



Panting for action early in day, basset hounds wait for master's command during obedience exhibition.

# Dogs, People Make Show Big Success

By JOE KORNFELD  
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON CROSSING — "Sure, it looks good," one of the losing owners said of Howard Sherline's English sheepdog, which had bested a dozen other dogs in the working group contest at the Trenton Kennel Club's annual show at Washington Crossing State Park. "But, how do you know what it's really like under all that hair?"

Before nearby spectators, including men steady-

ing police dogs edge from the loud-speakers' blare, women fluffing out their poodles' coats, kids sitting on their fathers' shoulders and shading their eyes with discarded dog bowls, could really think him a sorehead, he burst out laughing.

Nearly 27,500 people paid \$1.50 each to see the show.

There was tension during the competition ("Look him in the face, like you want that ribbon!" a woman shouted as the judge approached her schnauzer), but little animosity. The dog lovers, who had come from as far as Los Angeles and London, were a close-knit breed.

### She Knew Better

The overflow of good spirits extended even to disobedient dogs. "I could murder you, Mrs. Florence Smith of Mahwah told her shepherd, Duchess, lovingly. She explained that the dog had virtually disqualified herself from the best - of - breed contest by munching grass before the judge. "She's trained not to do it, but she knew she could get away with it because I'm not allowed in the ring during judging."

"You're so damned smart," she told Duchess.

Not all the dogs who sat beneath shady tents in cages or on tables piled with brushes, combs, clippers, coat spray and baby powder were entered in competition.

"I brought Echo to find her a good mate," said Mrs. Elinor Holmes of Cinnaminson of her German pointer bitch. "I found this beautiful male, Lucky, from Wisconsin, and I'm planning to air-ship Echo there to mate."

### Home Between Shows

Stewart Duncan of Princeton, whose Keeshond had just won best-of-breed, leaned on the grooming table and discussed the tribulations of a show-dog owner.

"We hardly ever see Johnny. His handler has him for about eight months out of the year, taking him from one show to another."

"It's better that way," interjected the handler, Roy Holloway of Chester Springs, Pa., who had chalked up best-of-breeds for three other owners in the same show. "Owners are usually too nervous and make their dogs the same way."

Holloway, who makes periodic trips to England and the continent to purchase dogs for people like Duncan, estimated that he covers about 80,000 miles a year driving to dog shows. He's planning to get married soon and wonders how raising a family will fit in with that schedule.

"I guess I'll just have to leave the kids with my clients," he said.

Staff Photos

by

Mike Steinbacher



Florence Noli of Philadelphia glances critically at Missy, but Missy only has eyes for treat.

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People and pets occasionally fled the crowded tents and packed booths for a meadow-romp in the 80-degree weather.



Kiyooki Komoda of Hightstown gives his three-year-old son a choice view.



A Dalmatian stares right back at the best-of-group judge. The poodle next to him, however, won the contest and the show.



Basset, tired as any of the 27,000 humans, waits to be driven home at end of a long, long day.