

AKC JR. NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE AKC JUNIOR ORGANIZATION, VOL. 3, NO. 3 WINTER 1999

REVISIONS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR JUNIORS—EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2000

The Board of Directors approved the following revisions at the August meeting:

- 1) The Junior is limited to one substitution of a dog for an event.
- 2) Amateur Class—An individual listed as an agent is not eligible to compete in Juniors, nor any person who distributes rate cards or other wise advertises themselves as

handling dogs in the show ring for pay.

Here are some questions received to date that you may be wondering about yourself.

May I work for a professional handler?

Yes you may. If you are working, apprenticing under a professional handler, this is considered an educational experience, which may include having to handle

a dog for the handler. You are an employee of the handler.

What will happen if a Junior is listed in a catalog as an agent for a dog after January 1, 2000?

First; once reported, it will be verified, and the Junior will be notified that they are not eligible to compete in Junior Showmanship any longer.

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are pleased with the very positive response following the Board's approval of the revisions to the Guidelines for Juniors. Parents and Juniors have told us how happy they are to have Juniors as an Amateur class, effective January 1, 2000.

The recognition of Juniors in the Performance Events has been well received. To date 21 juniors have put 25 titles on their dogs. In Agility, Alexandra Roukas has earned a MX title, which requires 10 qualifying scores in the Excellent B class.

The majority of this issue of the newsletter is contributions from Juniors actively competing in the different events. We appreciate receiving your stories. Should you wish to contribute an article, or have a particular topic you would like addressed, please forward to AKC Judges Education, ATT: Debra Bonnefond, 5580 Centerview Dr., Raleigh, NC 27606.

We are planning several events next year

and are looking for Juniors to assist:

AKC Judges Institutes:

Lancaster, PA June 4–June 7

Portland, OR July 30–August 4

Advanced Sporting Dog Institute:

Lancaster, PA October 9–13 2000

If interested, contact: Karen Reuter at 919-854-0195 or junior @akc.org.



Megan Nelson, from Cheshire CT, pictured here showing her Sheltie. Megan participated in last year's Judges Institute in Denver CO while visiting her family. Look for an article in the next issue about Megan's experience.

AGILITY-TEAMWORK IN ACTION

BY JENNIFER CRANK

Jump, weave, tunnel, climb it! Are you wondering what I am talking about? It's agility! My name is Jennifer Crank and my dogs are Shannara Sunshine Skittle CD,PT, MX, AXJ (Skittles), Ch. Trinity's Rum Tum Tugger AX,AXJ (Tugger), Sunshine Guess My Name (Guess), and Shannara Blue Ribbon Lace CDX, NA (Lacey) all Shetland Sheepdogs. My four dogs and I love agility and other dog sports and would like to tell you a few things about what it's like to be a 12 year old doing agility.

Ever since I was born, I have been around dogs. My mom raises Collies and when I was four she gave me her six-year-old Sheltie, Lacey. I took her through obedience and agility classes and showed her in non-regular obedience classes at trials. When I was seven, I got my second Sheltie, Skittles. As of right now I have put 26 titles on her (CKC, UKX, NADAC, USDAA and AHBA) which include obedience, agility, and herding. My proudest title, which I earned recently, is my Masters Agility title.

Two years ago I was asked to train and show a champion Sheltie, Tugger, whom I now co-own with his breeder. Tugger is the



Jennifer working with Skittles on an agility course.

dog that got me started in Junior Showmanship. I have trained him in agility and obedience and earned his Excellent Agility and Excellent Agility Jumpers title and 2 legs toward his CD. Last May, I decided to breed Skittles. I kept a puppy from her, Guess, and I am now training him in agility, obedience, and herding.

It is very weird being one of the youngest people competing in agility and competing against adults. Whenever I am done running a course, handlers compliment me on how well I do. Many people tell me how good my dogs are and how far I have come with them. At school people know me as the "dog nut." My future goal is to someday be on the AKC world agility team with one of my dogs. The only way I can reach that goal is to practice, keep showing, and do all the hard work that I do.

JUNIORS IN AGILITY

BY EMILY GROHOVSKY

After earning our CD in obedience my German Shepherd Presley and I decided that we wanted to try something new. I had watched agility before and thought it looked really fun. So I signed up for a beginners agility class.

After our first class, both of us were hooked. She took to agility right away. I couldn't believe how much fun it was. It was quite a bit different from obedience and junior showmanship, in which I also participate.

There are many steps when you begin learning agility. First, the instructors had us introduce each obstacle to the dogs, one by one, easiest to most difficult. The most important thing we did at this point was to

make sure the dogs always touched the yellow contact zones on the contact obstacles. After many weeks of doing the obstacles one at a time, we started to do 2 or 3 easy obstacles in a straight line (this was when it started to get really fun). Then, very slowly, the sequence started to get longer and longer, with more complicated designs. This enables the handlers to improve their signals and commands, as well, teaching the dogs to watch the handler very carefully.

Presley and I absolutely love doing agility. If I tell her we have class tomorrow she won't sleep the whole night. Right before it is our turn to run the course, she cries until she gets to go.

We make a very good team because she watches me so closely that even if I mess up and give her the wrong command or signal, she usually knows what I really want and then does it right anyway.

My parents always enjoy watching us. Agility is a great spectator sport. Whenever we practice at home with our set of weave poles and homemade jumps set up in our yard, people walking by often stop to watch. Some



Emily with Presley working on an agility course.

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TIPS FROM A JUNIOR—HOW TO SPARKLE IN THE RING

BY LORI AUFDEMORTE

To do well in the Junior Showmanship ring it's important to make a favorable impression on the judge but how do you know what the judge is looking for? Try seeing things from the judge's perspective.

Use your imagination—put yourself in the judge's shoes and walk into the middle of the show ring. Look around at each of the Juniors and their dogs. No. 12 is following the rules without fumbling. She follows your directions and keeps her eyes on you. No. 8 is smiling, but he seems nervous and is having trouble getting his dog to stay stacked. No. 10 looks attentive and is focused on her dog.

Whom would you choose? You probably would give the win to No. 10. What was it about that handler that called out to you as a judge? Most likely, it was the handler's poise, calm attitude and the fact she was focused on her dog. This kind of polish comes from several factors, one of which is experience. I believe many Juniors miss a great opportunity by handling only one dog for their junior careers rather than gaining experience by handling different dogs. I'm not saying you can't win showing only one dog—many Juniors do. However, you'd be amazed at the new vigor you can gain by showing different breeds. The judge can't help but notice the special sparkle and professional attentiveness you gain from the experience of handling different dogs with different personalities.

Many Juniors may only have one dog in their home, but this doesn't mean they can't show different dogs. In the Junior Showmanship class you're allowed to handle American Kennel Club registered dogs owned by you or by your parents, brother or sisters, aunts, uncles, grandparents or another member of your household. Step or half relations count, too. You also may know someone who will let

you co-own his or her dog so you can show it in Juniors.



Lori winning 1st place with her standard poodle.

I've handled 10 different dogs in three different breeds in Juniors, and I believe I gained considerable knowledge of dogs and improved my handling skills that way. Who doesn't do a better job of showing dogs after learning more about them? By learning to notice the different personality and moods of each dog and learning to adjust your handling techniques to get the most from each one, you can't help but improve your professionalism.

Another way to increase your knowledge is to seek advice from professional handlers. Often a professional handler is willing to take

a Junior Handler on as an apprentice. I've been working with my sister, Dee Aufdemorte, a professional handler. Her advice has helped me improve my skills as a handler.

One tip Dee shared is always know where to hold your dog's face and ears. "Each breed varies a little on this," she says, "so check with someone who handles your breed."

According to Dee, the biggest sign of a novice is someone who can't stack a dog quickly and efficiently. Be careful about overhandling. A Juniors judge is looking for those Junior competitors who can present their dogs in the smoothest manner. In other words, don't move your dog's foot just to be moving it.

One problem Juniors wrestle with is how to juggle the dog and leash, a comb and bait and still look poised and professional. "It's best to get a leash that gives you some slack without being too long to handle," advises Dee. "The dog's brush or comb can be tucked into the back of your pants or skirt or under the rubber band of your arm band."

The most important thing to remember is to stay clam, cool and collected. Your emotions are like electricity, and your dog's leash is like a cord. Whatever emotions you're feeling seem to zap right down the leash to your dog.

Another way to gain more experience is by taking a puppy into the ring. I know many Juniors won't do this because they're afraid it may act up and spoil their chances of winning. However, I think it can be beneficial to work with a pup or untrained dog. I've learned to solve problems adult dogs develop in the ring because of things I learned working with puppies. Even the most seasoned dog can have an off day. When a seasoned dog acts up, often we're surprised and may react with disgust or irritation. After all, they know better! This can may make them misbehave more. When a puppy acts up, we're more likely to respond with patience and a gentle correction. This

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WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE AKC SCHOLARSHIP

REMEMBER WHEN...

BY BROOKE FOLLEY—FRESHMAN—CENTRE COLLEGE

After receiving notice that I had been awarded an AKC Junior Scholarship I read down to the fourth paragraph and saw the dreaded words “write a brief article...” and shivered. I still had not finished my, at the time, ten page English Lit paper and I had already had to write something else?! At that time I went into overload—every student knows this feeling, blankness. Nothing. I could not think of a single thing to write, and then I started thinking of what made juniors so wonderful. It was not the winning (that is nice, though) but it was all the crazy things that you do and go through as a junior. Now some of you will have similar memories, and some of you have not been showing long enough to experience all of those wonderful things... but you will! Lets see how many of these ring bells with you.

Do you remember the first time you showed in juniors? And, yes, we were all small when we started! Let me tell you about my first time in juniors. I was ten, and showing a hyper Beardie. I stacked him up and pulled up his collar to show off his neck when WHAM he was gone! He had slipped his lead and was running around the ring loose and barking! I was so embarrassed, I never thought I would ever be able to walk into the ring again. How many of you had those kinds of experiences? Hopefully yours was not as embarrassing as mine was. But then by the time you get into the Open class you start to get into the flow of things.

First you start to hang out with other juniors. You know these people, the ones that you are with every weekend. The people that when you walk into the show at six in the morning are there too—it's just weird when they're not. These are the people that you stand outside the ring with and scope out the judge...and members of the opposite sex. We've all be there haven't we? Relationships and dog shows, aren't they fun?! Girls remember the time that you and your best friend stood outside the ring and watched the guy that you like? And guys...remember when you would casually come up to a friend of the person you like to get information about them? Sounds stupid now, doesn't it? But, we all did it, and some of us probably still do. Being with your friends at shows was the best part. Getting lunch together, waiting to go into the ring together, waiting outside the ring together



Brooke and her puppy getting ready last spring for graduation.

when there is a huge class, and then there are the fights. I am not talking about bad fights. I am talking about the fights that occur when juniors are worked too hard and are up too long when the judge is moving too slow. We've all been in the ring when there are forty people in a class and the judge keeps us all in the ring and whoops, that liver just falls out of your hand and happens to hit your friend. Then it starts, in the corner of the ring, a liver fight. You casually look over to see if the judge is looking and boink nail your friend in the head. Then they do the same to you, and then you two gang up on a poor innocent bystander who is baiting their dog. IF you are still in juniors and have not experienced a liver fight, you must do this before you age out! The other type of fight is the spray bottle fight. You have these

mostly in the summer, at outdoor shows when the heat is too much. Ice is occasionally used too. These are more fun than the liver fights, but you feel really stupid when you go up for your individual covered with spray marks.

Here is another question for you: Do you remember your most embarrassing moment in the ring? I have two embarrassing moments. One was when I was in Open Junior class. Most of my friends were in Open Senior and were outside the ring watching me show. I was wearing a long skirt and was kneeling. My shoe caught the hem of my dress, so when I stood up my skirt stayed down. The other one was when I was showing under Mrs. Anne Clark in Chicago in Vizslas. It had been a bad day, and I was showing an unruly puppy. After Mrs. Clark and I wrestled with the dog for at least four minutes to see his teeth, it was time for me to move. Mrs. Clark asked for a triangle and on the diagonal my shoe went flying off a good twenty feet in the air, and plopped down five feet in front of her. But, everyone has to be embarrassed at some time.

For all of you who have aged out of juniors, you will remember the last time you were in the ring before you aged out. My last show was at Louisville. I brought out my eleven year old Vizsla, who I had shown when I was younger. I still remember running around the ring for the last time with my friends, and my favorite dog. It's a great feeling. But now this is over I have decided to continue with juniors. I applied to judge juniors and was approved. By the time this article runs I will have judged my first juniors assignment. I will have also started my first semester at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. I will be majoring in biology with a minor in history. From there I plan to attend medical school. For all juniors still showing, a bit of advice, don't forget about school. You learn a lot from showing, but you always need your education. For those who plan on showing for a profession, remember this is a sport. If you get injured and you do not have an education you're stuck. Overall, I would just like to say, study hard and have fun at the shows. I hope this article has brought some good memories for you.

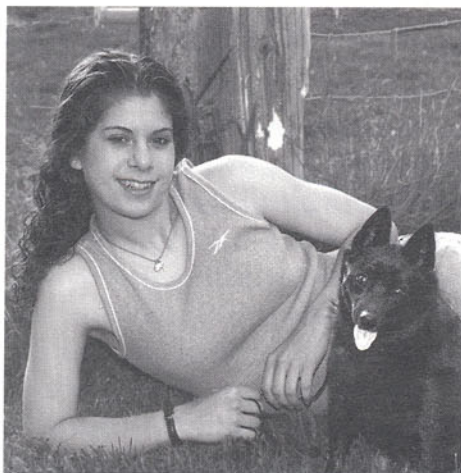
RECIPIENTS

DOING WHAT SHE LOVES

BY HEATHER DOSCHER—FRESHMAN—WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

My name is Heather Doscher and I'm from Moses Lake, Washington. This year I was honored to receive one of the AKC Junior Showmanship Scholarships. I live in a small town, located close to the center of the state. There is not much to do here. So it's not surprising that when I started showing dogs that I took an interest quickly.

I had the intent of showing my Schipperke, Jaws, when I first purchased her, but it would take three years until I seriously got underway. I figured if I wanted to show her she would first need some basic training. My first training session could not have gone any worse. Jaws was so excited that in the first two minutes she pulled on the choke chain so hard that she passed out. Things could only get better! We started at the bottom and we worked our way up, starting first in 4-H. We played in the fun shows, and were serious in the AKC events. Jaws showed me what worked for her and what training did



Heather relaxes with Jaws.

not. We seem to be able to read each other's thoughts.

She has made her own sort of doggie shrine, with ribbons, picture and accomplishments. In obedience we are currently working in Open. This summer we started to work in agility as well. The dog club that I belong to here does not have agility so we travel an hour and a half to Spokane.

In the near future I plan to obtain a novice agility title and CDX on Jaws. In the long-range I would like to finish a Schipperke with a UD and beat some of the fast times of other breeds in agility.

Jaws has also taught me that if you want an animal to do something it must have a motive. This motive can be enjoyment, food, and excessive praise. So now when we "play" in the fun shows we also "play" in the AKC events. Jaws loves to please me. She loves to be the center of attention. I'm just providing an outlet for what she loves to do.

TIMES, TEACHERS, AND TOMORROWS

BY JESSICA CHRISTINE SEDIVY—JUNIOR—CONCORDIA COLLEGE

My first dog, a Golden Retriever named April, was a spirited and wily character who presented me with many challenges. I often look back and admit that April helped me become who I am today—she was such a wonderful teacher. Somehow she was always able to be stubborn, perplexing, and absolutely lovable at the same time.

Although April was beautiful, she was more of a field-type Golden and looked out of place in the Juniors ring because of her dark color and height. Often my mom recalled hearing parents outside of the ring whispering comments like, "She really should get a different dog," or "If she wants to do well, she has to understand that her dog is way too dark, as well as way too old." It's interesting how people can forget that some of the most loved dogs in the world aren't always those that conform to current show types.

April was my girl, and I never let her down by getting a newer, "better" dog; she happily showed her way to a Companion Dog title in four shows, achieved one leg towards her Companion Dog Excellent title, and won several first place

ribbons in Junior Showmanship. She remained at the top of Minnesota's 4-H dog competition in both obedience and showmanship for several



Jessica works individually with one of her students, Nikki Kronemann.

years, accumulating boxes of ribbons, trophies, and even a few odd awards classes like "Weirdest Food-Eater", or "Biggest Foot" that are common at some northern Minnesota fun shows. When April was almost eleven, she made her last appearance in the show ring and helped me land the last of my Best Junior Handler awards. I was so proud of her that day.

I remember April's show performances with laughter and satisfaction, but I remember our talks under the stars and walks in the woods with the most fondness. I remember how frustrating it was to look out and see my clean dog rolling in a dead fish, and how she hoped for a ride in the boat every warm summer day. But most of the time, I just remember how she never passed up a hug; she was my best friend for the most important years of my life. Even though April is no longer alive, she lives every day in me. I always try to remind people to make the most of the time they get to spend with their dogs.

Now I own a three year-old Flat-Coated Retriever named Eva; she is the joy of my life and never ceases to amaze me with her non-stop

continued next page

JUNIOR DOINS AT THE SILKY NATIONAL SPECIALTY JUNE 7-10 1999

BY ELEANOR FRANCESCHI

Our club has always valued and utilized our junior members, as we believe they ARE the future of our breed. We have a group within the club called Silky Teens and membership is free to all children of members. Paula Huff and I serve as coordinators of the group and Paula issues a Teen newsletter quarterly.

There is an award given yearly to the junior who amasses the largest number of

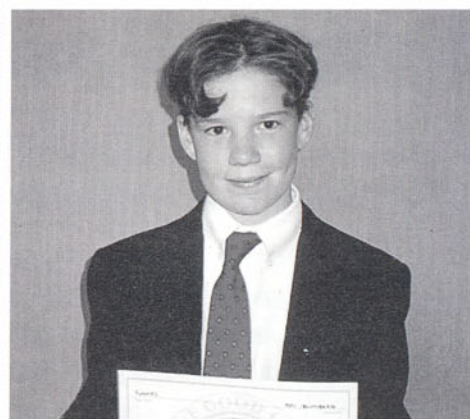


Justine Franceschi with Ch. Wexford Country Girl and Best Junior Handler Awards, STCA 45th Specialty.

points through showing in conformation, obedience, and junior showmanship classes at regular shows. This is known as the "Blue and Tan" award and is made possible thanks to the many generous members.

At this year's specialty held in Olympia, Washington, there were only a few Silky Teens but they certainly made their presence known. In the junior showmanship competition, judge Dr. J.E. Hungerland placed Justine Franceschi 1st in Novice Junior class, Kassie Jones 1st in the Novice Senior class, and Cassandra Smith 1st in the Open Junior class. Justine Franceschi was awarded Best Junior Handler to the roar of the crowd. It was very exciting to see how everyone was in the competition.

On our auction night, a special teen table



Phil Blumberg with Canine Good Citizen award.

is reserved just for teens to get together and renew old and make new friendships. Silky Teens Phil Blumberg, Kassie Jones, Cassandra Smith and Justine Franceschi helped show the audience items to be bid upon. They always lend a helping hand whenever asked. At the Awards Banquet Kassie Jones was presented with the Blue and Tan Award for 1998, and Justine Franceschi came in second for the year. Phil Blumberg was presented with the Canine Good Citizen award he had earned with dog Tri-K's Flying First Class.

With this year's Specialty out of the way we're all glad to be home and already planning for next year in Florida.

TIMES, TEACHERS, AND TOMORROWS CONT'D

personality and charm. We are working towards her championship, and she attended her first obedience class in July. Because of Eva, I have become involved with the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, joined the Fargo-Moorehead Kennel Club, and even participate in the FCR list-serve over e-mail. I have fallen in love with this breed, and I see myself owning, training, and showing them for years to come. Eva has renewed my spark in the competitive dog world-plus; she never passes up hugs either.

Currently, I oversee the instruction of 35 Minnesota 4-H members and their dogs in our county training classes. We spend many late nights in the summer working on obedience and showmanship, and even though it is a big commitment for me, I enjoy watching younger members and their dogs progress into successful competitors in both 4-H and AKC shows. I love being greeted by close to forty dogs with wagging tails and curious noses every Wednesday night. The dogs never fail to check

my pockets for treats or a toy that will be used to distract them when practicing their long sits and downs. It is rewarding for me to be a teacher, but it is even more rewarding to learn from my students. If you ever get to the point in your life where you think you have dog training and your teaching methods all figured out, spend a summer teaching 4-H'ers and their dogs. It is a refreshing experience that constantly reminds me of how I will always be a student.

If I were to give today's Juniors some meaningful advice, I would remind them that it is important to be involved in as many facets of the dog world as possible, including obedience, conformation, agility, and everything in between—right down to learning how to balance diets, and trim toenails. Many juniors have parents that are also involved with dogs or trainers that give them the tools necessary to be competitive; utilize these people because they are valuable resources for information and guidance. They can also become lifelong friends. Be

sure to tell them often that you appreciate their help, and be willing to share some of the credit for your accomplishments.

It is also important to be involved regionally or even nationally if possible, with your breed. Support your local kennel club by offering to steward at nearby shows or donate some of the money you earn during the summer to canine research foundations and the local humane society. You will be tomorrow's dog owners, breeders, trainers, and handlers. Take pride in building a more dog-tolerant society by being a responsible and educated Junior today. It takes many people all over the world working together to preserve and enhance not only a particular breed, but also all purebred dogs. Never forget that you are part of a great community of dog fanciers, and while making big strides, it is also important to tread lightly on your fellow dog owners or competitors.

I wish the best for all of the American Kennel Club's Juniors, and good luck to all of you in the ring.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

BY LORRAINE BISSO

(Editor's note: Lorraine Bisso, was once a Junior herself, is now a Breed judge and Junior judge, as well as a mother of a Junior and Board member of the Irish Setter Club of America)

The Irish Setter's good looks, intelligence, and fun loving personality have made him a favorite with juniors since the beginning of the junior classes in the 1930's. Over the years, the Irish Setter Club of America has recognized and encouraged junior interest in the breed. The club offers junior as well as family memberships and recognizes all members qualifying for Westminster at its Annual Awards banquet held each year as part of the National Specialty rather than naming one top junior.

In 1994 the ISCA Board decided to take a more active interest in Junior Showmanship as one way to ensure the future of the breed. A policy was established, at the request of the juniors, that judges for JS at the National must come from a sporting dog background, preferably Irish Setters, and have an active interest in Juniors. ISCA also began to hold a seminar each year at the National to give the next generation an opportunity to learn about correct handling of the breed, the sport of purebred dogs, and each other. Every year since a prominent handler has volunteered their time to work with the juniors. They have had the opportunity to learn from Tommy Glassford, Tom Greer, Candy Carswell, Eileen Hackett, Linda Ratkovich, and Anne Marie Kubacz. The seminar is free to all interested juniors and is held after the conclusion of Sweepstakes on the show grounds. The junior classes are judged the next day. The event has become so well attended (by adult spectators at ringside as well!) the club now offers two sections-

novice and open. The novice group works on the basics of ring procedure, breed presentation, and rules, while the more experienced open class concentrates on the art of presenting a setter and strategy. There is always a commemorative gift for each participant, such as a grooming apron provided by ISCA or the show sponsor.

During the National, the juniors get together for at least one social activity such as dinner, a movie, or a trip to the beach! Ashley Tripodi comments "An important thing about the ISCA juniors are the friendships made. Everyone has a great time each year and we get to know each other better. They are very good sports, congratulating each other on their wins...and have a good attitude." Others share her sentiments. Peter Kubacz thinks "The juniors program gets better and better as we go along. I think ISCA does a great job in getting the juniors together and giving them activities to do." Emily Bisso feels "That the junior participation in the ISCA has increased dramatically over just a few years. Many of my closest

BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON



JUNIOR SEMINARS IN 2000

March 18	Kansas City, MO
April 15	Harrisburg, PA
July 21	Houston, TX

For more information contact Karen Reuter, 919-854-0195, juniors@akc.org.

friends were made through the junior program, and I look forward to the National every year because of the great camaraderie we share. It has de-emphasized the competitive aspect of the sport for us juniors, and has made it more of a fun time-which it should be." Our juniors are maturing with the program, contributing to the club, and making their mark in the breed as accomplished, knowledgeable dog people."



All juniors who participated in the Irish Setter National this past year.

TIPS FROM A JUNIOR CONT'D

works better on adult dogs, too.

Yes, it will take more work and practice to prepare a puppy for the Juniors ring, but the added time you spend also will improve your handling techniques and patience with your regular Juniors dog. To feel more comfortable about taking a pup into Juniors, work with the pup often at home.



Editor

Mari-Beth O'Neill

Production Editor

Debra Bonnefond

Director of Creative Services

Tilly Grassa

Designer

Paula Thomson

Production Manager

Rocco Buchicchio

Learning to groom your dog yourself is another way to increase your knowledge of your breed. This will shine through when you know exactly what spot on your dog needs touching up after you stack it for the judge. Plus, the time spent at the grooming table establishes a bond between you and your dog that makes it more anxious to please you.

Almost everyone can tell if there is a good bond between a dog and its handler. Moving and working together as a team is a sure way to make a favorable impression on a judge.

I've learned Juniors isn't about expanding your ego by racking up wins. It's about keeping your ego the perfect size. When you win, keep in mind you could lose to someone you just competed against at the last show. And when you lose, know there will be times you'll beat someone equally good.

Juniors are about expanding your knowledge and talents and providing a place to have fun with your dog. Go in the ring planning to do your best and have fun, and you can't help but be a winner!

JUNIORS IN AGILITY CONT'D

even clap and cheer for us.

I would have to say my favorite obstacles are the contact obstacles. They are fun because these allow me to show that I have good control of my dog on the course. The contact zones are the most important part of these obstacles.

I was very happy when the AKC decided to recognize juniors in the performance events because they are my real interest. It is great seeing more juniors getting involved in these events because they are so rewarding. I only hope more juniors will try these events in the future.

If I could give any person one piece of advice when beginning agility, it would be to keep a sense of humor and don't take anything too seriously because anything can happen in agility.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my parents for being at every show with me. Also, I would like to thank my agility instructors and my obedience instructors for supporting me and setting such a good example for me to follow.

5580 Centerville Dr., Raleigh, NC 27606

