

Editor's Page

So Many Good Things...

We have so many good things to offer in this issue of that it's almost overwhelming, and we extend our thanks to the many individuals who contributed to the wealth of information on these pages.

As promised, in this issue we bring you the first feature on the 2007 Top Sires and Dams, this time covering the Top Sire and the Top Dam among all breeds, and those in each of the seven Groups. The breeders and owners of the featured dogs were sincerely pleased to learn that their dogs were the top producers in their Groups in 2007 and generously helped us put their stories together. I have no doubt you'll find this feature, with a multitude of photos and other information, fascinating. Next month we'll bring you the listings of the Top Sires and Dams in each of the Working and Herding breeds, with feature stories on a few of the producers from each Group.

For our many readers who want to continually learn more about different breeds, our Cardigan Welsh Corgi Breed Feature in this issue offers marvelous contributions from breeders and judges both here and in the U.K., with a great deal of in-depth information about this very interesting breed. Then there's coverage of an exciting Westminster week, including the Show Dogs of the Year Awards dinner.

Just before press time DR Editor-at-Large Bo Bengtson returned from Crufts to report that the Giant Schnauzer, Eng. Ch. Jafrak Philippe Olivier, was Best in Show under Clare Coxall, owner-handled by Kevin Cullen. The American Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Ch. Caraway Celebrate Life, was the Terrier Group winner and the U.S.-bred American Cocker Ch. San Jo's Born To Party won the Gundog Group – and as it happens is a son of Ch. San Jo's Born To Win, the dog that's tied for Top Sire in the Sporting Group for 2007! To top it all off the 2006 Number 1 Cardigan Welsh Corgi in the U.S. – and Number 5 Herding dog to boot – made the trip to Birmingham as well and came away with a Group Third ribbon from Crufts. We'll have complete coverage of Crufts in the next issue.

To end on an unfortunate note, we also learned just before press time that long-time fancier Roger Rechler passed away on March 12 following a battle with lung cancer. Mr. Rechler was best known for his very successful association with the Grandeur Afghan Hounds, which he inherited from their original owner, Sunny Shay, when she died in 1978. Under his ownership and in partnership with Michael Canalizo, the Grandeur Afghans won more than 300 Best in Shows and produced the top-winning Hound of all time, Ch. Tryst of Grandeur. Outside the world of dogs, Roger Rechler was a successful real estate developer; Newsday said of him that as a businessman and developer on Long Island, N.Y. he "helped set the region's development agenda for four decades." Funeral services for Mr. Rechler were held on March 14 on Long Island.

Christi McDonald, Editor