

DAKOTA COUNTY STAR

S
er
09

CVI Number 51

"Baby, let me
have your...
Teddy Bear"
See page A3



75¢

February 24, 2005

Local dog bow-wow's 'em at Westminster

By Jolene Stevens

Star News Reporter

E-mail: features@dakotacountystar.com

DAKOTA CITY, Neb. - Champion Gamegards U.S. Marshall? You've never heard of him? He's Dakota County's newest celebrity and he's a dog!

Affectionately known as Cahill by his owner, Pam Marsh, who also owns and operates the Pet Spa in Dakota City, the Rottweiler is basking in his glory this week as the Best of Breed winner in the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show last week. It's his latest and most grand win in a three-year career of show-ring accomplishments.

"We'd never competed at Westminster before," Marsh said. "It's not an easy show for us to get to. I don't fly my dogs, so the drive to New York from Nebraska was a long trip. But it was certainly a worthwhile one this year."

Cahill, named after the John Wayne movie "Cahill-U.S. Marshall," definitely enjoyed his time in the big city.

"He loved New York just as he loves all shows," Marsh mentioned. "We stayed at the Hotel Pennsylvania right across the street from Madison Square Garden. Cahill adapted to every situation that arose from being in the middle of New York City. He took it all in stride."

"He loved all the attention and enjoyed doing his repertoire of tricks, prairie dog, dead dog, dancing bear, shaking hands, high fives, taking a bow, and singing for everyone! Cahill is a true clown and loves showing off," Marsh said with a smile.

While Marsh accompanied Cahill to the show Julie Foster of Leasburg Mo. showed Cahill at the Garden. According to Marsh, Cahill adores her, and the pair seems to make a great team.

"I think any dog leading up to Westminster needs to be in his prime, and in peak condi-

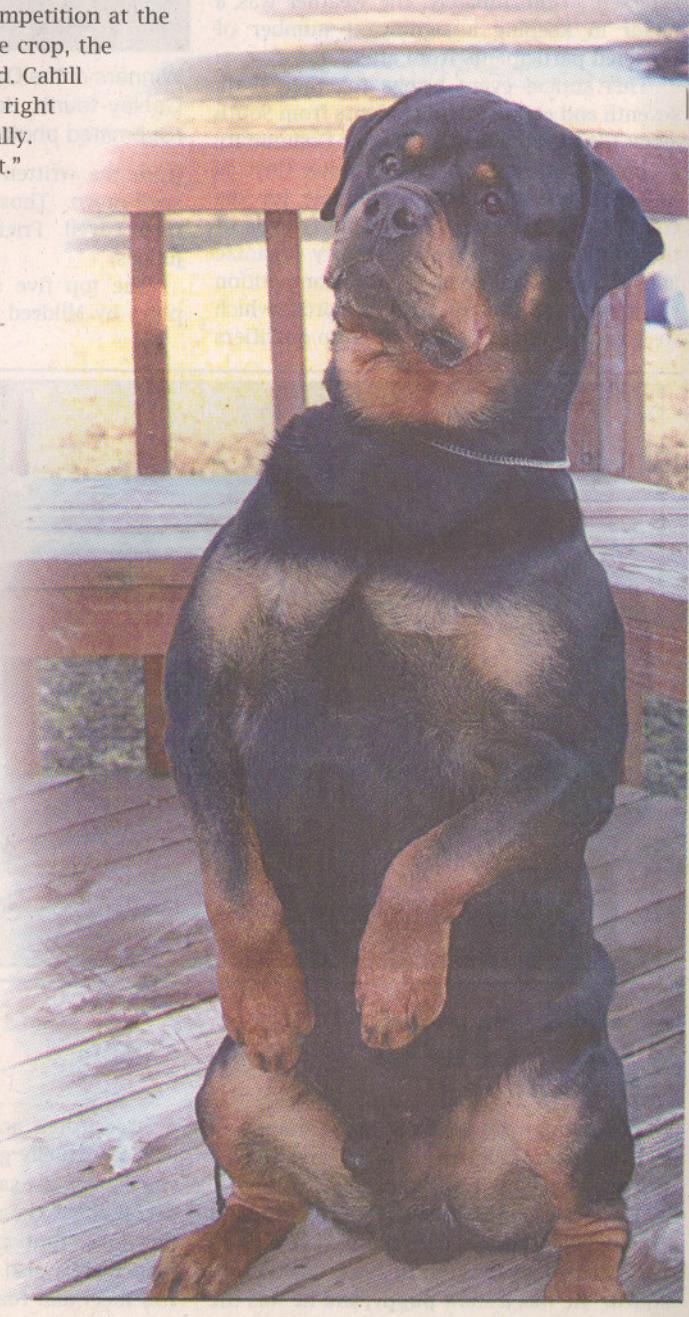
tion," Marsh says. "The competition at the Garden is the cream of the crop, the best of the dog show world. Cahill is in perfect condition right now, physically and mentally. He was 'on' and he loved it."

Love affair with breed

A professional handler for close to 20 years, Marsh and Cahill's co-owners, Victoria Weaver of Greensboro, Md., and Joanne Cochran, Aurora, Colo., hope to travel to Canada later this year to give Cahill the opportunity to obtain a Canadian championship.

Cahill is one of three Rottweilers in Marsh's home at the present time. The others include Cahill's mother, Munchie, a national specialty show winner, and a son of Cahill's, Chisum, just six months old, who Marsh hopes will follow in his father's "paw prints."

Marsh admits to a strong partiality to Rottweilers after working with a number of breeds, including Akitas, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Bouviers, and Corgis. "I actually fell in love with Rottweilers in the 70s," she admitted. "The first one I saw took my breath away, a big magnificent,



See TOP DOG

• page A2

Cahill, a 125-pound Rottweiler does his prairie dog pose. (Photo by Sarah LaBrune)