

Warwick, Rhode Island - USA - From My Eyes...

by Kelli Harmon

First off, a big CONGRATS to ALL the winners in Warwick!!! It was a pleasure to see such nice dogs everywhere.

We left home on Sunday afternoon and pulled into Warwick Monday morning just in time for some lure coursing. Unfortunately, Mojo let the girlie season get the best of him. But Cleo turned in some decent runs and got a 4th in Singles. There was some hot competition in Singles; their scores rivaled that of the field champs; and all were higher than any of the Open dogs. The course got a bit ugly in spots, so may have been a little overwhelming for some of the inexperienced runners. However, Mojo turned in a brilliant performance as test dog for the JC runs and showed me he did have a brain in there somewhere.

After settling into Warwick, we were ready for some action on the Agility field. On Tuesday morning, we watched some beautiful runs from the Excellent dogs, but Debbie Joslin's run with Cody was especially thrilling. Those two just seemed to float around the course and were super fast! Although Mojo turned in some decent runs in open, it wasn't quite enough to get him a Q. He still had his mind in the gutter and had no focus, so he made two mistakes in one class. His second run was only one mistake but just a hair too slow to qualify. Had it not been for the soft ground and rising heat, he may have made it.

Cleo, on the other hand, put out some wonderful runs in novice! She scored a perfect 100 in standard, and that was her last leg for her title! She is now a BCOA Versatile Basenji, too! Her jumpers run was flawless as well, but because of the heat she got one time fault. So with a score of 99 and

another 1st place, she finished her other title! Not bad for my guys having been out of practice for a year up until the weekend before the National (where Cleo also got a "double Q" for her second legs)! When Cleo set out to have babies last fall, we pretty much dropped all our training after the National to focus on the litter and then just did some racing this summer for fun.

Speaking of racing, we rushed off to the LGRA meet after the Agility for some good straight racing. Here is where my dogs really have a good time, and they showed it. We had a record-

breaking entry of 29, quite a few more dogs than even the lure coursing had! Mojo really turned on the afterburners and placed 4th, while his brindle buddy Cleo was close behind in 6th. She is usually my little rocket dog, but Mojo has really come into his own this year and even beaten her a couple of times. In fact, he earned his racing championship this summer by winning the meet! That also earned him his BCOA Versatile Basenji Excellent award earlier this year.



On Wednesday, we headed back for more racing, this time the NOTRA ovals. Another large entry of 23 for this beautiful day. Now, we've only done ovals a couple of times, so my guys haven't figured out how to run on the inside. They take the long

outside track where the lure is, and it really slows them down. However, they still pulled out some pretty good runs and finished with a 5th for Mojo and an 8th for Cleo. Mojo now has a couple of big ribbons for his racing efforts. Cleo also earned her last leg for her JOR so that makes three, yes THREE new titles for her at nationals this year as well as the VB award!!! I also want to put in a brag for my Midwest racing friends. We certainly have a good time at our own "local" meets with lots of good competition. We all made it to Rhode Island and I was pleased that the Midwest racing fools took 8 of the top 10 placings in both the LGRA and NOTRA meets! We



are a force to be reckoned with, and I'm hoping some of us might get lucky enough to try our hand on the west coast next year.

After the exciting racing we had to hurry up and compose ourselves for the Rally Obedience that night. Again, we haven't trained in a year, so I think I was stressing out more than the dogs. This was our first time in the Rally ring, and boy, was I pleasantly surprised! There were 6 dogs competing in our class and 5 of them qualified. Three cheers for them all as this was everyone's first time in the ring! Cleo worked her way to a 95 and 1st place! Even Mr. Girlie-Chaser Mojo stayed somewhat on track and earned a 91, good enough for second place! I was proud of my gang. They earned their first Rally legs together in style. There were some other nice performances, and I'm inspired to keep working on the Rally stuff. It's time to get the puppies in training!

Now, time for the serious conformation stuff. As for my puppies, I wasn't expecting much for them this year because they are going to be slow-maturing dogs. I was pleased at how well they performed and very happy even though they didn't get any placements in Sweeps or regular classes. We also got some positive comments from well-respected exhibitors, so I am looking forward to watching them shine in a couple of years. For now, it was an honour just to be able to show in the large and tough Bred-By class! Also, a little brag from this summer -- my Roxie earned her first point at her first show and my first time in the Bred-By class earlier this year. Big smiles for little milestones!

Back to the National. Mojo did us proud in RI and won the Field Trial dog class. He loves it out there in the big open ring! He was 4th in stud dog, which gave us more lovely trophies to take home. And Cleo did something this year as well, managing to pull off a 2nd place in Brood Bitch class! She said she wanted a piece of the action, too. This was also great practice for the puppies, getting them in the ring several times throughout the week.

On Friday night at the annual meeting, Mojo also received a couple more awards. He was the highest-placing LGRA and NOTRA dog that also qualified in another event (Rally, in our case). These were beautiful baskets donated in honor of his father Jack, DC Bojak's UnderCover Kojak

SC FCh TT SDHR, who passed away earlier this year. It was very special for Mojo to be able to get these awards.

And last but not least, we had a great time at the fun night! My little red pup, Roxie, won curliest tail and her brindle brother Lenny was 4th. Lenny also won the "most white" class. My black pup, Louie, was 4th in the trick class with his tail-wagging and Mojo was 1st with his boot camp army crawl! For my favorite class, the best yodeler, Mojo howled away in honour of his buddy, Cosmo, and was a very close 2nd. We came away with some



great prizes from the fun night including some lovely dog beds!

We had a great time this year, and as always it was over way too fast. I didn't get to chat nearly enough with all the wonderful folks that were there. A big THANK YOU to Bill, Andrew, and all the hard workers who helped to put on the show this year. I can't wait to do it again!

Thanks for letting me rant and rave about my special kids, and check out their *new* alphabet soup titles.

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Scenes from the 2006 BCOA National Specialty - Rhode Island

