

Best in Show Winner Feature

2013 Border Collie National

Speciality USA

by Jessica Aniskoff

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

This famous quote by Walt Disney certainly sums up the day of September 7th at the Border Collie National Specialty for Andi, BISS GCH CH Rising Star's Dancin' in the Moonlight CD RA OA OAJ PT, and I.



For me, my dream of having a dog that could do it all, began on December 24, 2009, when the puppies of Ch Jule Too's Legacy Your the Tops HXAs and HIBs and Ch Rising Star's Charmed One first entered the world. The second puppy born was a little blue girl, and it was love at first sight. I instantly bonded with the little puppy and knew I would never be able to let her go. As Andi grew, her personality blossomed, and she won over the hearts of friends and family that came to visit the puppies. Andi has always had a way of meeting peoples' eyes and drawing them in to pay attention to her, as she did at the Border Collie Nationals in 2010 where Judge Lisa Pruka awarded her Best



Once she understood, she became a joy to show, even winning the herding group in January 2013. She has proven herself as a performance dog as well; excelling in obedience, agility and herding. Truly a border collie who can do it all.

Our training and experience culminated the day of the Border Collie Nationals in September 2013. In the morning we competed in Novice B obedience. The class was stunningly

of Opposite Sex in Puppy Sweepstakes.

As I started Andi's training I realized how smart this little girl was. She has great spirit and true intensity. Andi can train for hours and yet still continue to give you her all in every exercise. Although she excelled in all the performance venues, it was quite challenging for her to be in the conformation ring. She loved to chase the dog in front of her, and required intense training of how to perform in the ring before she finally started to behave.



executed, and Andi scored a 198.5, my highest score ever and also finished the requirements for her Companion Dog title. I was over the moon and didn't think my day could get any better. We went on to the conformation show, and I was excited to just be a part of the group of champions representing our breed. After the dogs were done, the judging for the bitches began. I was shocked and proud to make the first cut, and then the second. Before I knew it, we stood in the last lineup, filled with magnificent dogs. My honor was just to be part of that group. As Judge, Tracey Wilkinson, walked toward

Andi and I with the Best of Breed ribbon, a sense of shock went completely through me. I didn't believe it was actually happening. From the Christmas Eve on which she was born, I've always believed Andi was a special gift to me, whether or not she had ribbons or titles. To be recognized at the national level was a feeling that can't be described. I am honored to have a breeder/owner/handled national champion, and it is certainly a day I will never forget. Dreams really do come true, and if I need a reminder of that, all I need to do is look to my side for a pretty blue girl who loves dancin' in the moonlight!

