

My First Dog Show

By Michele Reeves

I will preface this article by stating that I am a self-proclaimed raw-boned novice conformation exhibitor. However, I am totally smitten with Italian Greyhounds and want to enjoy all I can with this intelligent breed, be it walking my dog in a circle in hopes of having a magic finger pointed at me or simply snuggling on the sofa together watching a video.

In 2005 I began my quest for a reputable Italian Greyhound breeder that could provide me with a healthy

companion. After a year of research and referrals, I located Sherry Phillips, Logos Italian Greyhounds, in Tennessee. After much mentoring and advice, I acquired my first bed warmer, Logos Passion of the Cross and several months later in 2006, the spayed, retired Ch. Logos Spread the Gospel. Like the proverbial potato chip syndrome I was warned of, in 2007 I went to Tennessee and brought home another companion bitch, Logos Sin Offering who can wave at you, by the way.

Obviously, I was so fond of the breed that I just had to experience and learn more about these creatures, so I volunteered to help with IG rescue in my region and also joined my local kennel club. Our club offered conformation handling classes, so I dove in and pulled retired champion Scripture back into the ring as my practice "victim". She tolerated my efforts well and I was hooked, so after months of practice I took the plunge and acquired my first official show prospect, Logos Spirit of the Lord.

Spirit, who lives up to her name and to her gender, is energetic, full of vitality, and is teaching me that the breed is probably one of the most difficult to show. Did I mention stubborn? Did you hear me say independent thinker? Humility has also crept into my vocabulary.

Our first conformation event was a match sponsored by the Flagstaff Kennel Club. I was nervous and worried that I would do something foolish, but as it turned out Spirit and I both learned a lot from this official pretend dog show. We met other IG fanciers and gained working knowledge of the show ring.

Next was the real thing! The Flagstaff Kennel Club where we went Reserve both days which was quite thrilling for a novice.

I am invigorated with what the future will bring as it relates to our performance in the ring and look forward to the National Specialty in New York this year. 🐾

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