



## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Brandi Hunter

**Phone:** 212-696-8220

**Email:** brandi.hunter@akc.org

### ***THE WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DEDICATES A PERPETUAL TROPHY TO THE WINNER OF THE AKC POINTING BREED GUN DOG CHAMPIONSHIP***

**New York, N.Y.** – The American Kennel Club and The Westminster Kennel Club are pleased to announce the dedication of the Westminster Kennel Club Cup, a perpetual trophy to be offered to the winner of the AKC Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championship. Westminster is well known for its prestigious dog show, the longest continuously-running dog event in the country, which was first held in 1877. At its inception, Westminster was a sportsmen's association, with members largely interested in working their sporting dogs in the field. Westminster's logo is a Pointer named Sensation; a dog that was imported by one of its members in the 1870's to strengthen American breeding stock.

"The members of the Westminster Kennel Club want to recognize and express their appreciation for the innate skill, drive and human bond required of purpose-bred working dogs," said Seán W. McCarthy, President of the WKC. "With our history and logo, we felt it appropriate to donate the trophy to the AKC Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championship. In a larger sense, we want to dedicate the spirit of this trophy to all the owners, breeders and hardworking trainers of all types of working dogs."

The AKC Gun Dog Championship is the largest championship field event open to all pointing breeds in the country. The 2017 running of the event began today at the Camp Robinson Wildlife Management Area near Mayflower, Arkansas.

"The American Kennel Club is most thankful for this prestigious trophy. Coming from Westminster, an organization known throughout the world for its dog shows, this trophy will serve to focus attention on the natural relationship that exists between conformation and the performance of sporting/working dogs," said Doug Ljungren, Vice President of Sports & Events. "We are appreciative of Westminster's encompassing view of purpose-bred dogs. All dog

owners should consider participating in the performance events appropriate for their breed. It is fascinating to watch the awakening of their natural instincts.”

Individuals or clubs interested in learning more about performance events that should contact AKC at [PerformanceEvents@akc.org](mailto:PerformanceEvents@akc.org).



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