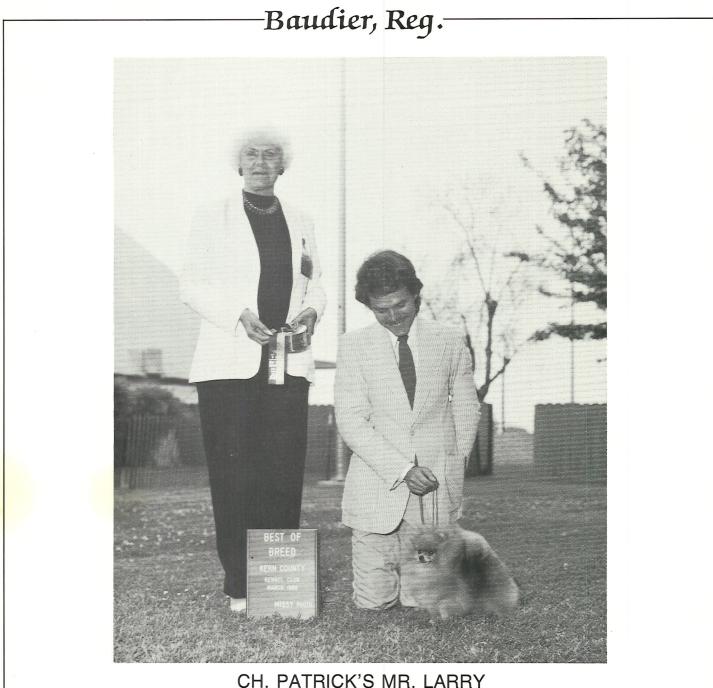


On The Cover: Ch. Patrick's Mr. Larry being awarded his ninety-fifth Best of Breed by judge Miss Martha Jane Ablett.



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"Posty", **Ch. Southland's Toast To BEV-NOR**, #1 Pom Bitch 1985, leaves the show ring hoping to be as successful with motherhood - "Posty" will be bred to her half-brother **Southland's Toasted Fudge** (major pointed). "Posty" and Southland wish to thank: **Bill & Bev Norris** for giving us a chance; **Judi Boston Payne** for believing in her; **Mike Kemp** for his expert handling; all the **judges** who saw the merits of this super B&T girl; and all her fans who admired her.

Breeder-Owner Charlotte Creed Ph. 318-466-3456 SOUTHLAND POMS "Rays of Sunshine" 6618 Lost Ridge Pineville, LA 71360

The

Pom Reader

May 1986

Volume 2, Number 3



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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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Shown being awarded Best of Breed under judge James Vaughters en route to a Group II, April 27, 1986, Ozark Kennel Club. Thank you Mr. Vaughters.

Handled by Kathy Bucher

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SHOWSIGHT - FROM THE EDITOR

Getting screamed at is, of course, one of the fringe benefits of my job. Some of the other benefits are; long hours, little pay, and having to scream at other people to get what I want. Recently I have had several people question the quality of reproduction of black & white photos in the Pom Reader; yes, at times they don't come out perfectly. Some of it is due to the



photographs themselves, and some of it is due to work in the darkroom, but we're working on it. We'll get there. Still, by and large, I think the people at the press do a mighty fine job, all things considered.

So consider is the byword for May; everything must be considered. And I do not mean as in *be considerate*; this month **Vikki Powell** remembers her early days, but yesterday I had an interesting experience, something worth considering.

I have a friend who is heavily involved in the Shar-Pei breed; as a matter of fact, I judged a match for them not too long ago and that in itself was an unusual experience. You see, the parent club, although not yet recognized by AKC, has devised a system whereby they can finish champions (not real champions, but worth working for just the same). So in this match I had a five-point entry in each sex, and had to be very careful that I did a good job - I guess I did; my Winners Dog finished that very day, and my Winners Bitch finished the next weekend out. Anyhow, shortly after that I hosted a match for them here on our property; they had an entry of 60 or so, and...left the property absolutely immaculate. Not one cigarette butt or piece of paper to be found. I was impressed by the Central Florida Shar-Pei Club, to say the least. I found them to be very considerate. But that's not the point. Yesterday I found something most inconsiderate.

My friend had to be away in Dallas on business, and asked if I would consider handling his 11 month old Shar-Pei for him at a Match. Well, sure, why not? I guess I did okay with that, because we went all the way from the classes to Best In Specialty Match. So that was fun. But here was the not very fun part.

This match was held in conjunction with a sanctioned Terrier Club Match; while I was standing holding the lead of this Shar-Pei, a lady from the Terrier Club came up to sell raffle tickets and I bought quite a few. Then she proceeded to be so condescending to me I about fell over. Informing me, in a very snippy manner, that real *AKC* people do this and that and I mean, treating me like some kind of yayhoo. I suppose I could have informed her that I have been involved in *AKC* dogs for many years, have bred Champions in three different variety Groups, and have a little bit of knowledge of the workings of *real* AKC things. Instead, I gave the raffle tickets to a runny-nosed kid over by the swingset, and I hope he won their stupid pooperscooper. I found myself feeling badly for all newcomers, if that's the way we treat them. I know that I will go out of my way now, even more than usual, when confronted with questions or comments from people starting out. But just wait 'til that Terrier Lady comes to me for a trophy donation. I might just say something inconsiderate.

Of course, non-doggy people can

be just as inconsiderate. One day a lady was here to pick up a check for some charity or other, and I had a puppy in my arms when she arrived. And she proceeded to inform me how much she hated *little* dogs, she could see no reason for their existence. Can you believe that? Asking me for money, and belittling my *little* dogs, to boot. Where they get these people I have no idea. I did, of course, resist the temptation to tell her that my *little* dogs do not like fat ladies who wear polyester suits, but felt that that would have been inconsiderate. But it would have felt *real* good.

Speaking of feeling good, consider, if you will, all the fun everyone had in Texas! I don't know why, but the Texas people always seem to have more fun than anybody else. Not a stuffed shirt in the bunch! I am always amazed at people who can find all sorts of excuses to have a bad time at dog shows; fight over wins, get mad at the judge, etc. When you spend as much time, money, and effort as you do in this sport, you might just as well have a good time. It doesn't cost any more.

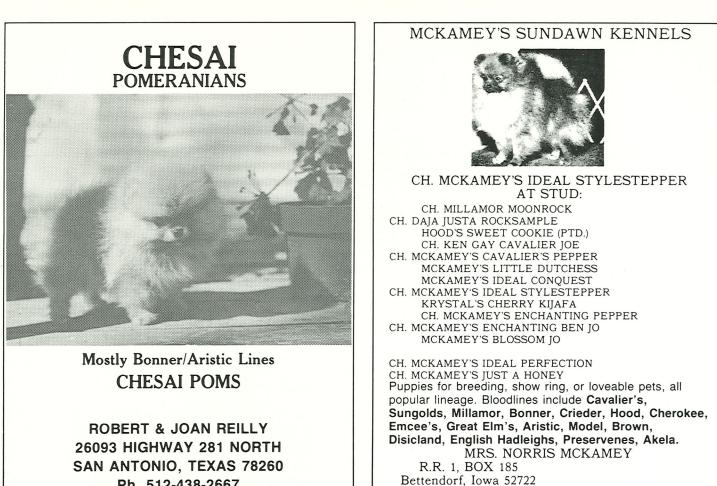
Some years ago I wrote a piece entitled "Do You Still Beat Your Dog?"; all about the people who don't realize that when they come out of the ring with a Bad Attitude...the dogs know about it. These poor little guys must feel that they have done something wrong, when, in all probability, it is the handler that goofed up in the first place. Someday I'll dig out that article and see if it's any good. Seems to me it wasn't bad, but I don't recall. Anyhow, it's somewhere in File 13...along with everything else I couldn't find any other place for.

But we have lots of things this month for you to *consider*, including the first installment from **Mygnon Evans**, an attorney who also loves dogs. Read **When The Dog Bites**, **Who Pays?** - several points to ponder, for all dog fanciers. Welcome, Mygnon, and thanks.

Had a delightful chat with popular judge **Georgina Lane** recently; Georgina has submitted an account of her trip to Crufts, where, of course, **The Pom Won The Group!** Watch for complete details next month. Thanks, Georgina. Also, again thanks to all of you helping this magazine to grow and thrive. You know that I consider you...Top Drawer.

'Til June, Poms Away!

Joe (and, of course, Gynthia)



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A special thanks to Lois Martin for handling Timson and helping us in our efforts to produce our own Pom Acres Champion. Timson received a 5 point major in Oklahoma City on April 12, 1986. Thanks to judge William Bergum for this major move in Timson's show career!! Look for picture next issue.

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The Pom Reader / May 1986

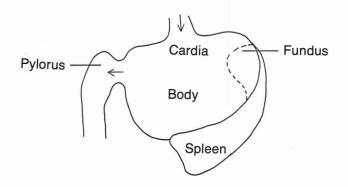
CAJUN CHATTER

Kathy Masilla

Spring has definitely arrived. Just as my flowering jade plants decide to look decent the "Mysterious Mad Plant Masher" strikes! My hapless pots of greenery are shredded beyond recognition and potting soil's scattered everywhere. Enraged, I go looking for the perpretrator of such a heinous crime, only to encounter innocent expressions..."Surely it was not me - *I* would certainly never stoop as low as to get *my* dainty paws full of that yucky mud!"

Innocent faces or not, I put my suspects behind bars (a/k/a expens) and try to salvage the remnants. One day later, the "Mad Masher" strikes again. By now half my dogs are in ex-pens. But the next day, I realize my flowering jade's days are numbered, so I put the sad-looking remains on my front porch away from the "Mad Masher".

The word for this month is *pyloric stenosis*, or chronic hypertrophic pyloric gastropathy (CHPG), or the obstruction of gastric outflow. Generally there is a blockage of the pylorus, or that portion of the stomach which joins the duodenum. Food cannot pass through into the intestine and is vomited. If left untreated, the animal eventually dehydrates and dies. Occurence in young puppies is generally considered congenital rather than hereditary, and treatment for puppies is considered less serious than for adults. For puppies, the operation is simple and usually results in a complete cure.



*Reference: Chronic Hypertrophic Pyloric: A Review of 16 Cases, Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association

In the older dog, it's more complicated. CPHG is considered to be an acquired illness, and dogs who suffer from chronic vomiting should be considered suspect. Severity of the problem is determined by the canine equivalent of an upper and lower G.I. series. The animal is given barium, and X-rays are taken. There is also a technique where a light is passed into the stomach and the vet can get an eye view of the internal damage. A biopsy is taken of the affected tissue to determine if there is malignancy, and an evaluation is made on the test results. Surgery is indicated, except in some instances.

A study was done by Dr. Robert I Sykes DMV, et. al., from August 1980 to December of 1982. Sixteen cases of dogs with CPHG were reviewed, all dog of 6 years and older. All were suffering with the chronic vomiting classic to CHPG syndrome. All of these dogs had surgery. Of the 16, one dog died during surgery, 3 continued to vomit afterwards and were euthanized, one case did not follow up after the surgery, and 8 cases improved following surgery

I recently had firsthand experience with this problem, as a year ago one of my older dogs began to vomit frequently, and had trouble keeping food down. The problem worsened, so that the only way I was able to sustain the dog was by feeding baby food and administering acepromazine, a tranquilizer which contains a powerful anti-vomiting agent. My normally 9 pound dog was down to 7. My own vet referred me to the LSU veterinary clinic, where tests were run to determine the extent of the problem and what the chances for recovery were following surgery. They made no guarantees, but we took the chance and had the surgery performed. The technique they used is called the *Billroth*, where the affected portion of the pylorus is removed and the healthy ends resected together. It's been roughly 6 weeks since the operation, and my patient is now 8¾ pounds and eating like a pig. I only wish I had not waited so long to get my dog in to see a specialist. The earlier the problem is corrected, the better the animal's chances. I had the chance to speak with **Carlotta Curtis** recently, and she shared a truly frightening experience she had been through. Following a C-section, one of her bitches unravelled her entire incision to where her internal organs were exposed. Carlotta's quick think-

to where her internal organs were exposed. Carlotta's quick thinking saved the day, and by rushing the bitch to the vet they got her stitched up again. It seems that the vet who performed the first surgery did not make enough knots, and the incision came undone. Carlotta is one very lucky lady...I know of several others who were not quite so lucky - sometimes the bitch goes into shock when this happens and dies. This can occur also if the vet uses synthetic gut to sew up an incision, as the stuff is slippery and can unravel more easily than regular gut, even if careful knots are made.

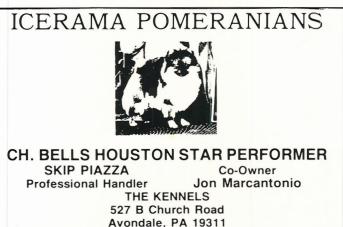
Until next month, watch out for those Mysterious Mad Plant Mashers...they do get into mischief!

Kathy Masilla, 969 Porteous St., New Orleans, LA 70124

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Whelped 4-5-86:

2 Males, 1 Female Sire: Ch. Millamor's Mark Medallion Dam: Crescendo Counter Point Crescendo Poms, Bernie & Lois Ciliberto, Rt. 2, Box 2560, Land O'Lakes, FL 33539. (813) 996-3811.

WHEN THE DOG BITES, WHO PAYS? MYGNON EVANS, Attorney at Law

A sold Hercules to B when he was a young pup. B trained him well; he became a Champion. Then, when family demands prevented B from attending shows personally, she retained the services of C to show Hercules. Although Hercules had never before shown any inclination to bite, at one show while he was standing at ringside a woman spectator approached and attempted to pet him; without warning, he snapped, tearing her dress and inflicting a serious wound. She sued both B and C. Can she collect?

An axiom of common law -- which essentially is judge-made law -- holds that every dog is entitled to one good bite. That doesn't mean that the owner is **necessarily** exempt for liability for the first bite; it does mean, however, that a dog is presumed to be of a nonvicious nature until he has shown otherwise. After the dog's first bite, that presumption is lost, and the owner is at considerably greater risk if the dog bites anyone else.

Other factors must be considered, too. For instance, was the person lawfully on the property? Did he provoke the attack by his own actions? Did he behave in a manner that the dog perceived as a threat to the master (loud voice, flailing of arms)?

In an Illinois case, for example, a Dobie had bitten a young child. The parents sued the owners who, in turn, impleaded the kennel where they had bought the dog 2½ years earlier, claiming that the kennel had sold a "dangerous animal" and had failed to warn of the danger.

The court refused to find the Dobie dangerous. Noting that the dog was caring for a litter of ten-day old pups at the time she bit the child, the judge pronounced as a matter of common knowledge that mother dogs will fight to protect their young; he also found that a reasonable person, i.e. an adult on the scene, would have anticipated the likely reaction of the dog.

A common law analysis, however, provides only part of the answer because the common law controls only in the absence of legislation. If a state has adopted a dogbite statute, that statute will prevail over the common law. Many states have, in fact, adopted laws abolishing scienter as a requirement for proving an owner's liability for a dog bite. Such laws normally impose *strict liability* upon owners. That means, in general terms, that the victim need only prove (a) that A owns the dog, and (b) that the dog bit him. That's all it takes to make the owner pay damages.

Such statutes sometimes lead to ludicrous results. In Florida, for instance, where a statute makes the owner liable not only for the dog bite but also for any injury caused by the dog, a judge held the owner of a St. Bernard liable for *shotgun wounds*. The facts: a young man, boyfriend of the dog's owner, picked up the dog to move him from one house to another. He put the dog --- all 150 pounds --- in the backseat of a Volkswagen where, unfortunately, he had left a loaded shotgun. The dog apparently became entangled in the gun; it discharged, seriously wounding a child standing outside the car.

Common sense suggests that the young man should not have crammed the dog in the backseat with a shotgun. But the judge was not considering negligence. He looked no further than the statute which, read literally, placed full liability on the owner.

Most judicial decisions show greater flexibility than the one descrived above. For instance:

- 1) Two children walking along a road beside a fenced-in backyard were frightened by a snarling German Shepherd who lunged at them against the chain link fence. One child, terrified by the dog, raced into the road and was hit by a car. Liability? An injury caused by the dog? The judge said no; the proximate cause of the injury was the auto, not the dog.
- 2) A woman playing in a open field with her friend's Great Dane

was knocked down by the dog. The fall broke her leg. She sued the owner. No liability, said the judge; when a person chooses to romp with a dog, he assumes the risk that an accident may occur.

Some courts too have scrutinized the reference to "Owner". The burden is on the plaintiff to prove that the defendant owned the dog. Sometimes that isn't as simple as it at first appears. Consider the man, bitten by a bulldog who sued the widow who had referred to the dog as "our" dog. Her husband had died several months earlier; the AKC registration was in his name. The dog belonged to the estate, said the judge; since the widow was not the owner, she was not subject to the strict liability statute.

It follows, then, that persons who are caring for the dogs of others do not share in the strict liability standard. If the dog bites someone while in their care, they may be liable under a negligence theory, but the law does not usually impose strict liability upon keepers --- as opposed to owners --- of dogs.

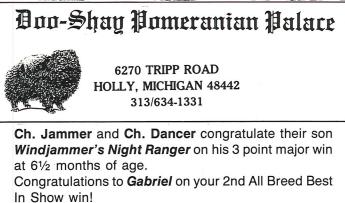
CONCLUSIONS:

- 1) Unless C (the keeper) was negligent in his bailment of Hercules, there is no probably liability.
- 2) Under the common law, since Hercules had never before bitten anyone, B has no liability. Depending upon the particular state, however, B may be liable under a state dogbite statute.
- 3) An argument for B's and C's lawyers is that the woman assumed a risk of dogbite when she came to the dog show and particularly when she tried to pet Hercules.
- 4) Considering the time lapse since A sold Hercules to B and the long pattern of non-agressive behavior by Hercules, it is especially unlikely that A has any liability for breach of warranty or negligence.

(The above column provides information illustrating general principles of law. If you have a particular legal problem, you should consult an attorney to determine the law in your particular circumstances and locality.) \Box

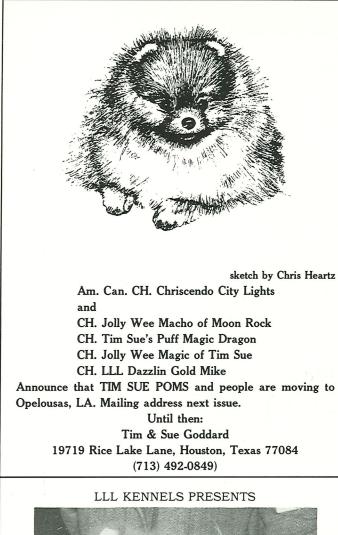
Mygnon Evans is a practicing attorney with a keen interest in the interaction between dog fanciers and the law. In the months to come she will be joining us with discussions of us and our rights.

Direct any questions you may have to: Mygnon Evans, C/O The Pom Reader, 8848 Beverly Hills, Lakeland, FL 33809.



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SWEESTAKES: Judge Charles J. Smith Puppy Dogs 6-9 Months: LLL T's Gold Totally Awesome (Janice Luginsland) Puppy Dogs 9-12 Months: Slemp's High Stakes Binky (Mrs. J. B. Slemp) Puppy Bitches 6-9 Months: Creider's Spoonful of Sugar (Mrs. Norma Creider) Puppy Bitches 9-12 Months: Chula's Choice of Dragon Mark (Norma C. Gad) Best In Sweepstakes: Chula's Choice of Dragon Mark (Norma Gad) Best of Opposite Sex Sweeps: LLL T's Gold Totally Awesome (Janice Luginsland) REGULAR CLASSES: Judge Mrs. E. W. Tipton Jr. Puppy Dogs 6-9 Months: LLL T's Gold Totally Awesome (Janice Luginsland) Puppy Dogs 9-12 Months: Tim Sue's Moon Rocket (Erika Moureau) Open Dogs: Shy Acres Little Beau Jangles (Audrey Roberts) Winners Dog: Shy Acres Little Beau Jangles (Audrey Roberts) Reserve Winners Dog: LLL T's Gold Totally Awesome (Janice Luginsland) Puppy Bitches 6-9 Months: Dancing Rockette of Oakridge (M. Deane Rinehart & Nina Eppa) Puppy Bitches 9-12 Months: **Boni-Poms Parkin After Dark** (Bonita Gray) Bred By Exhibitor Bitches: Pedrons Chychyn Dragon (Pete Galindo & Ronald Welch) American Bred Bitches: HHH Kiss'n Kate (Donna Motley) **Open Bitches:** Chula's Texican Peppermist (Erika Moureau & Norma Gad) Winners Bitch: Chula's Texican Peppermist (Erika Mouread & Norma Gad) Reserve Winners Bitch: LLL T's Gold Bubblicious (Janice Luginsland) Best of Breed: Ch. Precious Petite's Gabriel (Claudia Pfeffer) Best of Opposite Sex, Best of Winners: Chulas' Texican Peppermist (Erika Mourea & Norma Gad)

Special thanks to Dallas-Fort Worth Pom Club Corresponding Secretary PEGGY HENDRICKS for the marked catalogue.

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SPECIALS ADDITION TOP TWENTY POMERANIANS - AS OF THE APRIL 1986 GAZETTE

Presently we find a number of Poms making their im- A number of points has been allotted to the various pact in Specials competition. In order to keep you in- placements, and they are as follows: formed 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 Statistician: Susan Wade. The following is the listing and Field Trials Awards Book. Only this source will be AKC Gazette: used for point awards.

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 THIRD75
TOY GROUP FOURTH 25
BEST OF BREED 10

reported in the American Kennel Club Show, Obedience of the Top Twenty Pomeranians as of the APRIL 1986

POINTS	NAME	BISA	BISS	BOSS	Ι	II	Ш	IV	BOB
1150	Ch. D-Nee's Darin Duffie (d)		-	-	2	2	3	3	5
830	Ch. Daisy's Little Bit of Jabil (d)		-	-	-	4	1	3	8
*750	Ch. Muller's Encore (d)	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	10
*750	Ch. Precious Petit's Riple Supreme (d)	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	5
625	Ch. Precious Petite's Gabriel (d)		1	-	-	1	2	1	5
620	Texican's Giant Killer Chula (d)		-	-	-	3	1	1	7
510	Ch. Bi-Mar Sundance Kid (d)	-	1	-	1		-	-	1
455	Ch. Herd's Little Yoyo (d)	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	3
395	Ch. Southland's Toast to Bev-Nor (b)	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	7
330	Ch. L R's Monty Rock of Millamor (d)	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	3
280	Ch. Pomirish Scooter's Victory (d)	-	-	-	1		-	-	3
*270	Ch. L-R's Rock Concert Av Strand (d)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
*270	Ch. Texican's Great Balls of Fire (d)	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2
260	Bev-Nor's Statesman (d)		-	-	1		-	-	1
240	Ch. Harbin's Time To Pop The Cork (d)	-	-	-	-	1		2	4
235	Ch. Apolloette Ever Ready Rocky (d)	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1
225	Ch. Hi Times Kaleidoscope (b)	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5
190	Ch. Galaxy's Star Dancer Two T's (d)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
150	Patty's Dinomite of Bryn-Roy (d)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
*130	Ch. Sungold's Gay Caballero (d)	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
*130	Ch. Timothy's General Beauregard (d)	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3

*Tie: placements alphabetical

The Lom Reader

TOP TEN EXHIBITORS AS OF THE APRIL 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.

18

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 APRIL 1985 AKC GAZETTE.

POINTS

EXHIBITOR

S. BAUGNIET	46
E. GIRARDOT	*34
E. MILLER	*34
C. READY	27
RINEHART & EPPS	*18
M. WOOD	*18
R. BEUTLER	15
C. & J. EDMISTON	*14
G. HODSON	*14
L. & D. JOHNSON	*14
C. SLATER	*14
S. TERRITO	*14



Ask Shu-Shu!

Dear Shu-Shu:

How long will this family baby me? I am sick and tired of all the pampering. Can't get on the bed - "He might fall off", Can't get on the sofa, "He might jump off and break a leg". Can't go up and down the stairs, "he might tumble down and kill himself". I'm 2½ years old for crying out loud. Tell them in your column, I can handle it. I can take care of myself. **KC/Kansas City**

Dear KC and his family,

HE CAN HANDLE IT, \times @= + + E CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF, \times @= + + Family and friends can send sympathy cards, money, or flower arrangements to me.....Shu-Shu.

Sadly yours,

19



Shu-Shu

Dear Shu-Shu:

I was sold and have moved into a farm situation. I have to share the love from my family with horses, cats, dogs, and of all things, **PIGS**! I'm afraid that they are getting too busy to notice me and would like a suggestion as to how to get my family's attention more often.

Molly/Davison, MI

Dear Molly,

Go join the PIGS in their pen for a quick roll. Do this on a daily basis and I guarantee the family will notice you the nimute you enter the house. You will get their attention.

Love,



Shu-Shu



Dear Shu-Shu;

Dear Chicklet:

How is your medical knowledge for us Poms? Is it okay to eat those soft and yummy rawhide bones? My mom buys them for me all the time and I eat them right up. Have you ever eaten them? Do you think it is doing me any harm?

Chicklet/Detroit, MI

Do I know medicine? That's my Pom Specialty! Rawhide bones are great to eat if you have teeth. Heck no, they won't hurt you. Especially if you made it past the slippers, carpet, furniture, shoes, squeekie toys, etc...I ate all that stuf and look at me. I'm still as cute as ever, don't you think?

Yours CHEWLY

Shu-Shu



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

The Pom Reader / May 1986

VIEW POINT VICTORIA POWELL

All of us have memories of the first time we encountered a dog show. For some it may have been at a very young age, initiated by parents who were doggy people. For others it could have been as an adult, on your own with no immediate helping hand to explain procedure as you watched (in awe) all the beautiful dogs parade by. My first experience as a spectator was like that.

I had heard that there was a big dog show at the Cow Palace in San Francisco and so, husband in tow, I went to the show. It was (still is) a benched show, not that we understood what that was! To us it was just one giant doggy flea market and we had a ball wandering around the benching just staring and listening. We stayed all day and talked with many exhibitors - it was obvious that we were totally ignorant of the workings of a confirmation show, but interestingly enough, despite all the chatting, we never found out from anyone that the benched row of dogs was not the dog show. We never would have guessed that there was judging occuring down in the arena, so we went home satisfied that we had seen the show. In the course of the next year, however, after reading every book on dogs and dog shows I could find, I decided that I wanted a show dog to show at Cow Palace. In the course of my studies I also discovered one very interesting thing (to us, anyway)...we had actually missed the "show". Next year we returned to Cow Palace, only this time we knew there was judging to be found and how to watch and understand it! My question to all of you, however, is this: What percentage of average spectators would research a process they don't understand, come back again to observe it in action, and eventually become an avid dog show junkie???

There are only a few benched shows left in the U.S.; the aforementioned Cow Palace (Golden Gate Kennel Club) being our West Coast Westminster, then of course the ultimate - Westminster (The Garden), and a few others. How many exhibitors have never been to a benched show? Many, I am sure. How many have and have vowed never to go again because of the wear-and-tear on the exhibitors' patience? And then, how many go every year, hating the noise and confusion and *masses* of people but loving every minute of this ultimate presentation of the top participant sport in the nation?

I would hope that benched shows never become totally obsolete. The value of this type of presentation of our prized (as well as prizewinning) stock cannot be rivaled for its promotional benefits. Sure it is hard on the exhibitors; dealing with all those people who can't tell a Peke from a Pom and who ask you where the Cock-A-Poos are benched tries our sensitivities. But please remember, people who repeatedly attend the same benched show year after year being to recognize and look for *you!* They may become enamoured of your breed and they definitely appreciate your gracious answering of their sometimes stupid questions [Ed note — and always remember what my mother said: "There are no stupid questions, just stupid answers." —JMcG]. And when that day comes that they want to buy a dog they will come to you. Then the dog grows up and they want another, only this time they want to try showing it. There...the ranks of converts to dog show mania just opened up

and accepted another.

This scenario doesn't happen with near the frequency at unbenched shows because the spectators can't find you! And lamentably so, they don't understand catalogs and judging schedules and they can't figure why they can't find any Toy Poodles that day. What they hear when they ask someone why, is this: "They've all left for the day except for the Breed winner." *"Huh?"* "The Best of Breed Winner - it'll be in the Group." *"The Group. What is that?"* "The TOY GROUP!" *"Oh."* And the disappointed spectator goes away not understanding *anything* that the exhibitor just said to them. Possibly they may never attend another dog show and when they do buy that dog they are searching for it may be from a disreputable breeder or a pet shop.

Benched or unbenched show...both have a place in the dog show world. How can we, the exhibitors, better promote our sport to spectators at either type of show? Please let us all try to never let a spectator (or novice) go away confused if it is at all avoidable. If they catch you at your rig at a regular show and you are too busy to talk, ask them to return later when you are done grooming. If you are at a benched show and not either grooming or on your way to the ring *please* answer their questions. You are literally tied to your spot all day with your dogs - why not use that time to educate people to some extent? So some people ask questions like if your Champion Chin is a Pekeapoo - if you're offended, try not to show it! Use your energy to explain to this person what your dog is and how much better a pure-bred dog is than a mutt. We are the P.R. people for our own breed(s) and pure-bred dogs in general.

Many people come to a dog show with the specific intent to find a certain breed. Take advantage of their willingness to learn! And experienced dog person can tell a frivolous question from a serious one. Be your own best emmissary for your breed. If you have a tractable dog along, let people touch it - with supervision, of course, but let their hands feel the difference between this fine specimen and the pet they have at home. Watching the joy light up a genuinely interested person's eyes because you are letting them touch the dog is worth your time. Remember, P.R. is the byword here. Go ahead and tell them what they can use to make their dogs look prettier - not a detailed explanation of show grooming; just information to help them at home. Suggest products and books to buy and then recommend your favorite vendor and send them happily on their way to buy, buy, buy. Don't forget to tell them to buy a catalog and be sure to mention your ring time and number. Ask them to come clap for you - they will! I actually had a man and his wife hang over the arena from their seats, waving and clapping, after I had won. They felt a part of the goings-on because they had talked to someone and now that same person was holding a purple ribbon.

And finally, give them your card so they can reach you, always remembering this: Spectators and novices never forget who was nice and who wasn't when they first came onto the scene. \Box

VIKKI POWELL

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²²LETTERS

Dear Joe,

In response to the letter from Katherine Davy: we find the **Reader** is a very well balanced publication; fun articles, very worthwhile educational articles, lovely pictures and those yummy tidbits from the Reader's own Rona Barrett. Many of us can't attend many shows and these tidbits let us join the fun albeit vicariously.

We feel qualified to pass judgment as at last count we receive 6 Breed publications, 3 All Breed publications, 3 Breed newsletters and the Chronicle. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely, Nancy Bartholomew

Dear Nancy,

Thank you! We're still striving to get better wtih each issue, and hope to continue to grow.

> Best of luck! JMcG

Dear Joe,

How are you? I trust you've recovered from your nasty letter which appeared in the April issue of the Pom Reader. I think my note will be a lot easier for you to swallow!

I'm not a business woman, nor do I possess the ability to conduct a critique on a publication. I'm just a Pom enthusiast who enjoys anything and everything to do with Poms and their owners. I live in Canada, and through your magazine I'm able to journey to places and shows I'd otherwise be unable to attend. I enjoy celebrating the wins of other through their lively photos. Without a picture showcase, perhaps half your subscribers would have no idea as to who won what where and when. Having a monthly magazine filled with educational articles and glorious Poms is what helps me to keep striving for that near to perfect Pom! I have met some wonderful people through their Poms. If a magazine didn't allow all these people to advertise their wins, who would a novice, like myself, turn to for advice and possible business deals?

I feel that the Pom Reader is a wellbalanced publication; but who am I, and what authority do I have to comment? I only have my own personal opinion and I know what I enjoy reading about and looking at. All my cravings for enjoyable Pom-oriented news are satisfied due to this magazine. You have my vote of confidence and my *next year's subscription*! Take care, and best of luck to all in

your second year!

Elizabeth Dupuis

Dear Joe,

Finally, I got to go on a show circuit with **Lois Martin** of Ja-Lo's Bostons. She's the one who has encouraged us to get into the sport of showing and shows our little Timson.

Oklahoma was great! Met Kathy Bucher and Gabriel - what a beauty (both of them!) Also visited with Brenda Hudson. She was very nice and very helpful - thanks, Brenda.

It was an experience III never forget showing under **Dorothy Bonner** was real exciting. I've read all her articles and look up to her for the success she's had all these years. It's going to be hard to settle down to take care of my Pom kids after going to Oklahoma, but I sure missed all of them...and they seem to have missed me.

> Sincerely, Juanita Fiddick

Dear Joe

As President of the Northern California Pomeranian Club, I would like to respond to the letter from **Betty Drudge** that appeared in the March issue.

It brings some questions to mind. Is her breeder a member of a club? If so, has she asked when the club meets or how to apply for membership? When a person is not actively exhibiting a dog and is a new face at a show, it is difficult to invite membership without knowing ones serious interest in the breed. Membership in a breed club implies responsibility and a willingness to uphold the objectives of the club. A random question at ringside from a bystander would hardly warrant an invitation to join a breed club. But since Betty Drudge is expressing genuine interest and is in touch with the two breeders mentioned in her letter who are members of Northern California Pom Club and past officers, perhaps they would sponsor her application or she can contact me directly. We would be delighted to hear from her and hopefully to have her join our seven "novices" who have recently become members. Well, Joe, maybe Ms. Drudge will have "real good news" for you in the next issue, we hope so.

Marlin Presser

Sincerely

I hope so, too, and hope that she will prove to be an asset to your club. I personally think that the whole problem goes back to the modern, un-benched show. Everyone is in a hurry to get into the ring, is busy grooming, no time to talk; then you win or lose, and usually leave. I have felt badly many times when I've told a newcomer "I'll be glad to talk with you right after I get done showing",

Dear Marlin,

only to find that they didn't wait around. This is why we offer the Secretary's page for the Breed clubs to identify themselves and tell what's going on - the Pom Reader goes out to many, many Pom people that have nowhere else to turn for information. That's what we're here for.

Thanks for writing, and continued success with the NCPC.

JMcG

WHERE TO FIND IT ...

Antibiotics for Puppies....Cajun Chatter by Kathy Masilla, January '86

Avoiding C-Sections....Generally Speaking by Susan Wade, April '85

Being As Professional as the Professionals....Generally Speaking by Susan Wade, May '85

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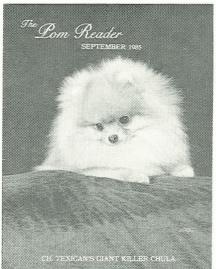
Whelping Part II Victoria Powell, January '86

Whelping Part III....Victoria Powell, February '86 Why Do You Show Dogs?....Generally Speaking by

Susan Wade, December '85

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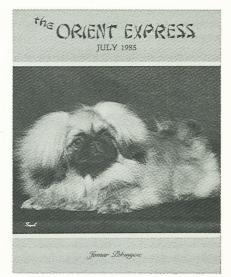
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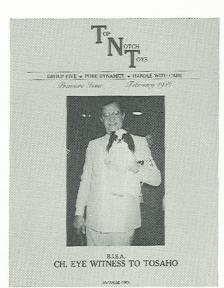


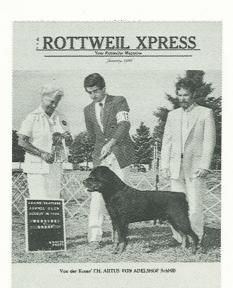
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