

## **Thisa and Thata**

By Norma Hansburg

### *That question of sportsmanship*

1. First let me say that 2007 was one of the three worst years of my life. The death of my brother, while not unexpected, was traumatic. My own physical well-being was at a low and it still is, and despite that and some terrible judging, I managed to maintain a high degree of sportsmanship – something that only one person bothered to even thank me for.

2. People who put up what I consider to be good dogs remain my friends and often they have put up mine. People who think Dog Shows are a big joke – and there are plenty of them – I drop like a hot potato. I have paid my way my entire life with money I have earned myself and anyone who wastes that money for any reason becomes my enemy.

3. A good sport is one who shakes the hand of the winner and keeps a good face on trying show conditions; takes wins with grace and appreciates the virtues on dogs that might have beaten him; does not plot and plan like a control freak how to build majors for his own dogs, while failing to support other peoples' wins. A good sport does not show under people whose dogs he has just bred to, since money has changed hands within the calendar year, and that's business. A good sport has good ring etiquette; does not run up on other dogs; follows instructions and avoids the appearance of excessive double-handling.

4. A good judge has excellent ring procedure, something only one in four judges actually has. A good judge has ring control. A good judge knows exactly why he placed a dog a certain way. Good judges make my short list. Good judges understand hands-on judging, since often the rings are not big enough to do enough gaiting. Many All-Breed judges do terrific hands-on – more of our specialty judges should learn it.

5. Must go and watch the ROSEBOWL, the first of the three college games I am planning to watch. HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

END PART ONE