

2008 TOP SHOW DOG

Ch. Skipper's Eminence King of Helluland [HG/CA/EL/CYN]

Breeder: Bela Siklosi

Owners: Laura Vande Ven & Peggy Helming

Two thousand and eight started out as a year of "let's see what we can do" in the show ring. We had done well as a team coming together in 2007, but there was room for improvement. This meant staying in the show ring and making each show a learning opportunity. One thing was sure—Lincoln had the "it's all about me" attitude and showing had become a routine.

By the time of the 2008 National, he was ready. I can't explain the thrill it was winning that National with such a strong, beautiful dog that enjoyed—and still enjoys—being the center of attention. I was focusing so hard on moving him at a nice show pace that the reality of what was happening didn't hit until the last go-around. When we were packing up after the show, David Helming mentioned, "too bad he doesn't have a head—might have to wait until he matures a bit." Anyone who knows David and Lincoln can see the humor in his comment.

The summer did not allow me to keep showing Lincoln as much as I would have liked due to my full-time job and other dogs at home. Being an owner-breeder-handler is quite a balancing act, and in this economy, my full-time work usually came first. Granted, I am not the breeder of Lincoln, but I hope that one day I will produce a dog as nice as he is. I am trying, and I believe he will have some nice kids at the 2009 National.

In the fall, I was able to get Lincoln back out and show on a

more regular basis. Having the summertime off meant we were basically starting from scratch. The show ring was no longer "routine," but more of Lincoln saying, "I have four-wheel-drive and you don't! I am going this way and you are along for the ride!" After some time, we were able to pull it back together and finish the year as Top Show Dog.

"Thank You" to all the people that supported us in the show ring with clapping, whistles, and whooping. It sure is fun showing a dog that wants to be in the ring and feeds off of the crowd. It was a wonderful ride.

—Laura Vande Ven



- Ch. The Bombardier, ROM
- Ch. Seabrook's Headmaster Tabu, ROM
- Ch. Tabu Seabrook Nobelle Prize, ROM
- Ch. Pouch Cove's Goliath, ROM
- VN Ch. Kilyka's Benediction, CD, WRD, DD, ROM
- Ch. Pouch Cove's Objection Overruled, ROM
- Pouch Cove's Rendition, ROM
- Ch. Skipper's Eminence King Of Helluland
- Twillin Gate Quomando
- Midnight Lady's Great Expectations
- Midnight Lady's Diorissimo
- French Fries King Of Helluland
- Am/Can Ch. Owasco Zerohour3am
- Midnight Lady's Gold Sensation
- Mount Cook Nugget Nini