

THE 146TH ANNUAL WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **Interviews Available**

FLEMINGTON, N.J. RESIDENT WINS MASTERS OBEDIENCE CHAMPIONSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

For the first time in Westminster history, the top dog has taken home both the Masters Obedience Championship and High in Trial Award

New York, NY — The Australian Shepherd of Flemington, New Jersey, handled by Kathleen Keller, won the 7th Annual Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster presented by Purina Pro Plan. The event was judged by Mr. Alvin W. Eng at the Lyndhurst Estate in Tarrytown, New York on Monday, June 20, 2022. This is the first time in Westminster history that the same dog has won both the High in Trial award and Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster.

Willie, a 5-year-old male, officially known as OTCH Blue Skies At Dejavu UDX OM1, bested the field of top Obedience entrants over two rounds of competition under judge Mr. Alvin W. Eng. Willie, owned by Kathleen and Stephen Keller, posted the best combined score of 397.5 out of a possible 400 to become the 2022 Masters Obedience Champion. Willie also achieved the highest score out of a possible 200 in either round of competition to be awarded the High in Trial winner.

The Westminster Kennel Club donates \$5,000 to honor the winner of the Masters Obedience Championship to an AKC training club of the winner's choice or to the AKC Humane Fund.

For streaming of the Masters Obedience Championship and full results visit westminsterkennelclub.org.

LINK TO IMAGES: HERE

LINK TO VIDEO: HERE Courtesy of FOX Sports

About the Westminster Kennel Club

The Westminster Kennel Club, established in 1877, is America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of dogs. It hosts the iconic, all-breed Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, the second-longest, continuously held sporting event in the U.S., and since 1948, the longest nationally televised live dog show. The annual dog show—a conformation competition for purebred dogs—and the Masters Agility Championship and Masters Obedience Championship—where dogs from all backgrounds are eligible to compete—make Westminster Week with its nearly 3,000 dogs from the U.S. and around the world a pinnacle experience for any dog lover. America's Dog Show has captivated canine enthusiasts for more than a century with its educational benched format, where the public can engage with more than 200 breeds of dogs in New York City. The Club's mission, which enhances the lives of all dogs, celebrates the companionship of dogs, promotes responsible dog ownership, and breed preservation. WESTMINSTER. *There's only one.*® Visit: westminsterkennelclub.org and follow us @WKCDogShow.

About Purina Pro Plan

Purina Pro Plan is a leader in the advanced nutrition category, with more than 70 formulas in dry and wet pet food to help meet a variety of needs. Its science is backed by 500 Purina scientists globally, including nutritionists, veterinarians and behaviorists, who continuously rethink what nutrition can do. It is also the food of choice for 14 of the past 15 Westminster Best in Show winners*. For more information, visit <u>www.proplan.com</u> or follow @ProPlan on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook. The brand is manufactured by Nestlé Purina PetCare, which promotes responsible pet care, 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.