

THE SHOW RING IS THE SECOND SPORT

By Ginger Hurley

If you told me a few years ago that I would be showing and handling my Boykins in the show ring, I would have said “you’re crazy”; “not in this life time” or “whatcha been smokin”, but I would have never said “yes”, “maybe” or that I would even think about it as an option. But, sure enough here I am and loving every minute of it.



The first sport for me and our Boykin Spaniels is hunting. I love it and they love it. In fact, I hunt because of I have Boykins. For the hunting Boykin it requires skill, athleticism, intelligence, discipline and of course the payoff is reaping the spoils. As a former athlete myself, these are all the things I love. Also, to see and experience the joy that emulates from the dogs is nothing short of spectacular. Ever since I was introduced to the little brown dog about 15 years ago, I knew that they were meant for hunting, working, agility but never for prancing around a show ring.

We enjoy our Boykins not only with hunting but also in dock diving, agility and we have even tried rally. The Boykin Spaniel can do and be whatever you want them to do or be. They are that GREAT! I always believe in the fact that the Boykin breed is so lovable and yet so smart they need a job in order to feel satisfied or complete. This is where I was going wrong in my thought process and thinking that the show ring was not a job and required no ability or energy or any of the things that I enjoy. All the miss-guided perceptions I had about the show ring have proven to be false. Surprisingly enough, I have experienced the show ring to be very much a challenge while providing lots of suspense and many little surprises along the way. This athlete as well as my little brown dogs have learned that it does in deed require skill, athleticism, intelligence and especially discipline.



THE SHOW RING IS THE SECOND SPORT Continued

By Ginger Hurley



There are a few more elements that I have found to be true of performance in the show ring: one—the sharing and camaraderie of new friends and two—which is the most exciting to me is the competitiveness and thrill of success achieved through hard work.

The show ring provides my Boykins Spaniels with another avenue to pursue during the offseason of bird hunting. It keeps them focused and trained.

It also gets very hot in Southeast Texas and the shows can give a little air conditioning pleasure during those scorching, hot days. I have several Boykins that get very excited when they know we are getting ready for a show. They experience the thrill and they love all the attention they receive. It provides special moments and endearing times for me and my Boykins. No, the show ring is not the first choice for me but it has grown to be close as it comes in second as my choice of a sports with my Boykins.

