



PEOPLE IN POMS

with

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Dee Little

Pomeranians

Many thanks to the APC and the Pomeranian Review for inviting me to write my People in Poms feature. I have been very nervous about writing this, as I have so much I would like to say, but my weakness happens to be creative writing and expressing myself. I will start off with my beginning and how I came to know this beautiful breed.

One rainy Christmas Eve in 2005, my boyfriend came rushing through the door; I could tell he was hiding something under his coat. He ran to the bedroom and closed the door. Curious about what was going on, I went back to check on him. When I opened the bedroom door, this tiny little creamy puppy with hardly any hair was sitting on my bed. He looked unsure of his surroundings. I was so excited that I swooped him up into my arms. That puppy did not leave my arms for a year! I can remember brushing my teeth in the morning and still holding him. His name is Sunny and he everything to me.

After Sunny came into my life, I began to feel inclined to do some research and learn more about the breed. One of the first people I came across was Liz Heckert of Silhouette Poms. She was listed as the secretary of the local pom club. Since the time I first spoke with Liz, she has become one of my best friends and we have learned a lot from each other. I also began to email other breeders whose dogs I admired. I would introduce myself and asked to be placed on waiting lists. I now realize that breeders don't usually have "a list" but are willing to give priority to those who prove themselves & remain persistent. I wrote to these breeders in the way that I thought I would like to be written to, if I was a breeder. I wrote about myself and what my goals were. One day, I saw an ad for a show

bitch from Bob and Celeste Solano of CR Poms. My heart raced as I looked at this Ad. I immediately poured my heart out into a structured email asking about her.

This little girl later became Ch. CR Classic Leap of Faith (Faith). She is sired by Ch. Cheyenne's Kodiak Bear Second ROM (Beav) who is one of the key studs in my pedigrees. I waited and waited to hear back from Celeste. Even after talking on the phone, I just wasn't sure if she was going to sell Faith to me. When I got the news, I remember riding home from work singing to myself "Gotta have Faith, Faith, Faith". I flew out to California to meet Celeste at the big Eukanuba show. Now keep in mind that before this, I really had only gone to a few shows to watch, so to be at this show was incredible for me. I was a "nerd" and brought my video camera. I



CH. CR CLASSIC LEAP OF FAITH
(GROUP PLACER)

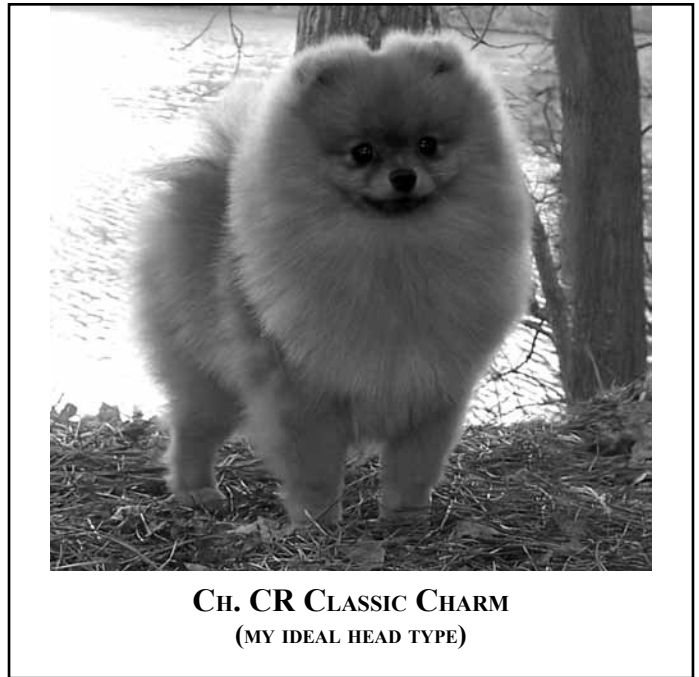
used up most all of the tape just walking around the Meet the Breed booths. So by the time I got to watch the Pom judging, I had only a few minutes of film left.

My second foundation bitch came from John and Chris Hertz of Chriscendo Poms. I was floored that they would even allow me to buy such a wonderful girl. Her name is Ch. Chriscendo Come Closer (Talia). Talia is the ideal foundation bitch to have. She is a granddaughter of BIS Ch. Pufpride Sweet Dreams ROMS (Parker) and Ch. Chriscendo Call To Arms ROMS (Colt); a very sound girl, a champion, a free-whelper, and an outstanding producer. Her first litter she was bred back to her grandsire, Colt, and all 3 puppies finished their championships at just over a year old.

I later purchased Faith's full sister Ch. CR Classic Charm (Charm). Charm exhibited the ideal head for me. With her pretty Great Elms background, she has small high set ears, a pretty petite wedge muzzle, great stop, and beautiful almond eyes. I consider Charm and Talia the root of my breeding program that will eventually help me to achieve my ideal dog.

The main lines that I work with are Chriscendo and Great Elms. I love the style and outline of a Chriscendo pom. They are very sound and healthy dogs, which I have learned is a hard combination to find. John and Chris have done a stellar job in creating their line and establishing consistency. I could go on and on about the wonderful assets of their dogs. Talia gave me a very special dog that I think will do wonders for my breeding program with the Chriscendo assets, BISS Ch. Dee Little Who's The Boss (Boss). Boss exudes exactly the outline and structure that I need and desire to move forward in my program. I chose to take Talia back to her grandfather, Colt, in order to produce a producer. Boss did me proud in his first litter with me. I hope that he continues to do so in the future.

The old Great Elms line was a bit harder to come by now and to make it harder, I was looking for specific traits of it to bring in. In order to get what I wanted, I chose bitches



CH. CR CLASSIC CHARM
(MY IDEAL HEAD TYPE)

that possessed these traits but would also complement the Chriscendo I had. I have 2 daughters out of Beav, who has a pedigree of all the big Great Elms producers. He produces wonderful coats, great temperaments, and the head that I love. I have also brought in some of Ken Griffith's line that descends from Ruth Beam's dogs. Ken has done a great job in creating a pretty type to his dogs. My ideal head would be displayed in my Charm and Rocky (Ch. Dee Little Birdie Told Me). I believe this head is more refined, charming in appearance and not overdone, yet not moderate or too foxy. They have a good stop, short wedge, pretty eye, small ears, a fox like expression, and yet very pleasing to the eye for me. It is almost like they are talking to me with their expression. With that said, I am not so much a head hunter and can appreciate all sorts of heads. This just describes my ideal.

I was told that it was hard to buy a nice girl to start a foundation with but I was up to the challenge. I wanted to start off in the right way. I had learned that some breeders would buy mediocre girls and breed up. I believe that this takes lots of time and money in the end. Since I am an accountant and like fast results with a quick rate of return on my investment, it was my nature to put forth the investment on the front end in order to gain a faster result (gain!). I was willing to spend the money to purchase quality bitches which would result in fewer dogs in my home to spoil. It was a question of how can I have as few of dogs in my program yet have quality enough to produce outstanding show puppies in the first generation? Now,



SUNNY
(MY FIRST POM)

with that, the bitch is only worth what she produces. In order to insure that I bred my quality girls correctly, I did my research and read many books to help guide me, books that would instill good breeding philosophies within me. Nothing is worse than to give a new person a quality bitch only to watch her later never bred to her true potential. I was not about to disappoint the breeders that gave me a chance with their girls. One of the best books to read is Patricia Craige's "Born To Win, Breed To Succeed". I like to highlight and go back and relook at the book.

One key thing that I have learned is that even 2 dogs of the same pedigree will not produce the same. I have had 2 full sisters that produced differently and I have seen even litters come out different that were repeated breedings. From this, I have learned the importance of selecting on traits. One cannot say that a dog will produce similar to another dog of similar pedigree, or that certain combinations of lines produce the same qualities. Selection, selection, selection!!!! Every dog in that pedigree carries different genes and they will always fall differently when put with various mates. If you are looking for a specific trait, then you need to look at the dog in front of you and decide how to go about getting it.

When selecting a mate for my girls, I like to take the phenotype of each dog and complement them as a match. In some cases this was a line breeding, and others it was an outcross. I found that keeping an open mind to outside studs has benefitted me the most in bringing in what my girls needed. I am always keeping my eye out for nice dogs and watching what is being produced around the world. I feel by keeping an open mind and staying up to date on results with what is being produced, that I am better equipped to make a decision on a stud match for my girls.

One of my other mentors, Jennifer Munn, always instilled in me the importance of realizing kennel blindness. I believe



CH. CHRISCENDO COME CLOSER
(MULTI BOB WINNER)

this to be very true. If you do not have the knowledge to see your dog's assets and faults, or chose to ignore them, then you will not make educated decisions to move forward in a program. Part of exercising this, so that I do not fall into it, is by doing evaluations on my puppies with my friend Liz Heckert and others. We are constantly evaluating our dogs during their puppy stages into adulthood and observing their movement to show them at their best. Since I show my own dogs and handle them every weekend, I am able to realize what traits my dog may need and what it may excel in.

I have only been showing Poms for 3 years, but some of my highlights in this breed are listed below. I would consider all of these goals that I had set for myself and achieved. I always look forward to the next highlight!

- Ch. Chriscendo Come Closer was tied for #1 Dam in 2009
- Ch. Dee Little Birdie Told Me won a Group 1 and 2 from the 6-9 puppy class breeder/owner handled
- Won a Best In Show Specialty on my Ch. Dee Little Who's The Boss
- BISS Ch. Dee Little Who's The Boss ranked at #15 in 2009 with only 5 months of showing as a special after he finished his championship at a year old with multiple group placements
- BISS Ch. Dee Little Who's The Boss won a 5 point major and BOB over specials as a 6 month old puppy his second weekend out and our first experience in the Bred By class
- Ch. Chriscendo Come Closer produced my first bred by litter which was an all champion litter in 2009
- In my 3 years of showing, I have 7 total champions to date; 4 of which are Bred By champions and the other 3 are my foundation bitches

Faith started me off at the shows in 2007. She was the perfect pom for me to practice with. It never fazed her that I was dragging her around to shows; she always showed for me. It also never occurred to me that I was showing a dog that was out of coat, so she was not competitive at that time on a novice. Faith was my learning curve. I will be honest and tell people this story, as I know some of you who are reading this are new in Poms or showing in general. Faith and I lost for a good period of time before I even won a point. This was more due to my lack of handling skills and knowledge of grooming. This had nothing to do with the quality of dog she was. I always believed in her. In fact the day that she finished, she won Best of Breed and a Toy Group 3 placement with me on lead. I was so proud of her! She is actually sitting up by my head on the sofa

as I type this. I would hate for anyone new to get discourage in showing. I have always been a believer in the saying "you can do anything if you put your mind to it". I find that is VERY true in the sport of showing dogs. When you want something so bad, you will put your energy and focus into achieving that goal.

I have always set goals for myself. Every goal is a little higher than the last and that is what drives me to do better. I believe goals need to be in place in the aspect of your breeding program as well as in the show ring. I encourage everyone to think about their goals and how to go about achieving them with your Poms. They do not have to be too large of goals, but just start off with small goals. I started just wanting to win a point as a goal and breed a pretty dog to show in Bred By class. When you achieve what you desire, it makes you feel good about yourself and proud of your dog. I remember telling the persons that I bought my foundation bitches from that my goal was to gain ROM's and Championships on their girls. So far I am holding up to that and very close. They probably thought I was nuts saying that to them as a new person.

I am very proud of these wins that I have. I am most proud since they are my dogs that I bred and/or own. I love raising my puppies and training them into show dogs. I have a weakness for rooting for the bred by dogs. I feel a great respect for breeders and what they go through in order to be in that ring on that day showing their dog that they are proud of. This breed is hard to raise puppies, I know. Add into that, having to juggle time to work a full time job, raise a litter of puppies, show on the weekends, and deal with possible sick puppies. It is hard and exhausting at times. I will admit to throwing my hands up in the air and wondering why go on? Well everyone I will give you all a good example of why. . . On Friday I had a 2 week old puppy that I have been trying to



BOSS AT 6 MONTHS OLD
I KNEW HE WOULD BE A STAR WITH HIS
STUNNING OUTLINE



BISS CH. DEE LITTLE WHO'S THE BOSS
(MULTI GRP PLACER)



CH. DEE LITTLE DAISY DUKE
DAISY & ROCKY FINISHED ON THE SAME DAY
WITH MAJORS MAKING THEM MY FIRST
BRED BY CHAMPIONS!

save and hand feed die on me. It was the only puppy in the litter and was a section on my girl Faith's very last litter. I was very sad and cried like I usually do for these poor puppies. But

then I pulled myself together and put on a smiling face the next day to show the dogs I feel very blessed to show. I came back winning a Best In Show Specialty on my beloved BISS Ch. Dee Little Who's The Boss (Boss). I have learned that there are many downs and yet many ups as well. I try to make the most of each moment of joy that I have, because that is what will get you through the hard times.

On a different topic, one thing that I have observed about showing is that it is a competition. What is great about it is that it brings people together with a common hobby that probably normally would have never been friends outside of showing. What is bad about the competition aspect is that people tend to over critique what people say and assume the worst. I ask all of you to try and assume the best of intentions and give others the benefit of the doubt when you hear someone speak. Be more open and friendly to others. Embrace your neighbor as it is easy to get caught in the moment of the competition. I have been guilty of this myself but I do try and learn from my mistakes.

Right about here is when I usually read a breeder talking about BSD! Well, my opinion is very simple. We have no facts yet since there is no DNA marker, therefore I will not be one to judge anyone on what method they chose to breed their dogs.

Thank you to Liz Heckert, Becky Johnson, Ellen Parkin, Judy Green, Celeste & Bob Solano, John and Chris Hartz, Sharon Yampiro, Lisa Aiello, Linda Templeton, Dr. Taylor, Nika Kocjancic, Nady Godbout, Ken & Eleanor Griffith, Shannon & Andrew Dvorak, Wallace Robertson, and my mommy Cindy Crane. All of these persons have support me in some form with my dogs and I owe a lot to each of them.

People say that we are obsessed in this breed, but the more I thought about it

with my Poms around me, I began to realize that I am not obsessed. I am in love. Pomeranians make me feel good inside and are loyal little dogs. They are always happy to see me when I come home from a hard day at work or a show. They aim to please me, as I to them. This is love and not obsession. Some of my favorite moments with my Poms are sticking my hands down in my pen of 10 week old puppies and having them crowd around with many many kisses to give and jumping for joy. I love sitting on my floor and having all my Poms crowd around in excitement with a game of how many can get into my lap at one time. I love laying on my sofa for a nap and having a sweet pom in every free spot napping with me, or one of my hairless 5 month old puppies following me every step I take around the house as if I am the most fascinating thing to them. These are the reasons why I am in love and why I chose this particular breed to show and open my life to.

Christine Crane

and the Dee Little Pomeranians



THIS IS THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF MY DOGS
FREE TO ROAM MY HOUSE AND TAKE THEIR NAPS OR PLAY



CH. DEE LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME
ROCKY



DEE LITTLE THE BOSS' DAUGHTER
CHICA WILL BE MY FIRST 2010 HOPEFUL WHO IS A WONDERFUL
COMBINATION OF BOSS AND CHARM



BLOSSOM IS A 2010 HOPEFUL
FULL SISTER TO BOSS AND DAISY



GREAT RIVERS BEAU-TOX
IVY WILL BE BRINGING IN QUALITY
BLACK AND TAN AND CREAMS



ROCKY WINNING A GROUP 1
FROM THE PUPPY CLASS