

ShowStoppers

Mark Threlfall, UKC Exec. VP: A 'serendipitous' start in dogs.

Sue LeMieux

Mark Threlfall, executive vice president of the United Kennel Club, was an exceptional professional handler who piloted hundreds of dogs to their American Kennel Club Championships. Apprenticed by renowned all-breed professional handlers Jane and Robert Forsyth (now AKC all-breed judges) and the late William Trainor, Threlfall handled dogs from every Group to Best-in-Show wins, including Ch. Salilyn's Condor, the English Springer Spaniel, who was No. 1 All Breeds and went on to win Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 1993.

Q:How did you get your start in dogs?

A: My start in dogs was, in a word, serendipitous. I was 16 years old, had just gotten my driver's license and wanted a car of my own more than anything. David Whitney, a young man who sat behind me in my homeroom class, heard I was looking for an after-school job. He said that the kennel where he worked needed help and that I should apply there. That day after school, I became the newest employee of the Harmo Kennels of Anna (Mosher) Boardman. The rest, as they say, is history.

Want to read the full story? Pick up the September 2008 issue of DOG WORLD today, or subscribe to receive the best dog articles, dog news, and dog information every month!