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for my first year working stock. I was able to get Oreo's started duck title, one leg toward his open sheep, and one leg toward his started cattle. We are also working toward his CDX. With Desi I was able to get her started duck and sheep titles. At the end of the year I also trialed Desi's daughter, CarMel Desert Rainstorm, CGC (Rainie) without luck as she got very excited come trial time, and I also trialed Marie Murphy's dog Sundew Spirit of Diamond Aire (Sprite) and got one started duck leg with her.

I took multiple Open Working Jr. wins with Oreo and Desi, Working Jr. Handler wins with Oreo, and two Most Promising Started Aussie wins with Oreo on ducks and cattle. I also showed in the conformation ring with some success by getting two RWB (Altered), two BOSP, two BOBP, and a Best Jr. Handler.

Showing in the Jr. program is a wonderful experience as we all cheer each other on and congratulate each other on our wins. I have gained many friendships through showing and trialing that I will treasure. I would like to congratulate all the other Jrs. On the great job they have all done this past year.

I would also like to thank Marie Murphy for all of her help while I was at "Camp Diamond Aire," Kathi Schwengel for her help and encouragement, my mom, Melissa Borde, for encouraging my new interest, driving me to work stock and shows, and allowing me to take over her dogs to show as well, and Diane Clyne for allowing Oreo to own me and becoming my best friend and doing most anything I ask.

**Sven Dytrych
 Region 6
 8-12 Junior Handling
 Degrees of Excellence-1**

Hi, my name is Sven Dytrych. I just turned 14 years old, and I live in Drakenburg, a little village between Bremen and Hannover in Germany. I'm a student at the Albert



Schweizer High School in Nienburg. My other hobbies are playing basketball, skateboarding, and playing computer games.

Our family owns two Australian Shepherds, a black tri male and a blue merle female. We hope to get our third Aussie this year (2002). This is the second time I've won my region.

My Junior career began in 1997 when I was nine years old. We had just bought our second Aussie, TALKOOKS FANCY CD, while on a visit to the USA. Fancy is a very lovely blue merle female with a great personality and a wonderful temperament. She was nine months old when we started in junior handling. Now she is five years old. We've participated in many shows and accumulated lots of BJH awards together.

My mom is now working Fancy in obedience and agility. Fancy was the first Australian Shepherd in Europe who earned the ASCA Companion Dog (CD). She also has two legs toward her ASCA CDX title. In agility, Fancy stars in the highest German class.

A special thank you to Jonna Cole of Talkook Kennel for breeding this wonderful Aussie girl. Many thanks to my mom. I'm thankful that she taught me junior handling and takes me anywhere and does all the little things that she does for me. And my greatest thank you to Fancy for being my friend and partner all these years. I want to thank ASCA for offering such a wonderful program for Juniors, the AASC of Germany for the junior handling competitions at the German conformation shows, and all the judges for our many show wins.

I would also like to congratulate all of the other Juniors for their accomplishments. Good luck for the next year. Enjoy it!

Nicole Hecksel

Hi! I'm Nicole Hecksel. I live in Watertown, Minnesota, with my parents and my sister. I am 14-years-old and a Freshman at Watertown Mayer High School. My family



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