

White Shepherd Exhibited at AKC Sanctioned Conformation Match

Written by Scarlett Sanders

I had a kinda unique experience today, I thought I'd share. My local dog club (Greater Panama City Dog Fanciers) put on an all breed AKC sanctioned conformation match today. They were also doing a Parade of Champions & CGC dogs. I attended with my White Shepherds for the parade. When I got there Melissa Frye the club president (who also owns a WS) said I could enter my White Shepherd as an exhibition. She explained that One of the new policies that AKC has implemented for matches is that there are to be No disqualifications. What this means is if the dog is of a recognized breed regardless of faults they are not to be disqualified from participating in a match (this isn't true for shows or trials). I accepted the offer and entered "UKC/GRCH Proud's Winslow N' Easy of FS" in the match as an exhibition!! "Easy" is my male White Shepherd. I even filled out the official entry form for AKC which they marked as exhibition only. After the AKC Judge (Rhonda Mills) examined him, she apologized to me that she couldn't give him the ribbon he deserved! She also told me she liked the conformation of the White Shepherd over the extremely angled colored shepherd. During the parade his bio was read so everyone knew he was the #8 dog on the UKC Top Ten List, that he is the first UKC/GRCH White Shepherd in Florida and that he had been to a herding event the day before as well. It was also explained to the crowd why the White Shepherd was only being shown as an exhibit. When he was done showing in the match, he got the **BIGGEST** cheer from the crowd!!! I have never been more proud of my chosen breed than I was today!!! I thought it was wonderful that our magnificent White Shepherds were able to be recognized at this AKC event!!



Scarlett handles Easy while being examined by AKC Judge Rhonda Mills

Some folks have asked me if I felt intimidated while at the match. My reply has been , "No, I wasn't intimidated a bit!!" Easy was very well received by everyone!! I seldom ever get negative attitudes from folks about the White Shepherd! Most think they are beautiful. Some believe they have more health problems but after talking with people about it, they usually walk away with a whole new insight on the White Shepherd. I think mostly folks just need to be educated about them!!

As far as judges go, I can't ever remember getting a negative reaction from them. As a matter of fact, I am presently taking conformation classes under AKC Judge Ruth Prehn. Ruth is an approved judge for quite a few AKC groups (toy, terrier, poodles and best-in-show) and also, judges at quite a few CKC and Rare Breed Events (she's judged White Shepherds at a number of events). Ruth has a great reputation and is a fan of the White Shepherd. Actually most judges I've spoken with feel the White Shepherd's are getting a raw deal! Some judges, both UKC & AKC, I have shown under have expressed to me how much they love the breed!! I take every chance I can get to bring out and educate folks on the White Shepherd!! I don't let anyone ever intimidate me when it comes to our wonderful breed!!



Scarlett exhibiting Easy at an AKC sanctioned match

I hope my experience will help others to understand how important it is to get our beautiful whites out in the public eye and to help educate people at AKC and other events. We need to let the world know the White Shepherd is here, they're doing and accomplishing more than ever before, we won't be ignored any longer and we're NOT going away!!

GO WHITE DOGS!!!