

The Belgian Sheepdog “Spirit” Award

by Cathy Rehn Vella

It's that time again! Time to put together your titles and your certificates, large or small, one or many!

The Award:

The award is in two parts: one part remains with the BSCA club while the other part is kept by the winning team member, i.e. Dog trainer and dog. First: the winning team gets a custom head study in pencil done by Cathy Rehn Vella. This head study will be presented at the banquet of that year's National. Next a plaque will be engraved with the winning team's names: Trainer and Dog/titles. This plaque will go on the award chest that will be kept in the hospitality room during all Nationals. The chest itself is adorned with a scene depicting a Belgian Sheepdog watching over his sheep in a pastoral setting. The chest will contain all the entries and their dog's biographies and new titles. They will be categorized in the years they participated and their dog will have his own folder within that year. This award chest is to be available to anyone who wants to look through it as well as by prospective breeders and puppy buyers who are looking for a particular type of dog - basically a reference and historical guide to the talents and achievements of our breed. Everyone will be encouraged to participate whether your dog has earned one or earned five new titles that year:

Your dog's achievements will have a permanent place of honor in the “Spirit” Award Chest.

Purpose:

To honor the memory of a strong, compassionate, independent and competitive woman. A woman who, as a nurse, spent her life caring for very sick and premature babies, while in her personal life she took in every homeless and abused dog, cat and various other animals. She over came the hardship and pain caused by a drunk driver that left her permanently in a wheel chair. She gave up her dream of retiring and traveling to compete with her own dogs, Siberian Huskies. Instead she took up my dream of training and showing my Belgian Sheepdogs. She gave me companionship, solace when things went wrong, revelry when things went well, and direction when I got lost. She was my best friend, art tutor, critic, counselor and advisor - my mother: **Dorothy M. Rehn**

To honor the memory of my first Belgian Sheepdog. He went with me everywhere: to play; to work, sometimes spending the whole night or weekend in an office; on the road to a show; to the riding ring to see my horse; to the



field to see the sheep and then sometimes just out back for a walk in the park. He was always there with that unwavering look of devotion and love. His eyes always showed his intelligence and understanding as well as an underlying concern should he not be performing a task “just right”. He was a “gentleman” in everything he did. He went about his business with a quiet sense of duty and compassion. He was to me and to those who knew him: **AM/CAN CH Johnsondales Pascha Partout UD, HS, NA,BAD, CGC, TDI, TT, Working Dog.**

Award Requirements:

The dog team who earns the most new titles in a year wins. The person who trains the majority of the titles receives the award and will have their name added to the plaque as the team: Trainer's Name & Dog's Name and titles (not necessarily the owners name if they have not participated physically in the training of any titles that particular year). Participants will be required to submit two pictures (B&W or Color copies); short bio of the dog; short explanation of any obscure titles that might not be well recognized. Closing date March 15, 2008. This will allow time to complete the head study and plaque for presentation at that year's National.

SUBMIT the following to:

CathyRehn-Vella

18792 Munn Rd Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

blackbirdgraphics@windstream.net

A short bio of your dog and its accomplishments

- 1. A list of titles earned from 1-1-09 to 12-31-09***
- 2. List who trained and showed the dog to each title. (Explain less recognizable titles)***
- 3. Submit 2 black and white photos of the dog to help in the head study drawing of the dog***
- 4. Include a copy of the pedigree to be kept on file in the folder***