



THE 142ND ANNUAL
WESTMINSTER
KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW

PRESENTED BY
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INAUGURAL WESTMINSTER GIVES BACK DOG RESCUE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

***AKC Clubs Representing Bearded Collies, English Cocker Spaniels, and
Great Pyrenees To Each Receive \$5,000 in 2018***

New York, N.Y. – The Westminster Kennel Club announces its inaugural Westminster Gives Back Dog Rescue Awards of \$5,000 each to American Kennel Club (AKC)-recognized national breed clubs engaged in dog rescue activities. The first three winners are the Bearded Collie Club of America, English Cocker Spaniel Club of America (ECSCA) Health and Welfare Organization, and Great Pyrenees Club of America. The three donations totaling \$15,000 will be presented at Madison Square Garden during the 142nd Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show on Monday evening, Feb. 12, 2018.

Due to the overwhelming response in the number of applications from the national breeds clubs, Westminster has also selected three more organizations for the 2019 donations; the Bull Terrier Club of America, National Brussels Griffon Rescue, Inc., and the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA). Those donations will be given at the 143rd Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 2019.

Westminster randomly selected the national breed clubs to receive the awards based on meeting eligibility requirements and the application deadline of Sept. 30, 2017. As part of its continuing effort to assist national breed club rescue organizations, Westminster is going to extend this program beyond 2019. The next application period will start in August 2019 for the 2020 and 2021 donations.

Each year, Westminster donates to a dog-related charity from the proceeds of its annual art contest's commemorative poster and notecards sales. For 2018, the donation increased to \$15,000 to assist three national breed clubs in offsetting rescue-related expenses such as transportation, veterinary care, grooming, boarding, feeding, and training. In addition, these funds will assist the clubs in educating new owners about the joy of owning their specific breeds while finding new homes for purebred dogs.

All events during Westminster Week 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, bench dog show held every year at New York City's Madison Square Garden. Today, America's dog show has expanded into Westminster Week which includes

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the Masters Agility Championship at Westminster and the Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster, both held at Piers 92/94. More than 3,000 dogs from the US and abroad make Westminster Week like no other. *Westminster. There's only one.* Visit us at: www.westminsterkennelclub.org or follow [@WKCDOGS](https://twitter.com/WKCDOGS).

About the American Kennel Club - Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club is a not-for-profit organization, which maintains the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world and oversees the sport of purebred dogs in the United States. The AKC is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Along with its more than 5,000 licensed and member clubs and its affiliated organizations, the AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. More than 22,000 competitions for AKC-registered purebred dogs are held under AKC rules and regulations each year including conformation, agility, obedience, rally, tracking, herding, lure coursing, coonhound events, hunt tests, field and earthdog tests. Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Reunite and the AKC Museum of the Dog. For more information, visit <http://www.akc.org>.

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About Purina Pro Plan – Purina Pro Plan is proud to be the food of choice for 10 of the past 11 Westminster Best in Show winners and 98 of the top 100 AKC All-Breed Champions.* With more than 400 on staff scientists, veterinarians and nutritionists, it is our goal to provide dogs with the nutrition they need to be their absolute best, to help keep them energetic and resilient, and to maintain 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 and snacks, sold exclusively at pet specialty stores, can be found in 80+ formulas across four specialized categories, formulated for a dog's unique needs. For more information, visit www.proplan.com or follow [@ProPlan](https://twitter.com/ProPlan) on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Vine or Google+. The brand is manufactured by Nestle 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, Nestle Purina PetCare is part of Swiss-based Nestle S.A., a global leader in nutrition, health and wellness.

*The handler or owner of these champions may have received Pro Plan dog food as Purina ambassadors.