



2009 NATIONAL SPECIALTY BEST OF BREED

BIS & BISS *Ch. Skippers Eminence King of Helluland*

HG/CA/EL/CYN

HERE WE COME—THE 2009 NATIONAL IN SUNNY Michigan! Well, not quite, but the bright side was driving to a National that was fairly close to home. After struggling to get done with school, getting out of work on time, drying dogs while it was pouring rain, and coordinating transportation with my van and husband, I was glad to be on my way. Granted, traveling with Lincoln and two of his young daughters was a light load compared to what a lot of people did to come to this National. All and all, it is hard work, but also a lot of fun.

Lincoln got to rest the first couple of days in Michigan, but his kids were busy in Sweepstakes. It was great seeing some of his offspring doing so well in the competition. Then it was really an honor to have his daughter, "Windhavens Say It Isn't So," chosen for Best in Sweepstakes!

Our first competition was the Stud Dog Class. Having him in the ring in the rain with two of his daughters could be interesting. He was on solid ground, not having to move with the girls per the judge's direction. I was thinking it was going to be play-in-the-rain time, but his daughters, Pouch Cove Engages the Spirit, "Jackie," and Pouch Cove's Rainbow over Nakiska, "Rainbow," behaved perfectly while showing for Dave Helming and his helper, Natasha. They locked the win for Lincoln in the Stud Dog Class.

The Top Twenty was next in the lineup for the week. A very formal poolside setting with everyone dressed to the hilt in black ties, long gowns, rhinestones and sequins. The place just sparkled. Considering Lincoln's exuberant behavior, I was wondering who would be wearing their wine and if it were going to be me in the pool! However, he performed like a gentleman and managed to win the Judges Choice for the Top Twenty Competition. I called my husband, Joe, and explained what had happened in the week so far. His comment was "Well, even if you would come home right now, you would be perfectly happy with the accomplishments of the last couple of days." He was so right.

Once again it was time for Lincoln to rest and have his kids do all the work. They gave it their best. It was thrilling to see his offspring take placement after placement in the regular classes, plus be in contention for winners.

By the time Best of Breed came around on Saturday, Lincoln was ready to go. We started the morning with the usual jaunt and then a bath. When walking up to the ring, he was like a racehorse that can feel the excitement and feed off the energy around him. Like last year, it was cool at ring time, which was very nice as the approximate 100 Specials lined up in the ring. Every time I see it, I am impressed. Everyone's hard work is there to see.

The judge had us come out one at a time from under the tent. When it was Lincoln's turn, he responded as though he heard a gun shot and saw a gate open. He was off to a strong start. After that first go-around, I quickly figured out that I either needed longer legs or a longer leash—he was giving it his all.

As he kept being invited to come back in the ring, Lincoln didn't let down. It is my job to keep him focused and just do what the judge asked. I couldn't believe it when we got pulled to the front

of the line—could Lincoln be pulling it off again? I guess he could!

Thank you Dave and Peggy Helming for giving me the chance at a "project." The project may not be complete yet, but we are enjoying the run. Once again, thanks to Ed & Deb Scuglik and Anna & Gregg Lorenz for always being there to lend a hand or grab a leash or a comb. Penny Shubert and Lincoln still enjoy each other's company on the grooming table—I still owe her a comb from Lincoln's happy feet. And thanks to "poor Joe," my husband, who takes care of everything at home while I am gone. Also thanks to all of the people that have cheered us on along the way. The support has been terrific! Thank you!

— Laura VandeVen



Best of Breed: Ch. Skipper's Eminence King of Helluland, HG/CA/EL/CYN (Ch. Pouch Cove's Goliath, HG, ROM x French Fries King of Helluland). *Breeders: Bela Siklosi & Sona Krocko. Owners: Laura Vande Ven & Peggy Helming. (photo by Chad Perry)*



(photo by Lemus Photography)

organized health-related activities, including a DNA blood draw, a cardiac clinic, cystinuria testing, and a gene test for coat color.

Junior Showmanship started the day on Saturday, judged by Nicholas Weber, a former Junior Handler himself. From the 11 talented juniors, he selected Joanne Thibault as Best Junior Handler.

Following the Junior Handling judging, over 100 Newfoundlands entered the ring under the discriminating and experienced eye of the Best of Breed judge, Mr. Joseph Gregory.

After many hours of judging, cuts and more cuts, Ch. Skipper's Eminence King of Helluland, owned by Laura VandeVen and Peggy Helming, repeated his Best of Breed win from last year. Ch. Kilyka's Jillion Steps to TurfTide, owned by Ginny Lengel, received Best of Opposite Sex honors. Best of Winners was the Winners Bitch, Honeylane Darbydale I Get Around, owned by Carol Bergman and Kelli LePore.

Mr. Gregory recognized four dogs as Selects: Ch. Bear N Mind's The Guardian (Dwight and Christine Gorsuch), Ch. Paladin's Thomas Jefferson (Thomas & Barbara Hearn), Ch. Pouch Cove's Head of State (Peggy and Dave Helming), and

Ch. SunValley Petitions Pouch Cove (Kathy Griffin and Peggy Helming). His awards for Select bitches went to Ch. Nakiska's Track Me Now Pouch Cove (Ingrid and Chris Lyden), Ch. Northshore's Northern Light (Kelly Benedict and Claire Hernandez), Ch. Oceano's Reflection on Sundust (K. Griffith, J. Rowland, P. Morgan, M. Smilanich, and G. Griffith), Ch. Shadrack's Just Between Friends (Steve and Jean McAdams), and VN Ch. Top Shelf's Rum Runner, CD, WRD, TDD, RA, OAP, NJP (Debra Wigal).

Somewhere in Time, like so many previous National Specialties, flew by all too quickly. The slide show of candid photos at the Saturday evening banquet helped recall many of the special memories of the week, as friends, old and new, culminated their mutual love of Newfoundlands with a bountiful buffet of delicious entrees. Many conversations focused on next year's Specialty when the *somewhere* will be Frankenmuth for a second consecutive year, and the "time" will be May 3 through May 8. We hope to see you there in 2010 as *NCA Lights the Way!*



(photo by Sue Lynn Morton)

(photo below by Lemus Photography)

