

AKC/Eukanuba National Championship: A Breed Apart

Suzanne Stowe

DECEMBER 16, 2009, 4:30 P.M. EST

Oscar, the Irish Wolfhound therapy dogThe AKC/Eukanuba National Championship was held December 12 and 13 in Long Beach, Calif., so I took advantage of the close proximity to attend my first large dog show. And large it was! There were dogs everywhere, along with show rings, agility tents, dock jumping, vendors and everything else dog-related.

I started out by meeting some of the different breeds. What was great about this show is that many of the rarer breeds were represented, and I got to see several in the flesh that I had only read about in DOG FANCY and Dog World. The breeders were very friendly and eager to share information. I will be sharing more pictures and fun from the show in future blogs.

Oscar with his ownerOne of the first dogs I met and one of the most impressive was Oscar, an Irish Wolfhound. I had seen one from a distance before, but never up close. And Oscar was more than willing to be up close. He has a wonderful temperament.

Oscar weighs 188 pounds and when he stands up on his hind legs to get a treat from his owner, he is over seven feet tall. But Oscar is also a gentle giant and is a therapy dog in hospitals in Southern California. He even has his own motto, "If you can't run with big dogs, stay on the porch."

I hope you enjoy the pictures of Oscar and have a chance to go to a dog show in your area – you'll have a wonderful time!

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