

Dalmatian Club of America in conjunction with K9 Ratpack



Incorporated



Open to all Breeds and
Mixed Breeds of all sizes!

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Two Trials

Two Crazy 8's!

Marriott Meadowview Resort

1901 Meadowview Pkwy

Kingsport, TN 37660

Permission has been granted by the Barn Hunt Association, LLC for the holding of these barn hunt trials under BHA Rules and Regulations.

Judges:

Judy Amarose, Acworth, GA

Katie Smiley, Fall Branch, TN

Entries open January 21, 2026 at 9AM PST for Dalmatians only.

Dalmatian entries only will be processed until February 17, 2026, 11:59 PM PST after which ALL other entries will be taken in order received.

Entries Close: April 1, 2026 at 6PM PDT

General Information	Classes Offered										
<p>Trial start time: 8:00 am EDT Sunday, May 3, 2026 Instinct – Master</p> <p>We will accept Day of Show entries (if there is space) for this event from 7:30 am to 8 am EDT</p> <p>Same day move-ups allowed.</p> <p>Please note, we will make reasonable effort to accommodate concurrent events conflicts.</p> <p>Judges:</p> <p>Judy Amarose, Acworth, GA</p> <p>Katie Smiley, Fall Branch, TN</p>	<p>A and B Classes offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instinct: \$23 before closing / \$28 After closing/Day of Show ● Novice - Open: \$27 before closing / \$32 After closing/Day of Show ● Crazy 8's: \$33 before closing / \$38 After closing/Day of Show ● Senior – Master: \$33 before closing / \$38 After closing/Day of Show <p style="text-align: center;">See next page for new entry options!</p> <p>Move-ups allowed 200 max runs per day or 8 hours of judging per judge.</p> <p>Tentative running order will be:</p> <p>Ring 1 Instinct, Novice, Novice, Open, Open,</p> <p>Ring 2 Crazy 8's, Crazy 8's, Senior, Senior, Master, Master</p> <p>NOTE: This running order may change based on number of entries.</p> <p>Master: Blinds of 4</p>										
Payments	Awards										
<p><u>No entry or payment will be accepted prior to January 21 at 9 AM PST. Dalmatian Only Entries will be Processed through February 17, 2026 at 11:59pm PST after which ALL other entries will be processed in the order received.</u></p> <p>Online Entry (Strongly Suggested) at: www.secreterrier.com (make a user account using the same email as you use for www.barnhunt.com) <i>NOTE: The online registration has a nonrefundable online service fee of \$1 per class (maximum of \$10 per transaction).</i></p> <p>Please use this link to enter https://www.secreterrier.com/events/2408/enter</p> <p>For those who wish to mail entries, you can auto generate entry forms from the Barn Hunt website. www.barnhunt.com. Log into the register, select the trial you want to enter and follow the instructions. Make sure to print and sign your entry form.</p> <p>Mail check in US Funds made out to Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) and mail to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Laurie Isaacson PO Box 20670, Castro Valley CA 94546 spottedratpack@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Checks will be deposited after entries close.</i></p> <p>No refunds after closing date unless your space is filled from the waitlist. <u>Cancellations must be made through the Trial Secretary.</u></p> <p>Payment must be received in order for your entry to be considered valid. If not paid by the closing date, and there is a wait list, you will lose your spot.</p>	<p>Qualifying ribbons for all qualifying scores. Placement rosettes by height for first through fourth place for all A classes and Master B. Placement rosettes for first through fourth place regardless of height for B classes in Novice, Open, and Senior. High in Class rosettes for all A classes and Master B. New Title rosettes for a new title in any class.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>First Place</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Blue</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Second Place</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Red</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Third Place</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Yellow</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Fourth Place</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>White</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Qualifying Score</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Brown</i></td> </tr> </table> <p>Qualifying score required for all prizes. “Dog” means either sex. Trophies not awarded become the property of the Dalmatian Club of America, Inc. All trophies must be claimed the day of the show. None will be mailed.</p> <p>The Dalmatian Club of America, Inc Offers the following trophies unless otherwise Indicated. All trophy donors will be listed in the catalog. The Dalmatian Club of America, Inc. offers a rosette for first, second, third, and fourth placements in each class and new titles earned during these trials.</p> <p>First, Second, Third & Fourth in Novice, Open, Senior and Master Class: First Place - 20 oz skinny tumbler with the DCA logo Second, Third and Fourth Place– Collapsible Non-Skid Silicone Dog Bowl</p>	<i>First Place</i>	<i>Blue</i>	<i>Second Place</i>	<i>Red</i>	<i>Third Place</i>	<i>Yellow</i>	<i>Fourth Place</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Qualifying Score</i>	<i>Brown</i>
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<i>Fourth Place</i>	<i>White</i>										
<i>Qualifying Score</i>	<i>Brown</i>										

EXCITING NEW ENTRY OPTIONS!

Exhibitors may enter up to two regular classes per dog, per Trial: Either any one lower level B class in addition to one upper level A class, or two different level B classes. Dogs cannot enter the same class level twice in the same Trial.

At least one class must be a B class.

Entry options are:

- Novice B + Open A, Senior A, or Master A
- Novice B + Open B, Senior B, or Master B
- Open B + Senior A or Master A
- Open B + Senior B or Master B
- Senior B + Master A
- Senior B + Master B

Exhibitors may also enter Crazy 8s, in addition to the regular class options above. Dogs may enter both the Instinct Test and Novice class in the same trial until the dog has earned the RATN title, and then they cannot enter the Instinct Test.

Dogs completing any level in the first trial may be moved up to a higher level for the second trial, if that level has not run already. This is up to the handler and not required. Move-up forms will be available at the Secretary's table.

DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA, INC. NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW COMMITTEE

John Cramer – Show Chair

Trial Chair: Karen Hatfield - bkhat@yahoo.com

Trial Secretary: Laurie Isaacson, PO BOX 20570, Castro Valley, CA 94546 - 408-210-8821 - spottedratpack@gmail.com

Trial Committee: Karen Hatfield, Rosie Branaman, Laurie Issacson

DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA, INC. OFFICER

Michele Wrath – President

Kristine Benoit – Vice President

Vickie Mooney – Treasurer

Dr. Ginger Iwaoka – Recording Secretary

Toni Linstedt – Corresponding Secretary

1048 Woodfield Estates Drive, Town and Country, MO 63017. Dca.corresponding.secretary@gmail.com

DELEGATE TO THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB - Charles Garvin, MD

DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA, INC. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Class of 2027: Dr. Ginger Iwaoka, Samuel Kovitz, Vickie Mooney

Class of 2028: Kris Benoit, Rosie Branaman, Dr. Charles Garvin

Class of 2029: Dr. Kelly Flannigan, Toni Linstedt, Michele Wrath

Official Show Photographer

Phyllis Ensley Photography

1235 Lower Burris Rd, Canton, GA 30114 - (770) 345-9738 - info@petactionshots.com

Host Hotel

Marriott Meadowview Resort

1901 Meadowview Parkway,

Kingsport, TN, 37660, (423) 578-6600

\$145 per night +17.5% tax

Non-refundable pet deposit fee of \$50, per guest room

For Reservations, go online to:

[Book your group rate for Attendees - Dalmatian Club of America](#)

or call

1 (888) 632-3697

Tell them you are with the Dalmatian Club of America Group in May 2026.

RESERVATIONS SHOULD ONLY BE MADE THROUGH THIS LINK OR PHONE NUMBER. PLEASE DO NOT RELY ON AN INTERNET SEARCH FOR LEGITIMATE RESERVATIONS.

DCA Hotel Policy — Any exhibitor who allows his/her dogs to be loose & unattended in a room or to damage hotel property and does not immediately contact the hotel management to make proper restitution will be subject to a Show Event Committee action which could result in the loss of AKC privileges. If it is determined by the Committee hearing that rules are being neglected & destruction and/or misuse of property is taking place, the Committee has the authority to correct the problem or seek AKC suspension.

Please Note: Any hotel or motel listed in the premium list is subject to Show Event Committee Rules. We expect our exhibitors to be responsible guests. A report that an exhibitor at this show has abused hotel or motel property during the dates of our event may result in disciplinary action. Clubs reserve the right to decline future events from the offending party in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 11, Section 15 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows.

RV PARKING

RV Dry Camping on site for up to 50 rigs.

Potable water for tank refills will be available as well as Honey Wagon service. RV guests have access to the fitness center, showers and pool.

\$40 per night/\$45 per night for spaces with grass.

Reserve through the DCA website.

<https://dalmatianclubofamerica.org/product-category/2026-national-specialty/2026-national-specialty-rv-parking-honey-wagon/>

There are three full hook-up RV Campgrounds within 20 Minutes of the Marriott Meadowview Resort:

Rocky Top Campground & RV Park - 496 Pearl Ln, Blountville, TN 37617

Bristol / Kingsport KOA Holiday – 100 Sportsway Dr, Bristol, TN 37620

Moody Bluff Campground: Situated within Warriors' Path State Park – Hemlock Rd, Kingsport, TN

DIRECTIONS TO SHOW SITE

Marriott Meadowview Resort

1901 Meadowview Pkwy, Kingsport, TN 37660 423-578-6600

Please use GPS Directions

CAR PARKING AND PARKING LOT RULES – ALL EXHIBITORS

Exhibitor and visitor parking is located on blacktop parking lots in front of the Marriott.

- Vehicles are limited to ONE PARKING SPACE.
- No ex-pens or crates allowed on blacktop but are allowed on grass areas.
- No cones allowed in parking areas.
- NO PARKING IN ROADWAYS or next to building.
- ONLY cars with RV Parking Permits allowed in the RV lots.
- Please respect parking marked as reserved for judges, and handicapped spaces.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

In Case of Emergency: Call 911

Holston Valley Medical Center

130 W Ravine Rd, Kingsport, TN 37660 423-224-4000

SHOW VETERINARIAN OPTIONS

Indian Ridge Animal Hospital

1100 Indian Trail Drive, Suite # 4659, Kingsport TN 37660

Phone: 423-378-4753 / Mon & Fri 7:30am-9pm; Tues – Thur 7:30am-6PM; Sat 7:30am-8pm; Closed Sun

Colonial Heights Animal Hospital

209 Colonial Heights Rd, Kingsport, TN 37663

Phone: 423/239-5116 / Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri 7:30am-6:00pm; Wed 7:30am-4pm; Sat 8am-12pm; Closed Sun

Airport Pet Emergency Clinic

2436 TN 75, Blountville TN 37617

Phone: 423-279-0574 / 5:30pm-8:00am Monday-Friday; 24 Hrs Saturday & Sunday

Grooming/Crating (Saturday May 2 - Thursday, May 7)

There is ample undercover crating space near the Barn Hunt rings. For those who enjoy the comfort of knowing you have the grooming space you want and need, we offer Reserved Grooming/Crating in the fully air-conditioned Convention Center B. These spaces will be 10" x 10" and situated closer to the Conformation, Obedience and Rally Rings. The cost is \$50 per space for the week. Free Grooming/Crating will also be available on a first come first served basis. These will be 5' x 10' spaces and are limited to one per exhibitor. For full details regarding reserved crating please see the Conformation/Obedience/Rally Premium List.

Reservations may be made at <https://dalmatianclubofamerica.org/product/2026-reserved-crating-space/>

BARN HUNT Notice to Exhibitors:

- These trials will be outside undercover on cement with mats.
- This event is open to all BHA registered dogs 6 months of age and older except as noted in the BHA rules (Wolves/wolf-hybrids, Blind dogs (except Line Drive Class), dogs with open wounds, dogs in wheeled carts (except Line Drive Class), lame/ill dogs, dogs with stitches/bandages)
- Any of the Judges of Record for this event may be used to judge any of the classes at this event at the discretion of the Club under the rule provisions for Load Balancing, Relief Judging, and Splitting. Qualifying scores are assigned to the official Judge of Record for that class.
- Withdrawal of entry before the closing date will receive a full refund less the \$1 convenience fee for online entries.
- Refunds for dogs pulled before closing will be mailed 7 days after the event.
- No refunds will be made for cancellations after the closing date or entries which are absent, disqualified, excused, or barred from competition by decision of the Trial Committee. Exception - Injured dogs with a note from their veterinarian will receive a refund less the 5% processing fee.
- Exhibitors are responsible for complete, accurate and legible information on their entry forms. Illegible, incomplete or inaccurate entries will not be accepted.
- All entries must be accompanied by entry fees in US funds to be valid. A declined payment or returned check does not constitute a valid entry. There will be a \$25 fee for any returned check or payment. Checks must be made payable to Dalmatian Club of America (DCA). There is a \$1 convenience charge per entry for online payment. Entries for which payment has not been received within 7 days of receipt of entry will be cancelled.
- Trial site and judging ring are handicapped accessible.
- **Bitches in season are eligible for entry but will be required to be kept separate from all other dogs and will be run at the end of their class/trial in panties.** If bringing a bitch in season, please inform the trial secretary prior to the trial and inform all exhibitors at the judge's briefing.
- **ONLY DOGS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE** to be shown under the American Kennel Club and/or Barn Hunt Association LLC rules shall be allowed within the Show Precincts. The Marriott Meadowview Resort and Conference Center is the show site/precinct. Puppies under four (4) months are not allowed.
- Exhibitors are responsible for being in the staging area when it is their turn to run.
- Dalmatian Club of America, Inc. and K9 RatPack! reserves the right to ask participants to leave the premises. No refunds will be granted.
- All dogs must be on a maximum 6' leash, except while hunting, and be under control while on the grounds. Flexi-leads may not be used within 30 feet of the ring.
- Any dog that fouls the arena in any way (e.g., urinates, defecates, vomits) will be immediately excused. The handler is expected to clean up after the dog, both in the ring and out and will be charged a \$10 fee per bale.
- Exhibitors not attending the General/Judge's briefings will still be held responsible for knowing the information given in these briefings.

CLUB RULES: ATTENTION ALL EXHIBITORS

- All dogs must be kept on leash except when being judged in off-leash events such as Agility, Barn Hunt, Fast CAT, CABT, Obedience, Rally, Road Trial, and/or Scent Work.
- At no time can dogs be tied out or otherwise left attached to anything other than a human when outside a crate, car, or other secure enclosed confinement. Leashes cannot be left dangling or dragging. Standing or stepping on a leash is not allowed as a form of restraint (but may be used in an emergency to help secure a loose dog.) Accommodations to this rule may be made for differently abled handlers as determined by the Club.
- The grooming/crating areas will be made available to exhibitors, Saturday, May 2 **NOT BEFORE 4PM.**
- No unentered dogs or puppies allowed in show areas per AKC guidelines.
- No working (practice) in rings before or after show hours. Dogs are allowed in rings only during judging hours and scheduled practice times.
- No crates at conformation ringside.
- Crates in the Obedience/Rally section of the ball room **MUST BE REMOVED BY THE END OF THOSE EVENTS ON MONDAY.**
- Crates in the Scent Work area of the facility **MUST BE REMOVED BY THE END OF THOSE EVENTS EACH DAY.**
- No washing of animal food containers in restrooms.
- Bathing of dogs limited to bathing area on the loading dock outside Convention Center B.
- **Pick up after your dogs and dispose in provided receptacles. Failure to do so may result in fines.**
- **No videotaping or photography during the events for resale is permitted without the Dalmatian Club of America, Inc. approval.**
- **Please be advised:** when an exhibitor/handler brings a dog to the podium for a win/placement photo they are establishing a de facto contract with the show photographer to purchase that photo.
- **No baby strollers are allowed in the show areas or adjacent hallways during show hours.**

- **No dogs permitted in hotel bar or restaurant.**
- **Dogs must be crated when unattended in hotel guest rooms.**
- Unless otherwise specified, all trophies and awards must be claimed the day of the show. **None will be mailed.** The club reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value.
- **VACCINATIONS:** Exhibitors should follow their veterinarian's recommendation to assure their dogs are free of internal and external parasites, any communicable diseases, and have appropriate vaccinations.
- **Waiver of Rights** Any dog found in an unsafe environment, distress or harm's way (for example, left unattended on a grooming table in a noose not attached to a safety release clip; left in a vehicle without proper ventilation) will be removed. Exposing a dog to an unsafe environment, distress or harm's way is considered mistreatment. All persons attending this show hereby waive any claim for damages against the host clubs, show superintendent, trial secretaries and Marriott in the event a motor vehicle must be entered to rescue a dog from overheating or improperly vented conditions.
- The club is not responsible for the products or actions of Vendors at this show.
- **PLEASE NOTE: It is expressly understood that exhibitors or spectators alone are responsible for the behavior of their dogs and/or children. Any exhibitor or spectator whose dogs and/or children create unnecessary disturbances or repeatedly engage in unsafe or disruptive behavior or whose equipment creates an impediment to the safe flow of traffic may, at the discretion of the Show Event Committee, be asked to leave the event site. In such cases, no refund of any fees paid will be made.**
- **LIABILITY. The show-giving clubs, their members, Marriott and its employees, show superintendent, trial secretaries, their agents, employees, etc., assume no responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury sustained by exhibitors, handlers, or any of their dogs or property and further assume no responsibility for injury to children & further expect exhibitors and spectators to keep their children and dogs under strict control.**
- The hotels allowing exhibitors and their dogs to stay with them while attending these shows have been advised to report any misuse of their establishment by exhibitors entered in these shows to the 2026 Specialty Show Event Committee. Please be advised that if an exhibitor is reported and is found to be in violation of the hotel rules, such a report could result in an Event Committee Hearing.
- All AKC Rules and Regulations will be enforced by the Show Event Committee under AKC guidelines. Failure to comply with these rules and/or rules within this Premium List will result in charges being brought before the Show Event Committee. **Any event hearing, disciplinary action, rule violations, complaints, or charges will be resolved by the Dalmatian Club of America, Inc. National Specialty Show Event Committee: Kris Benoit, Rosie Branaman, Mary-Lynn Jensen PhD, Toni Linstedt, & Michele Wrath (Chair).**



2025 PERFORMANCE FUND

Without your continued generous support of the Performance Fund, it would not be financially feasible for DCA to offer Agility, Fast CAT, Tracking, Obedience, Rally, Road Trial, Scent Work and Barn Hunt at our National. These events showcase the incredible versatility of our breed! Sponsors are acknowledged in the show catalog.

For full details about great 2025 Performance Fund items, please visit <https://dalmatianclubofamerica.org/product-category/2025-national-specialty/2025-national-specialty-performance-fund-logo-items/>

Order deadline is March 13, 2026!

***Volunteers are needed to help these trials run smoothly!
If you can help out, please contact
Karen Hatfield at bkhat@yahoo.com***

Thank you from the DCA Trial Committee!

PERFORMANCE AWARDS CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Celebrate the versatility of our beautiful athletic breed! Make your reservations to attend the Performance Continental Breakfast on Thursday May 7 at

<https://dalmatianclubofamerica.org/product/companion-performance-award-reception/>



Your dog
Your poop

BE A RESPONSIBLE dog owner and exhibitor. Pick up after your dog on the grounds.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AWARD THE TRIATHLETE CHALLENGE

If you and your dog are a multi-tasking team, set your sights on the Specialty Triathlete Challenge, a special award given to EACH Dalmatian/handler team that earns a qualifying leg or passing score in three (3) or more performance/companion venues during the National Specialty. The eligible events are Road Trial – all titling classes; Agility—all titling classes; Obedience - all titling classes; Rally - all titling classes; Barn Hunt - all titling classes; Scent Work- all titling classes; Fast CAT; and CABT. Only one score or performance in each venue will count toward this award, and the performance must be at the titling level, although the dog/handler team may already have earned the relevant title.

If your dog can hock, heel, sniff, run, or jump, just pick your venues and go for the challenge!

Triathlete Forms must be turned in before 7pm EDT on May 6. All awards must be picked up at the Performance Breakfast. NO AWARDS WILL BE MAILED.

SPONSOR A TROPHY

To see which special awards and classes for all events are available to sponsor and make your donation online, go to <https://dalmatianclubofamerica.org/product-category/2026-national-specialty/specialty-trophy-sponsorship/>.

Please consider sponsoring trophies for performance events as well as conformation

Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Agility, Road Trial - 1st Place is \$75;

2nd Place is \$50, 3rd Place is \$45, 4th Place is \$40

Sponsor full classes for Barn Hunt and Scent Work for \$50 each.

Scent Work HIT Sponsorships are \$75

Sponsorship deadline for inclusion in the catalog is March 16, 2026

DCA 2026 Logo Items!

So Much to Choose...SO Little Time!

Bags, Polos, many styles of T-Shirts, Full Zip Hoodies, Sweater Jackets, ¼ Zip Sport Teks...so much to choose! Order your logo gear and apparel now to support the show and remind you of the good times you will have!

<https://dalmatianclubofamerica.org/product-category/2026-national-specialty/2026-national-specialty-logo-items/>

Order deadline is March 13, 2016!



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS DCA 2026

(Subject to Change)

All Events are located at Marriott Meadowview Resort unless otherwise noted.

<p>THURSDAY, April 30 Road Trial Familiarization – 2PM Road Trial CC/CCC Judging – 4PM</p>	<p>Magna Vista Farm – Bristol, TN Magna Vista Farm – Bristol, TN</p>
<p>FRIDAY, May 1 Road Trial Agility (AB) CABT (AB) Fast CAT (AB)</p>	<p>Magna Vista Farm – Bristol, TN Ron Ramsey Ag Center, Blountville, TN Kominek Farm – Limestone, TN Kominek Farm – Limestone, TN</p>
<p>SATURDAY, May 2 Agility (Dalmatians Only) CABT (AB) Fast CAT (AB) Marriott Meadowview Resort Move In – 4PM Welcome “Pajama” Party (7:30PM)</p>	<p>Ron Ramsey Ag Center, Blountville, TN Kominek Farm – Limestone, TN Kominek Farm – Limestone, TN Onsite - TBA</p>
<p>SUNDAY, May 3 Fast CAT (AB) CABT Barn Hunt</p> <p>Regional Specialty – Dalmatian Club of the Piedmont James W Smith Health Clinics Conformation Handling Practice OPEN EVENING</p>	<p>Kominek Farm – Limestone, TN Kominek Farm – Limestone, TN Marriott Executive Conference Center Parking Garage</p> <p>Convention Center A Holston, Wataugo, Boone Rooms Convention Center A</p>
<p>MONDAY, May 4 DCA Sweepstakes DCA Futurity Obedience Rally Junior Handler Clinic Annual Meeting (7:30PM)</p>	<p>Convention Center A Convention Center A Meadowview Ballroom Meadowview Ballroom Convention Center A Cumberland Amphitheater</p>
<p>TUESDAY, May 5 DCA Class Dogs DCA Non Regular Classes Scent Work (AB)</p> <p>Top Twenty Draw / Rehearsal Betty Garvin Seminar – <i>Breed Standard Through the Eyes of a Judge</i></p>	<p>Convention Center A Convention Center A A variety of rooms near to and including Meadowview Ballroom as well as lower level exterior areas Grand Ballroom Cumberland Amphitheatre</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 DCA Bitch Classes DCA Junior Showmanship DCA 4- Under 6 Month Beginner Puppy Scent Work (AB)</p> <p>Judge Education Top Twenty DCAF Decorated Dals III Silent Auction</p>	<p>Convention Center A Convention Center A Convention Center A A variety of rooms near to and including Meadowview Ballroom as well as lower level exterior areas Blue Ridge Board Room Grand Ballroom Grand Ballroom</p>
<p>THURSDAY, May 7 Performance Breakfast DCA Best of Breed Awards Banquet</p>	<p>Meadowview Ballroom Convention Center A Onsite - TBA</p>

The AKC, DCA and BHA are committed to creating a safe and respectful sport environment for all. If you need to talk to someone, or need help, please call 800.656.HOPE (National Sexual Assault Hotline) or text HOPE to 64673 for free, 24/7 confidential services from trained crisis counselors.



AKC[®] Code of Sportsmanship and Civility

Preface: The tradition of competitive purebred dog events predates 1884—the year the American Kennel Club (AKC[®]) was founded. Those involved in these sports share core values, including a strong commitment to sportsmanship and a welcoming, respectful culture that embraces the diverse community united by a love of dogs.

These values are evident across all aspects of the sport: conformation, performance, companion, and family dog activities. Many believe that the enduring principles of sportsmanship and civility are key reasons the sport has thrived for over 140 years.

Recognizing that periodically reaffirming our shared values strengthens our community, the revised code will be shared widely to highlight the foundational values and principles that define the sport.

- Sportspeople always place the welfare of their dog above all else.
- Sportspeople prioritize the long-term health and preservation of their breed, making decisions that reflect a deep commitment to responsible breeding and ownership.
- Sportspeople respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportspeople conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the sport, the American Kennel Club, and themselves.
- Sportspeople appreciate, encourage and support all who associate with and participate in the sports by fostering an environment where respect, equity, inclusion, and courtesy are foundational.
- Sportspeople understand, uphold and abide by all AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies.
- Sportspeople contribute to a positive atmosphere at events by avoiding negative gossip, disparagement, or unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Sportspeople extend their values of civility, fairness, and respect to all digital and social media platforms.
- Sportspeople actively support the education and mentorship of newcomers, helping them learn the rules, values, and traditions of the sport in a respectful way.
- Sportspeople recognize that they are role models in the sport, and strive to lead by example through humility, kindness, and ethical conduct.
- Sportspeople treat fellow exhibitors, judges, officials, volunteers, spectators, and AKC staff with dignity and respect, regardless of experience, background, or differences in opinion.
- Sportspeople are committed to fair play, honesty, courtesy, and competition, approaching both winning and losing with grace.
- Sportspeople understand that strong competition and civility can—and should—coexist. They appreciate the quality of their competitors, and the effort put forth by others.
- Sportspeople uphold their responsibilities to the sport of purebred dogs and refuse to let personal gain or self-interest influence their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsperson judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsperson judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsperson exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsperson exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- Sportspeople are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportspeople decline to exploit any positions of authority or recognition for personal advantage.
- Sportspeople appreciate those that have gone before them and realize they are responsible for maintaining and enhancing the sport for future generations.



Everything We Do,
We Do for Dogs.

7/2025