

## Why No Winning French Bulldogs?

**Even the most superior Frenchies have some tough competition in the Non-Sporting group.**

*By Allan Reznik*

Q. As popular as the French Bulldog has become over the past 10 to 15 years, and with so many reputable breeders reaching new heights in fulfilling the AKC breed standard's requirements, why has the French Bulldog never won nor will ever win the Westminster dog show in New York?

A. I agree, there are some stellar Frenchies out there being campaigned these days, but it's still tough to get past the lavishly coated Standard and Miniature Poodles and Lhasa Apsos in the Non-Sporting Group. That is not to say, however, that exceptional Frenchies are escaping the judges' notice.

Back in December of 2003, the typey and charming cream Frenchie bitch Ch. Bandog's Jump For Joy won the Group at the prestigious AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, ably handled by Larry Cornelius for Dr. and Mrs. Abel and Dr. and Mrs. Sullivan. The judge on this night was Non-Sporting authority Dr. Robert Berndt. "Joy" had a huge number of admirers and was a Best in Show winner. More recently, other Frenchies have claimed BIS honors in various parts of the country.

Handlers of Schipperkes, Tibetan Spaniels, Bostons, and Frenchies will readily admit it takes a superior specimen and a knowledgeable, confident judge to get past the breeds with hair but it can be done. So take heart. I think your prophecy that a Frenchie "will [n]ever win the Westminster dog show" is a tad premature.