

Kennel Visit

November/December 2007

The Pom Review

The Official Publication of the American Pomeranian Club

Her Majesty's Poms

Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Wow! What a privilege and an honor to be given this opportunity to share our kennel with your, especially at this time of year. We have so much to be thankful, merry and happy from here at Majesty's Poms.

We are a work in progress.



Randy's Son Adam, Daughter in Law Millie
Grandson Sam and Penelope

The puppies stay upstairs until they are old enough to mingle safely with the older ones. We have two different fenced in sections that allow us to separate the dogs as needed. I work in the home health Physical Therapy field. Hopefully by the time you read this story, I will also have my Massage Therapy license. I love to write, mostly for my own enjoyment and plan events in what time I have left.

Randy is currently unemployed after losing a job he had for 30 years due to his company closing and sending the work overseas. Right now he is working on getting a degree in Web Development and using his talents as Graphic Designer, to create one of kind websites.

Our home is in the town of Cleveland in East Tennessee. We have 10 acres just outside of the city limits. Our neighbors are a bunch of cows who don't seem to mind the poms being next door, or at least they haven't complained as of yet. Our kennel, if you would call it that, is in the basement of our home. This last year we renovated the downstairs for the adult dogs so they could have their own space. They have their own couch, chairs, and of course a big screen television.



Randy and Chuck on vacation 6 days without dogs



Dash and Bronya sending a Christmas Greeting



Chuck's Mon and Dad, Sister and Brother in Law
Charles Henery, Tommie, Dayna and Chris

He also has a played piano for years as well as sings and has a little group he sings with which performed the National Anthem at our dog show.

We began our journey in Poms about seven years ago. We bought Maj (Her Majesty) as a pet. We had hoped to breed her, but due to some very unfortunate circumstances, that wasn't to be. (You can read her story at www.HerMajestypoms.com) Maj is the Matriarch of the house and now oversees all of the business. Since Maj wasn't able to produce, we began going to dog shows looking for a female that would be able to have pups. We were able to make contacts with David & Carlene Gilstrap of Mountain Crest Poms and Benson & Sharon of Ben-Ray's Poms. We bought a girl from each of them, Mountain Crest Megan and Benray's Sherri Kaye. We attempted to show them for a year without much success. We bought a very small motor home camper and drove from dog show to dog show. We were really good at helping build points at shows. It didn't take us long to figure out we were doing something wrong. So, we decided to buy two more females and a male, one of these girls became our first champion which is CH Finch's Get Over Yourself (Hannah) many thanks for Diane Finch for intrusting us with a Travis daughter.



One of the many trees Chuck decorated for Christmas



Randy and Chuck and handfull of babies

This time we would spend more money and get better dogs. Out of the three, only one ended up being show potential. Over \$10,000 dollars later we were still not winning. What was the problem? The problem was us. We had to sit down and come up with some goals. We couldn't keep going out and buying more dogs. We had to have a plan.

We first looked at the dogs we had purchased. Megan and Sherri Kaye were not bad dogs; we just had not presented them well. We were able to get points on both of them.

We looked at ourselves and realized our trimming and showing weren't good.

So we came up with these goals to work toward.

- 1) Hannah was easily good enough to finish. She only needed her majors. - Send her with a handler to get her finished. *Ann Berryman took Hannah to Kentucky and finished her Championship with a five point major- Our first Champion
- 2) Breed Megan and Sherri Kaye to a good stud and produce our own Champion.
*Sherri Kaye has two champions at this writing (Dash and Penelope) and a granddaughter that is a champion (Eliza Blue - a blue and tan, one of the first b&t to finish). She has also given us some nice females to continue our improvements. She also has 2 more close to getting their championship. Megan, because of our bad judgment with studs, hasn't produced any yet.
- 3) Improve each breeding with a stud that could improve the line. *This is an ongoing process, but improving all the time.
- 4) Breed a Champion that we finish ourselves. *Randy finished Penelope with a 4 point major in July. We received all of the points ourselves! A major accomplishment.
- 5) Breed a Champion that is entirely (stud/bitch) ours. *Bronya Johnston (who ought to divorce her husband and marry me) has Ridge in Texas. He will hopefully be our first complete breeding.

- 6) Breed a Special. We want a true special, not just a special.
- 7) Breed a Best in Show.
- 8) Breed a Eukanuba/West Minister champion.

In order to achieve the goals, we had and have to start with ourselves. The first thing we decided to do was get involved. We had to become part of the Pom world. We joined the Chattanooga Kennel Club and the American Pomeranian Club. This, as any other business, is a networking business. As we tried to grow, we found that others were willing to help us in our venture. Our friends and contacts in the Pom world are better than those in our everyday lives. Some of our best friendships and acquaintances have come from the Pomeranian National Specialty. The Nationals provide us with a group of people who love Pomeranians. We only see some of these people once a year, but I guarantee you if we had a need, they would help. We have yet to show a dog there, we have mainly gone for the fun and friendship. It has also been a place to make contacts with people and exchange ideas. The Nationals have been part of our networking in where people can tell we are serious.



Dash and Bronya his Championship picture

We are especially proud that we have grown our own program. We are now in our 4th generation. Each generation is a little better than the last. Thanks to our mentor, David Gilstrap, who has been there with help throughout our growth, we have learned a lot. The best thing that happened to us, was finding a person who not only was willing to help, but knew what he was talking about. My grandfather said, "Get all the advice you can, then make your own decision because ultimately the success or failure will be yours." We have found everyone has ideas of what is right and what is wrong, as well as prejudices. The Pomeranian world is no different. One wise friend told us, "Like what you show and believe in the dog. Don't worry about what others think." This sage advice is some of the best advice we have been given. We have made a practice of not judging the other dogs in the ring; if they win, good for them. It may not be a dog that I would want to own or show, but it is not mine. Making and keeping friends is more important than our opinion of their dog. We want a good name not only with our dogs, but also for ourselves.



GeCorey



Eliza Bleu and Bronya. Blue and Tan Girl finished with 3 majors



Dorothy Gayle and all her friends

We are proud of what we have accomplished and grown. Penelope, our black and tan little girl finished this year and is expecting her first litter. Eliza Blue is also expecting her 2nd litter. She has been producing mostly blue and tans with really nice coats. We are concentrating on Orange, Red, Sable, Black and Tan, and Blue and Tan. The Blue and tan line came along unexpectedly, but it has been a nice surprise. We are finally climbing that generation hill and producing competitive dogs. We know what we have in great lines, now it's just connecting it all together.



Penelope Finishing her Championship

Randy has also been working with Dr. Frank at the University of Tennessee with Alopecia X and the coat problems our breed has. Two of our first dogs that we bought have it. Neither have been bred. Dr. Frank is diligently working for us. Her thoughts are that we probably will never have a cure, but hopefully we will be able to find the cause and be able to medicinally treat the dogs who have the problem.



Hannah and Chuck

When she spoke at the APC nationals this year, many were upset that no cure would be found. If we think about it, many cures for humans haven't been found, but the problems have been improved and even stopped with medicine. It is important that we have someone like Dr. Frank working on our side. She is only one in a small number working on this problem. If she is to keep working on this, she has to also know we are interested in her. You are welcome to contact her at LFrank@utk.edu and let her know how much you appreciate what she is doing.

We have decided that educating ourselves is just important as anything to win. We have sought out the best seminars we can find. I have even taken classes in appraisals, which has helped me even in the dog world. I wish someone would step out of the shadows as a personal trainer for trimming and handling. Classes are great, but one on one would be even better.

Up until this year, we had the mentality that these were our babies (which they are) and that is how we were showing them. It was like putting your kid in a pageant, primping them up and expecting the judge to say, "oh what a cute little kid your have." We were losing in the ring because we weren't playing with the big boys. A handler takes the dog in, shows it and doesn't have the emotional attachments that an owner/handler has. They are showing their dog and looking professional. It took us a while, but we are learning to be more professional in the ring. We are learning to "show" the dog. This takes time and effort to change your ways. To show a dog correctly, in my opinion, is an art. An artist knows the flaws in his work. This could be better or that could be better, but he knows he can't sell his work if he points out the flaws. When we take our piece of art out in the ring, we are taking it to show it off, not to be judged. With this mentality, we are improving our showing ability. If we lose and we have done everything to the best of our ability, then we have won.

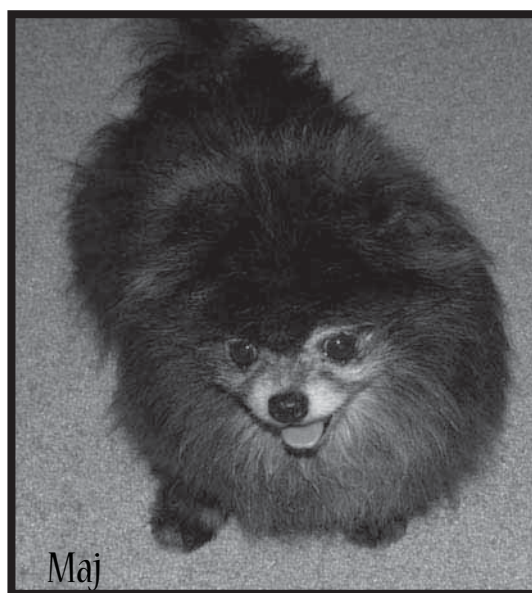


Jonathan and Randy

Judges are just like people. Each has his/her own taste in art. Some people admire the artwork. Some people admire the artist. Some people like admire the art dealer. We all have different tastes and we have decided to enjoy ours.



Judi, Randy and Lita singing at the Chattanooga Kennel Club



Maj

We began our experience thinking that all you had to do is buy a dog and jump in the ring. Since then we have learned so much more and will always be a work in progress.

Your vacations become dog shows. You take the dogs to the doctor more than you take yourself. There is pain and heartbreak. There is joy and happiness. There are wins and losses. The road to success isn't overnight, but that makes the rewards so much sweeter. A breeder isn't a ship in the night, but a voyage that never ends.



Ridge and Randy



Sam, Randy and Penelope

To everyone that has become our friend, we are thankful for you. We aren't going to name our friends and the people who have helped us through, as we don't want to forget anyone. You know who you are if you have encouraged us. We can't thank you enough for helping us and even taking us to eat when we didn't have a vehicle at the shows or asking us to sit at your table with you. Our success is your success also. You have encouraged us and helped us, and because of you, we continue to try. As this season come with its gratefulness, it's surrounding of friends and family, and its hope in a New Year, Randy, all the Her Majesty's Poms, and I wish for you and your little ones happiness, health and peace in the coming year. (and champion wins, lower gas prices, smiling judges, and a million dollars,)



Her Majesty's Sienna Skye our
2nd Generation of Blue and Tan



I think it time to get out

Victoria and Chuck



There will always be a
Persian in the house



Our Precious Maj