

Ch. Skipper's Eminence King of Helluland, ROM

HG/CA/EL/CYN

The 2010 National proved to be very successful for Lincoln as he was chosen Top Twenty People's Choice, Best Dog in Veteran Sweepstakes, Best Veteran Dog, and Best of Breed. Who would have thought he would win the National three times, this time from the Veterans class! It is special to have a healthy veteran dog still going strong. The cheering, whooping, and bleacher-stomping when the judge finally pointed truly added to the excitement. He is a true Newfoundland—a sweet dog that is not dull by any means or ill-tempered. He definitely has a love for an active life and people.

When Lincoln first came to live with us at four, I was told he was going to be a handful. It started the very first day! My husband Joe was taking him from the van to the kennels. The minute Lincoln started walking across the lawn, the girls started barking. That was the only invitation he needed. He made a b-line to greet them, breaking the lead in the process. I looked up to see my husband flying through the air. I thought Lincoln had pulled him down, but actually Joe was diving through the air to catch him. That was day one.

I started walking Lincoln every morning and taking him along to shows to bond, build a rapport, and establish a routine. At one of these early shows, I asked Ed Scuglik to take him around a big open grassy field so I could see him move. We didn't realize how Lincoln could move in such a large area. Ed then became the second guy to fly through the air while attached to Lincoln—but Ed did not let go. Lincoln just turned around as if to say, "What are you doing?" From that point on, I was always aware of who was holding Lincoln. Once when Peggy Helming said she would bring him to the ring, I commented, "Are you sure?" I had forgotten who had his number long before I.

We have always and continually worked on standing still. This means standing still on the grooming table, for the judge, anyplace. Once when Penny Shubert was grooming Lincoln at the home of John and Denita Jackman, Lincoln stood on the table and "forgot" his standing-still training. Besides breaking the coated cable noose that was holding him, we worried he might pull down the whole connection from the ceiling. John

laughed that he was glad there was a Newf that moved more for Penny than his dog. To this day, he asks me if I have Lincoln trained yet.

Lincoln follows in his father Goliath's footsteps when it comes to standing still. At the Delevan National, as judge Ed Bivin got down on one knee to get a better look at his head profile, Goliath's tail started going and soon the rest of his body followed. His handler, Sandy D'Andrea, quickly pulled Goliath back when Mr. Bivin stood up. Lincoln repeated the event at another show with Mr. Bivin. Mr. Bivin got down, Lincoln started wagging

his tail, and Mr. Bivin looked at me as if he knew what was coming next. Later, he asked if this was the dog from the National. I replied, "It is his son, and the apple hasn't fallen far from the tree."

Showing Lincoln always means new stories and adventures. He is very smart, and I am sure he has me figured out better than I have him figured out. He knows I can't correct him in the ring. He knows just when to not stand still—of course, it is when the judge is looking right at him. He also comes up with new games. For example, on



Best of Breed; Best Dog in Veteran Sweeps; 1st Veteran Sweeps 7-8 Yrs.; 1st 7-9 Yrs. Veteran Dog: **Ch. Skipper's Eminence King Of Helluland, ROM** (Ch. Pouch Cove's Goliath, ROM, HG x French Fries King Of Helluland). Breeder: Bela Siklosi. Owners: Laura Vande Ven & Peggy Helming. (photo by Chad Perry)

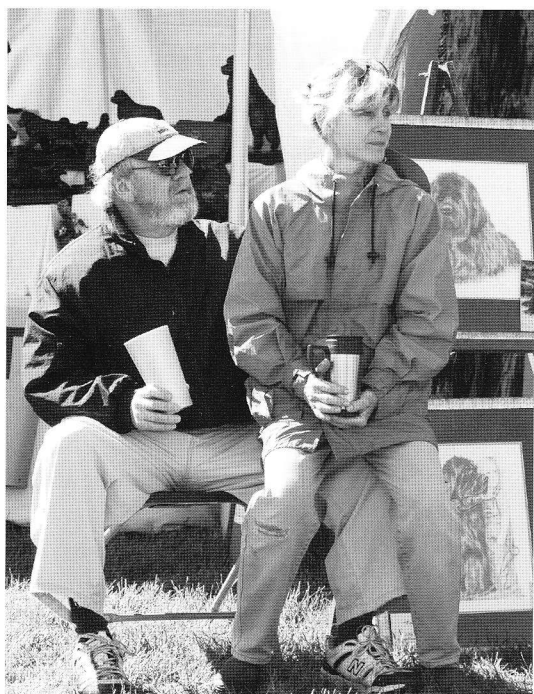
a go-around in the ring, flopping down flat on a piece of bait and making me almost do the same thing.

Although Lincoln is accustomed to being full of himself, there is something that makes him run the other direction—puppies! Imagine this big dog running in the opposite direction at the sight of puppies. But his real opponent is thunder. One of his favorite past times is running around the paddock barking at the noise from the sky. He seems to say, "Come on – I'll take you on!" Underneath this rough exterior is a really sweet dog looking for any loving he can get.

I now get stories from people who have Lincoln kids. I remind them to appreciate their animated puppies that want to go and show. It is up to them to take these smart dogs and focus them on the task at hand instead of the trouble they can get into. Sounds a bit like kids, doesn't it? And Lincoln will always be a big kid.

— Laura Vande Ven

HIGH LIGHTS



(Photo by Cissy Sullivan)

a good view, and, in addition, the spectators appreciated the opportunity to greet the dogs, up close and personal, during the intermission.

Theresa Hundt resumed judging bitches on Friday morning. Unfortunately, rainy weather entered the area by early afternoon, but even damp and wet, Pouch Cove's Southwind Storyteller, owned by Peggy Helming, looked beautiful as she was selected Winners Bitch from the Open Black class. The Reserve Winners Bitch was Fearless Bears in the Red, from the 6-9 Month class, owned by Debra Wigal, Amy Lane, and Els Wouters. Two special attractions were held during Friday's lunch break—the Rescue Parade and the Living Legends Awards. There was also an obedience seminar in the afternoon, *From the Judge's Point of View*, conducted by Anna Lorenz. The day concluded with a lively Fine Arts Auction in the hotel ballroom.

The stormy weather continued to worsen on Saturday with the addition of high winds, so judging was moved inside to the safety of the Kern Pavilion. The judging began with Junior Showmanship, and Judge Charles Olvis selected Jessica Thibault as Best Junior Handler. He then assumed the

daunting task of selecting the Best of Breed winner from among the 100-plus entries. After thorough consideration, he selected multi-Specialty winner, Ch. Skipper's Eminence King of Helluland, winner of the 7-9 Year Veteran Dog class, as Best of Breed, owned by Laura VandeVen & Peggy Helming. Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to Ch. Kilyka's Jillion Steps to TurfTide, owned by Ginny Lengel. Ten additional Newfs received Select designations.

The Annual Awards Banquet that evening culminated the week. Everyone enjoyed the slide show of candid photos, highlighting the show's events, and applauded the top winners as they made their guest appearances in the banquet ballroom. Conversations were lively during the delicious buffet dinner, recalling fond memories of the busy week, which had flown by so quickly. Sandee Lovett, Show Chair, expressed her appreciation to the many hard-working committee chairs and volunteers from all across the country, even some who were unable to attend, but still had contributed to the success of the show. Amy Lane, chair of the 2011 National, invited everyone to

return to Frankenthum for a third consecutive year, May 2-7, 2011, for "Third Time's a Charm." Will this theme, perhaps,

even charm Mother Nature into giving us good weather the third time around? Or, even better, bring YOU extra special good luck? Please come and find out!



(photo by Maria Acosta)

(photo by Tara Brown)

