



## BREED COLUMNS

### SPORTING GROUP

#### Curly-Coated Retrievers INCREASING BREED VISIBILITY

Bear with me, gentle reader, as I speculate on a way to make our breed more visible.

In a number of areas of the country, notably my own, Curlies are not represented at most dog shows.

At a recent show I saw Beaucerons, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Lancashire Heelers, and other unusual breeds, but no Curlies. This worries me.

I want to make an analogy that may seem far afield but may give us an avenue to

have our beautiful dogs seen more regularly.

Years ago, when my daughter was a junior handler, she was lucky enough to be taken under the wing of a gracious Cardigan Welsh Corgi breeder. At that time, Cardis were very unusual. My daughter had been handling a Boxer and a Weimaraner in juniors, and now she had the opportunity to handle a Cardigan. The pair of them did very well, and to this day my daughter considers Cardis her breed.

More important to my

point here is that all of a sudden, juniors started showing Cardigans. Now it is routine to see Cardigans in Junior Showmanship. Could the same happen for our beautiful Curlies?

If you notice a capable junior handler at your handling class, offer her or him a chance to take your Curly around the ring. See if you can interest the young person in learning about our breed.

When a breed is rarely seen in the juniors ring, the dog gets an extra look from spectators and the judge. I am not saying you should put some random kid on your dog's registration (required for entering Junior Showmanship), but please be open to the possibility.

A beautifully groomed Curly is a sight to behold. Let's brainstorm together to come up with ways to have our glorious dogs seen and appreciated!

—Jenny Dickinson,  
Rumford, Rhode Island  
[Curly-Coated Retriever  
Club of America](#)



*Curly-Coated  
Retriever*

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM