

Thisa and Thata

What The Grand Victor Title Means to me.
by Norma Hansburg

My personal opinion is that the Parent Club has been cheapening the Grand Victor title. They have also been cheapening the title of Select. I think they want to cheapen it.

Years ago, they used to give many points for Group and BIS wins, then when Shepherds started winning lots of them, they stopped giving points for it. I think the same thing is happening in the Specialty ring. I do not know why they are always going the wrong way down one way streets.

In this day and age, with so much technology available and so few entries in the breed compared to years ago, we have a golden opportunity to use these titles for Breed improvement. The only titles the AKC requires awarded at a point show are BOB, BOS and BOW. How about doing something like this? Judge the show. Pick your select group with a list of numbers but withhold awarding the GV title and the select titles until the following criteria have been established:

- Every dog selected must pass the CHIC HEALTH conditions.
- Every dog selected must get at least one training title.
- No dog selected may have at any time, anywhere, bitten any person judge or exhibitor at any dog show.
- No dog exhibited shall have had surgery for a condition such as bloat.

These requirements having been met the titles shall then be awarded and all select animals will truly be select animals.

I am tired of National specialties where awards are given to dogs based on the following criteria:

- The meritorious service to the Parent Club by the owner;
- The wealth of the owner;
- The power of the handler to finish dogs;
- The number of dogs shown by the owner and the name recognition of the kennel.

This creates a very boring National with foregone conclusions. It also leaves little room for new people which is probably why so many people keep dropping out.

Now to get back to Group and BIS dogs. It is harder to get a BIS then it is to get a SELECT title yet we keep putting more and more emphasis on what is easy. Perhaps we are growing Obese. LAZY. Not really working with our dogs.

Dog shows are not races, awarded to the dog that runs fastest – or, they shouldn't be. Most All-Breed BIS dogs are far better trained and conditioned than dogs that just turn out for specialties. Our dogs have great minds and those minds should not be wasted.

Back in our 'hey day,' when entries were large and shows were fewer, no one was paid to do the work. There was no Dog Show Superintendent. The clubs did the work and banked the money. The *Review* editor was not a paid position. Not that they do not do a great job now, but open participation by members brings members in.

Professional management tends to discourage new talent. I think its time for a real change that will open up the Breed to new generations. It is time to change the way we look at our National. It is time. And time is quickly running out.