



BEST BOXER

Show dog's life is easier than the proverbial one

Madison Square Garden's Westminster Kennel Club Show, orgy of the winter season for dog lovers, produced two winners this year. The title of "best dog in show" was won by Flornell Rare-Bit of Twin Ponds, an English-bred Welsh terrier. But judges awarded a second superlative, "best American-bred dog in show," to a handsome young boxer named Warlord of Mazelaine. Warlord's success, even though it was qualified, surprised experts. Only 16 months old, he was appearing in the show ring for the second time, a stage at which most dogs lack the poise and physical condition necessary to win big-time prizes.

Warlord, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Kettles Jr. of New York and Glen Head, Long Island, trained as rigorously as any human athlete for the Westminster Show. For two months beforehand Mrs. Kettles exercised him by walking 60 blocks a day. From time to time he was taken to a kennel in the country for grooming, discipline and further exercise. In the week before the show he spent all of his time at the kennel training with his handler. During this week, dog and handler even slept and ate together to gain perfect familiarity. In the show itself, Warlord was first picked as the best of all boxer entries, continued by winning in the working-dog class, which included great Danes, collies, and Saint Bernards, finally was judged the best of all American-bred entries. For two weeks before this moment, Warlord was accompanied by Photographer Carroll Van Ark, who recorded the life of a successful show dog in these pictures.

Warlord of Mazelaine has the model head configuration of boxer. Boxers were imported to the U. S. from Germany, are named because of their habit of fighting with their front paws.



At home in New York, Warlord relaxes with his master and mistress, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kettles Jr. Mr. Kettles had purchased him in December from Milwaukee kennel for \$7,500.



Mrs. Kettles grooms Warlord on kitchen table. Warlord, called "Warry" by Kettles at informal moments, is fed carefully balanced diet but eats no meat except top-grade horseflesh.



At kennel in the country, Warlord is exercised by a long walk with Mr. Kettles and Chief Boatswain's Mate Walter Foster, who spent week's leave preparing to handle dog in show.



Putting paws on table, Warlord waits patiently for grooming. Elaborate tools include tooth scraper, rubber currycomb, three different pairs of barber's shears, nail clippers and nail file.