

The Chihuahua Club of America recently held the first Spring Rotating Specialty to feature the new four day format, with the Chihuahua Club of Michigan hosting. Our membership voted to go to this format a little over two years ago; essentially, it allows us to schedule two sweepstakes and two separate shows without overloading the Judges, and poses no need to share Judges as we have in the past. As with any first effort, there are many improvements that can be made in the future; nevertheless, this was a very special, enjoyable event that the host club can be proud of. There were many activities, including ringside mentoring, a seminar on handling, a panel discussion, and a match, along with a welcoming breakfast, a banquet, and an auction.

The most impressive aspect of this event had to be the participation of our Junior members. While there were only nine of them entered, that is still more than we usually see; and these young people really got involved. It seemed at times that they were everywhere, doing all sorts of jobs to help the clubs. Our goal when we began to upgrade our Juniors program was to encourage their participation and make them a more visible and involved part of our membership. These shows proved that our Juniors can be a valuable asset to the Clubs. We will have young people growing up in the sport, and being trained to do the work and accomplish the missions that are so integral to the CCA and the regional Clubs.

There is another very positive aspect to the Juniors program. These young people provide a new dynamic and energy to Club functions. At this Spring show, our older members seemed to take the cue from the Juniors, emulating their exhibition of sportsmanship and camaraderie. This has always been a sport for the whole family, and these shows really had that feel throughout. The seminars were attended by young and old alike, and it seemed that everyone gained from the experience.

The educational value of these specialties is incredibly rich. The shows and seminars, combined with the chance to meet and share ideas and techniques with Chihuahua enthusiasts from around the country, provide a venue that will benefit anyone who has an interest in our breed.

The four day format should serve us well in the future, and hopefully will feature most of the things we are able to offer in the Fall—most notably Judges' education, which is always something that we need to make available to the different parts of the country. The next Spring Rotating

CCA specialty is in California, and the plan is to feature a “Top Twenty” show in conjunction with the specialties. Oh, by the way, the Juniors have requested a “Junior Handling seminar” like the one we have been doing in Chicago. We will do everything possible to see that they get it.

If you love Chihuahuas, the CCA National and CCA Rotating Spring specialty will be of great interest and benefit to you. So make plans to attend these wonderful shows at your earliest opportunity. For details and locations, please visit our website at www.chihuahuclubofamerica.com.

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