

## Junior Handlers



My name is John Thomas and I am 11 years old. A few weeks ago my grandmother and her friend needed some help at a dog show in Greenville and asked me to help. My grandmother worked with me, with her dog Mojo, and we practiced the week before. At first I was kind of nervous when I went in the ring but I finally got the hang of it. I was not so nervous the next time because I felt more confident that I knew what to do. The judge had us go around the ring and then the judge looked at their teeth and felt all over all the dog's bodies and then we went around

the ring again. The first time I went in was on Saturday and Mojo and I got a second place ribbon. That was pretty cool. On Sunday we went in the ring and did the same thing we did on Saturday except it was a different judge. The first time we went in the ring we got Winner's dog which is a blue ribbon first prize. I was excited when she handed me my ribbon. I was so excited that I didn't understand that the judge was telling me to stay in the ring because now we were going for Best of Breed! Then I was really excited because there were even more dogs in the ring and some of them were already champions. This time we got Best of Winners and I was even more excited. It was awesome ! My Gam-mie's other boykin got Best of Breed that day which was also pretty cool. After the show I asked my grandmother if I could show Mojo again and she told me about the Junior Handler's program, and I thought about it and decided I would like to do it. Last week I got my Junior Handler's lapel pin and my registration number

and I am going with her to a show in NC in September. I can't wait to learn more about showing dogs and my grandmother is going to sign me up for the next clinic for Juniors. I love dogs, especially Boykins. I have a Boykin named Susie. We might go to obedience classes in Charleston this winter so I can go to obedience competitions with her. Showing Mojo was really fun. I can't wait to show him again!





## Spotlight on... Sarah & Sophia



My two Boykins are the greatest ambassadors for the Boykin breed way up here in New York! They are the sweetest most affectionate and lovable dogs and while they don't have the opportunity to do what they were created to do (retrieve fowl) they are happy! We spend our days swimming, retrieving tennis balls and socializing.

They love the snow and the water and, once they have their daily exercise, are content to be in the house at my side. They go everywhere with me and are constantly admired by strangers. Every once in a while I come across someone who knows the breed (usually a hunter) otherwise they just spread the word that Boykins are one of the loveliest breed of dogs. They are great with children, other dogs and adults. Everybody we meet loves them. I know many breeders prefer hunting homes and sell exclusively to them but I am ever so thankful I have my two best friends as they have brought me a tremendous amount of joy. I just cannot imagine my life without my Boykins.

Sarah is pictured first and she is the curlier of the two. The second one is Sophia and she is smaller, wavy and a little darker although they are from the same litter. I couldn't decide which one I wanted so I took both home with me. It was one of the best decisions I have ever made as they keep each other company.

- Bonnie Cocuzza



## Top 10 Things Dogs Eat That Can Hurt Them

*This List May Surprise You*

You name it and dogs can get into it. Some dogs actually seek out things to chew, eat or destroy.

Some of these items are generally non-toxic while other items (including foods) can be highly toxic. Below is a list of the most toxic items dogs commonly ingest.

If your dog eats something and you have any doubt about whether it is dangerous or toxic, always call your veterinarian or local emergency clinic. Most toxins are treatable, and given time and treatment many pets do quite well.

They include:

- Chocolate
- Cocoa bean mulch
- Cigarettes and cigarette butts
- Mushrooms
- Paint balls
- Potpourri
- Grapes and raisins
- Slug bait
- Some types of chewing gum that contain Xylitol
- Pennies
- Yarn, string, ribbon, cassette tape and other similar items

