The National Dog Show

A Thanksgiving Tradition

November 18 & 19, 2023
Welcome to the National Dog Show hosted by the Kennel Club of Philadelphia.

On behalf of the members of the Kennel Club of Philadelphia, I thank you for joining us today as we celebrate both the 22nd annual National Dog Show Presented by Purina® and the Kennel Club’s annual showing of purebred dogs in the Philadelphia area. The Kennel Club of Philadelphia had its first purebred show in 1879 and it became an annual event in 1933. The Kennel Club of Philadelphia proudly supports a number of canine-related organizations and has donated over 1.1 million dollars in the past 9 years. We have a lot to celebrate this year!

The National Dog Show Presented by Purina® is broadcast annually on Thanksgiving Day at noon on NBC and has been thrilling dog lovers ever since it began in 2002. We estimate that since then, one quarter of a billion people have watched!

Enjoy the dog show, and let us know about your experience at www.facebook.com/kennelclubofphiladogshows/.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Wayne Ferguson, President
Kennel Club of Philadelphia

Watch The National Dog Show Presented by Purina® Thanksgiving Day at Noon, November 23, on NBC.

PRO PLAN IS ALWAYS ADVANCING NUTRITION

GAME-CHANGING FORMULAS deliver remarkable benefits to keep pets at their peak.

See how we’re advancing digestive, immune and cognitive health at ProPlan.com.
GREATER PHILADELPHIA EXPO CENTER MAP

Visit www.NationalDogShow.com

Watch The National Dog Show Presented by Purina® at Noon, November 23, on NBC following the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.
Visit the National Dog Show Social Media Booth in Hall B.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023**

- 8:00 AM  Breed Judging Begins  (Halls A, B, & D)
- 9:00 AM  Pro Plan Performance Team  (Hall B)
- 10:00 AM  Pro Plan Performance Team  (Hall B)
- 11:00 AM  Pro Plan Performance Team  (Hall B)
- 12:40 PM  National Anthem Ceremony  (Hall C)
- 1:00 PM  The National Dog Show Group Judging  (Hall C)
- 6:00 PM  The National Dog Show Best In Show Judging  (Hall C)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

- 8:00 AM  Breed Judging Begins  (Halls A, B, & D)
- 9:30 AM  Pro Plan Performance Team  (Hall B)
- 10:30 AM  Pro Plan Performance Team  (Hall B)
- 11:30 AM  Pro Plan Performance Team  (Hall B)
- 12:30 PM  Pro Plan Performance Team  (Hall B)
- 1:30 PM  Pro Plan Performance Team  (Hall B)
- 2:00 PM  Kennel Club of Philadelphia Group Judging  (Hall C)
- 5:00 PM  Kennel Club of Philadelphia Best In Show Judging  (Hall C)
Research shows therapy dogs can help make a difference. That’s why we’re working to get more certified—starting with our employees’ own pets.

Learn more at PURINA.COM/MENTALHEALTH

Go to incredibledogchallenge.com and carsonevents.com to learn more.

Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.
Check out the benching area where show dogs and handlers prepare for their big moment.

Please be sure to ask the dog handler/owner before you pet their dog.
The judges examine the dogs and place them according to how closely each dog compares with the judge’s mental image of the perfect dog as described in the breed’s official standard. The main consideration is the dog’s conformation or overall appearance, temperament, structure and movement. The judges are looking for characteristics that allow the dog to perform the function for which his or her breed was developed.

EARNING POINTS
A dog will begin its show career by competing to become a “champion.” To earn an AKC Championship title (and to be able to place Ch. in front of its name) the dog needs to win 15 points at AKC shows. Points are earned by defeating other dogs of the same sex and breed in classes held specifically for non-champions. Points used to determine national rankings are recorded by the AKC and based on the number of dogs defeated. A dog gets one all-breed point for each dog defeated at a dog show. The top dogs in the country easily have more than 50,000 points in a given year.

BEST OF BREED
In order to win Best In Show a dog must first be judged the best of dogs of its same breed competing in the show. Some breeds have more than 100 dogs entered. The winner of the breed moves on to the Group judging.

FIRST IN GROUP
Each of the 212 AKC registered breeds and varieties are assigned to one of seven groups (Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding) representing characteristics and functions for which the breeds were originally bred. By winning the Group competition, that dog joins an elite group of winners of the seven group competitions that go on to compete for the ultimate Best In Show award, the coveted gold and blue rosette, and to become winner of The National Dog Show.

EARNING POINTS
A dog will begin its show career by competing to become a “champion.” To earn an AKC Championship title (and to be able to place Ch. in front of its name) the dog needs to win 15 points at AKC shows. Points are earned by defeating other dogs of the same sex and breed in classes held specifically for non-champions. Points used to determine national rankings are recorded by the AKC and based on the number of dogs defeated. A dog gets one all-breed point for each dog defeated at a dog show. The top dogs in the country easily have more than 50,000 points in a given year.

BEST OF BREED
In order to win Best In Show a dog must first be judged the best of dogs of its same breed competing in the show. Some breeds have more than 100 dogs entered. The winner of the breed moves on to the Group judging.

FIRST IN GROUP
Each of the 212 AKC registered breeds and varieties are assigned to one of seven groups (Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding) representing characteristics and functions for which the breeds were originally bred. By winning the Group competition, that dog joins an elite group of winners of the seven group competitions that go on to compete for the ultimate Best In Show award, the coveted gold and blue rosette, and to become winner of The National Dog Show.
SPORTING GROUP
The invention of the gun led to the development of the sporting, or gun dogs, to aid in hunting upland game birds and waterfowl, performing at the direction of the hunter. While a number of these breeds perform more than one task, it is generally the duty of pointers and setters to point and mark game, for spaniels to flush game, and for retrievers to recover dead and wounded game.

HOUND GROUP
Originally classified as sporting dogs because of their function as hunters, breeds in the Hound Group vary greatly in size, shape and coat. Most of these breeds were developed to hunt somewhat independently of their humans, who usually followed on foot or on horseback as the hounds chased down the prey. This group informally consists of scent hounds, dogs that hunt by tracking a scent, and sight hounds, who spot their game and run it down.

WORKING GROUP
While the uses and appearances of the dogs in the Working Group vary, most are powerfully built and intelligent, performing various tasks for their handlers. These dogs are working farm and draft animals. They guard homes and livestock, serve heroically as police and military dogs, security dogs, guide and service dogs, and hunters.

TOY GROUP
Toy dogs have been around for centuries, and are bred for one purpose: to be companions for their humans. Many have been bred down from and still resemble their larger cousins. Their small size and portability make them ideal for city dwellers and those with limited space.

TERRIER GROUP
Almost all of the terriers evolved in the British Isles. The geography of the specific area (water, rocky terrain and more) helped to determine the exact duties of each breed but it usually involved hunting vermin and varmints ranging from rats to badgers to otters and more. These are dogs of great determination, courage and self-confidence, with a great willingness to go to ground in search of their quarry.

THE SEVEN GROUPS
Each of the 212 registered breeds and varieties are assigned to one of the seven groups generally representing characteristics and functions for which the breeds were originally bred. The seven group winners compete for Best In Show.

NON-SPORTING GROUP
The AKC originally registered dogs as either Sporting or Non-Sporting. Eventually, hounds and terriers were split from the Sporting Group and the Toys and Working dogs were split off from Non-Sporting, with the Herding Group eventually splitting from Working. Today, the Non-Sporting Group is literally every breed that is left, resulting in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, coat, function and history.

HERDING GROUP
Herding is a natural instinct in dogs that is seen in the wild. Humans have used that instinct to their advantage on farms and ranches with herding dogs who have the sole purpose of gathering and moving livestock from one place to another.

Watch The National Dog Show Presented by Purina®
Thanksgiving Day at Noon, November 23, on NBC.

To learn more, visit: www.NationalDogShow.com • www.akc.org
### THE BREEDS - Group Order

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SPORTING</strong></th>
<th><strong>HOUND</strong></th>
<th><strong>WORKING</strong></th>
<th><strong>TERRIER</strong></th>
<th><strong>TOY</strong></th>
<th><strong>NON-SPORTING</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Setter</td>
<td>Afghan Hound</td>
<td>Doberman Pinscher</td>
<td>Airedale Terrier</td>
<td>Italian Greyhound</td>
<td>Poodle (Standard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Setter</td>
<td>Saluki</td>
<td>German Pinscher</td>
<td>Irish Terrier</td>
<td>Chinese Crested</td>
<td>Poodle (Miniature)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Setter</td>
<td>Azawakh</td>
<td>Black Russian Terrier</td>
<td>Welsh Terrier</td>
<td>Smooth Coat Chihuahua</td>
<td>Bichon Frise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Red and White Setter</td>
<td>Sloughi</td>
<td>Giant Schnauzer</td>
<td>Lakeland Terrier</td>
<td>Long Coat Chihuahua</td>
<td>Coton de Tulear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pointer</td>
<td>Ibizan Hound</td>
<td>Standard Schnauzer</td>
<td>Wire Fox Terrier</td>
<td>Toy Fox Terrier</td>
<td>Lowchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Shorthaired Pointer</td>
<td>Pharaoh Hound</td>
<td>Rottweiler</td>
<td>Smooth Fox Terrier</td>
<td>Miniature Pinscher</td>
<td>Dalmatian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weimaraner</td>
<td>Greyhound</td>
<td>Bernese Mountain Dog</td>
<td>Parson Russell Terrier</td>
<td>Manchester Terrier (Toy)</td>
<td>Xoloitzcuintli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vizsla</td>
<td>Whippet</td>
<td>Greater Swiss Mountain Dog</td>
<td>Russell Terrier</td>
<td>Russian Toy</td>
<td>Finnish Spitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wirehaired Vizsla</td>
<td>Borzoi</td>
<td>Alaskan Malamute</td>
<td>Border Terrier</td>
<td>Maltese</td>
<td>Keeshond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany</td>
<td>Scottish Deerhound</td>
<td>Siberian Husky</td>
<td>Border Terrier</td>
<td>Shih Tzu</td>
<td>American Eskimo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Wirehaired Pointer</td>
<td>Irish Wolfhound</td>
<td>Chinook</td>
<td>Berry Blue Terrier</td>
<td>Cavalier King Charles Spaniel</td>
<td>Norwegian Lundehund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wirehaired Pointing Griffon</td>
<td>American Foxhound</td>
<td>Samoyed</td>
<td>Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier</td>
<td>English Toy Spaniel (B&amp;PC)</td>
<td>Shiba Inu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbet</td>
<td>English Foxhound</td>
<td>Akita</td>
<td>Bedlington Terrier</td>
<td>English Toy Spaniel (KC&amp;R)</td>
<td>Finnish Lapphund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagotto Romagnolo</td>
<td>Harrier</td>
<td>Boxer</td>
<td>Manchester Terrier (Standard)</td>
<td>Japanese Chin</td>
<td>Icelandic Sheepdog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinone Italiano</td>
<td>Beagle (15 inch)</td>
<td>Great Dane</td>
<td>Rat Terrier</td>
<td>Papillon</td>
<td>Neapolitan Shepherd Dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bracco Italiano</td>
<td>Beagle (13 inch)</td>
<td>Bullmastiff</td>
<td>American Hairless Terrier</td>
<td>Silky Terrier</td>
<td>Australian Cattle Dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat-Coated Retriever</td>
<td>Rhodesian Ridgeback</td>
<td>Mastiff</td>
<td>Affenpinscher</td>
<td>Shih Tzu</td>
<td>Bouvier des Flandres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curly-Coated Retriever</td>
<td>Norwegian Elkhound</td>
<td>Tibetan Mastiff</td>
<td>Brussels Griffon</td>
<td>Beauceron</td>
<td>Beauceen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Retriever</td>
<td>Basenji</td>
<td>Neapolitan Mastiff</td>
<td>Pug</td>
<td>Bergamasco</td>
<td>Entlebucher Mountain Dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labrador Retriever</td>
<td>Portuguese Podengo Pequeno</td>
<td>Dogo Argentino</td>
<td>Pekingese</td>
<td>Australian Shepherd</td>
<td>Norwegian Buhund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever</td>
<td>American English Coonhound</td>
<td>Cane Corso</td>
<td>Shetland Sheepdog</td>
<td>Shih Tzu</td>
<td>Finnish Lapphund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nederlandse Kooikerhondje</td>
<td>Black and Tan Coonhound</td>
<td>Dogue de Bordeaux</td>
<td>Polish Lowland Sheepdog</td>
<td>Cavalier King Charles Spaniel</td>
<td>Icelandic Sheepdog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Bay Retriever</td>
<td>Bluetick Coonhound</td>
<td>Borboel</td>
<td>Puli</td>
<td>English Toy Spaniel (B&amp;PC)</td>
<td>Spanish Water Dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Water Spaniel</td>
<td>Redbone Coonhound</td>
<td>Portuguese Water Dog</td>
<td>Pumi</td>
<td>English Toy Spaniel (KC&amp;R)</td>
<td>Swedish Vallhund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Water Spaniel</td>
<td>Treeing Walker Coonhound</td>
<td>Newfoundland</td>
<td>Affenpinscher</td>
<td>Japanese Chin</td>
<td>Cardigan Welsh Corgi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boykin Spaniel</td>
<td>Plott</td>
<td>Leonberger</td>
<td>Miniature Pinscher</td>
<td>Pomeranian</td>
<td>Pembroke Welsh Corgi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Springer Spaniel</td>
<td>Bloodhound</td>
<td>Saint Bernard</td>
<td>Manchester Terrier (Toy)</td>
<td>Smooth Coat Chihuahua</td>
<td>Pembroke Welsh Corgi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welsh Springer Spaniel</td>
<td>Otterhound</td>
<td>Great Pyrenees</td>
<td>Russian Toy</td>
<td>Toy Fox Terrier</td>
<td>English Springer Spaniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Spaniel</td>
<td>Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen</td>
<td>Kuvasz</td>
<td>Havaneese</td>
<td>Miniature Pinscher</td>
<td>Gordon Setter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocker Spaniel</td>
<td>Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen</td>
<td>Komondor</td>
<td>Maltese</td>
<td>Manchester Terrier (Toy)</td>
<td>Irish Setter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clumber Spaniel</td>
<td>Basset Hound</td>
<td>Anatolian Shepherd Dog</td>
<td>Shih Tzu</td>
<td>American Foxhound</td>
<td>Irish Red and White Setter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex Spaniel</td>
<td>Dachshund (Smooth)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cavalier King Charles Spaniel</td>
<td>English Foxhound</td>
<td>Pointer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Cocker Spaniel</td>
<td>Dachshund (Longhaired)</td>
<td></td>
<td>English Toy Spaniel (B&amp;PC)</td>
<td>Harrier</td>
<td>Welsh Springer Spaniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocker Spaniel (ASCOB)</td>
<td>Dachshund (Wirehaired)</td>
<td></td>
<td>English Toy Spaniel (KC&amp;R)</td>
<td>Beagle (15 inch)</td>
<td>Field Spaniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocker Spaniel (Parti)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Japanese Chin</td>
<td>Beagle (13 inch)</td>
<td>Clumber Spaniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocker Spaniel (Black)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Papillon</td>
<td>Rhodesian Ridgeback</td>
<td>Sussex Spaniel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HERDING**
- German Shepherd Dog
- Belgian Laekenois
- Belgian Malinois
- Belgian Shepherd
- Belgian Tervuren
- Briard
- Berger Picard
- Pyrenean Shepherd
- Collie (Rough)
- Collie (Smooth)
- Shetland Sheepdog
- Australian Shepherd
- Miniature American Shepherd
- Border Collie
- Bearded Collie
- Old English Sheepdog
- Polish Lowland Sheepdog
- Puli
- Pumi
- Mudi
- Canaan Dog
- Australian Cattle Dog
- Bouvier des Flandres
- Beauceron
- Bergamasco
- Entlebucher Mountain Dog
- Norwegian Buhund
- Finnish Lapphund
- Icelandic Sheepdog
- Spanish Water Dog
- Swedish Vallhund
- Cardigan Welsh Corgi
- Pembroke Welsh Corgi

**NON-SPORTING**
- Poodle (Standard)
- Poodle (Miniature)
- Bichon Frise
- Coton de Tulear
- Lowchen
- Dalmatian
- Xoloitzcuintli
- Finnish Spitz
- Keeshond
- American Eskimo
- Norwegian Lundehund
- Shiba Inu
- Schipperke
- Lhasa Apso
- Tibetan Spaniel
- Tibetan Terrier
- Boston Terrier
- French Bulldog
- Bulldog
- Chinese Shar-Pei
- Chow Chow
The bouncy, crowd-pleasing French Bulldog, Winston, captured the fancy of the judges and the hearts of 20 million viewers on NBC last Thanksgiving, winning Best in Show at Philadelphia’s prestigious National Dog Show Presented by Purina.

Winston’s emergence as America’s top dog was especially notable because he was raised and is co-owned by National Football League player Morgan Fox, the Los Angeles Chargers defensive end. Winston’s handler for the show was Perry Payson of Bixby, Oklahoma, who is also the breeder and a member of the ownership group.

Winston came to Philadelphia as the #1-ranked all-breed canine in America and #1 in the Non-Sporting Group after winning Reserve Best in Show (second place) at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York in June, 2022.

“He is a showdog with personality and beauty and a perfect fit for the breed,” offered Vicki Seiler-Cushman of Xenia Ohio, the Best in Show judge. “He has a razzle dazzle that says, ‘I am here to win tonight.’ You can just tell that he can also go home and be the perfect pet.”

“I get excited every time and so does Winston,” Payson gushed about the Best in Show stage in which just seven dogs compete for the ultimate title. “The National Dog Show in Philadelphia with the television exposure on Thanksgiving Day is obviously special. We’ve had a lot of support and that’s what happens with a dog of this quality.” Payson had a crowd-pleasing response to the victory, lifting his charge into the air in celebration as the announcement was made. Winston and Payson choose Purina Pro Plan as their nutrition of choice.
David Frei, America's foremost authority on all things canine, is a natural choice to serve as the expert analyst for the National Dog Show Presented by Purina®. An American Kennel Club (AKC)-licensed judge who has officiated dog shows all over the world, Frei hosted television coverage of “The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show” for 27 years (1990-2016). He has co-hosted the National Dog Show Presented by Purina® since its inception in 2002, becoming a Thanksgiving Day fixture in American homes. A successful former breeder/owner/handler, he is proud of the work his therapy dogs have done at the Ronald McDonald House of New York, the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, among other health-related institutions. His first book, *The Angel By My Side* (Hay House Publishing, 2002, with Mike Lingenfelter), claimed two Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA) awards. His second book, *Angel on a Leash* (BowTie Press, 2011), also a DWAA award winner, tells of his years of experience and work with therapy dogs.

Mary Carillo, longtime NBC Sports analyst, and lifelong lover of man’s (and woman’s!) best friend, brings a wealth of experience to the National Dog Show commentary team. Best known for her work as a host and correspondent for the Olympic Games on NBC, she also serves as a television analyst for major-event tennis coverage and as a correspondent for HBO’s *Real Sports* with Bryant Gumbel. In addition to the National Dog Show, Carillo co-hosted the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show alongside David Frei in 2009, 2013 and 2016. Her distinguished career in broadcast journalism has earned her three Peabody Awards, including one for her work on the HBO documentary *Billie Jean King: Portrait of a Pioneer*. She also has three Emmy Awards. In 2010, she became the first female recipient of the Dick Schaap Award for Outstanding Journalism. A former professional tennis player, Carillo was named “Best Commentator” by *Tennis Magazine* from 1988-91 and “Broadcaster of the Year” by the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) in 1981 and 1985. She has co-authored two books: *Tennis My Way*, with Martina Navratilova (Penguin, 1984) and *Tennis Kinetics*, with Rick Elstein (Simon & Schuster, 1985).

Mary is the proud owner of three dogs, Zuzu The Wonder Dog, a four-year-old Goldendoodle; Petey Boy, a 14-year-old rescue of indeterminate bloodlines; and Ranger, a Mini Sheepadoodle, still less than one year-old.
The National Dog Show reach extends beyond Expo Center & Thanksgiving Day

By Ranny Green

Most of America knows it as the Thanksgiving Day Dog Show. But The National Dog Show Presented by Purina® and hosted by the Kennel Club of Philadelphia influence is so much more than that.

It comes with a rich history that delivers the total package – not just this weekend but with affiliated events from September to December – far beyond what the rest of America will be viewing on NBC from noon-2 p.m. in all time zones on T-Day.

And if you’re looking for longevity, it serves up plenty of that, too. The popular show started in 1879 and has been held continuously by the...
Kennel Club of Philadelphia since 1933. It’s been The National Dog Show since 2002, and today it lays claim to being the only benched show in the United States. A benched show requires that dogs entered in competition stay on their specifically assigned benches unless they are being shown, groomed or exercised. This enables the public to see the dogs up close and personal, and ask questions of the handler, breeder or groomer. Often these meetings provide key contact information to the attendee for more information about the breed and often result in eventual adoption or purchase of a dog of that breed.

This special show’s influence extends far beyond the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center while embodying plenty of giving, the trait we will be celebrating in just a few days. Consider it a community event for dog owners beginning with the PAWS for People’s Wag & Walkathon from September 21–October 21 aimed at raising $55,000 for the Delaware-based program’s PAWS for People Pet Therapy, which provides elders, children and individuals with disabilities therapeutic visits with a gentle and affectionate pet at facilities in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The month-long cumulative marathon allows participants to log their 26.2 miles anytime at their own pace and concluded with the Cross the Finish Line Celebration at Glasgow Park, Delaware, October 21.

From the streets to the conference rooms, the National Dog Show’s influence extends to its fifth annual National Dog Show Therapy Dog Symposium at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, December 8, where experts nationwide will congregate to share information and develop best practices for the use of Therapy Dogs in an assortment of arenas.

But it doesn’t stop there. The club donates to a wide mix of other dog-related national and international organizations, too. Here are just a few of the recipients in recent years: Ronald McDonald House, Angel on a Leash, American Kennel Club Disaster Relief Fund, American Kennel Club Dog Museum, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine Working Dog Center, Happy Paws (Ukraine), two Ukraine rescue groups and numerous others.

Add to that its annual Dogs’ Best Friend Award, which celebrates publicly and awards $5,000 to deserving public servants focused on animal welfare. This year’s winner is the Women’s Animal Center of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a 154-year-old non-profit dedicated to rehoming surrendered and abandoned dogs, cats and small pets. It has found forever homes for more than 10,000 animals the past decade.

The National Dog Show Presented by Purina® is the most widely viewed dog show in America with average ratings of 20.9 million viewers annually, and has become a staple in households nationwide during the holiday for 21 years. Based on data by The Nielsen Company and NBC Research, the show has attracted audiences of 20 million plus in 11 of those 21 years.

In the process, you most likely will be sitting alongside your dog when its breed representative makes a cameo appearance during the two-hour presentation, hopefully rooting it on to a Group and possibly Best in Show win. Frei labels this the “alma mater factor” and adds, the “real Best in Show Dog is the one sitting beside you on the couch.”

This weekend you will see virtually all of the American Kennel Club’s 200-plus breeds and varieties with the bulk of those winners featured in the seven Group competitions and Best in Show at home with the family on Thanksgiving Day.

Ranny Green is a retired Seattle Times columnist, copy editor and newsfeatures writer. He wrote a pets column for The Times for more than 25 years and is a member of the Dog Writers Association of America Hall of Fame. He is presently a features writer for AKC.org and lives in Tacoma, Washington with his 5-year-old Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Derbi.
Women’s Animal Center
Honored with Dogs’ Best Friend Award

Women’s Animal Center of Bensalem, PA, the 154-year-old non-profit organization dedicated to saving the lives of animals, will receive the Kennel Club of Philadelphia’s “Dogs’ Best Friend Award” for 2023. The organization will be recognized on Saturday, Nov. 18, during National Dog Show ceremonies at The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA.

Founded in 1869 by thirty trailblazing women led by Caroline Earle White, Women’s Animal Center is America’s first animal shelter. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to rehoming surrendered and abandoned dogs, cats and small pets. They have found forever homes for more than 10,000 animals over the past decade. They are also the only open-admission animal shelter in lower Bucks County, PA. Their mission is to “save the lives of animals and improve the health of pets through sheltering and adoptions, veterinary services, community programs, educational resources and advocacy.”

The organization works to prevent pet surrenders to animal shelters by providing high quality veterinary services through its American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)-accredited Veterinary Hospital at low and affordable fees for owners. It maintains a community pet food pantry for pet owners in need and helps pet owners financially to keep animals out of shelters and in their homes.

“Women’s Animal Center assists thousands of animals and people in need throughout Bucks County and the Greater Philadelphia region each and every year, but receives no federal, state, or local funding to do so,” stated Cathy Malkemes, Chief Executive Officer of the Center. “We rely upon the generosity of our community to support our work, so to have the wonderful recognition and financial support of The Kennel Club of Philadelphia is truly invaluable to us, and to our animals.”

The Kennel Club of Philadelphia’s Dogs’ Best Friend Award includes a $5,000 donation and Women’s Animal Center will direct those funds to support delivery of their lifesaving mission.

Women’s Animal Center is also a participant in “Clear the Shelters,” NBC10’s annual campaign promoting pet adoption and animal welfare in the region. “Clear the Shelters” is a national program in which NBCUniversal affiliates partner with animal shelters and rescues to help raise funds and save animals by finding them permanent homes. Last year, the initiative raised over $540,000 and facilitated more than 161,000 adoptions. The National Dog Show supports its media partner, NBC10, and Women’s Animal Center in their work with the “Clear the Shelters” program.

“We rely upon the generosity of our community to support our work, so to have the wonderful recognition and financial support of The Kennel Club of Philadelphia is truly invaluable to us, and to our animals.”
The National Dog Show Therapy Dog Symposium at Rowan University will bring together some of the therapy dog movement’s most prominent influencers for the fifth straight year in just three weeks – Friday, Dec. 8, at the college campus in Glassboro, New Jersey.

Focused on sharing information and the development of best practices for therapy dog practitioners, advocates and aspirants from America and around the world, the event is set for 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. with registration available for both onsite attendees and for virtual consumption via livestream.

The conference is hosted by the Shreiber Family Pet Therapy Program at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ, for a national and international audience that is growing again after global pandemic-related constraints.

Launched in 2019, the conference persevered through two years of COVID and shifted to a virtual platform, attracting attendees from other countries. It has established itself as the most prominent conference for the therapy dog, healthcare and veterinary communities focused on the subject.

Registration is open to the public by going to go.rowan.edu/TherapyDogSymposium. The price for the in-person option are listed on the registration site.

The conference is hosted and chaired by David Frei and Michele Pich. Frei is one of the best-known names in the canine world and a leader of the modern therapy dog movement. He is the expert analyst for NBC’s National Dog Show Presented by Purina®, broadcast every year on Thanksgiving Day. He is also a founder of the Angel on a Leash therapy dog program.

Pich is the founding Assistant Director of the Shreiber Family Pet Therapy Program and Adjunct Professor of Law and Justice Studies at Rowan University. She has been involved in canine rescue and therapy work for several decades. Her work includes being a charter member of the National Dog Show Therapy Dog Ambassador Team with her own rescued therapy dog, Vivian Peyton, a Staffordshire Terrier mix.

The keynote speaker is Ann Howie of Olympia, Washington, an author (“Teaming with Your Therapy Dog”) and expert on animal-assisted intervention and animal-assisted therapy. Other speakers will be announced and listed at go.rowan.edu/TherapyDogSymposium.

The conference is hosted and chaired by David Frei and Michele Pich. Frei is one of the best-known names in the canine world and a leader of the modern therapy dog movement. He is the expert analyst for NBC’s National Dog Show Presented by Purina®, broadcast every year on Thanksgiving Day. He is also a founder of the Angel on a Leash therapy dog program.

Pich is the founding Assistant Director of the Shreiber Family Pet Therapy Program and Adjunct Professor of Law and Justice Studies at Rowan University. She has been involved in canine rescue and therapy work for several decades. Her work includes being a charter member of the National Dog Show Therapy Dog Ambassador Team with her own rescued therapy dog, Vivian Peyton, a Staffordshire Terrier mix.

Q: PAWS for People and The National Dog Show have become fast friends with the partnership around the annual dog walk and other initiatives. Why has it worked so well?
A: The love of dogs is a good foundation for any friendship. Our organizations have different audiences and constituencies — both of whom are devoted animal lovers — and are a natural fit for cross promotion. The timing of the WAG & Walkathon and The National Dog Show allows us to boost the audience for each and introduce the organizations to new fans and volunteers.

Q: How has the WAG & Walkathon grown over the years?
A: The WAG & Walkathon, now in its fifteenth year, has evolved from a scrappy, local 5k to a month-long, health & wellness focused, virtual marathon. The WAG & Walkathon is PAWS premier fundraising event and the money helps sustain PAWS programs throughout our service area. The beauty of the virtual marathon is that it allows people to participate from anywhere and complete the 26.2 miles at their own pace. Whatever your fitness level, you can join in and walk with your pets, friends or family — wherever you live — and make progress toward your wellness goals while supporting the life-changing work of PAWS for People. You can learn more about PAWS For People at www.PAWSforPeople.org.

Q: Does the PAWS involvement at the National Dog Show Therapy Dog Ambassador Team Meet and Greet area on dog show weekend at Oaks help promote the organization?
A: Absolutely, Yes! PAWS’s involvement in the meet & greet has generated volunteer interest and we are always looking for new volunteer pet therapy teams. Anytime PAWS can raise awareness about pet therapy and educate the public on its benefits, we create opportunities for future volunteers and site partners.

Q: How is PAWS for People involved with the National Dog Show Therapy Dog Symposium at Rowan University?
A: PAWS founding Executive Director, Lynne Robinson, was a featured presenter at the Symposium and PAWS has promoted the Symposium each year since our partnership with the National Dog Show began in 2020. We always send a group of members to the Rowan University campus, since it is less than two hours away from our Delaware headquarters. PAWS looks forward to continuing our relationship and sharing our nearly two decades of pet therapy experience with the Symposium attendees any way we can.

THERAPY DOGS

PAWS FOR PEOPLE

A Conversation with Clarice Ritchie

Clarice Ritchie, Executive Director of PAWS For People, cuddles Sheba, one of the array of PAWS-certified canines certified to do therapy visitation work in four states in the Mid-Atlantic Region.
The award consists of a $500 cash grant to the individual to be used as an incentive to further pursue the topic going forward.

The Dog Writers Association of America encompasses all aspects of the world of dogs – showing, performance, behavior, training, health, and the human-animal bond. The organization encourages excellence in writing about dogs in all aspects of communication.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The Dog Writers Association of America encompasses all aspects of the world of dogs – showing, performance, behavior, training, health, and the human-animal bond. The organization encourages excellence in writing about dogs in all aspects of communication.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.

The judging consists of a panel of three professional writers/editors who score every entry. The winners of the special categories will win cash awards and the winners of the regular categories will receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Nominees in all categories will receive certificates. Winners will be celebrated at the Annual DWAA Award dinner planned for the spring of 2023.
Debra Vey Voda Hamilton is an attorney/mediator/conflict coach who is one of us - a breeder-owner-handler in the world of Irish Setters and Longhaired Dachshunds. Her law, mediation and coaching practice is based upon her dedication to her life's work, which is the title of her internationally acclaimed podcast, “Why Do Pets Matter?”

Debra specializes in mediation and conflict coaching for people with highly emotional conflicts that arise over pets in every area of life – marriage, divorce, neighbors, malpractice (veterinary), breeder-owners, trusts and estates, and civil, criminal and contract law.

“We want the best outcome for the animal while all this emotional discussion is going on around them,” says Debra, “and sometimes people's egos get the better of them and their pet's well-being suffers. I help people find a workable solution to their disagreements.”

Debra has championed mediation as the answer to these conflicts for the last 13 years. “I ask parties to take a breath, decompress, try to be less defensive and reactive, and that helps them foster collaborative discussions, which focus on the best interests of the animal without adversarial dialogue. We want our pets properly cared for during their human’s life transitions.

“Pet Nups and the MAAP Plan enable you to navigate the journey your pet takes when you can’t care for them,” she says. “There are a lot of things that can complicate your ability to care for your pet – a stroke, injury, job loss, dementia,” says Debra. “If you are carried out on a stretcher, you don’t want Animal Care and Control making the decisions for your pet.”

How do you get to the best outcome for your pet? Debra starts with her Pup Nup and MAAP plan approach:

- **The Pup Nup** helps you – not a person with a black robe - decide how the sharing of a beloved pet might continue.
- **The MAAP Plan** helps you:
  - Make a plan
  - Appoint care givers
  - Address the needs of your pet
  - Publish your plan and be sure that everyone in your circle has a copy.

Details and instructions about the MAAP Plan and “Pup Nup” are free on Debra’s MAAP Community Call, the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month, and on her podcast, website and free online webinars. For details, see her website (below).

“We are all passionate about our pets,” Debra says. “I help people get it right, over being right.”

Hamiltonslawandmediation.com
dhamilton@hamiltonlawandmediation.com

Debra Hamilton tells us: “Why Do Pets Matter?”

By DAVID FREI - NBC Sports

Do you have a “Pup Nup” in place for your dog(s)? How about an MAAP Plan?

Watch The National Dog Show Presented by Purina® Thanksgiving Day at Noon, November 23, on NBC.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 22nd annual edition of The National Dog Show Presented by Purina® hosted by The Kennel Club of Philadelphia.

We continue to build upon our efforts to make our show experience entertaining and educational for all. Our tradition-rich shows are a regional treasure as well as a national phenomenon and a win at Philadelphia is considered one of Dogdom’s greatest achievements.

The Kennel Club of Philadelphia is no newcomer to the dog show world. Since hosting a major dog event in 1876 at the Centennial Exposition, we’ve been at the forefront of the purebred dog world. The KCP and its predecessors have been presenting shows since 1879. Our club predates the American Kennel Club (AKC), which was organized at a meeting of the then Philadelphia Dog Club on September 17th 1884.

We are not only one of America’s oldest continuing sporting events but our annual National Dog Show TV special is the most widely watched canine event in the world, capturing 20 million plus viewers a year with its broadcast on NBC at noon on Thanksgiving Day and an NBC prime time encore presentation the following Saturday.

We hope you enjoy your visit to our shows and return many years to come.

Sincerely,
Wayne Ferguson, President

FRANK DEPAULO
SHOW CHAIRMAN

Frank is a long time KCP member and has been Show Chairman since the 2014 KCP shows. As such, he acts as overall coordinator of the various aspects of the physical staging of the dog shows, including venue and judging ring setup arrangements, the competition schedule and the smooth running of the judging process. Frank is a lifelong dog lover who founded Tahari Kennels in 1979. Since that time, he has bred many Best in Show champions in the Ridgeback, Pointer and Whippet breeds that have carried the Tahari prefix. Frank continues to show and campaign dogs and is an AKC licensed judge. In addition to his role with the KCP, he is a lifetime member of the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club and a long time member of both the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of The United States and The American Pointer Club in which he has held various positions, including Show Chairman, Board of Directors, Vice President and President. Frank lives in Pennsylvania with his wife Judy and his two daughters.

The American Kennel Club: The Kennel Club of Philadelphia’s National Dog Shows are sanctioned by the AKC, the principal registry for purebred dogs in the United States and the largest registry in the world. Every year, owners register approximately one million dogs with the AKC. The AKC’s Canine Health Foundation is the world’s largest funder of exclusively canine research, with a mission to develop significant resources for basic and applied health programs with emphasis on canine genetics to improve the quality of life for dogs and their owners. The AKC and its affiliate, AKC Companion Animal Recovery, have been crucial in providing long-term care to displaced animals.

The Kennel Club of Philadelphia
2022 - A Year in Review

A look back at the seven Best in Group winners from last year.

See pages 14 and 15 to choose your favorite breed within each of the seven groups this year!

- Toy Group
- Non-Sporting Group
- Sporting Group
- Herding Group
- Working Group
- Terrier Group
- Hound Group

Watch The National Dog Show Presented by Purina®
Thanksgiving Day at Noon, November 23, on NBC.

To learn more, visit: www.NationalDogShow.com • www.akc.org
Get Your Paws On Our Apps

ABOUT THE COVER

This year’s National Dog Show Presented by Purina® program cover was photographed on September 12, 2023 at the Go Studios in NYC.

Our reigning Best in Show Champion “Winston” shows off his cuteness and class along with the top 5 Breeds in the U.S. and Philadelphia.

Thank you to our amazing photographer, Simon Bruty, for creating the magic! And thank you to all the people and the dogs that made this year’s photo shoot happen!

Watch The National Dog Show Presented by Purina® Thanksgiving Day at Noon, November 23, on NBC.

Program ©2023 NBC and Carson International, Inc.
Photography: Simon Bruty, See Spot Run Photography-SteveDonahue, Steve Surfman.
©2023 NBC/Carson International, Inc.
Dave Helming will be fondly remembered by everyone in the dog show community. Dave Helming of Flemington, New Jersey, was one of the most accomplished figures in the showdog world. As a member of the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club of Philadelphia, he was instrumental in the growth of the National Dog Show, now one of the most prominent dog show events in the world, attracting a total audience of some 20 million viewers each Thanksgiving Day.

He was the Show Chairman of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, playing a major role in transitioning the prestigious event from Madison Square Garden to the National Tennis Center in Flushing, Queens. He was an American Kennel Club (AKC) Judge and Delegate, and a prominent Newfoundland breeder. Dave was an engineer who served in senior managerial positions for 38 years in the business world and was a member of the Army Corps of Engineers for three years. He also served in the Public Service Enterprise Group during that time.

He would go on to become the Ground Chairman for the Westminster Kennel Club in 2013, followed by his taking on the responsibilities of Show Chairman during that time. He served as President, Vice President and AKC Delegate. In addition, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Morris & Essex Kennel Club, and was a former President of the Somerset Hills Kennel Club.

He is remembered as a kind, generous and humorous individual, and of course, a dog lover.

Ronnie L. Scott of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, was an accomplished and respected Director of the Kennel Club of Philadelphia (KCP). His passions were dogs, golf and travel. A graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology, he owned and operated Forklifts Inc. of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Under his stewardship the company was a leader in its industry.

He was a key member of the Board of Directors that developed the KCP’s nationally televised National Dog Show Presented by Purina. The show is a Thanksgiving tradition in homes across America and now stands as one of the most prominent dog shows in the United States.

He served as a Vice President of the Harrisburg Kennel Club and as its Show Chairman for 20 years. In addition, he was a member and major supporter of the Morris & Essex Kennel Club of Philadelphia. They attended many prominent shows in the United States and across Europe.

Above: Ronnie L. Scott with Vikki, winner of Best In Show at the National Dog Show Presented by Purina in 2006.

RONNIE L. SCOTT
April 9, 1943 - January 16, 2023
Pets are domestic abuse survivors, too.

Purina helps create more safe spaces for domestic abuse survivors and their pets so they can escape and heal together.
#1 CHOICE OF 94 OF THE TOP 100* SHOW DOGS STEPS INTO THE RING. TAKES THE SPOTLIGHT.

NUTRITION THAT PERFORMS®

OMEGA-6 FATTY ACIDS AND VITAMIN A TO NOURISH SKIN & COAT

OPTIMIZES OXYGEN METABOLISM (VO₂ MAX) FOR INCREASED ENDURANCE

ProPlanSport.com

EXCLUSIVELY AT PET SPECIALTY AND ONLINE RETAILERS

*Dog News Magazine Top 100 Dogs based on AKC All-Breed Competition and RBIS through 12/31/22. The handlers or owners of these champions may have received Pro Plan dog food as Purina ambassadors. Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.