



## THE AKC/EUKANUBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: A Breed Apart

The **AKC/Eukanuba National Championship** is the only major dog show that ...

- ❖ Out of thousands of AKC sanctioned events, **is organized and held solely by the AKC**, the nation's oldest and only not-for-profit purebred dog registry.
- ❖ Is strictly **by invitation only**. The top 25 dogs in every AKC recognized breed and variety, as well as every Breeder/Owner/Handled Champion, Amateur-Owner Handled Champion, Grand Champion and Best in Show winner during the qualification period, are invited to compete. In addition, the winner of each breed's national specialty show is invited to compete.
- ❖ **Invites international competitors**. In December 2009, international dogs from 45 countries as far away as Brazil, England, Japan and Ukraine participated.
- ❖ A **special attraction** will be the **Eukanuba World Challenge**, an exciting international competition which will feature the top dogs from more than 43 countries vying for \$15,000 in prize money
- ❖ **Offers significant prize money — a total of over \$225,000**. In addition, special competition and prize money for AKC Bred-By-Exhibitor Champions is offered.
- ❖ Celebrates the heart and soul of the sport of purebred dogs by awarding the **AKC Breeder of the Year Award**. **Seven individuals are honored who have left a great impact on a specific breed**. These breeders have dedicated their lives to improving the health, temperament and quality of purebred dogs.
- ❖ Nearly 4,000 invited dogs will compete in **three national AKC events** taking place under the same roof. In conjunction with the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, the **AKC Agility Invitational** and **AKC National Obedience Invitational** are held.
- ❖ AKC Meet the Breeds is an exciting annual event for families as representatives from up to 167 AKC National Breed Clubs share their knowledge and love of their chosen breed via informative displays and canine representatives.
- ❖ Serves as the **only all breed qualifying show in America for entry into Crufts** — the world's largest dog show. The Kennel Club (England) has designated the winners of Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex or recipients of an Award of Merit at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship as qualified to enter Crufts.
- ❖ That offers **sizeable scholarship awards** for its Junior Handler winners and requires a specific grade point average as part of the eligibility criteria. Junior handlers, between 9 and 18 years of age, are invited to demonstrate their expertise for an opportunity to receive a \$2,000 scholarship.



## THE AKC/EUKANUBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP The Culmination of a Year of Canine Competition

You may have heard dog shows referred to as “a sport.” For the novice, watching a dog show may not seem the same as tennis or baseball — but once you know more about the rules, you can see that beyond all those beautifully groomed canines — there is plenty of strategy and competition!

Here’s how it works:

- Dogs start a show career by trying to become a “champion.” To earn an AKC Championship title (and be able to place letters “CH” in front of their names), they need to win 15 points at AKC dog shows. Points are earned by defeating other dogs of the same sex and breed in classes held specifically for non-champions.
- The dog show day begins with “breed classes.” All males of a breed, for example Pugs, are entered into classes by age or breeder criteria such as Puppy, American Bred, Bred-by-Exhibitor and Open (male and females compete separately until they reach the Best of Breed” competition). Each male Pug that wins his class then competes with all the other male Pug class winners in the “Winners” class. From these dogs “Winners Dog” is awarded. The Winners Dog is the judges’ choice as the best non-champion male Pug in competition that day. That Pug will receive points towards his championship (between 1 and 5 depending on how many dogs are defeated that day). At each dog show, only one male dog and one female dog in each breed is awarded championship points. Once a dog has accumulated 15 points, it earns the CH title.
- Dogs who continue to show after earning CH status are often referred to as “specials.” This means they have been chosen by their owner(s) to compete at the national level against other champions. These dogs are “campaigned” by their owners/handlers often with the goal of attaining a top ranking and becoming eligible for the **AKC/Eukanuba National Championship**.

Breed points are used to determine a dog’s national ranking. These are recorded by the AKC based only on the number of dogs defeated in the dog’s breed. Each dog defeated represents one breed point. For example, if there are 50 Boxers competing at one dog show, the Best of Breed Boxer will earn 49 points.

You can follow which dogs are currently in the top 25 at

<http://www.akc.org/nationalchampionship/index.cfm?section=top25&type=conf>

The top 25 dogs in each AKC registered breed are invited to face off against every Best in Show, National Specialty Winner, Grand Champion and all Amateur-Owner Handled and Bred-by-Exhibitor Champions in the United States, making the **AKC/Eukanuba National Championship** one of the most highly competitive and exciting events in dogdom!