

# WCA Top 20 Invitational

The WCA Top 20 Invitational is held in conjunction with the National Specialty Show.

Eligible participants are the previous calendar year's:

- Top 20 Breed dogs
- Top 20 Show dogs
- Sectional Futurity & Maturity winners

**Judges:** There are 3 judges; a breeder judge, a Sporting group judge and a handler judge. The breeder judge & handler judge do not have to be approved judges. Each judge is sent a score sheet and judging procedure letter prior to the event. The judges remain anonymous until they enter the ring. One judge is designated to direct the ring.

**Invitations:** Invitations to enter the Top 20 Invitational are sent to all eligible dogs in February. The invitation includes an AKC regulation entry form with a closing date 1 month prior to the event. Participants are asked to submit a photo of their dog with the entry fee.

**Catalog:** The catalog contains a biography of each of the judges and a photo, a listing of all eligible dogs; Top 20 Breed, Show, Futurity and Maturity winners, a page for each dog entered which lists their eligibility standing (2004 #1 Show) a photo, DOB, Sire, Dam, Breeder, Owner and a catalog with armband number of each entered dog.

**Ring Procedure:** All dogs enter the ring and set up. The panel of 3 judges view all the dogs set up. The judge named to direct the ring then asks the 1st dog in line to circle the ring and come back to the 3 judges. At that point each judge marks that dog's score with an average placement score and the dog is excused. This score is only used if there is a tie in the subsequent scores of each dog. The judge then asks each dog to repeat the above procedure. Once all the dogs have been marked with an average placement score the Chief Ring Steward calls the first 3 dogs into the ring. Judge #1 exams the 1st dog, Judge #2 exams the 2nd dog & Judge #3 exams the 3rd dog. The judges then rotate through each of the 3 dogs. Once all 3 dogs have been examined and scored by each judge, the judges go to the corner of the ring and the director judge asks the 1st dog to gait down and back and then around. At this point the 3 judges score the dog on movement. This procedure is repeated until all 3 dogs have been scored. Then the Chief Ring Steward calls the next 3 dogs into the ring and the procedure is repeated until all the dogs have been judged.

**Stewards:** There are 4 stewards; the Chief Ring Steward who calls the dogs into the ring and 3 Judge's Stewards. Each Judge Steward is assigned to one judge and their job is to hold the judge's clipboard and remove the score sheets and bring them to the table where the scores are input into a computer program which tallies the scores.

As each dog leaves the ring after they have been judged, the Chief Ring Steward presents them with a memento of their participation.

**Awards:** Rosettes are awarded, by the panel of 3 judges, to the Top 20 Invitational Winner and Award of Merit rosettes are awarded to the 3 runner-ups. Award of Merit rosettes are awarded first, followed by the rosette to the Top 20 Invitational Winner. Score sheets for each dog are available to their owners or handlers.