

My Experiences in Dog Showing

My journey of dog shows started in March 2005 at handling class. I was just beginning to improve when Frank Courtway of Homeguard Bullmastiffs showed up and offered my grandma and me a puppy.

At first my grandma said that she did not want a boy puppy. I was working the girls and neither of the 2 clicked with me. For fun we decided to try the boy that Frank had brought with. Immediately when “Ben” saw me we BOTH clicked. They both surprised me with letting me take Ben home! I was so excited to finally have a dog to call my own! Ben was starting to fit right in with our other 2 girls.

I started with Ben in conformation for a year. In that time Ben and I had a wonderful experience the 2 of us together. At close to one of my first shows in August, me, and Ben took a Reserve Winners Dog for a major at Niqually At the PNBf specialty!



In October 2005, at the Vancouver show we got back-to-back Best Of Breed's when Ben was about 1 year old! I ended up going into the group ring 2 times for the very first times ever! It was a wonderful experience for both of us just to be there. Although we did not do anything, we had a GREAT time!

In April of 2006 I started in Junior Showmanship. In Centralia it was my first junior competition in a public show. I had 1 win and needed 2 more. That weekend I got my 2 wins I needed and moved up to Open Junior. In Elma in May on Sunday my 5th time showing I took my very first Best Junior under the judge Marie Ann Gladstone.



From that day on my confidence rose up 10 tons! I had a great experience!

In October 2006 my grandma and I flew to Wisconsin for our Bullmastiff Nationals! At first Ben wasn't coming. ☹️ I was so sad not to see my boy, even on his birthday! On Thursday October 12th is when my grandma surprised me with getting my Benny to Wisconsin! It was Jackie Hofer and Leslie Thompson who went the extra mile to get him there. 😊 I showed him in open Any Other Allowed Color although nothing happened we had a great time! Also on the following Friday I got to show 1 other puppy that someone else offered me to show. Again it was a great experience to show another dog. Also for the first time I got to show a veteran in the veterans parade. Saturday was my big day for I had juniors that day. I took my juniors class then Best junior over all. Shortly after that I also showed Ben with his dad Louie in Stud Dog. That was a great week for all of us and I really hope to go back soon!



Again after Nationals on October 29th at lucky Vancouver, I finished Ben's championship with a Best Of Opposite at the age of 2! We had a great showing experience together!! But we were not done!



While at nationals I got an invitation to Eukunuba! We packed our bags and headed for California! It was the best time there I had ever had at a show! I had a lot of old and new friends that I met! At our junior lunch-on they announced the top 10 in each group and some of my friends were in it! I did a great job showing though didn't do any thing. It was a long trip but soooo worth it!!!



At all of my dog shows that I have been to so far have been the best! I have finished my dog, and now working on our puppy, Blush. I hope to have lots of luck in the future and make lots of new friends! Showing is one of my favorite hobbies to do! I have shown other puppies and other dogs too. I really want to keep at it and become a professional some day! All of the people that I know whether it is friends, family, or complete strangers, have all givin me all the support I need to show to my greatest effort.

Thank You,
Courtney Smith