



AKC Junior News

The official newsletter of the AKC Junior Organization | Fall 2019

A Message from Mari-Beth O'Neill

The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and we look forward to seeing the Juniors and their families that will be competing at the AKC National Championship, AKC Juniors Classic and the AKC Junior Agility Competition in Orlando, December 13-15.

We are thrilled with the growth of Juniors participating in multiple events!!! Following the Junior Showmanship Competition there will be a reception for all the Juniors participating in events in Orlando. There will be a presentation of the Junior Versatility Scholarships and the Top Ten Juniors for each group at the reception.

Staff will provide assistance to those who have aged out and may have been added to a dog as a Junior. We will complete the transfer to remove the Junior for a \$10 fee if received within 6 months of turning 18.

Best wishes for a happy healthy holiday season, safe travels.

[Junior Clinics](#)

[Junior Seminars](#)

[Jrs on
Facebook](#)

[Master National Retriever Club](#)

Congratulations!!!!!!

Haleigh McKeithan's Labrador Retriever Slam qualified at the 2019 Master National Retriever Club, held October 17-27, 2019 in Cheraw, South Carolina. Haleigh handled her dog through the six series to qualify at this prestigious event. The qualifications to enter include that the dog must have accumulated 6 qualifications at a Master National member club between the dates of August 1, 2018 and July 31, 2019. The dog must also have a MH title from the AKC.



Michigan Sporting Dog Association Juniors University

In 2016 the MSDA decided to put together a program for the juniors, now called the [Juniors University](#), and our club member, Debbie Davis, has taken on the job of organizing the educational events we offer. We began by asking the AKC to change things, and now our Juniors are allowed to compete with any breed dog at our sporting group show. In two years, we have doubled the number of juniors competing over the weekend. In 2017 we had classes in canine anatomy, canine first aid, and ring etiquette, followed by having members of the PHA come in to work with the juniors in the rings. For 2018 our agenda had Norma Smith do a handling seminar for the juniors.

In 2019, we offered classes in the other events that take place over the weekend

such as dock-diving, barn hunt, and lure coursing, in addition to a program with classroom instruction. The juniors are also invited to attend the MSDA's Judges Education Seminars held two weeks before our show at no charge. This gives them an opportunity to learn about other breeds in the sporting group, and also allows them to meet many breeders and exhibitors who can serve as a reference for future questions about their breeds.

We are grateful to our teammates, the AAKC, for partnering with us, and hope to continue to grow this program each year. And also to the AKC for putting our Juniors events in their newsletters.



Elise Patti won Best Junior and the MSDA Juniors University Scholarship.

Junior Spotlight: Aubrey Ferguson

My name is Aubrey Ferguson. I am 7 years old and live on a small farm near Odon, Indiana. I just completed my 2nd year in mini 4-H. My 4-H projects include showing cattle, horses, pigs and dogs. The dog project is my favorite. My dog's name is Emma and she is just 2 years old. Emma was born on December 25th making her a Christmas baby! Emma is a blue merle Miniature American Shepherd. My family and I also have a black tri male named Fetch that

my 11 year old sister Taylor shows. We chose this breed because it is a small herding dog known to be highly intelligent and obedient.

I have shown Emma during my 2 years in mini 4-H. I started teaching Emma to sit and stay when she was only a pup. She is very treat-motivated which makes her easy to train. Emma and I practiced during our weekly 4-H meetings, and I also attended a weekly agility class offered by a local trainer. My sister and I also train our dogs at home on rally and agility courses we made up.

I was only 6 years old in the fall of 2017 when I participated at the 2017 Miniature American Shepherd National Specialty which was held at Purina Farms, Gray Summit, Missouri. Emma received her 1st qualifying leg towards her Novice Obedience title. Following this show, Emma and I continued to practice at home and added rally in area AKC events. Emma and I returned to the MASCUSA Nationals in the spring of 2018 competing in both obedience and rally. Emma currently holds the following titles: Beginner Novice Obedience & Rally Novice.

I am really proud of Emma! I plan to continue her training and attend more AKC events. My sister and I plan to begin a breeding program soon that will begin with a litter from Fetch and Emma. My biggest hope for Emma is that we continue to do well and that she will raise puppies that will be loved as much as she is!





Junior Spotlight: Olivia Fletes

My name is Olivia Fletes and my dog's name is Bear. Bear is a 3-year-old beagle. We train in obedience, rally, agility, and showmanship. Of all these sports, agility is our favorite since it involves action! We have fun in rally and obedience as well. I love that I can talk to and encourage Bear in a rally course to get her excited. Showmanship is good practice for Bear, and it makes me a better handler.

Bear and I do agility in our backyard every day when the weather is nice. We train with the teeter, A-Frame, pause table, tunnels, hoops, and jumps. We began agility training when Bear was a year old. I set a hoop or jump bar in a doorway and coaxed her over with treats. Now she flies over jumps with her ears out and tail up. She used to be scared of the big A-Frame, but once I used a leash with her and help her over (again, using treats), and she was a pro at it. We set up courses in the yard to train on, and sometimes we load up our agility equipment and take it down to the county fairgrounds to get practice in different places.

Obedience training started when Bear was a puppy. She is a fast learner, and quickly learned the basics – come, heel, sit, stay, and down. After this, obedience has been an on-going process. I teach Bear more advanced training and still brush up on the basics every now and then. We practice rally exercises with cones in the backyard. Bear does very well in rally since she already knew some obedience skills.

Living in a small town, there are no trainers to go to, so Bear and I have learned as we've gone. This year, a past member of my 4-H club offered dog training classes, which was nice since they were local. I am spending this summer near a bigger town where dog training classes are offered. We do agility, obedience, rally, and showmanship. The showmanship classes have helped a lot, as I knew little about showmanship before.

Bear and I are in 4-H, so we will do showmanship, obedience, and agility at the fair. We have also competed in AKC shows and trials. We have earned the CGC and RN titles and have completed our first obedience leg. Attending shows helps a lot with our training. We have met so many people who are more than happy to help us.

Training Bear in AKC events has been enjoyable and I have learned a lot. Dog training is a fun and on-going activity. I train my dog but she teaches me as well. I can't wait to train my dog in other AKC events, as well as train and show in our favorite events next year!

Send Us Your Story!

Junior Photo Gallery

Florida Juniors Jubilee



Junior Accomplishments



Livia Dodd - 1st Place Jr Showmanship, Henry County 4-H



Grace Szczurek - 1st Place Sr Showmanship, DuPage County 4-H



Kyliee Kikuyana, Best Junior and Scholarship Winner, GKC



Best Junior, Tarheel Circuit, Raleigh



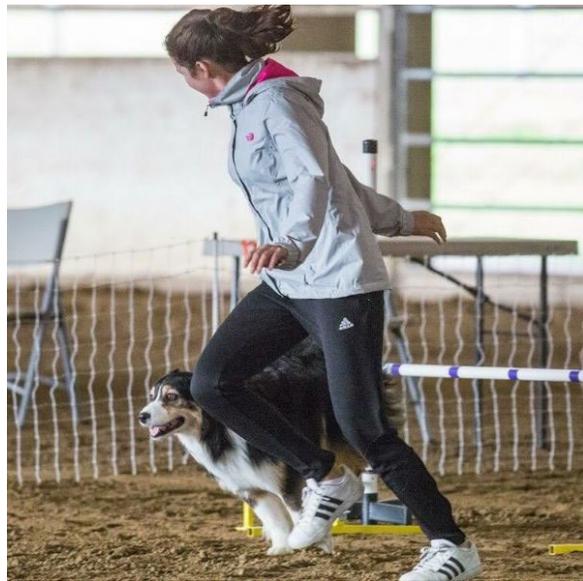
Kaitlyn Johnson, Trick Title



Karis Barton



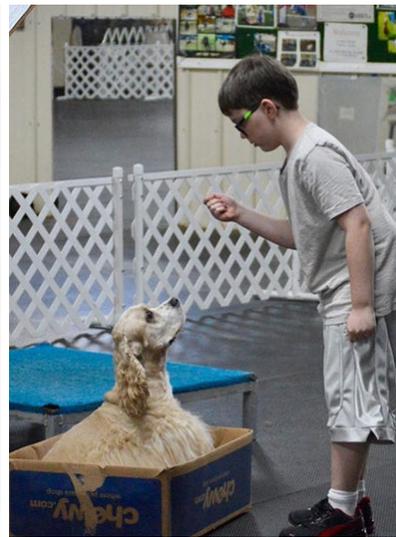
Natalie and Bentley, first time showing



Sasha Zitter



Portland Kennel Club



Boy earns Trick Dog Novice Title with his 11-year-old rescue Cocker Spaniel.

Send Us Your Photos!



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