News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2017 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGING PANEL NOW AVAILABLE

NEW YORK, NY (February 7, 2017) – The American Kennel Club® (AKC®) is pleased to announce the judging panel for the 2017 AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin to be held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida on Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17, 2017.

The 2017 event will showcase the top national and international canine athletes and will also include popular attractions such as the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor competition, the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals, AKC Meet the Breeds® and the NADD/AKC Dock Diving National Championship. The show will once again take place alongside the AKC Agility Invitational and AKC Obedience Classic, with junior events in each sport.

New to the championship weekend, is the 2017 AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy Stakes. Puppies ages 6 months to 18 months are eligible to compete for the titles of AKC-Royal Canin® National Breed, Group and All-Breed Puppy of the Year, and prize money. All AKC-recognized breeds are eligible to enter.

Heading the panel as Best in Show judge for the 2017 National Championship is Mr. Roger R. Hartinger of Cincinnati, Ohio and Mrs. Paula Hartinger of Cincinnati, Ohio will judge Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show.

“We have a most knowledgeable group of judges and we are very pleased to have Roger and Paula heading up the panel this year,” said Show Chairman Dennis B. Sprung.

The National All-Breed Puppy Stakes will be held on Friday, December 15th. Best Puppy will be judged by Dr. Steve Keating of Dallas, Texas.

Judges for each of the seven variety groups and the Miscellaneous Classes are:

SPORTING – Mr. Robert Stein – Chapel Hill, North Carolina
HOUND – Mr. Dana P. Cline – Greenwood, South Carolina
WORKING – Mr. Ronald H. Menaker – Jupiter, Florida
TERRIER – Mr. Robert E. Hutton – Louisville, Kentucky
Judges for the seven Bred-by-Exhibitor variety groups are:

SPORTING – Mrs. Sydney Good – Osprey, Florida
HOUND – Dr. James Edwards – Danbury, North Carolina
WORKING – Ms. Sandy D’Andrea – Lockport, NY
TERRIER – Ms. Pamela Bruce – Etobicoke, Ontario
TOY – Dr. Steve Keating – Dallas, Texas
NON-SPORTING – Mr. Robin L. Stansel – Clayton, North Carolina
HERDING – Mr. James A. Moses – Wentzville, Missouri

Breed and group judges for the AKC-Royal Canin Puppy Stakes are:

SPORTING BREEDS – Mr. Douglas Johnson – Bloomington, Indiana
HOUND BREEDS – Mrs. Patti Widick Neale – Alachua, Florida
WORKING BREEDS – Mrs. Roberta Davies – Brimfield, Massachusetts
TERRIER BREEDS – Mrs. Delores Burkholder – Rockton, Illinois
TOY BREEDS – Dr. Geno Sisneros – Glens Falls, New York
NON-SPORTING BREEDS – Mrs. Linda Tilka – Madeira Beach, Florida
HERDING BREEDS – Mr. William Stebbins – Port St. Lucie, Florida

SPORTING GROUP – Ms. Pamela Bruce – Etobicoke, Ontario
HOUND GROUP – Dr. Kenneth Levison – Tucson, Arizona
WORKING GROUP – Dr. Thomas Davies – Brimfield, Massachusetts
TERRIER GROUP – Mr. Desmond J. Murphy – Monroe, New York
TOY GROUP – Mrs. Marcie Dobkin – Poway, California
NON-SPORTING GROUP – Mr. Desmond J. Murphy – Monroe, New York
HERDING GROUP – Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia – Roswell, Georgia

BREED JUDGING:

SPORTING GROUP:  

Ms. Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine  
Mr. Dana P. Cline  
Mr. Jamie Hubbard  

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Retrievers (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling), Retriever (Curly-Coated), Retrievers (Golden)
Retrievers (Labrador), Weimaraners  
Spaniels (American Water), Spaniels (Boykin), Spaniels (Clumber), Spaniels (Cocker - ASCOB), Spaniels (Cocker –
Dr. Steve Keating
Pointers (German Shorthaired), Pointers (German Wirehaired), Pointers, Vizslas, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas

Mrs. Ann F. Yuhasz
Brittanys, Lagotti Romagnolli, Retrievers (Flat-Coated), Setters (English), Setters (Gordon), Setters (Irish), Setters (Irish Red & White), Spaniels (English Springer), Spinoni Italiani

HOUND GROUP:

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Ms. Pamela Bruce
Afghan Hounds

Ms. Kathy A. Forbes
American English Coonhounds, Basset Hounds, Beagles (Both Varieties), Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Foxhounds (American), Foxhounds (English), Harriers, Norwegian Elkhounds, Plott Hounds, Red Bone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mr. Robert E. Hutton
Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Scottish Deerhounds, Whippets

Mr. Bill Sahloff
Borzoi, Greyhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Otterhounds, Petit Basset Griffon Vendéens, Salukis

Mr. Robert Stein
Cirnechi dell’Etna, Dachshunds (All Varieties)

Ms. Marcia P. Tucker
Basenjis, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

WORKING GROUP:

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Edd E. Bivin
Boerboels, Dogues de Bordeaux, German Pinschers, Komondorok, Mastiffs, Neapolitan Mastiffs
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<td>Mr. Dana P. Cline Newfoundland, Portuguese Water Dogs</td>
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<td>Mr. Bill Sahloff Bullmastiffs, Great Danes, Greater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Robin Stansell Bernese Mountain Dogs, Black Russian Terriers</td>
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<td>Mrs. Cindy Stansell Alaskan Malamutes, Leonberger,</td>
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<td>Siberian Huskies</td>
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<td>Mr. Robert Stein Boxers</td>
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<td>Ms. Marcia P. Tucker Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Doberman</td>
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<td><strong>TERRIER GROUP:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine Fox Terriers (Both Varieties),</td>
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<td>Bull Terriers (Both Varieties), Irish Terriers, Kerry</td>
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<td>Mr. Houston Clark Miniature Schnauzers</td>
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<td>Mr. Desmond J. Murphy American Staffordshire Terriers,</td>
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<td>Border Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Glen of Imaal</td>
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<td>Mr. Robert Stein Airedale Terriers, American Hairless</td>
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<td>Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers,</td>
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<td>Cesky Terriers, Skye Terriers, Staffordshire Bull</td>
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<td>Terriers, Welsh Terriers</td>
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<td>Mrs. Ann F. Yuhasz Cairn Terriers, Norfolk Terriers,</td>
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<td>Norwich Terriers, West Highland White Terriers</td>
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<td><strong>TOY GROUP:</strong></td>
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Mr. Edd E. Bivin  
Chihuahuas (Both Varieties), Toy Fox Terriers

Ms. Pamela Bruce  
Japanese Chin, Pomeranians, Pugs

Mr. Houston Clark  
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chinese Cresteds, Havanese

Mrs. Toddie Clark  
Brussels Griffons, English Toy Spaniels (King Charles & Ruby), English Toy Spaniels (Blenheim & Prince Charles), Maltese, Shih Tzus, Silky Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers

Dr. James Edwards  
Affenpinschers, Miniature Pinschers, Papillons, Pekingese, Toy Manchester Terriers

Mr. Robert E. Hutton  
Poodles (Toy)

Ms. Marcia P. Tucker  
Italian Greyhounds

**NON-SPORTING GROUP:**

**BREED ASSIGNMENTS:**

Mr. Edd E. Bivin  
Finnish Spitz, Lhasa Apsos

Ms. Marcie S. Dobkin  
Chow Chows, Coton de Tulear, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels

Mr. Robert E. Hutton  
Poodles (Miniature), Poodles (Standard)

Mr. Desmond J. Murphy  
Bichon Frises, Dalmatians

Mrs. Inge Semenschin  
Boston Terriers, Chinese Shar-Pei, Keeshonden, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Cindy Stansell  
American Eskimo Dogs, Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Löwchen, Norwegian Lundehunds

**HERDING GROUP:**

**BREED ASSIGNMENTS:**

Mr. Edd E. Bivin  
Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervuren, German Shepherd Dogs

Ms. Pamela Bruce  
Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies, Beaucerons, Bergamascos, Canaan Dogs, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Norwegian Buhunds
Mr. Dana P. Cline
Collies (Rough), Collies (Smooth), Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Shetland Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds

Mr. Jamie Hubbard
Australian Cattle Dogs, Border Collie

Mr. Sam McDonald
Bouviers des Flandres, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Old English Sheepdogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pulik, Pyrenean Shepherds

Mrs. Cindy Stansell
Briards

Mrs. Ann F. Yuhasz
Berger Picards, Miniature American Shepherds, Pumik

*Panel subject to final approval.

About Best In Show judge Roger R. Hartinger:
Roger R. Hartinger Cincinnati, Ohio, has been involved with dogs since early childhood. His family owned a German Shepherd Dog and a Wire Fox Terrier. While at college, he obtained a Great Dane, a breed he continued to own after marriage.

Mr. Hartinger first bred and exhibited Standard Schnauzers, most of which he finished to championships, and later bred Lakeland Terriers. He began exhibiting in 1965, and both he and his wife, Paula, were AKC Licensed Handlers.

Mr. Hartinger is an all-breed judge who ranks his Working Group assignment at the first AKC/Eukanuba show among the highlights of his judging career.

A lifetime member of the Clermont County and Cincinnati kennel clubs, Mr. Hartinger has served both organizations as president and show chairman. He is a board member of the Dog Judges Association of America and a founding member of the OKI Dog Judges Workshop. Mr. Hartinger has held memberships in many other clubs, including the American Miniature Schnauzer Club, the Buckeye Associated Specialty Clubs (past president), and the Standard Schnauzer Club of America (past president and show chairman).

Mr. Hartinger served as an AKC delegate for 15 years. He served as chairman of the nominating committee among other committee appointments. He thanks his wife and all-breed judging partner, Paula, for having a profound influence on his life.

About Best Bred-By-Exhibitor judge Paula Hartinger:
Mrs. Paula Hartinger of Cincinnati, Ohio, has been judging for over 40 years and is approved for all breeds. She and her husband Roger have been involved in pure-bred dogs for more than 60 years, first starting with Great Danes. In the 1960’s they started exhibiting and breeding Standard Schnauzers, finishing many champions. She also bred Lakeland Terriers, and owned and exhibited some other breeds which she finished.
Also, as a professional handler, she showed and finished many breeds. She began judging in the mid-70’s, and has since judged shows in all of the 50 States and in more than 20 other countries. Those include AKC/Eukanuba and Westminster multiple times, plus World Shows, and other notable shows in the US and around the world.

Her involvement in the dog sport includes a great deal of activity in All-Breed and Specialty Clubs, and also in judges' education. She has served as show chairman for the Clermont County Kennel Club, Standard Schnauzer Club of America National Specialty, the Standard Schnauzer Club of Cincinnati Specialty, and as an officer or board member of other clubs, including Secretary for all breed clubs and the Dog Judges of America. She is a lifetime member of two All-Breed clubs.

The Brevard Kennel Club, the Central Florida Kennel Club and the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay shows will precede the National Championship at the Orange County Convention Center on Dec. 12-14, 2017 and a day of specialty and group shows will be held Dec. 15, 2017.

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**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 [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

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**ABOUT Royal Canin USA**

Royal Canin USA is a leader in science-based cat and dog health nutrition. Founded by a veterinarian in 1968, Royal Canin has more than 40 years of experience in delivering individualized nutritional solutions. In collaboration with an expert team of nutritionists, breeders and veterinarians from around the world, Royal Canin places cats and dogs at the central point of the innovation process. The Royal Canin product line offers a range of diets based on size, age, breed, lifestyle and therapeutic requirements. Royal Canin diets are available at veterinary hospitals and pet specialty stores nationwide. Royal Canin is a subsidiary of Mars, Incorporated.
To learn more about Royal Canin, visit www.royalcanin.com and “LIKE” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/royalcanin.us.

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