

Aust Gr Ch Cordmaker Topsy Turvey



We feel both proud and privileged to have been able to attend the Eukanuba World Challenge in both 2008 and 2009 represented New Zealand and Australia at this unique event. What a way to show the world the beauty and diversity of the pure bred dog. Over 41 countries sent their very best canines to represent then at this, the ‘Canine Olympics’.

After much preparation and, some tension ensuring that all was in place for our Puli Charlotte’s safe travel to and from Australia, we arrived in Long Beach California. Eukanuba had thought of everything and were most supportive, tending to all our needs and dealing, to some degree, with the nervous tensions that accompany any event of this magnitude.

We arrived in the USA several days before the formal activities began to allow all of us, including Charlotte, to get over the jet lag and to settle into hotel life. The Eukanuba challenge effectively extends over 4 days, culminating in the finals held before a huge, enthusiastic crowd, cheering on their favourites.

Our schedule included important strategy meetings, fabulous social events and practices for the opening ceremony. The event is televised and many of the entrants took part in individual television interviews with their dogs.

Eukanuba also held a series of master classes with topics ranging from ‘What makes a great dog show handler’ to tips on ‘Travelling internationally with your dog’.

There are several all breeds championship shows in the days preceding the Challenge and, also, one of America’s most prestigious shows ‘The Eukanuba National’. Some of the international entrants also competed in these events. It is certainly a busy and exciting few days with many opportunities to compete and to meet with people from all over the world.

The first part of the Challenge is the pre-judging of all the exhibits. Each of the competing countries has been randomly allocated to one of four sections and four international judges are given the task of selecting three dogs from each section to go through to the finals. Tension is high for both dog and handler and the excitement builds as none of us will know if we have been chosen until after the Opening Ceremony on the Saturday evening.

The Opening ceremony is an amazing sight. To see 41 beautiful dogs walking, with their owners and their nation’s flag, into this huge arena is both beautiful and emotional. In so many cases this is an expression of a lifelong commitment to a special breed and is an acknowledgement of all the joys and heartbreaks that come with our involvement with our dogs. Each country was introduced and the crowd support was overwhelming. Excitement builds as all the dogs are run individually and the short list of the final 12 is announced. I cannot imagine judging at such an event, every dog is magnificent, all are top winners in their own countries.

Sunday evening sees the final 12 enter the ring to select the World Winner and 1st and 2nd Reserve. What a night, just to be there was a thrill but to take Charlotte around the ring as a finalist was the highlight of my career in dogs. The finals were judged by Mr Frank Sabella, a famous all breeds judge from the USA. He chose as his winner the magnificent Bracco Italiano from Italy, with 1st Reserve to the Saluki from Sweden and 2nd Reserve to the Wire Fox Terrier from Brazil.

This is truly a world class event, a remarkable gathering of the top dogs of the world with their owners and breeders.

It is an event where the pride of owning a top dog is equally shared by the honour of representing one’s country.

To quote Ron Menaker, AKC Chairman

“The uniqueness of this

event has developed into a globally recognized, high profile competition, in only three short years, World Class breeders producing World Class dogs compete at this ‘World Class Event’.

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Photos Lisa Croft-Elliott



Multi Ch, World Winner, Axel Del Monte Alago, representing Italy