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COLUMBIA, NEW JERSEY RESIDENT WINS MASTERS OBEDIENCE CHAMPIONSHIP AT 143RD ANNUAL WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW IN NEW YORK CITY

New York, NY – The Labrador Retriever "Heart" of Columbia, New Jersey, owned and handled by Linda Brennan, won the 4th Annual Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster on Monday, Feb. 11, 2019 at the 143rd Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City at Pier 94.

Heart, a 6 1/2-year-old female, officially known as OTCH Rhumbline's Once In A Blue Moon UDX9 OGM BN GN VER RE JH ACT1 SCN CGC TKI, bred by Susan Carpenter, bested a field of 15 Obedience competitors entered over two rounds of competition. Heart and Linda posted the best combined score of 287 out of a possible 300 to become the 2019 Masters Obedience Champion. This is an extraordinary four-time win for Heart and Linda, who triumphed at the inaugural event in 2016, as well as in 2017 and 2018.

"It is an amazing feat to win the Masters Obedience Championship," said Westminster Kennel Club Director of Communications Gail Miller Bisher. "Dedication and hard work are demanded, and there must be a strong partnership between dog and handler. To win this event four consecutive times is astonishing."

The championship final round was featured on the live broadcast on Nat Geo WILD on Feb. 11. For full Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster results and video visit <u>www.westminsterkennelclub.org</u>. All Westminster Week events are presented by Purina Pro Plan®.

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About The Westminster Kennel Club – The Westminster Kennel Club is America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs. Established in 1877, Westminster's influence has been felt for more than a century through its famous all-breed, benched dog show held every year in New York City. Today 204 breeds and varieties of dogs compete in Best of Breed judging at Piers 92/94 with the winners advancing to Group and Best in Show competitions at Madison Square Garden. America's dog show has expanded into Westminster Week which includes the Masters Agility Championship at Westminster and the Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster, both held at Pier 94. More than 3,000 dogs entered from around the world compete in these events, making Westminster Week like no other. *Westminster. There's only one.* ^(R) Follow us @WKCDOGS or visit: <u>westminsterkennelclub.org</u>.

About Purina Pro Plan®:

Purina Pro Plan is the food of choice for 12 of the past 13 Westminster Best in Show winners*. Our goal is to give your dog the nutrition to be his absolute best, helping him to be energetic and resilient, while maintaining an ideal body condition, healthy skin, and a stunning coat. Because being the best he can be means something different for every dog, our wide range of dry and wet foods, sold exclusively at pet specialty retailers and online, can be found in four specialized categories formulated for a dog's unique needs. For more information, visit www.proplan.com or follow @ProPlan on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook. The brand is manufactured by Nestlé Purina PetCare, which promotes responsible pet care, humane education, community involvement, and the positive bond between people and their pets. A premiere global manufacturer of pet products, Nestlé Purina PetCare is part of Swiss-based Nestlé S.A., a global leader in nutrition, health, and wellness.

^{*}The handler or owners of these champions may have received Purina Pro Plan dog food as Purina ambassadors.