

AKC JUNIOR NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE AKC JUNIOR ORGANIZATION, VOL. 2, NO. 3 FALL, 1998

HOW ABOUT AGILITY?

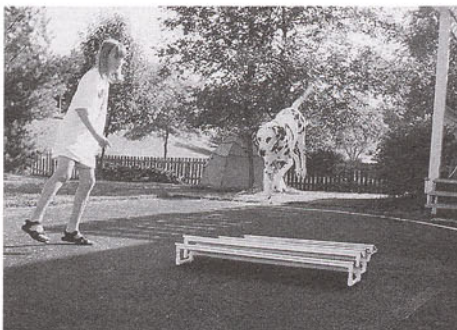
BY COURTNEY SWEENEY

Agility is a great sport for juniors to participate with their dogs. It is really, really fun. Just like obedience, it is an "equal" sport; it can be as competitive or noncompetitive as you wish. AKC agility is growing in leaps and bounds and is fast gaining spectator appeal!

At first glance, agility looks like a child's playground designed for dogs. There are tunnels, climbing obstacles, and numerous jumps. These are arranged in a specific order to make a course. At a trial, the dog with the fastest time and fewest faults (i.e. knocking off a bar, flying off the seesaw, not waiting on the pause table) wins. A perfect score is 100 points.

If you have ever been in or seen agility class in progress, you know that positive

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Courtney and Molly practice for their next competition

KIDS AND COURSING

BY DEREK STEIN

I am nine years old and I have a Whippet named Racer; Extraterrestrial Racer to be exact. Racer is two and one-half years old and has been coursing for one year. At first, I wanted my own dog even though we already had a "family" dog. I wanted a Greyhound, but my mom said they were too big. So, she suggested a Whippet. One day, my mom told my dad that she was going shopping, but she was really puppy shopping. She came home that day and surprised me with an 8-week old Whippet puppy. It was one of the happiest days of my life, but I think one of the worst

for my dad. Dad didn't want to get another dog, but now he loves Racer too.

My mom kept in touch with Racer's breeder who encouraged us to get Racer involved in lure coursing. We didn't know what it was. She explained that lure coursing was a performance event for sighthounds where dogs chase mechanized lure and are judged on agility, speed, endurance, follow, and overall ability. The Lure Coursing Trials are either AKC or ASFA sanctioned. The titles and scoring are a little bit different between the two, but the course is run pretty much the

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ANNOUNCEMENT-

Juniors in Performance Events

In January of 1999, Juniors will be recognized for participating in obedience, agility, earthdog, lure coursing and herding events. At this time, you will enter the dog in the class in which it would normally compete for the event. In each of these events the dogs are scored individually on their performance. The individual handling of the dog in these events must have worked with their dog to train them to participate successfully. As a Junior Handler in these events the dog's score will be linked to your record as well. We are planning to acknowledge the Junior for each title that their dog successfully earns. The Junior must be the handler for all qualifying scores leading to the title in that event. Unfortunately, we can not acknowledge qualifying scores or titles prior to January of 1999.

We are hoping that this will encourage Juniors to participate in different AKC events in which their dog may be eligible to compete. It is hoped that the Clubs sponsoring these events will find ways to recognize the Juniors competing and that the Parent Clubs will acknowledge Juniors participating in the performance events.

To record wins in these events, the Junior Handler is responsible for the completion of the Junior Handler Certification Form. This form can be obtained from the Show Superintendent or by contacting the Judges Education Department at the number listed below. It must be signed by the Judge on the day of the event. The original copy is sent to the American Kennel Club with the judges book while the copy is given back to the Junior Handler to maintain their records.

The ownership requirements are the same as for participating in Junior Showmanship, the dog must be owned by the Junior Handler or by 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.

Should you have any questions please contact 919-854-0195 or mbo@akc.org

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motivation is very important. Handlers use toys, food, and voice to encourage their dog up and over all obstacles. Also their positive reinforcement makes dogs happy and excited when they see agility equipment.

I have been training in agility with my Dalmatian, Molly, for 3 years. We will be in AKC competition soon. Molly has earned her USDAA junior handler beginner title.

Molly was tough and stubborn, but I knew I wanted to compete with her. First I started training for juniors. She liked it for awhile, but it became a bore. The same was

true for obedience, but no matter how hard I tried to make it fun, it was to no avail. Then we went on and found agility. Needless to say, we are still with agility, and agility is where we are staying! This is not to say we did not have any difficulties. Believe me, Molly has run off on me more than I wish to mention!

Any dog can do agility, which could be a new adventure for your juniors dog. It will just help increase the bond and help a shy dog gain more confidence. As stated above it is fun, fun, fun! You'll just have to take my word for it. That is until you try it!



Courtney and Molly

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same way. The first time we went to a coursing practice, Racer was scared to death and showed no interest in coursing. I wasn't very happy about that. Racer's breeder Libby, suggested we go to practice with Bart and Nancy Brown who own coursing equipment and regularly practice with their dogs. Racer showed more interest, probably because it was quieter and he wasn't as overwhelmed. Racer and I spent last summer practicing with Bart and Nancy, getting Racer ready for trial competitions.

Racer's first trial was a two-day event in October. The weather was awful, with snow and rain both days! Bad weather doesn't stop a coursing trial. Racer doesn't like the cold, so we were worried that he wouldn't run. It ended up being worth getting cold and wet because Racer placed second both days! Since then, he has competed in six more trials, obtaining his AKC Junior Courser title and

95 of the required 100 points for his ASFA Field Champion title.

Lure coursing has been a great experience for me. It's something that not many kids get to do. I've learned about score keeping, judging, and preparing my dog for competition. The dogs need to be conditioned, warmed-up, have their legs wrapped for protection, kept cool in hot weather and cooled-down after their run. The hardest thing about lure coursing is releasing the dog at the right time. If you release your dog before the 't' in the release word talley-ho, points can be lost. Points really matter because the scores are sometimes very close or tied. It's very difficult to hold on to the dog because they are so excited to chase the lure. This is probably the hardest thing for kids who are involved in lure coursing. Whippets are small, but they are very strong when they want to chase that "bunny"!

I have made a lot of fun lure coursing. I've made lots of new friends at lure coursing trials and have traveled to different cities to attend trials. I love being around all the different sighthound breeds. I'm very proud of my dog and everything he's accomplished. As much as coursing makes me happy, it makes the dogs even happier. They run just for the fun of it. They don't know how many points they're getting or what placements they've made. They just know that they're having fun!!

I hope for Racer to earn his AKC Senior Courser title and finish his ASFA Field Champion title in the next few months. I would like to stay involved in lure coursing for the rest of my life. I hope to have many Whippets to compete in lure coursing.

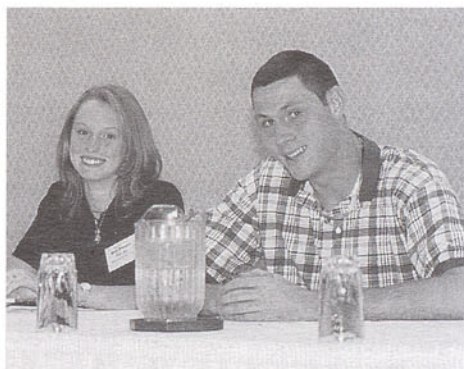


Derek with Racer

AKC JUDGES INSTITUTES

Juniors assisted at the AKC Judges Institutes this summer by discussing with the attendees the do's and don'ts of judging Juniors.

Brooke Folley and Josh Richardson assisted at the Louisville institute. Both previous juniors, Brooke is in the process of applying to judge Juniors and is a senior in high school with aspirations to study medicine. Josh is an approved judge of Juniors and is currently a Communications major at Western Kentucky University.



Brooke Folley and Josh Richardson speak to the participants at the Judges Institute

ELIGIBILITY TO JUDGE JUNIORS

You may apply to Judge Junior Showmanship upon reaching your eighteenth birthday. If you are interested in becoming a Junior Showmanship Judge, please contact Judging Operations at 919-854-0189 and request an application.

JUNIOR SEMINARS

In 1998, AKC conducted two one day seminars for Juniors. One on July 9th in Tampa, Florida and the other on July 24th in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Both were held on the show grounds prior to the all-breed shows. The seminars included presentations on general care and conditioning given Dr. Patricia Haines, Veterinarian, member AKC Board of Directors, breeder, winner of Junior Showmanship at Westminster, in Tampa, Florida. This presentation was given by Dr. Donald Sturz, Psychologist, Judge, breeder, exhibitor, past Junior, in Wisconsin.

Responsible dog ownership was an underlying theme for the day. The Canine Good Citizen Test was explained by Dr. Mary Burch, Director of Canine Good Citizen, in Florida and by the members of the Obedience Club in Wisconsin. Following the presentations everyone attending was given the opportunity to take the Canine Good Citizen Test with their dog, as well as participate in a practice session with past Juniors and professional handlers offering guidance.

These days were full of camaraderie, enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn by those attending. Look for the 1999 locations in the next issue.



Dr. Donald Sturz speaking with the juniors in Waukesha, WI.

I CAN DO IT TOO!

BY KRISTEN CARPENTER

Junior Showmanship has opened a door to a world I can be a part of. I am 11 years old and I started to show my Golden Retriever, Desi, a year ago. I am not like most kids my age. I have a twin sister Kimberly, who can do many things that I can't. She goes to horseback riding camp, bike camp, plays soccer in a league, and swims on a year round swim team. I have a medical condition that no one has a name for. I don't have much muscle, and what I have is very weak. My balance isn't very good and sometimes I fall. I have had some big surgeries, both on my heart and stomach which included a lot of time in the hospital. I also have a speech problem and can't always say what I want to. This also makes it hard for me to learn some things in school, so I am in a special class. I have to spend a lot of my time after school going to different therapies to help me, but I also get to train Desi!

Ever since I can remember I have been going to dog shows with my mom. As a baby mom says my sister and I sat in our stroller and watched dog shows for hours. My mom shows our Golden Retrievers in conformation and obedience and my dad shows our English Springer Spaniels. As soon as I was old enough, my mom let me take Desi to conformation training classes. I train every week at class and at home too. My friend and teacher, Laurie Jordan PHA has taught me a lot in those classes. She watched me show Desi at my first show and I got a 4th place. I was really happy and knew I wanted to do this more. It wasn't winning the ribbon, but it was being able to participate even though I have physical limitations. I no longer had to sit and watch dog shows, or stay home while my sister went to camp. I did really good in the Novice class, much to my surprise, and I was able to move into the Open Junior class after a short while. This was very scary to me because I didn't believe I was as good as any of the other kids were in the class. I have learned though that I can do it and I am learning to be an even better junior handler, with Laurie's help. I have won some ribbons from the Open class, and I hope to keep it up. I am even going to start showing our puppy, Desi's daughter, Bounce in conformation, and someone else has asked me to also show their dog for them. I might



Kristen shown winning 1st Place in Juniors with Desi

even try Obedience training too. I do know, I love going to dog shows! I am now learning how to help Laurie with her dogs at shows, and I love being able to watch her in the ring, I learn so much that way. Maybe some day I can be a professional handler too. I have learned it is OK not to talk quite right, my dog understands me and loves me anyway. I do the best I can with my weak muscles, and Desi never moves too fast for me. We make a pretty good team together.

I am really glad that there is Junior Showmanship, because even though I can't do many of the things my sister and friends can, I can do this. I am proud to say I am a Junior Handler!

MEET THE 1998 AKC JUNIOR

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We would like to introduce you to the recipients of the 1998 AKC Junior Scholarships. Each were evaluated on academic achievement, involvement in the fancy, and financial need.

Additionally, the applicants were asked to submit an essay pertaining to their involvement and future in the fancy.

The committee reviewing and making the selections for the Junior Scholarship's were AKC Board member, Patricia Laurans AKC Board member; Mari-Beth O'Neill, Director of Judges Education and National Junior Organization Liaison; and Ron Rella, Director of Special Projects and Corporate Liaison.

AKC is proud of these individuals and their participation in all aspects of the fancy and we look forward to their on-going participation and support of pure-bred dogs in the future. ■

Adrian Agard

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Major (if declared): Communications

What are your career goals? My goal is to pursue a career in communications and business. I'm currently training for a position in project management at the corporation where I'm employed.

How did you become involved in Juniors?

I was involved in showing our family Dachshunds and was encouraged to become involved in Juniors by a local Junior and Hound judge, Bob Frost. Bob was my mentor and pillar of support, and I will be forever grateful for his help.

What will be your future involvement in Purebred Dogs?

I will be exhibiting and co-breeding dogs with my new partners, Earl and Xena Takahashi of Xeralane®. I will also be exhibiting dogs in Hawaii and judging Junior Showmanship. I hope to become an all breed judge in the future.

Who did you learn the most from while you were in Juniors?

Once again, it is my dear friend, Bob Frost who basically taught me everything I know about handling. He worked with me every week coached me through my Junior's career. He exemplifies what I want to be in the future.

What advice would you give Juniors competing today?

Watch people you admire, pick up handling techniques which would be practical for your own breed, and incorporate them into your own style of handling. Develop your own unique style and stick to it.

Robert Bedford

University of Arizona/Optical Science Graduate Division

Major (if declared): BS Physics, Graduate work, Optical Sciences

What are your career goals for the future? I don't have a future career goal as of yet. I am trying to keep my options open before I settle down into a career. Coming out of such a specific field as Optical Sciences, there are two major fields one could go into: the teaching/higher education

field, or the private industry research field. Right now I am most interested in the private research industry area.

How did you become involved in Juniors?

It all started when my dad got the family a dog from the Humane Society. I trained the dog to a UD title. Since "Sonny", I have continued to breed and train dogs.

What will be your future involvement in Purebred Dogs?

I hope to continue to show professionally while in graduate school and part-time when I settle down. Eventually I would like to become a judge.

Who did you learn the most from while you were in Juniors?

I learned small things from many people. I think that the most important thing I learned was care for the dogs. Again, I learned much about care from many different people but honestly ...I think I learned most from the dogs that I was able to work with.

What advice would you give Juniors competing today?

This is an easy one. My sole advice would be to have fun! It is ridiculous to spend the time in the ring, and all of the practice time outside the ring and the money on something that is simply not enjoyable.

Alessandra Folz

Eastern Connecticut State University

Major (if declared): Sociology

What are your career goals for the future?

During my freshman year I thought I wanted to be a musician, criminal lawyer, psychologist, and finally a sociologist. I have come to realize that my goal is to experience as much of life as possible, and hopefully find a field about which I am as passionate as I am about dogs.

How did you become involved in Juniors?

I didn't really get "hooked" on dog shows at all until I won Best Of Winners at my Nationals with my first puppy.

What will be your future involvement in Purebred Dogs?

Though I do plan to have a career, dogs will always be an important part of my

life. I hope to continue breeding and handling dogs.

Who did you learn the most from while you were in Juniors?

I was fortunate to be taught by one of the greatest dog people I have ever had the fortune to meet, Patrick Pettit. He taught me about myself and life through dogs. He taught me not to get caught up in the wins or losses, because after all the dogs have come and gone, I still have to be happy with who I am. And it is to that end that we must conduct ourselves with a level of integrity, that independent of what we do, we can live with.

What advice would you give Juniors competing today?

There are two pieces of advice given to me that have helped me through life this far... * Never think you are too talented, too experienced, or too wise to learn more. It will surprise you who the real teachers in life are.

* When it feels like everyone else got the handbook to life the day you were out sick, just remember that everyone else feels like they're missing some big secret too!

Sarah Hill

Southern Methodist University

Major (if declared): undecided

What are your career goals for the future? undecided

How did you become involved in Juniors?

I became interested in showing dogs thru my mother. I continued my passion working first with Bobby Peebles and Craig Osborne. Then with Lois DeMers.

What will be your future involvement in Purebred Dogs?

I know that while at college my dog showing will have to decrease but I plan to keep it as an avocation.

Who did you learn the most from while you were in Juniors?

First and foremost I credit Bobby Peebles and Craig Osborne as the two people who influenced her greatly. After their untimely deaths I continued showing dogs and began working for Lois DeMers who helped me refine my skills which allowed me to become one of the top juniors.

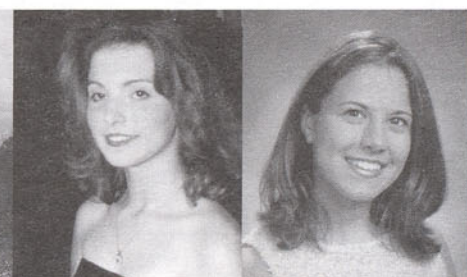
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Adrian Agard



Robert Bedford



Alessandra Folz



Sarah Hill



Amber Lambie

Amber Lambie

Attending Arizona State University

Major (if declared): Undecided

What is your career goals for the future?

I plan on attending college and getting my degree (hopefully) in four years. I plan to pursue a career in either nutrition or broadcast journalism. Maybe by that time I will also be married or getting ready to, but I'm not too worried or anxious about that!

How did you become involved in Juniors?

My family has been involved in conformation showing since before I was born. My parents started in Mastiffs and by the late 80's had switched to Whippets and then to professional handling. My Mom still continues to be semi-active in Whippets, but most of her time is strictly taken up by handling. She is currently campaigning the number one Ibizan Hound in the country. I purchased my first Whippet at the age of 8 and used her to practice for the junior showmanship ring that I then entered when I was 10.

What will be your future involvement in Purebred Dogs?

I am not exactly sure at this point in time what my particular involvement with purebred dogs other than I probably will at probably own one or two dogs and show them at my leisure. I am not really thinking that far ahead and my dorm doesn't allow dogs! I would like dogs to continue to be part of my life though, and that shouldn't be too hard seeing as my parents are still currently professionally handling.

Who did you learn the most from while you were in Juniors?

I have to give credit to a few different people. First of all, my parents, who have had dogs in the house my entire life and were always involved in showing them. They taught me everything from the basics, like general care to the business side, like handling. They have always been and continue to be supportive in all my different endeavors, especially the financial part, like Junior Showmanship entries.

What advice would you give Juniors competing today? I would tell them to never give up, even though they will probably get discouraged by the continual inconsistency of junior judging. Also, keep an open mind and never stop wanting to learn, I have been raised in this dog show world, and I continue to learn new and sometimes very interesting things. Above all, I would tell them to have high values and morals and never let them fall!

Angela Lloyd

Penn State University

Major (if declared): Business

What are your career goals for the future? I have not yet decided what type of career I would pursue.

How did you become involved in Juniors?

When I was a child my father was very active in showing his German Shepherds. For my eighth birthday he bought me a Pembroke Welsh Corgi. I started to show him in the breed classes and when I turned ten started showing in Juniors.

What will be your future involvement in Purebred Dogs?

I hope to stay very active in showing and breeding my own dogs, and possibly other peoples as well. One day I might like to judge or work for the AKC.

Who did you learn the most from while you were in Juniors?

My father Jimmie Lloyd; Robert and Jane Fowler, whom I have worked with for four years; Gwen DeMilt; and George and Maryann Alston.

What advice would you give Juniors competing today?

Junior Showmanship is a big commitment. If you decide to show in Juniors it is important to have fun, because if you're not having fun it can be a bad experience. You can learn a lot about dogs and life by participating in Juniors but you must want to learn.

Lisa Miller

Texas A & M University at Galveston

Major (if declared): Marine Biology

What are your career goals for the future? I plan to attend Veterinary school and earn a D.V.M. degree, specializing in animal behavior and wildlife/marine mammal medicine. I also hope to be able to conduct research and publish in a scientific journal.

How did you become involved in Juniors?

I began showing in Obedience and conformation at a local kennel club and was encouraged to start showing in juniors.

What will be your future involvement in Purebred Dogs? I plan to continue owning and showing dogs as well as applying for judging licenses in the Hound and Sporting groups (at least). I also plan to work with National Breed Clubs in educating and rescue as well as a continued involvement in training service dogs and hearing dogs for the disabled.

Who did you learn the most from while you were in Juniors? Watching and learning from professional handlers. My biggest influence was reading George Alston's book and attending his handling clinics- especially his lesson on how to be a "professional" even when it is not your career.

What advice would you give Juniors competing today? Compete fairly with one another and all others competitors on the breed or obedience ring. Respect the judges opinion whether you agree with it or not, and always congratulate the winner- be gracious. Above all, treat your dog with respect and gentleness- a working partnership in the ring starts outside of it.

Meghen Riese

State University of West Georgia

Major (if declared): Computer Science

What are your career goals for the future?

I don't exactly know what my career goals are; however, it will have something to do with computers.

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Angela Lloyd



Lisa Miller



Meghen Riese



Erin Teplesky



Kim Vagt

Continued From Page 5

How did you become involved in Juniors?

My parents have shown Welsh Springer Spaniels since before I was born, and, as soon as I was old enough, they encouraged me to exhibit our dogs. Junior Showmanship was a stepping stone into the breed ring. It was also a learning experience.

What will be your future involvement in Purebred Dogs?

I plan to continue to breed Welsh Springers, and, one day, I hope to become an AKC Judge.

Who did you learn the most from while you were in Juniors?

To tell you the truth, there is no one person. My mom taught me allot about sportsmanship and dogs. However, by watching other people show their dogs and training my own puppies, I learned a great deal about showing in Juniors.

What advice would you give Juniors competing today?

-HAVE FUN!!! Don't take it so seriously that you don't have a good time.

-MAKE FRIENDS!!! Enjoy the people you show with. Greet them with a smile and it will payoff. Nothing can compete with a friend.

-LEARN!!! Everytime you step out of the ring you should have learned something— whether it be learning to double-knot your shoe laces or that losing isn't the end or the world.

Erin Teplesky

College Attending: Marquette University

Major (if declared): Communications

What are your career goals for the future?

As a college freshman I have great hopes and dreams for my future. I'd love to be a news anchor, but for now Tom Brokaw's job is secure. The White House always seems to need a new press secretary..... and Diane Vasey may need an editor at the "Gazette".

How did you become involved in Juniors?

I learned dog handling in 4-H and my instructor encouraged me to get involved at a higher level of competition. I placed second in my first AKC Novice Junior class and I was hooked! My parents like the sport because its family oriented.

What will be your future involvement in Purebred Dogs?

I am currently in the process of applying to judge Junior Showmanship. I am a Delta Society "Pet Partner" with my Sheltie and do volunteer pet assisted activities/therapy when I am home. After college, I hope to purchase my first "show" quality Sheltie and try to finish it's championship title. I hope to become a breeder/judge.

Who did you learn the most from while you were in Juniors?

I was fortunate to be a member of my local breed club and an obedience club where adult members gave generously of their time and expertise to help any and all. (including junior members!) Junior handling seminars, articles in the Gazette, books, and grooming at shows for professional handlers all helped.

What advice would you give Juniors competing today?

First of all - learn to groom and train your own dog! Doing the total job yourself is so satisfying and rewarding. I had a Sheltie and the grooming was hard to learn so in the beginning I needed some help. My parents made the dog my total responsibility. Thus, we developed a bond and relationship that made us a real team.

Second, watch the juniors ring! Watch how each judge runs his/her class. Be mentally prepared when you enter the ring. Maintain your focus on your dog and the job at hand... not the latest show ring gossip.

And above all, love your dog. He's your teammate and probably your best friend. He's not a robot or machine. He may make you have a bad day or a mistake, but so do you! When you go into the ring and present him like he's the best of breed, someone is bound to notice!

Kim Vagt

College Attending: Michigan State University

Major (if declared): not declared at this time

What are your career goals for the future?

Currently my major at college is undecided. However, I am most interested in Elementary Education, Corporate Accounting or Veterinary Science. During the next two years, I will elect mandatory graduation classes. While attending college I will be working on campus to help finance my

educational goals. My ultimate career goal is to become a Professional Dog Handler.

How did you become involved in Juniors?

My parents have been involved with training and showing dogs before I was born. They are also leaders in the 4-H Dog Care & Training Program. This naturally led me to participate in dog activities. I have experienced obedience and agility, and most recently I was exposed to field/hunt work and tracking. But my heart is in the Junior Showmanship and breed rings. During the early years, I gained knowledge and experience through the 4-H program which led to developing my skills through the years at AKC shows and today have the respect as an accomplished showman by dog fanciers.

What will be your future involvement in Purebred Dogs?

My entire family is involved with raising and showing English Cocker Spaniels. I am planning on staying involved with the loving and caring of our canine companions. My junior membership with the Heart of Michigan English Cocker Spaniel Club and ECSCA will be converted to full membership.

Who did you learn the most from while you were in Juniors?

Actually there are two people that I will credit this development. First is my Dad. He exposed me to the basics of showing dogs and critiquing after each show. He would show and tell me what I needed to develop. But as kids will go, I always seemed to know better. This is the time when I needed what we called an "attitude adjustment". My parents would drive two hours to have training with Sue Sellers Rose. She would basically tell me the same thing my Dad was saying, however, her words always seemed to be remembered and was the adjustment I needed.

What advice would you give Juniors competing today?

Always go into the ring giving your best. You should be very proud to be the owner of your canine and show the judge that you are a team. Juniors need to practice and practice to develop a style all their own. Remember that the judge is evaluating you not your dog. You should not exercise frustration upon the dog. Keep trying... there may be many, many shows that you will not place....keep having FUN. That's right, when you do not consider Junior Showmanship FUN it is time to stop showing.

OUR LOVE OF DOGS

BY CHRIS & KARYN RYAN

All of us involved with the wonderful and unique sport of dog showing, are privileged because of the many lessons and opportunities it provides. Through dog showing we have learned about responsibilities, relationships, goal-setting, ethics, and diligence. We would like to share our experiences such as how we became involved with the sport, the different activities we partake in with the dogs, and our hopes and aspirations for the future as participants in the fancy.

Our love of dogs started at a young age. Whenever we had the opportunity to be with a dog we spent all our time with him. While visiting friends one could always find us in the yard throwing a tennis ball for the family's dog. Like the typical child we had the word "puppy" at the top of our Christmas list and the focus of most of our conversations. Our imaginations got the best of us as we would walk our Pound Puppies down the street and force feed our stuffed dogs until our father had to remove the Cheerios from



Chris Ryan now 18 and a Senior in High School has been assisting professional handler, R.C. Carusi to expand his knowledge of dogs and is preparing for college

the battery compartment. As we got older it became clear our love of dogs was genuine, especially since we often read about and researched dogs. When we were in the fifth grade we met someone whom we spent a lot

of time talking to about dogs and eventually got our first dog from. Our new pride and joy, a two-year old Alaskan Malamute named "Buck", filled our lives with happiness and enjoyment. As we strive to meet our goal raising our dog in utopia, we took him to Obedience classes. Junior Handling classes were being conducted in the same building as the Obedience classes. Consequently, we became involved with the Junior Handling classes, too. Before long we were bitten by the bug. In fact, this unique sport had become a major part of our lives.

Our involvement with dogs has exposed us to many wonderful opportunities. At first, we started training our rescue dog "Buck", in obedience. Sadly, before he competed in a trial he passed away; however, our fondness for him inspired us to get another Alaskan Malamute. We immediately started training our new puppy, Stephy, to show in junior showmanship and conformation classes. Although we never trained her to compete in Obedience trials we did teach her some obedience commands. After all, it is necessary for a dog to be well-mannered! We concentrated on showing in junior showmanship and conformation; however, as our puppy matured we realized she did not possess the quality necessary to be shown in conformation classes. Although Stephy would not be a champion, she has been an excellent dog to show in junior showmanship because of her wonderful temperament. Presently, Karyn shows both Chihuahuas and Alaskan Malamutes in junior showmanship and conformation classes. Meanwhile, Chris shows Alaskan Malamutes

in conformation; however, he competed with them in junior showmanship classes until he turned eighteen years old. During the weekend we stay quite busy at shows since we are either showing our dogs, helping professional handlers, or taking care of our dogs. At the shows, when we are not occupied by the dogs we are usually doing our homework. Also, we stay busy with many activities involving dogs. Since the health and condition of our dogs is very important to us, we spend a lot of time exercising, grooming, and keeping the dogs' living area sanitary. We try our best to attend seminars, not only to improve our performance in the show



Karyn Ryan a senior in High School this year looks forward to a future as an educator

ring, but also to learn about breeding, nutrition, genetics, health, and other breeds. Other components of educating ourselves include doing research and helping as well as talking to respected breeders. Furthermore, it is important to us that we spend quality time with the dogs, so we try to take them running and hiking in the woods, and hope to have them sledding soon. In short, we believe these are all ways, aside from attending dog shows, that help us to be responsible contributors to the fancy.

The dogs capture a great deal of our time, and will continue to do so as we grow with them. In a year and a half we will both be headed to college. Throughout our college years we hope to continue our involvement with the sport. However, we may not be able to attend as many shows as we do presently, we both plan to partake in a future with the dogs and dog showing. Chris plans

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AKC JR. NEWS

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The response to the AKC Jr. News has been overwhelming. The letters and contributions for articles has been great. All input is greatly appreciated. We are always interested in hearing from you and about the different activities that you may participate in with your dog as well as other activities that you may have become involved with as a result of your involvement with dogs. As they say "Keep the cards and letters coming!" ■

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to major in Business and Biology, while Karyn would like to major in Education. Our careers will hopefully be connected with our interest in the dogs. Aside from being a teacher professionally, Karyn wants to educate children interested in dogs about the sport and the many options it provides. In addition to showing dogs we hope to begin breeding dogs in the future. Our priorities are not only to breed dogs that meet the standard qualifications, but also dogs that fulfill the breed's original requirements. Hopefully, after many years of participating in the sport, we will be able to obtain licenses to judge. We have agreed that our goal involving the future of the sport is to work at perfecting the health and appearance of Alaskan Malamutes. Each day we create more goals for ourselves and plan to continue doing so as we meet our original goals. These goals ensure that we will always be striving to improve some aspect of the sport of dogs in one way or another.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have been introduced to the sport of dogs, and we hope that in the future we will contribute to educating young people in the sport as our mentors have done for us. One of the best lessons the sport has offered us is that of acting professionally. In a sport where all ages are competing- child, adult, novice, expert professionalism is a necessity for success. Being professional includes performing with good sportsmanship regardless of the judges' decision. Making logical and ethical decisions involving dogs' health, our own health, the breed, the sport, and relationships requires maturity, which is another component of professionalism. Above all, we have learned that being responsible under all circumstances is the key to professionalism. We believe that to be successful, it is important to maintain sincere relationships, continue educating ourselves, and remember that we are all involved with this unique sport because of our common love for dogs!



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