

# The Love of Showing Dogs

by Caitlyn Moran



*Fifteen-year old Caitlyn Moran is a PCA member and sophomore at Chatham High School in New Jersey where she's on the JV swim team and a member of the school choir. She started showing dogs at the age of eight. She spent the next two years mainly showing Pekingese and at the age of ten became an AKC Junior Handler. For the past five years Caitlyn has been traveling with her grandparents, Lorraine and Gene Moran, showing her Tibetan Spaniel and a German Shorthaired Pointer. In this short time she has enjoyed much success and has been awarded "Best Junior Handler" eight times. She has also shown at Westminster Kennel Club Show three times where her Tibetan received an Award of Merit this year.*

*Since entering the sport of dogs, Caitlyn has become self-assured and is happy showing in the Juniors ring. She has emerged from a shy 8-year old into outgoing friendly young lady which her grandparents attribute to the positive experiences and confidence she has received from competing at dog shows.*

When I began showing dogs at the age of 8, I found I loved showing dogs and don't ever want to stop! The first time I was in the ring, I was showing one of my grandparents' Pekingese -- the lovely Baizana's Crystal Jade bred by Rita and Marthe Baizana from Canada. Of course Crystal and I ran through the standard procedure of the ring: stacking, gating patterns and table examination. Together we won Reserve Winners Bitch that day. I proudly returned to my grandparents, Gene and Lorraine Moran, with a brand new purple and white ribbon. They were so pleased and gave me much encouragement.

The next day I showed again and the day after that I decided to show again. By the end of the four-day show I was hooked. I had enjoyed being in the ring so much that I wanted to continue showing and traveling around with my grandparents and their dogs.



*Caitlyn Moran winning Best of Breed with Ch. Baizana's Danny Boy*

After showing Pekingese for a few years I began showing a Tibetan Spaniel. I have learned how to groom both breeds from my grandparents and other experienced professional handlers. I have recently started showing Justine, a German Shorthair Pointer, in the breed classes and hope to finish her championship.

I continue to show after seven years of hard work and dedication to the sport. Within this time I have received awards such as several Best Juniors with my Tibetan Spaniel "Sheila" and my German Shorthair "Petey", as well as an Award of Merit at the Garden and Best of Breed at the Philadelphia Kennel Club show.

When competing against some of the most experienced handlers, it helps you learn better ways to handle a specific breed. In particular, Junior Showmanship Competition has always been a fun way to meet other young handlers that enjoy the sport of dogs. I have met so many great friends and we all support each other with our wins and losses. Every day that I show I learn something new, which makes my experience of showing dogs fulfilling in so many ways.