

The Pom Reader

FEBRUARY 1986



CH. MILLAMOR'S TRADEMARK

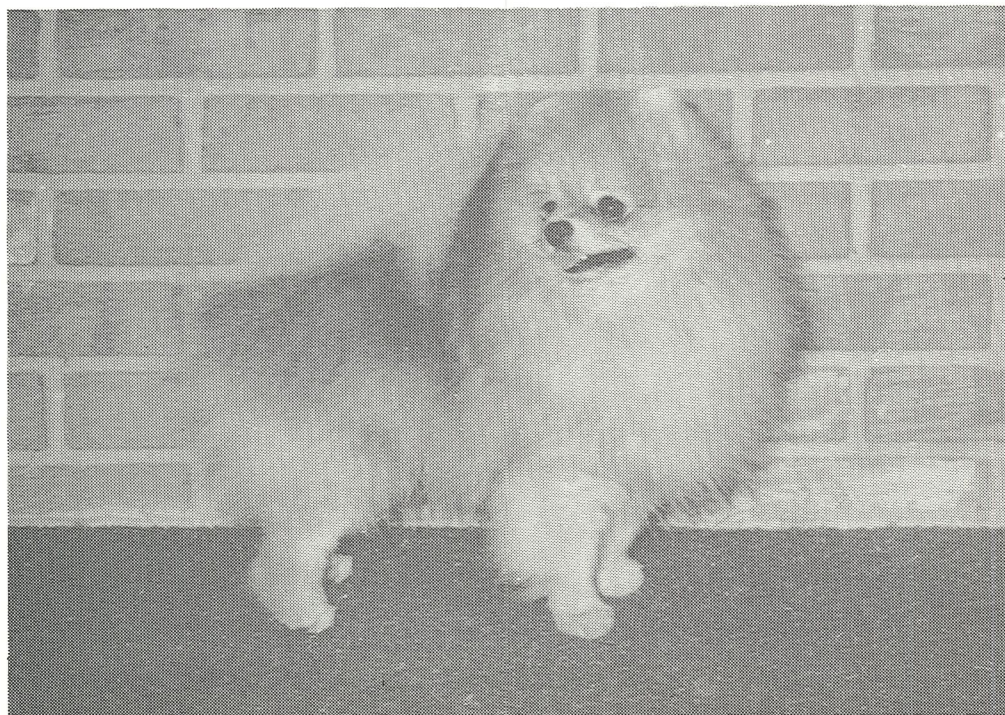
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John & Arlene Benko
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 (305) 842-5591

The



Pom Reader

February 1986

Volume 1, Number 12

Valentine's
DAY



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The Pom Reader is published by Doll-McGinnis Enterprises, Incorporated, 8840 thru 8848 Beverly Hills, Lakeland, Florida, 33805, out of admiration for the purebred Pomeranian. **EDITOR: JOE MCGINNIS. BUSINESS MANAGER: DUANE DOLL.** Postage paid at Lakeland, FL. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the express written permission of the editor. The opinions expressed in this publication either editorially or in advertising copy are those of the authors and do not necessarily constitute endorsement by the publishers. The editor reserves the right to reasonably edit all copy submitted. All articles submitted become the property of the publishers. Subscription price for Third-Class Service in the continental United States: \$24.00. Foreign and First Class prices upon request. **Issues of the Pom Reader are sent as a courtesy to all AKC licensed Pomeranian, Toy Group, and All-Breed judges.** Direct all inquiries to:

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SHOWSIGHT - FROM THE EDITOR

At this very moment, many Pom fanciers are awash in champagne and caviar and, hopefully, purple & gold ribbons. I refer, of course, to the festivities that accompany the APC Specialty and the Garden. From what I've heard, many, many regulars are again making the trip to New York, and lots of first-timers are planning to attend. And so we had better, quickly, review the Rules Applying To Behavior At The Garden...

Rule Number One: You must not sleep. I don't care how much you are paying for your room, you must remember that during Garden week, hotel rooms are for *changing clothes* and not for sleeping. It is not often that you get a chance to be in the company of so many dedicated, knowledgeable fanciers; you won't want to waste one second. Of course, long about 2:00 A.M. any morning, you can hear real good arguments about ear set, and movement, and growing coat, and who is up to what, where.

Rule Number Two: You must not look at prices. You have a whole year ahead of you in which to worry about how much you spend; don't waste your time in Manhattan doing it. Of course, Nine Dollars and Sixty Three Cents for a glass of beer seems a bit high, but one must always remember that you are paying for the *atmosphere*...

Rule Number Three: You must not wear 'comfy' clothes. You will have, of course, brought with you every nice piece of clothing that you have bought in the last fifteen years, and if you're quick, you'll get to wear each of them at least once. Then when you get home you get funny looks from the dry cleaners... "How did she get dog hair on this evening gown?" or "Why is there a rubber band around the sleeve of this tux?" That reminds me of the time that I was at a Civilian Cocktail Party shortly after a trip to the Garden: My hostess picked up a cigarette, I reached into my pocket for my lighter, and produced... a piece of bait. She gave me a strange look, and said, "Didn't you think we would have hors d'oeuvres?"

Rule Number Four: You must not wear 'comfy' shoes. No matter how long you are on your feet, you must pretend that you are just as zippy as you were at eight A.M....one year a lady standing near us removed her heels, and proceeded to walk around for the next hour in her stocking feet. No one has spoken to her since.

Rule Number Five: You must make dates with everyone for dinner next year. No one ever really remembers, but it is mandatory that you insist that next year you will have time to have a really nice dinner, but right now just grab a quick hot dog, and run back to the ring.

Rule Number Six: You must not keep the dates you made last year. *This is important.* If you had a drink with everyone at the Garden that you made a date to have a



drink with, you wouldn't be able to *find* the Garden.

Now, if it sounds like one big party, I'm sorry. I don't mean to downplay the educational aspects of the week, and they are many. The amount of available experience and knowledge is in itself staggering; last year, waiting to check into the hotel, I was lucky to be standing next to **Julia Gasow**; this extreme-

ly successful and knowledgeable breeder made waiting in line a delight. I learned a great deal from her in that short period of time, and hope I will be smart enough to implement some of her thoughts and ideas.

Speaking of thoughts and ideas, you have no idea how much fun we had down here on the January Circuit. There were lots of Pom fanciers around, and everyone seemed to have a great time. It was a real pleasure to meet **Bob & Jeanne Stafford** in person; this young couple is delightful. Also got a chance to speak to **Louis Ciliberto** and **Sally Bagniet**; Sally has a winter home about twenty minutes from where I live, but is usually too busy to use it. I personally did not get too much of a chance to visit with people; for the first time in years I didn't hit all the shows - so I plan to work overtime in Manhattan.

And it sounds like everybody and their brother will be there. The entry at the Specialty is super; people are coming in from everywhere, and the APC has arranged numerous functions that I am sure will be enjoyed by everyone. Again this year the show will be held at the Roosevelt, and is dedicated to **Ruth Beam**. You will remember that last year's show was dedicated to **Edna Girardot** - Edna is planning to attend again this year - see *Letters to the Editor*.

I need to take a moment to say - well, there's nothing that I can say. About the Challenger. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Had a nice chat with **Mary Rosenbaum** yesterday - Mary is another I'm looking forward to meeting in person at the Garden. The best of luck to everyone - it promises to be another blockbuster show for the APC.

But getting back to our rules, this last is the very most important of all...

Rule Number Seven: You must enjoy yourself. And you will. 'Til next month, Poms Away!

Joe (and, of course, Cynthia)

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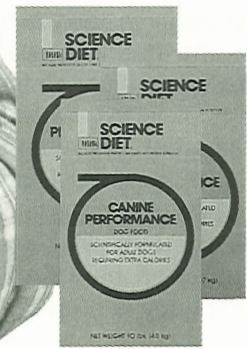
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GENERALLY SPEAKING

by Susan Wade

I am coming out of the closet this month! I am an "ADaholic"! I believe that the condition is incurable - I read the ads in every newspaper and magazine that comes my way. Classified ads, display ads, it matters not - as long as it is an ad.

Over the years I've run across some very interesting ones. About the time I was trying to finish a little Beagle that I co-owned (she needed one point), I found an ad offering directions for making rugs, wallhangings and bedspreads from show ribbons. There wasn't a room in my house that would have benefitted from a Purple & White wallhanging. Another offered a "new" discovery - a pet bed, the cushion of which was filled with "specially charged" pellets. These pellets would release their special energy when the pet was in the bed, thereby rejuvenating and soothing the pet. Especially good for the old and the infirm!

I am told that a good advertisement is one that catches your attention...well, this one certainly did. A full page in an All-Breed magazine featuring the picture of a beautifully groomed, fully-coated Yorkshire Terrier, a really gorgeous dog! Across the top of the page were the words, "**NOW AVAILABLE IN LARGER SIZES!!**". Now - really! In one of the lower corners of the ad was a picture of bottles of shampoo! That one was a real attention-getter!

My all time favorite, however, was one sent to me by our youngest daughter from an Indiana paper. (This one subsequently appeared in **The Reader's Digest**.) Classified Ads: "**For sale, puppies. Mother, St. Bernard - father, very remarkable Cocker!**"

Some time ago I had a guest columnist, **Dr. Walter Gene Thomas** of Bradenton, Florida. His article on the use of calcium as an assistance in normal whelping received much favorable comment.

One of the letters was from a lady in Louisiana who had had a bad experience, in that her Vet used oxytocin in what to her seemed a rather indiscriminate manner. She asked for information on the use of oxytocin.

I had occasion to take a bitch down to Dr. Thomas for breeding - the stud to be used was over twelve years old, so we needed verification from a Vet. While there, we had a chance to discuss how he feels about oxytocin and here it is: **Dr. Thomas** says that too many people use oxytocin routinely...he does not. There are risks involved. Since oxytocin compels the uterus to contract, there may be a separation of the afterbirth which can result in a dead puppy, the blood supply can be cut off by these contractions. Also, unless the puppy is properly located in the birth canal, the



contractions can actually prevent the passage of the pup or can prevent the remaining puppies from moving into position for birth by squeezing the passage closed.

When the bitch is having difficulties delivering, Dr. Thomas' first move is a calcium injection. Only if this is unsuccessful, does he then use the oxytocin. If one injection of oxytocin does not deliver the puppy in a matter of 15 to 30 minutes, Dr. Thomas plans for a C-section - "I don't wait long before operating or physically delivering the pup."

Dr. Thomas highly recommends the use of oxytocin after the delivery is complete. At this point, the contractions are beneficial in removing any debris from the uterus and to aid in producing milk.

The letter from Louisiana also included a question about X-rays. Dr. Thomas feels that X-rays are never completely safe, but can be useful - in a full-term bitch - to see if the heads are too large for delivery or if there is a question about the bitch having completed whelping.

In the original article, Dr. Thomas suggested starting your bred bitches on *Dical-D* at about three weeks. This would be the optimum time, however, different vets prefer to palpate at different times, so whenever you are sure the bitch is pregnant, start her on his suggested regimen. We realize that not everyone takes their bitches in for palpation. The extra calcium, phosphorus, and Vitamin D will not harm the bitch. By four or five weeks, you should have a good idea whether or not you will be having a litter.

While we were there, Dr. Thomas did a urinalysis and a B.U.N. on the bitch. He feels that both these procedures are very important. From them, you and your Vet can be made aware of any possible problems whether it results from a kidney infection or something as usual as anemia...you will be aware and able to guard against complications.

The whole idea behind this regimen is to give your bitches every advantage when they are going to produce a litter for you. We want healthy puppies and healthy mamas to take care of them. This, hopefully, gives you an edge. **Sue**

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POMIRISH HUNY'S GOT YA (Li'l Shaver)

Photography: PETS BY PAULETTE

AT 7 months started the Florida Circuit out right - going WD & BOW for a 5 point major at Jacksonville KC. Thanks to judge Dr. Huggins.

We have a few pups and adults available - some pet, some show - some breeding. \$250.00 up.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

—Roberta J. Feary

This is the story of a very closely averted tragedy.

One early morning shortly before this past Christmas, I took Trinket, my Corn Duke's Dragonfly granddaughter, downstairs for her daily grooming. When I had finished brushing her, I set her down on the floor, and went to the grooming cabinet to put up the brushes, spray bottle, etc. Trinket started up the stairs as she had done for years, on the way to my mother's bedroom, to wake her up.

Just as she reached the top step, Trinket lost her footing, and tumbled 6 feet down over the stairwell onto the cement floor. Although stunned for a moment, she got up before I reached her. I felt her over very carefully, and carried her upstairs. She was bleeding slightly from the nose, but did not seem hurt otherwise. Mother, who is a retired nurse, also checked her over carefully. A visit to the veterinarian revealed a badly loosened tooth, which was removed. There were no broken bones or internal injuries, so we felt very lucky.

Except for brief interruptions to "go out", and for an occasional gentle massage, Trinket spent the rest of the day wrapped in a soft woolen shawl, on the couch. She slept most of the day, until evening. By then she was eager as usual for her dinner.

The next morning, she was acting as though it had never happened. Now, if she is sure she can go all the way up the stairs, she takes off and goes up. If not -- she sits at the bottom of the stairs and waits for a "lift," taking advantage of the privileges of a canine senior citizen.

NOTE: Mercer's Trinket of Duke will be 12 years old July 1. She is the American Pomeranian Club National Calendar Dog for December, 1986.

MIDWEST NEWS



JEANNE STAFFORD

Now Joe, about that rumor you started to spread last month...I'm happy to say, yes, I was in Florida for the January circuit - and I loved every minute I was there! Hope to make it an annual event for me, it's a great place to see lots of Poms and Pom People (and to meet our publishers Joe & Duane, of course!). And

speaking of Joe & Duane, they also feel life is not complete without a Pom - congratulations to you both on your purchase of the beautiful CH. PRECIOUS PETIT'S RIPLE SUPREME, better known as "Abe". Continued success with him in the ring! Hope everyone has a great time in New York this year!

Jeanne Stafford

1436 Powers Ct., Niles, MI 49120

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The Pom Reader

★ LETTERS ★

Dear Joe-

I have had friends frantically trying to get in touch with me - even calling the sherriff in Floral City trying to locate me - I wish I had asked you to publish my whereabouts in the Reader.

If possible maybe you could do so in the next issue - I was unable to send Christmas cards so you might just make an apology for me and let folks know where I am and tell them I'll see them at the Specialty...God Willing.

Sincerely,

Edna (Girardot)

Ed. note - Mrs. Girardot is living with Dick & Dolores Watts, and can be reached at:

4800 Floral Park Road
Brandywine, MD 20613

Thanks, Edna, and see you in New York!

JMcG

110TH WESTMINSTER ENTRY CLOSED WITH 2585 DOGS OF 140 BREEDS AND VARIETIES

The entry for the 110th consecutive annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show closed with 2585 dogs of 140 breeds and varieties, according to **Chet Collier**, Show Chairman. The Show will be held on Monday and Tuesday, February 10th and 11th, at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Leading the entry are Poodles with 111 in the three varieties. There are 79 Akitas, 75 Dachshunds, 60 Golden Retrievers, 59 Yorkshire Terriers, and 59 Labrador Retrievers.

In order for a dog to be eligible for entry at Westminster, it must have been credited with one or more championship points [in competition prior to entry at Westminster]. The breeds in the Sporting, Hound, and Toy groups will be benched and judged on Monday (1294) and the breeds in the Working, Terrier, Non-Sporting and Herding groups will be benched and judged on Tuesday (1291).

The judging panel will be headed by **Mrs. George John Wanner Sr.**, of Largo, who will select Best In Show. The group judges will be: **Mrs. Barbara Heller**, Sarasota, FL, (Sporting); **Derek G. Rayne**, Camel-By-The-Sea, CA, (Hound); **Tom Stevenson**, Santa Barbara, CA, (Working); **Kenneth McDermott**, Newburgh, NY, (Terrier); **Dr. Buris Boshell**, (Toy); **Frank T. Sabella**, Los Angeles, CA (Non-Sporting); and **Mrs. James Edward Clark**, Centreville, MD, (Herding).

The Westminster Kennel Club limits its entry to 2,500 dogs. The entry closed on December 30th with the mail that brought the 2,500th dog - this is the earliest closing of the Westminster entry in recent history. Dogs owned by exhibitors from forty-eight states, the District of Columbia, Canada and Puerto Rico are entered in the show.

Fifty-six percent of the Westminster entries have already won their championships: this is the highest percentage of Champions ever to compete at a Westminster show.

The 1986 Westminster will feature a nostalgic parade of past Best In Show and Group winners. These past Westminster winners will be benched for both days of the Westminster so the public may view them at close range, and will also appear on both nights of the show. (Courtesy of **T.E. Boalby Co., Public Relations, W.K.C.**)

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CAJUN CHATTER

Kathy Masilla

This is a slow time of the year for us in Cajun land as far as doggie activities are concerned. Save for a cluster of shows in Shreveport, there's little else to do except celebrate Carnival and grow coat on your show hopefuls. It's much too cold, anyway, for with the high humidity we have, even 40 degree temperatures can make things miserable for humans...the dogs, however, love it!

A while back I had a rather rough experience with one of my older dogs; he'd had two strokes and I thought I would surely lose him. Fortunately, the old boy turned out to be made of some pretty strong stuff and pulled through it. He's back to enjoying life, but because of the experience I learned some useful information about geriatric dogs which I'd like to pass on.

I know a lot of breeders out there don't like to keep the old ones. Some prefer to put them to sleep (an ungrateful way to repay a faithful friend) at the first sign of infirmity. Others place them in loving homes, which is probably the best solution for a breeder who is limited in space. But some breeders, like myself, just can't seem to let go of their old dogs.

The older dog's needs change once they are past their prime. They don't see so well or hear so clearly, and the dog who once shunned the heat now picks the warmest spot in the yard to heat his old bones. (This bears watching as the old ones can give themselves heat stroke without knowing it!)

My olders dogs are used to their appointed "spots" so I don't change that. This gives them a measure of security, and it tends to keep them from getting confused. Most of them "see" with their noses, so I don't change the furniture around, either.

The older dog's digestive system isn't what it used to be...just as those of us who are no longer teen-agers can't eat pizza at midnight any more without heartburn. A diet which is lower in fat is called for - not only will your old one tolerate it better but he won't become overweight, as with age he exercises less and needs less calories. If he's lost teeth, his food ought to be soaked to make it softer; if he's a finicky one try coaxing him with baby food; strained vegetables and beef (the high meat dinners are higher



in fat content and are more difficult to digest) or the junior vegetables and beef (has bits of solid food in it).

In my older dog's case, he couldn't eat as the stroke affected his sense of balance and he couldn't stand up. I fed him with a large syringe filled with baby food (strained). One-half 4½ oz. jar per 5 pounds is a good guide. His tail wagged the entire time I fed him; he knew what I was doing and it got to the point where he would lap from the end of the syringe. As he

recovered his sense of balance I gradually introduced him to eating on his own again.

There are vitamins on the market for the older dogs. These are excellent and help your older ones stay lively and healthy. Pay particular attention to the older dog's teeth - infected teeth can lead to a lot of trouble, so make sure his are clean. You can use a toothbrush (soft) and baking soda or use one of the commercial doggie toothpastes about once or twice a week. Loose teeth should be pulled, but remember to have your vet do a blood workup on your dog prior to using anaesthesia to make sure his body and heart can stand it. This can save you a lot of heartache.

Some dogs cannot tolerate being groomed as they get older. This is the one time to sanction the use of scissors or clippers. If it makes him miserable and he carries coat that's ridiculously heavy, it's more merciful to keep him clipped back to a reasonable length so he doesn't need to be yanked on. This is particularly true of the spayed bitch...most of them begin to carry coats like males once they are no longer capable of having puppies. Pay particular attention to feet and toenails. It seems that toe nails grow twice as fast as a dog gets older, and nails which curl into the feet are painful, especially to the dog who is probably suffering with achy joints to begin with. Make sure your older ones can "feel their feet".

There is, of course, a time when we have no choice but to let our old ones go...when they can no longer enjoy life with dignity. A dog who still enjoys his food and fresh air, who recognizes his master and enjoys being loved, has control over his bodily functions and can walk, this is a dog who still enjoys life. I think the following poem says it all. [continued next page]

THE NAME OF THE GAME

Dorothy Bonner

Breeders are banded into Clubs for the betterment of their breeds, not only for the improvement of my dogs and your dogs, but for everybody's dogs. These Clubs (especially special Breed Clubs) often fall apart for the very reason they are formed, breeders not being able to see the forest for the trees. When the betterment favors another member, who wins in the shows, gossip and rumors fly from some who have less betterment. Most of these rumors are untruths that downgrade the person who passes them on, but they create a bad climate in the club, often leading to its downfall.

Every exhibitor likes to win, but remember that the one who does may be part of the efforts of all of us, for that is supposed to be the Name of the Game.

Dorothy Bonner
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The Pom Reader.

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CAJUN CHATTER by Kathy Masilla
Continued

THE POWER OF THE DOG
by
RUDYARD KIPLING

THERE is sorrow enough in the natural way
From men and women to fill our day;
And when we are certain of sorrow in store
Why do we always arrange for more?
*Brother and sisters, I bid you beware
Of giving your heart to a dog to tear.*

Buy a pup and your money will buy
Love unflinching that cannot lie—
Perfect passion and worship fed
By a kick in the ribs or a pat on the head
*Nevertheless it is hardly fair
To risk your heart for a dog to tear.*

When the fourteen years that Nature permits
Are closing in asthma, or tumour, or fits,
And the vet's unspoken prescription runs
To lethal chambers or loaded guns,
*Then you will find — it's your own affair,—
But...you've given your heart to a dog to tear.*

When the body that lived at your single will,
With its whimper of welcome, is stilled (how still!),
When the spirit that answered your every mood
Is gone — wherever it goes — for good,
*You will discover how much you care,
And will give your heart to a dog to tear!*

We've sorrow enough in the natural way,
When it comes to burying Christian clay.
Our loves are not given, but only lent,
At compound interest of cent per cent,
Though it is not always the case, I believe,
That the longer we've kept 'em, the more do we
grieve;
For, when debts are payable, right or wrong,
A short-time loan is as bad as a long—
*So why in — Heaven (before we are there)
Should we give our hearts to a dog to tear?*

That's about all for now. **Kathy Verdi Masilla**

P.R. Q & A

Due to popular request, starting in March we will feature the monthly question & answer department P.R. Q & A. Everyone, novice, experienced breeder, exhibitor, has questions now and again that somebody out there has already found the answers to. Let's share the knowledge and help each other!

★ COMING IN MARCH ★
SECRETARY'S PAGE

Each month we will welcome reports from the Secretaries of AKC licensed Pomeranian Clubs. As the staff of the PR can not be all places at all times, we believe this is an excellent way to keep the country informed as to the growth, progress, and activities of individual clubs.

Deadlines for Secretary's reports are the fifteenth of the month prior to publication date, which is the tenth of the month. Reports may include show results from Specialty shows, club doings, planned activities, members' news, etcetera.

Don't forget to submit photos and results of your Specialty shows - we will be happy to publicize your successful show as quickly as possible. All photos will be returned in the condition received immediately following publication.

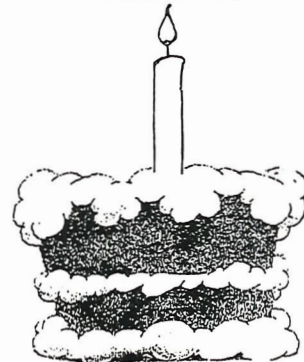
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What We Hope For Next Year"



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We would like to announce that CH. CHASE SCOTIA NATIONAL DREAM (pictured) is now with us at both addresses. Thank you EDNA GIRARDOT for letting us have this lovely boy, as well as our original first Pom, CH. SCOTIA TIDDLY DUM'S PIXIE, and for all your help and support. We also welcome SCOTIA SPECTACULAR'S PIA NONO - watch for her in the ring this spring.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO RUTH BEAM (GREAT ELMS KENNEL) ON BEING HONORED AS BREEDER OF THE YEAR BY THE AMERICAN POMERANIAN CLUB.

UPDATE

TOP TEN EXHIBITORS AS OF THE JANUARY 1986 AKC GAZETTE

Welcome to UPDATE, your monthly rating list of breeders and exhibitors out there winning points in the show ring. As most all serious Pomeranian fanciers are, in one way or another, involved in campaigning their Poms for AKC Championship points, we feel that it is important to keep tabs on the Pomeranian doings in this area.

The procedures for tallying the point scale are as follows:

The source for all points is the official show awards book of the AKC Gazette. Only this publication will be used for point credits. Exhibitors are credited with all AKC Championship points won in the Gazette year, and published monthly according to appearance in the Gazette. As keeping track of each and every AKC show in the United

States is an onerous task (accomplished diligently by AKC), many times the actual show dates will vary from the date of publication (i.e.- a September show may not be published until November.). The Gazette year, as a rule, runs from about October of the previous year until September of the present calendar year.

Points are allotted to THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE DOG AT THE TIME OF COMPETITION.

Statistician: Susan Wade. Any questions concerning UPDATE may be addressed to the editor.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE LISTING OF THE TOP TEN EXHIBITORS AS OF THE DECEMBER 1985 AKC GAZETTE.

EXHIBITOR	POINTS
E. GIRARDOT	25
S. BAUGNIET	13
C. READY	11
L. & D. JOHNSON	10
B. MCDONALD	9
E. & C. HORTON	*8
W. WOOD	*8
M. ALLAN	*7
P. FIELDS	*7
R. GOODRICH	*7
J. & R. MASSEY	*7

SPECIALS ADDITION

TOP TWENTY POMERANIANS — AS OF THE JANUARY 1986 GAZETTE

Presently we find a number of Poms making their impact in Specials competition. In order to keep you informed as to the progress of these hard-working members of the breed, we are pleased to offer you **SPECIALS ADDITION**.

SPECIALS ADDITION is your monthly rating system of the Top Twenty Pomeranians in the United States. Rules for the rating system are as follows.

Breed points (not to be confused with Championship points) are allotted to individuals according to the highest placement received in any given AKC show, as reported in the American Kennel Club Show, Obedience and Field Trials Awards Book. Only this source will be used for point awards.

A number of points has been allotted to the various placements, and they are as follows:

BEST IN SHOW (All Breeds): 500
BEST IN SHOW (Specialty): 250
BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX (Specialty): 75
TOY GROUP FIRST: 250
TOY GROUP SECOND: 150
TOY GROUP THIRD: 75
TOY GROUP FOURTH: 25
BEST OF BREED: 10

Statistician: Susan Wade. The following is the listing of the Top Twenty Pomeranians as of the JANUARY 1986 AKC Gazette:

NAME

POINTS	NAME	BISA	BISS	BOSS	I	II	III	IV	BOB
430	Ch. Muller's Encore (D)	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3
410	Ch. Herd's Little Yoyo (D)	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1
380	Ch. D-Nee's Darin' Duffie (D)	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1
215	Ch. Precious Petite's Gabriel (D)	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4
185	Ch. Texican Giant Killer Chula (D)	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
150	Ch. Apolloette Ever Ready Rocky (D)	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
*75	Ch. Daisy's Little Bit of Jabil (D)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
*75	Ch. Rap's Enchantress of Beaver (B)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
*55	Ch. Hi Times Kaleidoscope (B)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
*55	Ch. Southland's Toast To Bev-Nor (B)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
35	Ch. Apolloette Foolish Pleasure (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
*25	Ch. Harbin's Time To Pop The Cork (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
*25	Ch. Scotia Chase National Dream (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
*20	Ch. Galaxie's Star Dancer Two T's (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
*20	Ch. Sungold's Gay Caballero (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
*20	Ch. Topaze Jackpot Toby (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
*20	Ch. Westview's Moonglow Rocky (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
*20	Ch. Windsong's Valentine (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
*10	Ch. Bell's Houston Star Performer (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*10	Ch. Bell's Karadarn Wild Willy (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*10	Ch. Elene's Pigeon Flyaway (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*10	Dainty Darin' of D-Nee's (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*10	Ch. L-R's Rock Concert AV Strand (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*10	Midas Ragtime Rock (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*10	Mixon's Music Maker (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*10	Moe-Best Repeat Sinsation (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*10	Myway Sunni Gem of Collier (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*10	Pomirish Chance's Swt. Vanilla (B)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*10	Ch. Texican's Great Balls of Fire (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
*10	Wak's Little Kandy Kiss (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

*Tie: All Placements Alphabetical

VIEW POINT

VICTORIA POWELL



WHELPING by Margie Bartley edited and presented by Vikki Powell PART III

This month concludes our series based on Margie Bartley's excellent ideas on whelping puppies. The litter was in the process of arriving when we closed last month – this month they will finish arriving and Margie tells us some of the things to look for when caring for the newborns:

...After the first puppy there may or may not be an interval before the next arrival. This depends on when the next placenta pulls free of the uterus and the puppy is moved into the birth canal. It is not uncommon to have placentas break loose from each horn at the same time, causing the puppies to be delivered almost simultaneously. At other times there may be an hour or more delay between them. We once had a puppy come down the birth canal so rapidly it went across the vulva opening. The second puppy evidently came down shortly after and the contractions of the bitch forced its body against that of the first puppy stretched across the opening. It didn't take but a few minutes to realize that we had a problem, and we went to the Vet. An X-ray clearly revealed the situation and the Vet immediately performed a Caesarian Section. Even though it was only a half-hour or a little longer, it was too late for the first puppy, but our quick action saved the second one and the following three puppies.

I hesitate to mention "pit" (oxytocin), the hormone that can be injected to stimulate or increase labor. A little knowledge can be dangerous...However, let's hope all of you are either EXPERIENCED ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW AND WHEN TO ADMINISTER THIS (POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS) HORMONE, OR NOVICE ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN TO CONSULT YOUR VET (NOT ANOTHER BREEDER) BEFORE TAKING MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS. Some breeders may get over-anxious and give the shot thinking it will speed up a long, drawn out delivery; perhaps because they are sleepy or have other things to do. *This is where the danger lies!* The cervix (canal through which the puppy must pass) **MUST BE DILATED!** If the injection is given without the cervix being dilated, the strength of the contractions could

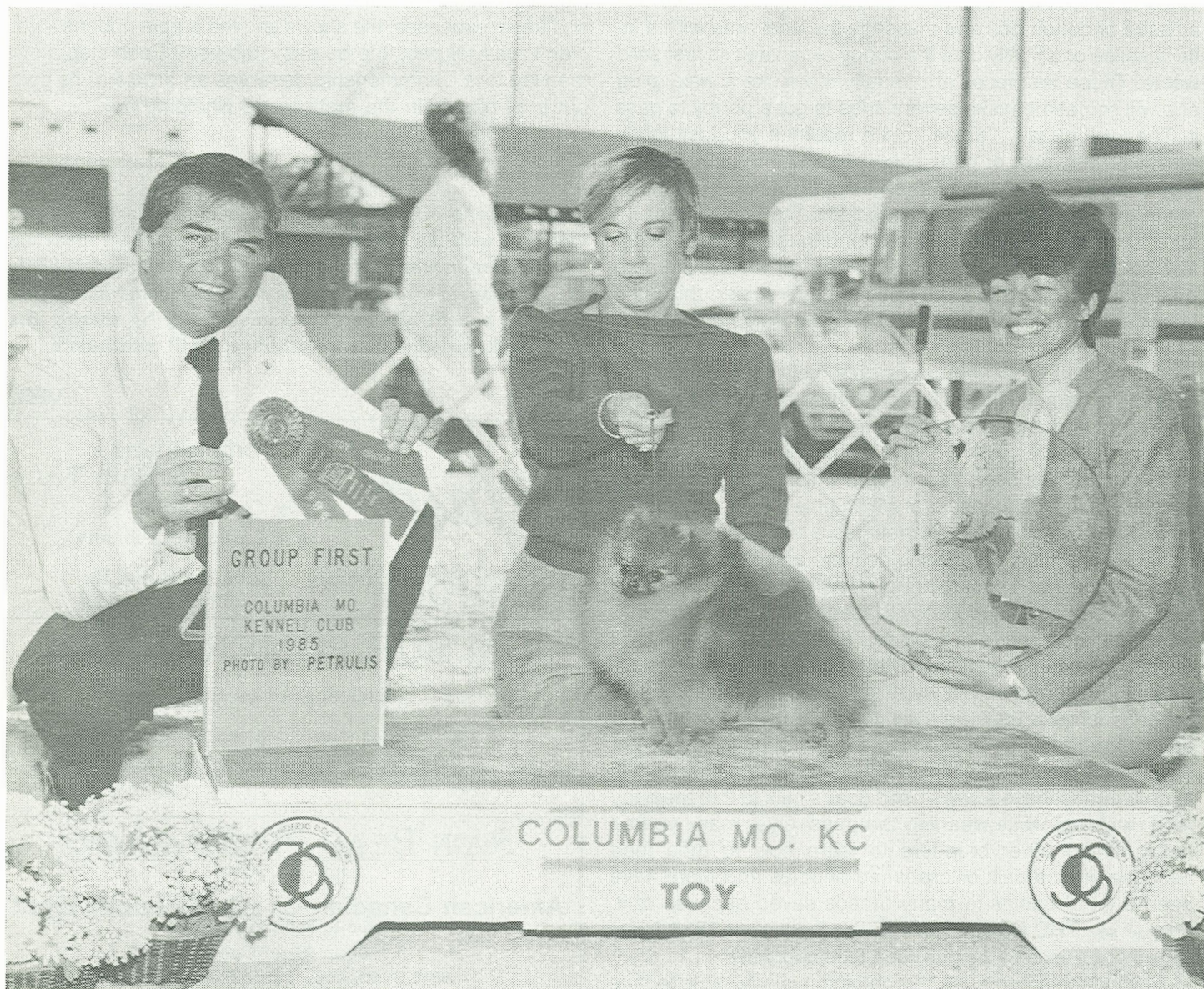
rupture the uterus and the complications could be a tale of horror! You could easily lost the entire litter as well as your bitch.

Only a vet is qualified to make a pelvic or internal examination of the bitch at this point and it must be done under the utmost of sanitary conditions. The uterus is exceptionally open for infection at this point, which cause grave problems later on.

At this point your new litter is all delivered, so what's next? If the bitch doesn't seem to accept the babies at first, or is too exhausted, I keep them in the plastic dishpan with a heating pad on low (covered by a towel, please), and place it on the nightstand by my bed. I far prefer the plastic pan as it can be disinfected and cleaned for later use. I dislike using cardboard or home-made wooden boxes. As previously mentioned, cardboard boxes in this day and time can be downright *dangerous* to your newborn puppies, even boxes that have held only paper products. If you don't have a heating pad for the pups, a hot water bottle is the next best thing. Fill it almost full with boiling water, hold firmly in one hand and with the other expel the air and screw in the top. Place the bottle in with the puppies *only* after you have wrapped it in several towels - when held against your wrist it should feel barely warm to the touch. As the water cools, you may remove a towel at a time to keep the puppies comfortable. Lacking a hot water bottle, any plastic jar or bottle may be substituted, but it is not as comfortable for the puppies to lay on as the soft hot water bottle.

There are those who use heating lamps to keep the babies warm; however, I have found them to be too drying for the puppies and the dam. [Continued next page]

Ch. Precious Petite's Gabriel



Judge Chuck Winslow

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 Janet Jackson (pictured)

Precious Petites



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The Pom Reader February 1986

VIEWPOINT by Victoria Powell

Margie Bartley on Whelping continued

Puppies can dehydrate very easily and quickly, as can the dam after her delivery.

It is important to realize that the puppies are not born with the ability to eliminate waste from their bodies on their own. If the dam is exhausted after her delivery or section, you must take her place. The dam does this with her tongue; we use a tissue or cotton ball and massage the anal area with a little vaseline or KY jelly until the puppy eliminates its first solid waste. These first feces are usually more like a waxy plug and will sometimes take several tries to get a puppy to pass it. They will usually "tinkle" quite readily if you just lightly massage the vulva or penis. [Sometimes as you are rubbing the puppies dry immediately after delivery they will tinkle for you.] In the event that the dam was sectioned and may be "out of it" for a few days, you will have to attend to this process every few hours until she takes over for you. In the unfortunate event that you have to hand-raise the entire litter, this is an important part of caring for them and should be attended to after each feeding.

It is important that each puppy gets their share of the first milk of the dam. It is usually a clearer color than the normal white milk and is called *colostrum*. It is this substance that has the antibodies which give the puppies their immunities (if the mother has been vaccinated) which last until a short time after they are weaned, at which time they should begin their puppy shot series. Sometimes a bitch's milk comes down several days before she delivers and other times the vet must give her a shot to bring it down. In the second case we have had great success with feeding the puppies canned, condensed goat's milk diluted half and half with boiling water and cooled down to body temperature. Some vets advise various formulae but we have raised healthier puppies with this formula than we ever did when using any powder or vet formula. I have also pulled pups through they may not have made it otherwise. Even if the bitch has plenty of milk to go around, I have always used goat's milk to thin the baby food or cereal while weaning the pups. Over many years I have helped other breeders to learn how to tube feed because of acid milk or orphaned puppies and there have been a lot of babies in many breeds saved because of it. [Please see **THE ORIENT EXPRESS**, September 1985 issue, page 24, for exactly how to tube feed puppies.]

Following the completion of whelping it is advisable to take the bitch and puppies to the vet for a check-up. The puppies should travel in a draft-free container with a hot water bottle to keep them warm. Usually the vet will give the bitch two or three injections; one to combat any possible infection, one to expel a retained placenta *if necessary*, and one to shrink her uterus.

Puppies require a lot of sleep and it is our practice to only handle them two or three times a day to see if they are all plump and well fed, and that the bitch is cleaning them properly. [This is if the mother is raising the litter herself and does not apply to hand-reared puppies who by necessity must be picked up more than 2-3 times daily to be cared for.]

Do not assume that your bitch is properly cleaning the pups and causing them to eliminate...you must check, for occasionally some do not do a good job of it and you must assist. Do this in the same way as you did in the first few hours of

life as previously explained. I never let even breeder friends in to pick up and handle the new puppies; they could bring in germs from their own dogs and puppies; the young are very susceptible to anything that comes along. So, as proud as you may be of your new family, wait until they are older to show them off -- you will save yourself a lot of problems.

The expected litter is safely here, they are nursing and thriving; next comes the training and inoculations, the entry fees and travel expenses, the shows and the purple ribbons -- you didn't *really* expect it to be easy, did you? Each step along the way to a Championship deserves an article of its own, but it all begins in the mating and whelping box. □

I would like to extend a hearty thanks to Ms. Bartley for providing us with the opportunity to use her excellent ideas and experiences on whelping for the benefit of the readers of the PR. Once again I would like to say that I welcome submissions that will benefit all the Pomeranian fancy by sharing that valuable knowledge that we all have. Until next month...

VIKKI

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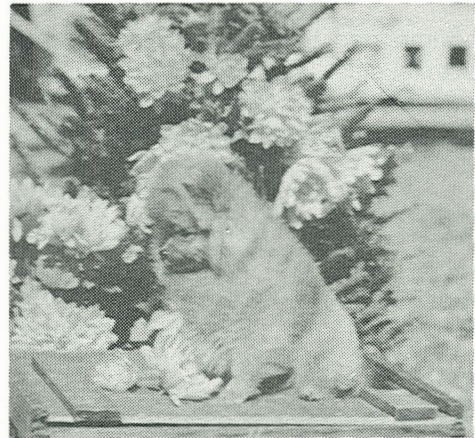
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(Ch. Cheelan Chesai Star Editor)

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Dover & Holihouse Poms

Proudly Announce Our Holiday Litters

Sire: Am. Can. Ch. Mi-Dee Mikee of the Pines (3½ lbs.); Dam: Shadea Coal City O'Holihouse (black - sired by Ch. Camelot's Mighty Thor). 1 Black Boy, 1 Black Girl whelped 12-24-85.

Sire: Pombreden's Read Luke Sixteen (B/W parti w/blaze); Dam: Holihouse-Dover Sno Bunny (C/W parti). 1 B/W male, 1 C/W female. Whelped 12-27-85. Breeding stock or pet.

Sire: Pombreden's Lil Blu Testament (Blue, 3½ lbs.); Dam: Camelot's Kopy Kat O'Holihouse (Black, 3½ lbs., all Camelot breeding). 2 girls, 1 black, 1 sable. Whelped 1-6-86.

Sire: Pombreden's Lil Blu Testament; Dam: Dover's Ishtar O'Holihouse (B&T - sired by Annon's Salute The Flag). Litter due January 16th.

Sire: Pombreden's Read Luke Sixteen (B/W parti); Dam: Holihouse's Munequita Tia (Black - sired by Ch. Camelot's Mighty Thor). Litter due January 25.

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SPORTSMANSHIP

Dr. Alvin Grossman

“The most important thing in the Olympic games is not to win but to take part; just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.”

Baron DeCoubertin
Founder of the Olympic Games

“Winning isn’t everything; it’s the only thing.”

Vince Lombardi
Coach, Green Bay Packers

“Then the One Great Scorer come to write against your name, he marks — not that you have won or lost, but how you played the game.”

Grantland Rice
Noted Sports Writer

Having been around the dog show game for a couple of years now, Grace and I are continually struck with the incongruity of it all. We went into showing dogs because we were competitive and artistic and wanted to have pride in showing a fine dog.

We have met many fine people as a result of our experiences; on the other hand, we have also encountered some difficult people, too.

After talking about sportsmanship and ethics a great deal between us, we have come to recognize that the dog show game, like almost all competitive activities, has people involved that cover the complete spectrum of human behavior. People react to wins and losses in entirely different ways. It seems their expectations coming into a show are far different from one another, as well.

For example, how many times have you heard a group of exhibitors predicting that **Ch. Whoozis** has this show cold and the rest of us poor “suckers” don’t stand a chance? This is like the tale that **Joc Czperwicz**, that noted handler of the Outer Mongolian Terrier, has this one wired because the judges leaned his way in the last show. These and other fairy tales are useful to set up alibis in advance so our losses won’t seem so bitter. Unfortunately, it also sets up a losing attitude and one that fairly screams “foul, I only lost because the other guy wasn’t playing fair.”

Frankly, the way we see it is that in winning and losing, we have no certainty. Whenever we enter a show, there is a chance we will win; there is also a chance that we will lose. As a result, we are always talking in terms of chances or odds. Are any of these statements familiar to you?

1. The odds that a dog will win back to back Bests in Show is very low.
2. We will probably win the breed today.
3. It looks like we may have a seventy percent chance of placing in the group.
4. I feel certain that ninety percent of all judges are honest.

The Pom Reader February 1986

5. The odds against your picking a winner from ringside in a large class is probably slightly better than chance.

Already we have learned that a top class dog should win 3 out of 5 times. That’s 60 percent. Our handlers have also taught us to “keep a book” on the judges. They have detailed records. For example, remember when Judge Postwhistle put Rudolph only third in the working group...well, as it turned out in talking to him later he pointed out that he would like to see more extension in front. This led us to the realization that Rudolph was a bit steep in shoulder which limited his forward reach. Therefore, we tried to find out which judges put great emphasis on that action and if they might penalize our dog as a result. We did find some who were “front fanatics”. As a matter of course we did not show under them. It’s our feeling we increased Rudolph’s winning percentage by 5 points. It’s like a baseball manager looking at this statistics in making out his lineup. If Oscar Crackball has hit this lefthander for an average of only 210, he darn well better use Jeff Strongarm who has pounded this guy for a 325 average in his place. If, and it’s a big if, winning is everything then that’s the way to go.

Now, by having lived many summers, I have come to realize that winning doesn’t come free; it always costs something. For example, by taking this tack I have nagging doubts that my dog can beat all comers under any condition and I find it’s not always easy to live with that doubt in my mind. Do I have the best or is it my intent to only win the point races fostered by the dog magazines? Grace and I have rattled that one around aplenty.

Grace says it another way. “If you don’t compete, you can’t lose - but you can’t win, either.” As I’ve said before, smart girl, that Grace.

In our rambling discussions with other breeders both at club meetings and at shows a number of elements of sportsmanship have come up. For example, this simple truism -- in order for there to be a winner, there must be a loser.

Certainly it is apparent that in any breed there can only be a winners dog and bitch plus a best of variety and best of opposite sex. This leaves many others to ponder why the fates did not choose them. A certain percentage of losers will ascribe their loss to every conceivable reason but the fact they may have been beaten by a better dog *on this day*.

For some unfortunate people learning how to lose always eludes them. It is as important as learning how to win. It’s the other side of the coin.

Let’s be honest, no loser can be termed “happy” by any stretch of the imagination. Turn to the person standing next to you and remark about the poor job of judging and chances are that another soulmate will be found. What’s hard about that? However, laud the judge for his discerning ability in placing the best dogs and nine times out of ten be greeted by cold stares of incredibility, dirty looks, nasty remarks, and what have you.

[Continued next page]

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SPORTSMANSHIP by Dr. Alvin Grossman

Continued

For the majority are, by necessity, losers and the winners are few.

It's hard to be a winner by any standard. To be a winner is the goal of all and when that goal is reached it often becomes nothing more than a hollow victory. Your dog has won, you're thrilled, elated, on "cloud nine" and you want to shout about it from the rooftops and let the world in on your joy. But you don't - or you have learned not to because, let's face it, *you* are happy but most of the other exhibitors are not! To have one's dogs accomplishments greeted by indifference or snide remarks surely takes the wind out of one's sails and much that should be joyous becomes just the opposite. So, after having come up against the "wet dish rag" treatment, the winner keeps his happiness to himself and that's not easy. It really is so much easier to mutter under your breath and grumble that you were robbed or the judge was stupid because the sympathy of the majority is always with the losers.

Therefore, to be a winner is not easy no matter how desirable this position looks from afar. To consistently come up with winning dogs year after year places any breeder in the position of being a prime target for all the unsuccessful, jealous, petty breeders striving for success.

For some reason or another it seems to be a characteristic of human nature to elevate one's own dogs - not necessarily by breeding *better* dogs, but rather by degrading those belonging to others. Everyone, at one time or another, has been guilty of this to some degree. It might have been due to a slip of the tongue or, in other cases quite deliberately intended. It is usually those on the threshold of success, perhaps who have bred a champion or two, who are the worst offenders. They are striving so desperately to attain their goals that they do not only give little heed to the consideration of others but deliberately attempt to undermine the accomplishments of others.

The point should be made that this type of behavior is not solely confined to those in dog activities. It is evidenced even more clearly in the business world by price cutting, false advertising and numerous practices that are frowned upon by the Better Business Bureaus.

One requisite necessary for success in dogs is a competitive spirit, and this is something none of the books seem to mention. Obviously, when competitive spirit meets competitive spirit some sparks are going to fly and there isn't much that can be done to alleviate the situation. In order for any one breeder to attain success, other must - by necessity - be hurt along the way. This can not be helped for it takes many losers to make a winner. Those on the threshold of success might do well to remember that the time will come, again by necessity, when they must come face to face with some of these same losers on the way back down, for there comes a point in every breeder's endeavors when success can no longer continually top success and then there is only one direction in which to go.

Very few, if any, have had the privilege of having their cake and eating it too. That is to say, no one breeder can continually enjoy success removed from the periphery of the

disgruntled. Therefore, the time must come when a choice must be made. Some breeders quit. Perhaps they feel, and rightly so, that they have achieved all that can be achieved and are not content to settle for what would seem to them second best. Others go backwards and gradually fade away while others learn to compromise. Those who learn to compromise usually end up as the "old timers". Their accomplishments and abilities are recognized but they no longer hold a monopoly on success. As a result they hold some popularity amongst their fellows, are no longer the prime target for back biting and can enjoy their hobby without regarding each new situation as a personal challenge and no longer need to continually prove their dogs' value in the scheme of things. The aspiring breeder is continually striving and it is this very aggressiveness which helps achieve success but at the same time which calls undesirable instincts into play.

It's all very well and good for one to say that because their dogs are the object of nasty remarks proves that they are good dogs. In fact, some people have been known to say they welcome the back biting and innuendoes because to them that is proof of their dog's worth. People may say this - but deep down they really can't mean this as any situation of this type is uncomfortable and not easy to live with. The desire for recognition is one thing but there is also a desire for acceptance. As a result, successful breeders are usually very lonesome people, for to be up on top in any locale is to be pretty much alone. There just isn't room at the top for many. This cannot be recognized by those aspiring for success. This can only be truly understood by those who have experienced the success with its accompanying drawbacks. For whereas the interpretation of *success* differs from individual to individual, the resulting experiences are usually the same.

To be a good winner takes a very thick skin. When the nasty remarks and innuendoes begin to filter through, it's almost humanly impossible to resist them. Most breeders fight back in one form or another for awhile. The ways in which this can be done are many; it can be done vocally, in the show ring, through the printed word, etc.,. Perhaps there is a measure of satisfaction to be gained in attempted retaliation but little or nothing is usually accomplished other than furthering an already painful situation. It should not be implied that the only solution would be to fold ones tent and quietly sneak away - as stated previously, it takes only a thick skin! Just ask any breeder!

If one will but note - the point makers, the losers, are always *nice* people and their dogs are really not too bad. Perhaps they are shown improperly or groomed improperly but other than that receive little or no criticism. But that *other* fellow...you know, the one who is consistently taking the points or the Breed or the Group..well he wouldn't sell **you** a good dog now, would he?...and *how* he can continually win with *that* stuff he shows, the judge must be blind or else a personal friend! It should sound familiar.

Another situation occurs when a finished dog is shown to make sure. As exhibitors at dog shows, how often has the

[Continued on page XX]

Ask Shu-Shu!



The following has been rated "I & I" (insulting and insolent). Please don't take a personal offense against Shu-Shu's contemptuous conduct. Continue to write - we love hearing from you, each and every one of you. (Letters may be condensed to fit available space.)

Dear Shu-Shu;

I am a 9 year old Chihuahua who was an only child until last Christmas, when mom decided to get me a Pom puppy to play with. That wasn't too bad, but she added three more after that. They are all over the place now and there is no room for me to be alone to take my naps. What's a fellow to do?

Pepper/Winston-Salem, NC

Dear Pepper:

I am impressed! Your mom has excellent taste in choosing a perfect breed. No you, silly, the Poms! (I may be a tad prejudiced). As far as taking a quiet nap, I suggest that you take a hike, instead! Just for exercise, of course!

Ever So Lovingly,



Shu-Shu

DEAR POM READERS:

I have had a dreadful experience. We've moved! I'm exhausted due to overworked conditions. Do you have any idea what an inconvenience this has been for ME? My bowl has moved to the *Laundry* room instead of the serviceable kitchen...now I am forced to take 24 extra little "trots" to grab a morsel, and 24 extra "trots" back again to crunch it on the kitchen carpet. How *horrid!* My bones, toys, blanket, and little bed have all been grouped together, neatly, in mom's room. I liked it better when all my things were neatly tossed all over the house. Dreadful, just dreadful. Just don't know if I will ever adjust to such cleanliness as we have here. *The Mailbox?* It has got to be at least 700 feet (big adult feet) away from my front door, so I am hoping that all you devoted readers will make it worth my while and write to me often. I hate to walk all the way down there for nothing. Course you could call me on the phone too, at your expense and my convenience. 'Til next time...

Lovingly yours,



Shu-Shu

Send your letters to Shu-Shu & Shannon Johnson at 6270 Tripp Road, Holly, MI 48442.

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SPORTSMANSHIP continued

phrase been heard " — finished yesterday but I thought I'd better show him today *just to make sure!*"

With the difficulty exhibitors have in finding points across the nation, the "make sure" dog and his owner and/or handler are, of course, most unpopular.

The professional handler is, sometimes by necessity, the worst offender in this area. It can be appreciated that, once a handler has contracted to show a dog on a circuit or at a series of shows, he has planned on the income from that dog. Or, he may be truly unaware of the dog's point total. Whatever the cause, this gives rise to the additional and needless showing of an animal who has, in fact, completed his Championship.

The individual owner-handlers are not necessarily lily-pure in this respect, either. Honest doubt and confusion is one thing but to show a dog *known* to be finished just because he is entered is another thing.

At this point the hue and cry will be raised that if the dog is pulled the points may be lowered. True, this hue and cry *will* be raised as the result of hindsight if the finished dog should lose (and what makes a finished dog look more foolish than losing in Open competition?). However, dog show exhibitors, being such wonderful sports that they are, take all of this in stride and rush up to congratulate today's winner even though he finished yesterday! Like heck they do! They mutter under their breath and berate the fates (to say nothing of the dog and his owner) that "robbed" them of a win, as well they might under such a system. The professional handler shrugs it off, it's part of the game for them. One cannot help but wonder at the motivation of the non-professional handler - does another trophy and a bright piece of ribbon mean that much?

As long as the soap box is available, another closely related activity activity comes to mind. That is, showing the dog who needs a major (or majors) in one and two point shows. Why show the dog when it becomes obvious that there is no major? This should be clarified by saying, why follow through and show the dog when it becomes obvious that there is no major in *either* sex? A one or two point win certainly does not help a dog who already has sixteen or seventeen points to his credit. However, that one or two point win can and *does* help a dog NOT needing majors or the youngster making his start.

Owner-handlers surely must have a conscience...let it be their guide! With respect to the professional there are more specific problems that arise. The professional handler contracts to handle a dog at a show or a series of shows and in so doing has perhaps turned down another. His fee is deserved and so the dog is shown to earn that fee. At this point, lest this little gem be considered an attack on the professional handler, it is not. If there is any attack, it is directed toward a system, not the individual. Indeed, there are some professional handlers more scrupulous about showing a dog needing but majors in the small shows than some non-professionals. It stands to reason that the professional handler is more aware of where the points are lacking as the result of their constant preoccupation with dog shows - after all, it's their business.

Any system is subject to criticism and it takes no special talent to criticize. Briefly, two specific points have been criticized: (1) Showing dogs in point competition when there is awareness on the part of the handler or owner (as the case may be) that the dog has already attained fifteen points and both majors and (2) showing dogs who need only their majors in one and two point shows.

As a possible suggestion to remedy the first point when a circuit of shows or a related series of shows is involved, how about the professional handler charging a flat rate for the circuit or series. That is to say, should the dog finish before the circuit or series is completed the rate would be the same as if the dog were shown in every show. Exhibitors sending a dog on a circuit or contracting for a series of shows surely expect to pay for it. If the dog finished

The Pom Reader February 1986

early he can be pulled and the handler does not lose his anticipated income. Should the handler pick up another dog at "ringside" to take the place of the *finished* dog, that fee could be deducted from the finished dog's bill. This would be a display of good sportsmanship.

It certainly would be helpful if each breeder, owner, or handler sincerely put forth the effort to keep track of his dog's accumulated point total to date and act accordingly. This effort would surely strengthen good will and help to achieve a more harmonious relationship among all.

Only last month I saw a perfect example of learning how to lose with grace. Jim & Tammy have a hot-winning Saluki; in fact, he has dominated the breed and group for the last five months. Then, at their big specialty, an Australian judge of some repute chose another dog for Best of Breed. This dog had been playing second fiddle all year.

At the club banquet that night the owners of the best of breed dog were virtually ignored and were very down. Just when they should have been enjoying one of the high points of their dog life they were being put down. The evening turned around when Tammy called for attention and offered a toast to the dog and his owners for their great win. That broke the ice and the rest of the evening went well for all.

Here was a perfect example of how it is possible to win and lose at the same time. Turning it around the other way, Jim & Tammy, because of their sporting gesture, became winners in everyone's mind, including the owners of the dog that defeated them, in spite of the fact that their dog lost. Too many people believe that only winning is positive; losing is always negative. Examples like Jim & Tammy's action prove it doesn't have to be so.

Another reflection on this winning thing comes to mind. Again remember back when Judge Postwhistle placed Rudolph third in the group. Our sights were set on winning the group and then shooting for Best in Show - the BIS judge had put us up before and we figured we had a fighting chance to go all the way. We were really downcast after the group. Then this young couple came along who were even greener in the dog game than we were and offered effusive congratulations on Rudolph's wonderful win. I guess it's a matter of perspective, what may seem like a win to one person may seem like a loss to someone else. Like they say today, "Hey man, where are you coming from?"

Grace and I weathered some real storms in the first years of our marriage which taught us to always look on the bright side of things. We learned real quick that showing dogs was *only* one facet of our lives. Winning was exhilarating, losing was not. However, we had each other, our work, our nice home and now our dog hobby. In perspective our hobby is fun but will not dominate our total lives. As in dog construction, balance is important to a well-rounded life. We felt sorry for those people who must try to achieve all their satisfaction in the dog world because they get so little in the "outside" world.

We have also become much more sympathetic towards the judges' dilemma. After all, it's not always possible to please everyone. All we can ask is a conscientious job and a knowledge of our standard. And, by and large, we get it every week. It's amazing how many dedicated and knowledgeable people we have in the judges ranks. We have learned to sit back and appreciate their skills.

We sure wish more people would. □ **Alvin Grossman**

[Dr. Grossman is an AKC licensed judge and award winning author, and will be joining us from time to time with his unique and delightful view of the sport of pure-bred dogs.]

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★ **MORE LETTERS** ★

Dear Joe, Duane, & Cynthia,

I thought just for fun and since you're keeping track anyway you might run the finals for '85 down to 20th place so we small timers could see our names in print, too!

By my calculations I have 37 exhibitor points and my special has 260 specials points. Oh well, maybe next year!

POMS AWAY!

Sandra Davis

Dear Sandra,

You must have been reading my mind! Just take a look at the revised point system for 1986 and you will see indeed that we are going to publish the top 20!

Best of luck!

Joe

P.S. - That's MY line!

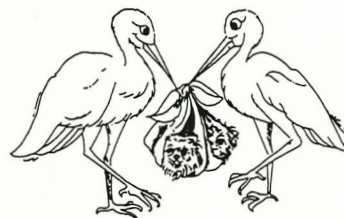


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