by the time the junior reaches 25 will be forfeited and the money returned to the fund for future competitions.



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STATE OF ILLINOIS TOP JUNIOR HANDLER

The Kishwaukee Kennel Club will offer The State of Illinois Junior Handler Competition at its 2003 show. Juniors must reside in the state of Illinois, and have earned two wins in the Open Class with competition present between April 1, 2002 and April 30, 2003. Wins at sanctioned matches or Limited Junior Showmanship classes do not qualify. Prizes will include scholarships and screen printed jackets. Scholarships that are not redeemed by the time the junior reaches 25 will be forfeited and the money returned to the fund for future competitions

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