

2016 SWEEPSTAKES JUDGE CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

The following individuals are presented for your consideration to judge the Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes at the Silky Terrier National Specialty in 2016.

Eugene A. Bouquet

Gene Bouquet has been involved with purebred dogs most of his life. Growing up in Lake Charles, Louisiana, his father was an avid hunter, and the family always had Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and Beagles for hunting, and Boxers as family pets. The first purebred dog registered in his name was a Basset Hound that he purchased in junior high with money he had raised by renting inner tubes to swimmers on the beach one summer. He says it took every penny he had earned.

Although Gene enjoyed participating in Obedience and Agility classes, it was the conformation ring he loved most. His first time in the ring was at a match in the 1960's with that same Basset Hound he had purchased. He continued showing Bassets but was drawn to the Silky Terrier. He purchased his first Silky in 1987 and has since been hooked on the breed. With the exception of one who simply did not like the show ring, he has put championship titles on all his Silkys over the last 29 years, plus one Grand Champion, and has been the breeder or co-breeder of about a dozen Silky Terrier litters.

He has been a member of the Calcasieu Kennel Club since 1979 and has held many positions: Board of Directors, 1986-1989; President, 1988-1990 and 2005-2009; Vice President 1990-1991, 2004-2005, and 2010 to present. He has served as Show Chair for the years of 1991, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2014, and as Assistant Show Chair in 1990, 2006, 2010, and 2012. He has judged many Fun Matches for Calcasieu K.C. as well as serving as Inside Ring Steward for almost every show over the last many years.

Gene has been a member of The Silky Terrier Club of America since 1989 and served on the Board of Directors for four years. In 2009 he received his 20-year membership plaque which hangs in his law office. He has attended over 18 National Silky Specialties and a minimum of 15 STCA Breed Education Seminars and AKC Silky Terrier Judges Seminars, plus seminars on structure, movement and genetics. As for his future plans and goals involving dogs, he plans to apply for his AKC judging license upon retirement.

Gene would consider it both a great honor and responsibility to be chosen as Sweepstakes judge for the 2016 Specialty.

Sharon Masnick, AKC Judge #97181

Sharon Masnick grew up in Missouri on a cattle and horse farm and cannot remember the family ever being without a dog. At 18 years of age, she obtained her first Pomeranian. Thus, began her passion for breeding and showing Pomeranians. Later, she became interested in the Shiba Inu and the Pekingese and was proud to be the co-breeder of the Pekingese that finished #2 in breed in 2012. She has been the co-breeder of several Pomeranian specials in the top 10 over the years, and has also co-owned and co-bred one litter each of Japanese Chin and Toy Fox Terriers.

When Sharon started working for Doll McGinnis publications (Top Notch Toys) in 1997, her interest in the dog world expanded and allowed her to study all the dogs in the toy group. In January of 2012, she left advertising to pursue her dream of judging. Sharon is currently approved to judge Pekingese and Pomeranians, provisional for Maltese, Toy Fox Terriers, Shiba Inu, and Jr. Showmanship, and is actively pursuing approval to judge other toy dogs, including the Silky Terrier. Sharon has not owned or finished a Silky, but she has had three interviews with Silky Terrier approved mentors as per AKC requirements. Her goal is to be able to judge the toy group.

Sharon is a member of the Myrtle Beach Kennel club, the American Pomeranian Club, the Pekingese Club of America, Carolina Dog Judges Study Group, and the Dog Judges Association of America.

Sharon would consider it a great honor to be chosen to judge the Sweepstake assignment for the wonderful Silky Terrier toy breed.

Benson E. Ray, AKC Judge #97179

Benson Ray has been involved with purebred dogs for 44 years, since age 14, and has bred Pomeranians for over 30 of those years. His breeding efforts have produced Group Winners, ROM studs and ROMX bitches in a number of breeds. He has put championship titles on 8 Shiba Inus and 3 Toy Fox Terriers, 100 Pomeranians, a Grand Champion on Pomeranians, Pekingese, and Toy Fox Terriers, and has bred and owns a record-holding BIS Black Pekingese All-Breed who was retired in 2012.

Benson has not owned or finished a Silky Terrier but is seeking AKC approval to judge the Silky and has had three interviews with approved STCA mentors, a requirement to reaching that goal. He is approved to judge Pekingese and Pomeranians and is provisional in Maltese, Toy Fox Terriers, Shiba Inus and Jr. Showmanship.

Benson has judged the Japanese Chin Club of America's National Sweepstakes, the American Pomeranian Club regular classes, Central Carolina Pomeranian Club Sweepstakes, Charleston Kennel Club Fun Matches, and Myrtle Beach Kennel Club NOHS Series and Puppy Class. He is a member of American Pomeranian Club and serves as an approved mentor, as well as holding membership in Pekingese Club of America, Myrtle Beach KC, Charleston KC, Pomeranian Club of Greater Baltimore, Central Carolina Pomeranian Club and the Japanese Club of Georgia.

For fifteen years prior to embarking on his journey to become a judge, Benson handled advertising for the Top Notch Toy Dog magazine, the Pomeranian Reader magazine, and the Orient Express Pekingese magazine.

He would be honored to be chosen to judge Sweepstakes at the 2016 National Specialty.

My vote for Sweepstakes Judge for the 2016 Silky Terrier Club of America National Specialty is:

Please select only one.

- Eugene A. Bouquet**

- Sharon Masnick, AKC Judge #97181**

- Benson E. Ray, AKC Judge #97179**

Mail this portion with your *one* selection to:

Frances Garrison

311 Deer Meadow Circle

Georgetown, TX 78633

Ballots must be received on or before **April 18, 2016** to be counted. A ballot marked with more than one selection will be deemed invalid. Results will be announced in the STCA Newsletter.