

SASQUACH, KIVA, AND MY FIRST DOG SHOW

On Friday, March 15, I started to prepare for our first Dog Show. It was the ARBA Invitational Tournament and the Sun Ray Classic held in San Diego California. My excitement was growing as I bathed and groomed my two puppies, Sasquach 9 1/2 months and Kiva 5 1/2 months, and made the two hour drive down to San Diego. I knew when we got there I was going to the Banquet where the final five ARBA champions would show and the winner would be chosen. There were so many beautiful Dogs, and a Shiloh by the name of Joan's North Star of Zion was selected as # 2 Dog of the tournament. The excitement was electrifying as then they announced Wendy Fullerton as Breeder of the year. What a night for the Shiloh people. After rallying in the joy with Joan and Wendy and a nice dinner it was time to get the much needed rest for our big day tomorrow. My apprehension was growing as this was Sasquach and Kiva's first show. They had not been worked very much due to the fact I had recently fractured my foot and had been in a cast for six weeks. I really was just going to the show for fun, practice, and to see all the Shiloh's and their mom's and dad's. When I arrived at the Show grounds I realized neither of my dogs had ever been in a crate (they share my bedroom with me). Well that had to change, I had to have one contained while the other one was showing. The first time I introduced them to their crates, they needed some coercing, but by the middle of the day they happily went right in. They seemed to find it very soothing to have a place to relax and get a way from it all.

Show time! As I said before I never expected either of my dogs to do anything, they were totally novice to showing. Surprise, surprise! They loved it. They strutted their stuff around that ring like it was their own back yard. The more people clapped, (and believe me Shiloh people do clap), the better they did. Sasquach finished the weekend with 3 Winners Dog, and 2 CAC-US. Kiva, still in the puppy class, finished with 4 Best of Breeds, 1- Group 1 and 3- Group 2's, and I finished with a sunburn and a smile from ear to ear. The camaraderie the Shiloh people feel is like no other. Everyone roots for each other and is so happy to just see a Shiloh succeed. It's like one huge family.

Anyone out there that thinks Showing is too hard or feels their dog won't do well you will be in for a big surprise. Every Shiloh should be shown. We have a magnificent breed that we all should be showing off. The people that came by our tent area couldn't say enough about our wonderful Shilohs. It is fun to just get together with other Shiloh owners and chat.

For a weekend of fun, I also have 18 ribbons to start Sasquach and Kiva's collection. The hardest part of all is waiting for the next Show so I can see all of my new friends again. To all of you we haven't met yet, see you at the next show.

Patti Schaefer - Shenandoah Kennels

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