

# BOYKIN SPANIELS FOREVER

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# EDITORIAL

We had an eventful first quarter in 2011 with our very first Westminster presentation of the Boykin Spaniel.

I traveled to New York City with friends via Amtrak. The train is an efficient mode of traveling in every way. I was excited as this was my first train ride. Amtrak was an adventure I would do all over again.

We arrived at Penn Station around noon on Saturday so we had a couple of days to venture through New York. Our first site to see was Ground Zero. We checked into Hotel Pennsylvania and headed straight to Ground Zero which was a short taxi drive away. The instant I entered the memorial building, I was overwhelmed by the spiritual presence I felt. Tears began to fall and did not cease while I was in the building. It was the most powerful thing I have ever experienced. There was a reverence I cannot explain sufficiently. Individually people wondered from area to area...never speaking...only looking at photographs, artifacts, and reading the stories of the event and of the lives taken. I became so emotionally drained from the experience, I had to leave the site.

The Hotel Pennsylvania is rather shabby with age, but you can't beat the convenience of staying there for the Westminster Show. It sits directly across the street from Madison Square Gardens. AND Penn Station is directly beneath Madison Square Gardens! We could walk from the train station, to the hotel, and then back to Madison Square Garden. We had it made!

On Sunday, after checking out the Garden.....which is an awesome site when relatively empty! We decided to explore NYC. After an excruciating attempt to understand the subway....we all opted to take Taxi's everywhere! The subway was far too complicated to waste precious time

getting lost! We took the evening ferry tour of the harbor.....what a sight at night!

We became pizza crazy! There is none better than in NYC and just about every meal was Italian..... except for one late night visit to an Irish pub which was very interesting! No one in our group was even interested in any of the fancy restaurants .....we were there for the adventure the streets of New York offered. The people were amazing.....not like they were the last time I was there about 18 years ago. During this visit everyone was friendly and very helpful to us 'tourists'.

Monday brought us Valentine's Day! A client of mine, Steven Colbert (yes, THE Stephen Colbert) is a client of mine. His Boykin's name is Kookie. Stephen's sister-in-law, who has been a friend of mine (a client too) for several years.... And she made special arrangements for seven of us to attend the taping of his show that day. We had a great time and Steven kept us rolling in laughter.

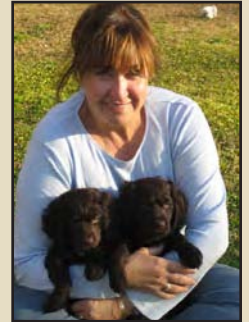
Tuesday was our big day! We were at the Garden bright and early and planned to spend the entire day there watching the show and the grand finale of Best In Show.

To see a Westminster Show had been on my personal "bucket list" for many years.... So check it off..... Done.....not only was I there but I was the first and only ... Breeder of Merit for the Boykin Spaniel and many of the contestants had Hollow Creek blood running through their veins! So I was proud to just BE there.

Please be sure to look at those accomplished champions which competed at Westminster 2011 on page 3 of this issue. Those featured were submitted by their owners/breeders....all had

been invited to do so.

To most of us.....It did not matter who 'won' for we were all winners! Always believe that it does not matter where you place in such competition .....as long as your journey there was honest and honorable in every way.



Happy Hunting!

Patricia L. Watts,  
Owner/Editor

Patricia,  
Congratulations on the historical debut of the Boykin Spaniel at 2011 Westminster show! What an achievement by you and Hollow Creek Kennel and the Boykin breed.  
As a result, Gus is the celebrity of our neighborhood.  
SC State Legislature should have a day honoring this achievement.  
That being said, the future is very bright for the Boykins at Westminster, thanks to your diligent efforts and contribution.  
Happiness is a Boykin Spaniel,  
Jim & Jacie Norine

**COVER PHOTO  
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**OWNERS  
DAN, SHARON AND  
KATIE KAUZLARICH**