



THE 142<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
**WESTMINSTER**  
KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW

PRESENTED BY  
**PURINA**  
**PRO PLAN**  
NUTRITION THAT PERFORMS<sup>®</sup>

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## **THE WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB EXPANDS ART CONTEST DONATION IN SUPPORT OF BREED CLUB DOG RESCUE**

### ***\$15,000 in Donations to Three National Breed Clubs***

**New York, N.Y.** – The Westminster Kennel Club, in its ongoing charitable efforts to give back to the sport, will donate \$5,000 each to three American Kennel Club (AKC®)-recognized national breed clubs to support the club's dog rescue activities. The three donations totaling \$15,000 will be presented at the 142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show held from Feb. 12 - 13, 2018.

Each year, Westminster donates to a dog-related charity from the proceeds of their art contest's commemorative poster and notecards sales. For 2018, the donation will increase from \$10,000 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. Westminster will select the national breed club donation recipients based on meeting eligibility requirements and specific needs. Applications were sent by the AKC to its recognized national breed clubs with a deadline of Sept. 30, 2017.

The increased donation joins recently announced awards for 2018 including a new \$10,000 donation given on behalf of the winners of both the Masters Agility and the Masters Obedience Championships at Westminster to their respective training clubs and an increase in the scholarship amount awarded to the Best Junior Handler from \$6,000 to \$10,000. All of these awards directly support the mission of the Westminster Kennel Club to exhibit, study, and improve breeds of dogs and related activities surrounding advancement.

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, benched 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 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](http://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,

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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](http://www.proplan.com) or follow @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.