

## PCA MEMBERS IN JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

### FROM THE AKC JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP RULEBOOK:

"Section 3. Standard for Judging Junior Showmanship shall be judged solely on the ability and skill of the Juniors in handling their dogs as in the breed ring. The show qualities of the dogs shall not be considered."

## THE JOYS OF JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP AND PEKINGESE

BY MEGAN MORAN

MEGAN MORAN

WITH CH. BAIZANA'S DANNY BOY



*PCA Member Megan Moran is 18 years old and a June 2009 graduate of Chatham High School in New Jersey. She will be attending Delaware Valley College in Pennsylvania this fall where she will be taking courses in the study of small animals.*

I began showing dogs at the age of 11. My experience in and out of the show ring was taught exceptionally by my two grandparents, Gene and Lorraine Moran, both members of Pekingese Club of America as I am too. The very first show I began showing a Pekingese in confirmation with only a few minutes of practice prior to ring time. I ended up winning a Best of Opposite Sex ribbon. The amount of work put into getting a Peke ready for the show ring is truly worthwhile. The amount of hair will most definitely keep you busy for a good hour or two. Once that's completed it's all dependent on the mood of your Pekingese. Some days they're up and other days they like to take their time. I've grown fond of the Pekinese over the years. I don't know too many Junior handlers that started with Pokes as their first show dog. It's certainly different and they're truly enjoyable to have.

I'm glad to say I started off with Pekingese. Evidently this led me to more shows and different types of breeds such as the Tibetan Spaniel and German Shorthair Pointer. I was successfully able to complete two championships one of which was on a Pekingese and the other on a Shorthair. I like to look back on my wins and see that I've accomplished something on my own. From then on I've been able to travel to as many dog shows as I possibly could.

Showing dogs is truly addicting. I enjoy everything about them from the people, to the breeds, to the judges, etc. It's serious dedication and hard work ethic, but worth every penny. Now that I've aged out of Junior Showmanship, I am still able to pursue showing with people of all ages. Junior Showmanship was a great way to meet other kids my age and essentially bond with them. Thankfully I was able to receive a Best Junior Handler ribbon before my 18th birthday. This had been one of my goals from the start.

As the years progress I still continue to learn new things about the dog show world. I show dogs for the love of my dogs and the compatibility you have with the show people around you. I look at each show as a new opportunity and to expect the unexpected. Dog shows are almost indescribable to me. There's so many words to describe it. I love it. I really do appreciate my grandparents bringing me into this sport and opening my eyes to dogs. It's a wonderful learning experience and I wouldn't give it up for anything.



*Megan & Caitlyn Moran winning in Junior Showmanship under Judge Dr. Margaret Reed*