



**Rochester MN
Kennel Club
www.rmkc.8m.com**

RMKC Newsletter

October 2009

RMKC All-Breed Shows 2009

What makes a show a success? Is it happy exhibitors? Maybe content judges? A minimal amount of complaints? Can just one of these things make for a successful show, or do you need to have all of them to truly call it a good weekend?

If the above-mentioned criteria are any indicators of a successful show weekend, then I would say that the 2009 All-Breed Show & Obedience Trials were definitely a success. I heard many nice comments from exhibitors throughout the weekend about how they always enjoy coming to our show. I had many positive remarks from our judges pertaining to their experience with us, including those who said they would come back next year, or any year, in a heartbeat, & thanked us for including them in our panel & bringing them to an area where they don't get to judge often. Even the vendors had good comments :) There were no major catastrophes - & each of the minor glitches were handled without much stress. By Sunday, I truly felt like there must be more I should be doing, but everything was running smoothly & it was nice to just enjoy the show.

There is a saying that goes: "The nice thing about teamwork is that you always have others on your side". I felt like I had nothing but support from my main "team" as I took my very first adventure as a show chair, & appreciate everyone's willingness to answer any & all of my newbie questions & to jump in & save the day when needed. I cannot say enough thank-you's to my show committee members & all of the volunteers from the club who stepped up to help, from pre-show set-up through Sunday's clean-up. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Diana Mann
RMKC 2009 Show Chair

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Monthly Meeting Information:

Date: 2nd Monday of each month Time: 7 pm
Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ~ 559 20th St SW, Rochester, MN
Directions from downtown Rochester: South on Broadway to 20th St SW (Kwik Trip on the corner) - turn right (W) - go approximately 5 blocks to top of hill - church is on the right, set back from the street.
(During the months of February, August, & December meetings are typically held "off-site" due to special club events - watch the newsletter for location changes).

Losing & How it Affects the Price of Tea in China

Is there anything worse than that drive from the show grounds after a loss? Whether its a 20 minute drive back to your hotel, or a 6 hour drive home, it's downright depressing. No matter the distance, a drive home after a loss always seems to take twice the amount of time as it took to get to the show, and the voice of the GPS device seems to have a little bit of an attitude. (Cut me some slack lady, I'm just stopping for gas!)

As an owner-handler, showing only 1 dog all day long, an 8am ring time not only means you have to get up early, but that a loss "dooms" you to a very long day. A day either spent sitting in a hotel room flipping through the same 15 channels over and over again, or talking to friends at the show and knowing you will eventually have to say, "No, we didn't win today. How'd you do?"

Some days you just don't get pointed to

As I drive my car back to the hotel, the highway clacks rhythmically under my tires, my show clothes (still clinging to my body) feel 2 sizes too small, and the left over bait in my pocket will find its way into the trash rather than my dogs' mouth while in a group ring. (Although, my veteran bitch will end up getting most of the left over bait, which is why I think she conspires against us.)

Looking in the back of the car I see my special laying in her crate sleeping; the kind of deep sleep that our dogs seem to be able to fall into within 8 seconds. I wonder if she knows we lost. Did she feel my body sigh when the judge pointed to the other Whippet in the ring? Is she replaying her performance in her head, as I am doing in mine?

Trying to find any reason I can for why we didn't win today I go through the checklist. I got ears, she had a nice go around, good down and back, she held her stack on the table...what could it be? As she opens her eyes briefly, she lets out a long breath and then falls right back into her enviable deep slumber. That gave me my answer...nope, she has no idea she didn't win today. All she knows is that she is in the car again, and gets to sleep the rest of the day on the hotel's bed. (Pretty nice life, huh?) Meanwhile, my veteran is in the car-seat next to me staring at my suit pocket with all the intensity of Luke Skywalker trying to use the powers of the Force to "will" the bait into her mouth. "You want to give me the bait. You want to give me the bait."

I drive by other cars on the highway, get to my hotel, walk to my room, and during that time I passed dozens of people...all of which could care less that I lost that day. The only person who was still dwelling on it was me. I'm guessing most of them didn't even know there was a dog show nearby. (Shocking, I know!)

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Member Brags

- **CovenTree Got To Believe I Am Magic "Piper"** (Airedale) - Margie Sinex – Wright Co, Hutchinson - Sunday - BOB
- **Ropaws Sweet Tresemme "Tessa"** (Schipperke) - Pat Campbell - Marshfield KC - WB on Sunday for a 3 pt major; Coulee KC, LaCrosse - WB on Sunday for 1 pt to finish CH!!
- **Ropaws Witzful Klassic Jyve "Jersey"** (Schipperke) - Pat Campbell - Marshfield KC - WB on Friday for 2 pts; Coulee KC, LaCrosse - WB on Saturday for 1 pt; RMKC - WB Saturday & Sunday for 1 pt each day
- **Onapei When Pigs Fly at Xingfu "Meishan"** (Chinese Shar Pei) - Barb Hartman - Des Moines KC - BOB on Sunday
- **Lucky Wun Tel N Tyme at Jihlo "Seiko"** (Chinese Shar Pei) - Vicki O'Neill - Star of the North Specialty at Rochester - Best Veteran in Match
- **Fernbriar Be There Or Be Square "Boogie"** (Cardigan Welsh Corgi) - Diana & Mackenzie Mann - St Croix Valley KC, Lake Elmo - WD on Sat & Sun for a 3 & 4 pt major & New CH!! (finished completely from the Bred-by classes by Mackenzie)

Losing & How it Affects the Price of Tea in China *(cont'd from pg 2)*

Now, there are those who proclaim you should never ever talk about your losses. Losses never happen...ever...if anyone asks, you have won every show you have ever been in. If a judge hears you have ever lost before, they won't point to you. Losses are a sign of weakness, and when you are specializing a dog, you should avoid any reference to losing...or I should say "the-event-that-shall-not-be-named." But why? Losing, just like death and taxes, happens. In fact, odds are that you are going to lose a lot more than you are going to win. After all, it's a dog show. Every person you will ever compete against in the ring will be showing a dog that they feel is capable of winning. If they didn't they wouldn't be there.

Ribbons won't buy the wag of their tail

As a breeder-owner-handler, I have the luxury of only having to answer to myself. At the end of the day, my girl will be nudging me in the hotel room with her squeaky toy in an effort to get me to play with her. Win or lose. When we get home, she will spring herself into the house like Tigger on a sugar rush, up the stairs, and try to find any of the cats in order to let them know how much she missed them. Win or lose. All along, she won't have a care in the world, and this one loss on this one day will not have even entered her mind.

That's another benefit we have as owner-handlers. We have the benefit of putting the losses behind us and moving on, unlike professional handlers, who live in a world of "What have you won for me lately?" We can spend as much time as we want showing a dog that hasn't won in a while. Why? Because that dog is ours! For better or worse, win or lose, that dog loves us and we love that dog. We are proud of our dogs. Showing him or her shouldn't be about the ribbons. You may have had your dog in your life since it was 8 weeks old or younger. You may have seen it open its eyes for the first time, or take its first steps...wobbling like a drunk after last call. Our dogs are with us such a short time, why waste a second of it on dwelling on your losses, or trying to rationalize that they never happened?

What memories will you have?

I look back on my veteran's special career. Even though it was only 4 or 5 years ago, I really can't remember many losses. I know they happened, dozens of times. I know at the time they happened I dwelled on them and analyzed them, and replayed them over and over in my head. But, now, all I can remember are the wins and the experiences I had while showing her. She's laying on the hotel bed now, curled up next to her daughter, my current special. What was once a vibrant red brindle coat has been overcome with salt and pepper. Gone are the "tiger stripes", only to be replaced with a distinguished graying pattern. What I wouldn't give to do over all that time I wasted focusing on the losses, but it's too late now. All I can do now is thank her for the time we did spend together playing in the ring and give her as much left over bait as I have.

Towards the end of my veteran's special career, I found a quote on the web that sums up what we should all strive for when showing our dogs: "Be sure your ego can handle going from hero one day to zero the next. Your dog is still a magnificent specimen - win, lose or draw. Remember that, appreciate him for that, and love him because he's yours. Love him not for his looks and what he can do for you, but for his 'heart,' because he'll give this to you unconditionally. Treat it with respect."

When all is said and done, we have no real say over who wins or who loses. Losing happens. All we can control is our reaction to it. We should never accept losing, on the contrary, we should learn from it. But dwelling on it, and focusing on it does no real good. In the grand scheme of things, winning or losing doesn't affect the price of tea in China one bit.

See you ringside,
Scot

This article originally appeared in the Aug 28th edition of Dog News & was #3 in a series currently being written for them by Scot Northern. Scot Northern is a Whippet breeder in Iowa & is a member of the Cedar Rapids KC. You may have seen Scot at the area shows & not know that not only is he an all-around nice guy to visit with, but has also been writing some wonderful articles for Dog News magazine, offering an insightful look into our crazy world of dog shows & some gentle reminders in keeping it all in perspective.

We thank Scot & the editors of Dog News for granting us permission to include this article in our newsletter.