

## *“Rotating Spring Specialties”*

The Chihuahua Club of America began presenting a “Rotating Spring Specialty” in 1977, and this event has become more and more popular over the years. Each year one of our regional Chihuahua Clubs will host this event, which includes the host club’s show and a CCA show in their area. In this manner we are able to have our CCA National show in Chicago each fall and the spring show in a different part of the country each year.

The spring shows are one of our best educational tools. Chihuahua enthusiasts in different parts of the country get to see dogs from across the nation compete on their home turf. Since a great many of our members are unable to attend the fall event, once every few years the spring show is held in a location closer and more accessible to them. The spring shows also provide the opportunity for local members to meet and work with members from across the nation, to improve their breeding programs, and to learn more about the sport in general.

Over the years the CCA has developed a very thorough set of guidelines that the regional clubs must follow in order to present a Spring Rotating Specialty. A “Rotating Specialty Resource” Committee is also available to assist the regional clubs with their proposals, and help in negotiations with hotels and superintendents. This committee is composed of members with personal experience in organizing and running these spring shows, and in its first year has proven very successful. This year we had the Heart of New England Chihuahua Club hosting for the first time ever, in Boston. With this system in place we have been able to hold shows in Atlanta, Baltimore, Phoenix, San Francisco, Tacoma, Tampa, Detroit, Dallas, Nashville, Tulsa, and San Antonio. Since there are twenty eight regional clubs, we have a great many possibilities for the future.

At the present time our rotating specialties are three day events, with two complete puppy sweepstakes, the host club’s show and the Parent club show. In 2010, we will go to a four day event, allowing for larger entries and more educational events to take place. In Boston we were able to do a health clinic, and we plan more of these for our spring shows in the future. We provide judges’ mentoring at all of our CCA shows and in the fall a “Judges Education seminar”. I am hoping that we can add this seminar to our spring shows soon.

It is an interesting system—one that takes a lot of planning and work on the part of our club members—but the results are worth it. One of the things that a lot of our exhibitors enjoy is the opportunity for site seeing and shopping in a different part of the country.

Over the years, our club has experienced continued growth, and with that growth, new ways of approaching the problems of getting our educational messages out there. Our Spring Rotating Specialty is only one example of a process that is always growing and adapting to the needs of our members and all Chihuahua fanciers.