

2011 ADBA/ADBSI NATIONALS

Texas... everything is big in Texas, and the 2011 Nationals held in Texas definitely reflected it! The 2011 ADBA/ADBSI nationals were hosted by the Lone Star State APBTC along with the Texas Heat APBTC. Tom Lundberg, President of the Lone Star State APBTC, writes: "The Nationals are over and now is the time to reflect on a job well done. As we all know, this year was a huge year for both of our clubs. Hosting the ADBA/ADBSI Nationals was a huge responsibility and I felt confident that our clubs were up for the challenge. We should all be honored that the staff and management of the ADBA/ADBSI trusted us with this responsibility.



Over the last 25 years or so, I have attended many ADBSI shows and weight pulls. In the early days of the 1980's we had some very interesting shows. During that time there was the beginning of organized weight pull competitions and this new sport drew a lot of dog people to the shows. I first began showing dogs during this time under the motivation of my friend Gary Hammonds. The shows back then were a lot of fun. There was not too much emphasis put on winning or placing a dog as much as there was just getting out and having a good time. I can remember going to some very large shows and some that could have had better attendance. I can honestly say that I have really never gone to an ADBSI show and not had a good time, regardless of the outcome.

In recent times, I have traveled to most of the shows held in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico and Utah for the 100-year ADBA anniversary. The 100-year anniversary show was a very special show and it really motivated me to want to hold a show of that caliber here in the Lone Star State.

Our state is the home of everything BULLDOG and we deserve to be recognized as the home of some of the very best bred BULLDOGS that the world has ever seen. This is something that I have believed for a very long time. The history of our breed and the developmental work that has been done by the people of our state to improve the American Pit Bull Terrier is something that should be recognized and respected by all and forever maintained by those who admire our great breed.

Many of the all time greatest breeders and fanciers of the American Pit Bull Terrier breed attended the show. Most didn't even bring dogs. Their attendance of this event was primarily out of a show of respect for our clubs, its members and the breed we represent. Many of these people have not

been to a dog event in many years. Some of them I haven't seen in over 20 years. I am honored that these people chose to come out and support us. It is an awesome experience to behold when you think about all the different people from every walk of life that our dogs bring together. Every age, race, and generation of humanity was in attendance.

I am extremely proud of our clubs and the members who worked so hard to make the 2011 ADBA/ADBSI Nationals such a huge success. The task at hand was given to us to make what we could out of the responsibility of hosting this show. All I can say is WOW did we ever deliver! I have been told that we doubled last year's attendance and many people have told me that this was the best show that they ever attended. We had attendees from as far north as Northern Canada, as far south as Southern Mexico, the Pacific and Atlantic coasts also were well represented. I had countless in attendance come to me and tell me how impressed they were with the organization and professionalism of our clubs.

Several of us were pushed to the maximum of our free time and ability in an effort to make this show a success. Many times it got difficult and challenging but none of us ever gave up. I have always said that you can judge the quality of a person by the character of the people who surround them. Our clubs and our entire membership exhibited outstanding good character during all the challenging times. I am very proud to call each and every one of you my friends first, and club members second.

In closing, I will say that we have been handed a great responsibility. That responsibility is to defend the future of our breed. It is this that we all work so very hard for. In times of trouble and adversity, I can close my eyes and reflect on all the wonderful times I have spent in my life with my dogs and my inner strength returns to fight another day. I know I am not the only one who feels this way. Many of us demonstrated this ability during the challenging times we faced in the midst of hosting this show. Good bred bulldogs deserve game owners. Make no mistake about it; we have both in our state. As time passes, it will be our responsibility to hand the torch over to the younger fanciers of our breed. We need to demonstrate good sound leadership, responsibility and professionalism when dealing with these young people. They are the future caretakers of our breed. It is our responsibility to teach





them the importance of supporting the Endangered Breeds Association, their local club and the American Dog Breeders Association. Together we can be successful in preserving our heritage and the American Pit Bull Terrier.”

The conformation show began with a welcome from Hank Greenwood who introduced the conformation judge, Mr. Frank Rocca from Ohio. After the handlers meeting, the fun classes began with 40 dogs entering for judges’ choice. The junior handlers’ class was broken down into three age groups with DeMarcus Smith receiving the trophy for overall Best Junior Handler. With the fun classes completed, the Sanctioned events began. Saturday’s conformation classes consisted of all puppy classes, Best Puppy trophy and the Champion of



Champions class. There were a total of 40 Champions making this an Advanced Champion Class. A Safe Dog Program was held by Lisa Berry of Los Lunas, New Mexico.

A special feature of the Nationals is an Award of Merit rosette. This is a coveted award that is treasured by fanciers as a true ‘mark of excellence’. This award is signified by a large double tiered Purple and White Rosette. (Ten awards are available for the dogs in the Conformation classes and 10 available for dogs in Weight Pull classes.) The judges have been instructed to present these awards in recognition of dogs of exceptional quality, regardless of placement in the conformation show or weight pull. This award is given to highlight the dogs that the judge deems to have exceptional merit as a breeding quality dog whose outstanding traits they would recommend enter into the genetic pool of the American Pit Bull Terrier breed. Congratulations to all those receiving

this ribbon of recognition.

A judging seminar presented by Hank Greenwood was held upon the conclusion of the conformation events where ADBA sanctioned judge Ronnie Ewing was presented the ADBA judges 15 year appreciation pin. Although the attendance was small, those attending - judges and general public alike - walked away with a refreshed “eye” for the breed.

Weight Pull: The weight pull began with a welcome from Kate Greenwood and introduction of the judge Mr. James Rogers of Alabama. After the handlers meeting a holler of “Let’s pull!” signaled the event to begin. Saturday’s weight pull classes consisted of males and females 55 lbs and under pulling with the trophies for Most weight pulled per Pound of body weight (male & female) being awarded.



Saturday night featured a BBQ with entertainment featuring the Donnie Evetts’ Band playing while we enjoyed the mouth watering pulled pork and brisket, coleslaw, and beans prepared for us by the West Texas BBQ Company. During the BBQ, an awards ceremony was held for those dogs earning title achievement awards of Grand Champion/Ace of Ace and higher, presented by Heather DeVito and Kate Greenwood. Endangered Breed Assoc. held a raffle Saturday evening where a hand crafted hunting knife, donated by Joel Halverson auctioned for a total of \$805.00 in donations going to the EBA.

The second day’s events were as exciting as the first. Sunday’s conformation classes consisted of all adult classes, Best of Show and Best of Opposite Sex Trophy winners. As Sunday’s events were winding down, all eyes moved over to the weight pull competition. With the 75 pound and over classes still in full swing, spectators gathered into groups. The arena was filled with sounds of cheering and encouragement from contestants and spectators alike. An overall feeling of camaraderie, sportsmanship and goodwill filled the arena throughout the weekend. An exciting time was had by all. Thank you Texas clubs for the memorable event.

