



ERIE KENNEL CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2012

Cabin Fever 2012

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February 19, 2012 Erie Kennel Club held the annual Awards banquet also known as "Cabin Fever". Kathy and David Croft were this year's hosts. A catered buffet dinner was spread and a really grand cake decorated with "bones" was part of the menu.

Roberta Cutshall who has been responsible for the Club's award program presented each deserving dog and handler team with pin awards. Each name and accomplishment was beautifully scripted out in Roberta's calligraphy.

The fun continued when David and Kathy began the game. Prizes were won by each participant.

Remember YOU can participate in 2013 Cabin Fever Dinner when you volunteer time to our club events.

A huge "Thank You " Dave and Kathy Croft!



The Newsletter Editor of EKC made a request for me to recount the events that led up to and included my experience of exhibiting my Siberian Husky, Banner, at the:

Westminster Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show 2012.

My journey can only be described as Westminster:

“A Journey Called Faith”

Like that of Tim Tebow and Jeremy Lin, the great sports figures of today sharing their faith walk with God, Westminster was that and more for me. My Siberian Husky, Am GCH CH/Can CH Busystar's Enduring Promise, AOM, a.k.a. Banner, and I embarked on a journey of faith to the superbowl of dog shows...The 136th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City on February 13-14, 2012. Purebred champions convened at Madison Square Garden from all points of the globe with a total of 2076 entered dogs representing 185 different breeds or varieties. Being at the heart of this year's show was the exhibiting of my girl, Banner. This was an experience so electrifying as God fit all the pieces of this puzzle together in perfect harmony.

Initially Banner was to have a litter of puppies on the ground during this time but due to the unfortunate circumstance of false progesterone readings due to a malfunctioning unit, the breeding did not take place. Laparoscopic surgery ensued because it was thought, at the time, that cysts were responsible for her low progesterone readings. Instead of a pregnancy, Banner now had a partially shaven abdominal area. Then the pieces of God's puzzle started to fall into place.

On a whim, Banner was entered into the most prestigious dog show in the world. A few weeks later, it was confirmed that she would be joining the ranks of champion dogs showing on the coveted green carpet. This was truly “a dream come true.” God placed this dream in my heart and this was the year for this part of His plan for my life to be fulfilled.

Preparations and a daily regimen to bring Banner's coat back into a presentable form were challenging but this was not going to deter our attempts to show at Madison Square Garden. So on February 12, 2012 we left in a snowstorm and headed to the “Big Apple.” God was with my twin sister, Banner, and myself as we drove through white out conditions on I-80 and finally arriving in NYC at midnight. To our delight, The Hotel Pennsylvania had booked us in a room on the tenth floor directly opposite Madison Square Garden.

Acclimating ourselves to the venue was the next day's assignment and I was filled with awe as I scoped out the benching areas, the expo arena, and the newly renovated floors of The Garden. I was overcome by raw emotion the rest of the day as I anticipated exhibiting Banner on the green carpet the next day at noon in Ring 3. That evening was spent setting up our crate, grooming table, and grooming supplies in an extremely crowded benching area.

The big day finally arrived and the “wheel of fortune” of Banner showing her lovely conformation and movement in the ring with 19 other top quality Siberians was a blessed event. As my footprints and her pawprints moved as a team around ring 3, I was so humbled and honored to be among top champions. A Bible verse kept spinning in my head: “With God all things are possible.”

