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SPECIAL FEATURE
BREEDERS

DOG OF THE MONTH:
THE DOBERMAN PINSCHER

CH. FOXFIRE'S
ALL THE GLITZ&GLAMOUR

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2009

THE SANTA BARBARA WEEKEND

AUG. 28-30, 2009

By Paul Lepiane • Introduction by Christi McDonald



Two years ago while at the World Show in Sweden, American judge and third-generation dog man Desi Murphy watched a group of Skansen Schnauzers competing for Best Breeders Group and suddenly wondered why he had to travel halfway around the world to see the collective results of an American breeding program. Although the Skansen kennel was founded in Sweden in 1950, Sylvia Hammarstrom moved to Northern California in 1964 and has bred more than 900 Giant Schnauzer champions in the intervening years, including several that have been among America's top dogs through the years. Thus, one might imagine that if you'd see the evidence of Sylvia's successful breeding program any place in the world, it would be on U.S. soil...

That thought led Desi to discussions with various dog friends when he returned home, which in the summer of 2008 turned into firm plans to establish a competition for breeders in the U.S. to be held in conjunction with Santa Barbara Kennel Club, of which Desi is a member. Many people shared Desi's enthusiasm for the concept of recognizing the

sport's most essential members, because although both Dogs in Review, in partnership with Cherrybrook and Purina, and AKC recognize numerous breeders with their "Outstanding Breeder" and "Breeder of the Year" awards each year, these honors typically favor breeders whose dogs have made a mark in the "big time," at the Group and Best in Show level and on a national scale. And even so, as Desi points out, there are so few of those awards to go around when one realizes how many talented and dedicated breeders work year in and year out producing sound, healthy dogs of good quality, but who receive little recognition beyond finishing champions. The goal from the outset was to create a platform where the average hard-working breeder can be recognized.

As planning commenced, finding a co-sponsor for the event was discussed and members felt that the obvious choice was the dog food company that has been so breeder-oriented through the years, and in short order Purina enthusiastically came on board to be part of the 2009 inaugural Breeder's Showcase event. The first of what will no doubt be many Breeder's Showcases was

dedicated to the memory of Irene Bivin and husband Edd who donated a beautiful Challenge Trophy in her honor. Since then Challenge Trophies have been offered for all seven variety Groups.

We at DR echo what many fanciers have said to Desi since the planning and promotion began for this event: "Thank you for doing something for the breeders!" Paul Lepiane reports on the 2009 event.

Santa Barbara is a name that immediately evokes many images: a beautiful seaside resort in Southern California, a long-running television soap opera that was a worldwide hit, home of Ronald Reagan's "Western White House," and to thousands of dog show participants, home to one of the legendary American dog shows of the past.

The Santa Barbara Kennel Club show has been one of the important fixtures of the West Coast show calendar going back to the 1920s. It always had strong financial support from local members and a win there from even the earliest days was considered a true jewel in the crown. While



Dennis Sprung awarded Hound Group First to the Greyhounds bred by Nancy Soyster, Ch. Solstice Gainsborough and Ch. Gerico Solstice Joy to the World, handled by Melanie Uva and Loran Morgan. Photo Holloway.



Bill Shelton awarded the Working Group to the eventual BIS winners, Portuguese Water Dogs Ch. Aviators Luck Be A Lady and Ch. Aviator's Lucky Charm, bred by Cathy Dugan and handled by Amy Rutherford and Camille Bakker. Photo Holloway.



Matt Stander awarded the Terrier Group to Dandie Dinmont Terriers bred by Betty-Anne Stenmark and Sandra Pretari, Ch. King's Mtn. Angelina Ballerina and Ch. King's Mtn. Minnie Mouse, handled by Sandra and Don Watkins. Photo Holloway.



Judges Dick Meen and Carol Reisman awarded BIS to Portuguese Water Dogs bred by Cathy Dugan, Ch. Aviators Luck Be A Lady and Ch. Aviator's Lucky Charm, handled by Amy Rutherford and Camille Bakker. Photo Kitten

always large, in 1987 it reached an entry of 4,199, making it the largest show in America since the glory days of Morris & Essex in the 1940s and 1950s (other than the 1984 AKC Centennial Show).

In 1984 the show was forced to move from its ideal location on the grounds of the University of California, Santa Barbara, when that venue was being used as part of the Los Angeles Summer Olympics. A few years later construction on what had been the dog show field prevented the show from returning to that site. After several years in different locations the club settled on the in-town location at the Earl Warren Showgrounds, a facility best known for horse shows but home to many other events.

The weekend currently consists of three days of shows: Simi Valley KC on Friday and back-to-back Santa Barbara KC shows on Saturday and Sunday. The entries for the three days this year were 1,190, 1,536, and 1,499, up about 100 dogs per day from last year.

One reason for the increased entry —

when most other show entries are down nationwide — was that people were excited about the new "Breeder's Showcase" competition being offered for the first time. This event allowed any breeder to enter two dogs as a "breeder's team." The same breeder must be listed on both of them, although there could be different co-breeders also listed on either dog and ownership was irrelevant. There were no restrictions or guidelines for exhibitors as to what this pair of dogs should consist of. Should they look alike? Be the same sex? Same color? Was consistency more important than overall quality? These were questions each breeder would have to decide on his or her own when making the entry.

There was an astonishing entry of 181 breeders' teams, fairly evenly divided among the seven AKC Groups, with Hounds having the largest number at 33 entries. Only the Herding Group was significantly smaller than the others with 11 entries.

Friday morning saw a heat wave descend on Southern California, and normally mild

Santa Barbara was not spared. The average mid-70s temperatures climbed into the 90s, surprising both locals and the many visitors. Another thing that was immediately different about this weekend was the large number of out-of-state exhibitors in attendance, and their presence was mostly attributed to the Breeder's Showcase competition that was to begin on Saturday.

Due to the extremely large entry, show officials decided to pre-judge the Breeder's Showcase teams. On Saturday afternoon, two rings (one indoor and one outdoor) were used and all the entries in each Group (Sporting, Hounds, etc.) entered the ring. The judge examined and moved all the dogs, and while some judges made notes, they did not indicate who would make the finals. That would be revealed later that evening.

The focal point of the Earl Warren Showgrounds is the horse show arena, an oval field that is open to the sky with excellent lighting and surrounded by covered seating. The SBKC show committee has the entire arena floor covered with lawn sod and brings in the traditional yellow and white striped tents and lots of flowers and trees. During the day there are four rings for Breed judging which are opened to one large ring for Group and BIS judging in the evenings. At all times there is lots of open space at both ends of the arena.

Another unique offering that accompanied the Breeder's Showcase was a complimentary dinner for all exhibitors and spectators on Saturday evening, thanks to the generosity of a host of individual sponsors whose names were recorded in the catalog. The open space at each end of the arena was filled with tables and chairs, and a wonderful buffet of Mexican food, soup, rice, bread, chicken, beef, cookies, cake, soft drinks and ice tea were served to over 800 diners! Servers dressed smartly in

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Charlotte Patterson awarded the Toy Group to Yorkshire Terriers bred by Lina Maria Rojas, Ch. Lina's Toys Pedro and Lina's Toys Blue Sapphire'N Diamonds, handled by Lina and Oscar Quiros. Photo Holloway.



Judge Jeanie Montford awarded the Non-Sporting Group to Tibetan Terriers bred by David Murray, Ch. Players Protocol and Players Just Like Butter, handled by David and Linda Clark. They were also Reserve Best in Show. Photo Holloway.



Bill Shelton awarded the Herding Group to Pembroke Welsh Corgis bred by Kathy Dolge and Barbara Calderwood, Ch. Rincon Marauder's Map and Ch. Rincon Know It All, handled by their breeder/owners. Photo Holloway.