

Thisa and Thata
By Norma Hansburg
October 2007

ARE YOU BEING SERVED?

1. The Big Shlep . . . Tuesday, Oct 16. Left home at 2 AM New York Time. Arrived at Ft Collins Motel at Noon Colorado Time. Great Flight on Frontier. Dog treated like VIP. Caught 2.5 hours sleep on the flight. Everything went smoothly, except there was no one at the Toll Booths at The GW Bridge.

Spent a couple of hours at Freshman Orientation. Finding the show grounds and the host motel. Picked up packet from a very glamorous Gail Hardcastle. Gorgeous arena fabulous CLEAN stalls. Wonderful show site.

Checked out Host Motel which looked like THE MET and had lunch there. Returned for hospitality at eight after some ZZZZ and it was in THE OKLAHOMA ROOM. Talk about feeling welcome.

SHOP TIL YOU DROP

2. Wednesday, Oct 17. Spent the day buying from everybody. Hugging everybody, taking pictures and looking at all the new puppies and new classes. My family picked me up at The Motel and took me out for a terrific dinner at Bisettis. Delicious Calamari. Its in Old town Fort Collins.

SHOW ME THE MONEY

3. Thursday, Oct 18. Handlers here, handlers there, handlers, handlers everywhere. Kent went down for the Count. And went off to the hospital, thereby missing the Annual Meeting which (Surprise, Surprise) turned out to be really nice. The awards this year were wonderfully thoughtful and I got to duck out of the meeting during Lana's education pitch along with Bob Kish and we watched the ball game.

I kept running into Gloria we were obviously on the same schedule. One thing, Gentlemen: When there are ladies standing in the back of the room and you are sitting, whatever happened to good manners? Jack Newton and Mike Cheeks gave up seats to the ladies.

SHOWTIME!

4. Friday, Oct 19. Becky groomed dog in gorgeous coat and Sean went in and put on a SHOW. Cannot wait to see the videos of THE OPEN DOG CLASS. And thank you to the dozens of really knowledgeable people who appreciated Jack's performance. He loves to show. Who trained him? THE ONE AND ONLY MOSES. He was not planning on participating in SURVIVOR or SORRY WRONG NUMBER. Everybody calls him THE BIG GUY. (He likes a big ring). Thanks to Dan and Marilyn, he was crated in their stall where he was so well behaved he got invited back. I think he has a secret crush on Miranda. Turned in early to prepare for the long day's journey into night.

ED SULLIVAN

5. Saturday, Oct 20. Put on his usually smooth judging performance. Took four hours on bitches; three on dogs. Just right. I had the best seat in the house because the Gold page luncheon gave us free seats and food and favors and every dog that entered gaited right toward us and past us when they entered the ring. Had lunch with Patty and Gary and watched judging with Nancy Harper and Carmen. Carmen figured 15 dog selects I thought 12 or thirteen. He came closer on that one. I love Ed's ring control. I did not see much of it on the previous days. No one got injured although lots of people caught a stomach flu. I had that in '02. It was my 104th day at a National Specialty Show. The GV and GVX will go down in history. . . as for the rest, that's my own private mystery.

The dinner was nice because there was no head table, just many tables all over and people I knew at all of them. Sat with ARIZONA (Rick Hasse), table-hopped, ate two desserts and loved the souvenirs. Thought Ed's speech was really funny this year. I do remember it almost word-for-word, starting with "I have been up here nine times"

6. It took fourteen hours to get home because of the last minute snow, but hey, that new airport is really cool and I slept on the trip home. Never even saw the takeoff. Had Dog company on the plane and I think that Jack joined THE MILE HIGH CLUB. I saw him winking at that special's bitch.

7. I have to say it was the friendliest National I have ever been to. The Site was perfect and even the coffee was good. I was disturbed by one thing: Too much RAT RACING and not enough ring control. People, this is a DOG SHOW and dogs should be trained to SHOW not run. It is the judge's job to see that they do. That's how people get hurt. You need at least 200 dollars in cash. One hundred for tips and the other for shopping. Everything else is plastic. More later . . .

The German Shepherd by Design wishes to thank Norma Hansburg for generously offering to bring her ever-popular column exclusively to our website.