

'Scene Machine' Takes Manitoba by Storm

By Geri Thompson

It has been said that technology stays the same for only as long as it takes to change it.

Well, this can certainly be said for photography. Inge Skliros recently brought in a state-of-the-art system that will revolutionize the dog show photography industry.

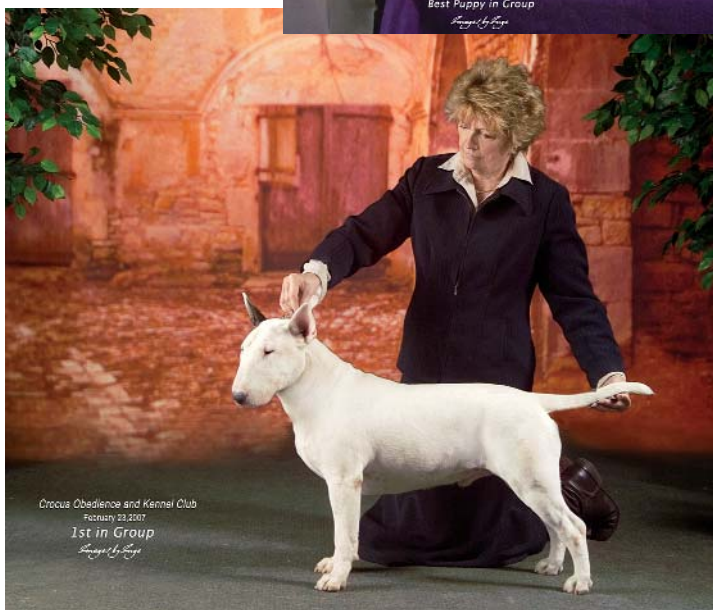
In the beginning, photographers took your picture, you paid in advance and waited six to eight weeks to see what developed. Then digital photography came into existence, along with the introduction of Photoshop. This technology quickly required photographers to not only have knowledge of how every dog should stack, but also required them to be computer savvy technicians.

Today's exhibitors can now pick their image — with printing immediately after the shoot — often with on the spot editing giving us options such as dropping in judges, replacing the traditional message board with discreet titling of the award and the ability to edit body parts (dog and/or people). Whether or not this is ethical is for another article, but the point is that anything and everything is now possible. Other services, such as the burning of high quality images to disk, for magazine editors and our own personal computers, is also offered.

The bar was dramatically raised at the recently held COKC Show in Brandon, Manitoba when 'Images by Inge' introduced a 'Scene Machine'. This is believed to be the first



Crocus Obedience and Kennel Club
March 24, 2007
Best Puppy in Group
Images by Inge



Crocus Obedience and Kennel Club
February 23, 2007
1st in Group
Images by Inge

appearance of this technique at a show in North America, and is quite possibly a world first for dog shows.

Briefly, the Scene Machine projects a transparency onto a specially treated screen behind the subjects. For example, Siberians and Samoyeds can be photographed against a wintry landscape, seconds later a Poodle or Basset could have a shadowy Eiffel Tower behind it, an Afghan or Saluki in the desert, a Saint or Swiss Mountain Dog on a mountainous terrain and the list goes on. Others can be photographed in front of one of five dozen dazzling abstracts. Several examples of this wonderful system accompany this article, demonstrating just a few of the wide variety of choices and configurations the system allows for.

Acquiring this type of technology is not for the faint-hearted, financially challenged or those lacking in computer skills. Knowledge of lighting and positioning are critical, static can be a nightmare as can bursts of light from exterior sources, and the \$11,000 (US) price tag is enough to make anyone blink twice. Fortunately for Inge, the graduating students in Brandon love it, filing into her studio in droves. So, if she appears at your own show, you mainly have them to thank for her ability to keep her prices competitive.

While Inge wouldn't dream of claiming to be Canada's best dog show photographer, she did show Vizslas for 15 years, was a Show Superintendent for five and is about to receive a coveted 'Masters' from the Professional Photographers of Canada.

Personally, as a professional handler, what I found most exciting about this new technology was that Inge could have my images shot, create a camera ready ad, and e-mail it to Canine Review all in the same day.

Now, how cool is that???

Geri Thompson is from Winnipeg, Manitoba and has been handling dogs professionally since 1980.



Crocus Obedience and Kennel Club
February 23, 2007
New Champion
Images by Inge