

Kenlyn Kennels has all its dogs in a row

By *Tristan McGough*
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Look at any obedience class held at Kenlyn Kennels and there you will see all the disciplined dogs in a neat row. Then look to the other side of the enterprise, the eastern side of I-90 near the Neville exchange, and there you'll find Kenlyn German Shepherds taking home Best of Show awards, which veteran canine trainer Kent Boyles thereupon keeps neatly on a shelf, all in a row.

Whether dogs or their awards, Kenlyn Kennels has built a reputation for both local excellence in dog boarding, grooming, training and daycare services as well as international acclaim for winning top honors for the German Shepherds Boyles breeds, raises, trains and shows.

Promoting a campaign of continually ongoing dog shows demands a super-serious commitment, with significant consequences on time and money spent. And besides an obligation of motivation, time and cash, the right canine genes need to be cultivated by the right dog trainer.

Over his distinctive career as an internationally celebrated dog trainer, Boyles has finished more than 400 campaign championships – many of them for dogs he and his staff have trained at their Edgerton home-base facility, the Kenlyn German Shepherds training compound located at 11714 N. Eastman Rd. And above and beyond that, some of trophies garnered come from dogs that Boyles not only trained, but bred as husbandman.

One of these bred, born and accomplished German Shepherds is "GCh. Ch. Lockenhaus' Rumor Has It V Kenlyn," better known as Rumor. Rumor's distinctive show career is a fine example of Boyles' methodology for climbing to the apex of championships – the Westminster show – through a grinding series of "All-Breed" as well as "German Shepherd Specialty" shows.

To illustrate, during the 2015 run-up to the 2016 Westminster show, Boyles entered Rumor in 185 dog shows. In 2016 Rumor came within a whisper of winning the Best in Show award. After Rumor's performance there, Boyles and co-owners Pamela McElheney, Deborah Stern, Pamela Buckles and Patti Dukeman considered calling it quits with Rumor; however, after reconsidering, the owners decided to take one last chance before making Rumor only a rumor on the competitive circuit.

Boyles entered Rumor in the 141st Westminster Dog Show for Feb. 13-14, 2017. Long story short, the man-dog team took highest honors for "Breed" as well

the coveted top-spot, the "Best in Show." There is no higher honor in the dog world.

That 2017 victory officially gave Rumor her 104th win in all breed best in show awards. With such a career resume, Boyles and co-owners, plus co-trainer Liz Oster, decided it was time to let Rumor retire with royal honors and move into the next phase of her life: motherhood.

Of course, before she actually could get down to the business of procreation, Rumor had to face the consequences of notoriety, running down the celebratory gauntlet of "Good Morning, America," "The View" and "Fox and Friends," as well as numerous other interviews.

Additionally, on April 4, 2017, Boyles and Rumor were feted as "Hometown Heroes" at the Capitol by the State Assembly during its regular session. The entire Wisconsin Legislature honored Rumor as her District's Representative, Don Vruwink (D-Milton), presented the commendation to Boyles and his canine companion. Not to be outdone by the legislative branch of government, Gov. Walker later that afternoon welcomed Rumor and trainer extraordinaire to the Governor's Mansion for more compliments and celebration.

To Boyles, all this attention surrounding his championship German Shepherd signals a quantum-leap of influence. "All this has made Rumor a great ambassador for dogs, letting people know the incredible things dogs do for humans," Boyles said.

"They can be service dogs," he continues, "specially trained to help the handicapped, or maybe a vet suffering from PTSD, living alone, trying to adjust."

"Besides the awesome things companion dogs have done for vets, the elderly or the lonely," Boyles declares, "there are all kinds of medical uses doctors are finding out that dogs are good in, like being able to sniff out cancers in people better than the most advanced equipment."

He advises young people who are interested in dog service training to get into the program, as the field is opening up for specialty dogs of all sorts and, according to Boyles, "They can write their own ticket."

Across the freeway on the western side, Lynette Boyles, co-owner of Kenlyn Kennels, manages an indoor and outdoor facility with ample play and exercise spaces. Among the many classes offered, Kenlyn tailors a Boot Camp Program for customized training to meet behavioral goals. In-board training is also available.

As Kenlyn Kennels is abuzz with a full-range of canine services, one week after his mid-May interview with this reporter, Boyles was scheduled to be at



Kent Boyles (kneeling) and Tony the German Shepherd pose in the winner's circle after taking first and third places twice at the AKC National Championship in Orlando, Fla. in December 2017. (Photo from www.kenlynshepherds.com)

Springfield, Ill., competing in an "All-Breed Show" with Tony, the next generation being trained and groomed this year for a run at the championship spectrum of shows in 2019, culminating, hopefully, in another Westminster win. While he's showing Tony, Oster will be in Denver, Colo., showing another dog at the "Regional Futurity & German Shepherd Specialty Shows."

Tony, born in Aug. 2015, has piled-up an impressive array of awards this year, the year he's being sharpened in the split-second show-world of intensified competition in preparation for the full run next year.

"2019," Boyles predicts, "should be a good year for Tony. He's a young guy with a lot of energy and enthusiasm, and from where he's at today, next year should be great!"

Presently, Boyles shares, Tony is ranked No. 5 in the nation regarding the Herding Group category.

"Based on the number of dogs Tony's defeated, from January 1st of this year to mid-May, Tony is the #1 winning German Shepherd in the country."

Besides obedient dogs all in a row at Kenlyn Kennels, it appears Boyles has all of Tony's ducks in a row for possibly another astounding victory of Westminster. That would be proof his method works.



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"We folks at Kenlyn Kennels and Kenlyn German Shepherds, we'd like to thank our local community for years of outstanding support and participation at our facilities.

"We especially want to express our deep appreciation to the many who had favored Rumor - both individuals and businesses and who supported her climb to the top honors of Best of Show at the 2017 Westminster Championship."

Kent Boyles












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