



News Release

For Immediate Release

2020 AKC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP **JUDGING PANEL NOW AVAILABLE**

NEW YORK, NY (February 4, 2020) – The American Kennel Club® (AKC®) is pleased to announce the judging panel for the **2020 AKC National Championship Presented by Royal Canin** to be held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida on Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 13, 2020.

The 2020 event will showcase the top canine athletes and will also include popular attractions such as the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor competition, the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals, the AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes and NADD/AKC Dock Diving. The show will once again take place alongside the AKC Agility Invitational, with junior events in Conformation and Agility. Added this year are the AKC National Obedience Championship, and the AKC Rally National Championship.

Leading the charge as Best in Show judge for the 2020 National Championship is **Mr. James A. Moses** of Wentzville, MO and **Patricia M. Cruz** of Coram, NY will judge Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show. The judges for the National Owner-Handled Series Finals and the AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes can be found at www.akc.org.

“We are thrilled to have such an incredible roster of judges this year, with Jim and Pat heading the panel,” said Show Chairman Dennis B. Sprung. “The 2020 event is sure to be an exciting competition.”

Judges for the seven variety groups and the Miscellaneous Classes at the AKC National Championship are:

SPORTING – Mr. Jon R. Cole – Nashville, TN

HOUND – Mr. Douglas Johnson – Bloomington, IN

WORKING – Mr. Clay Coady – Paradise Valley, AZ

TERRIER – Mr. Elliot B. Weiss – Novelty, OH

TOY – Mr. Robert Stein – Venice, FL

NON-SPORTING – Mr. Robin L. Stansell – Clayton, NC

HERDING – Mr. William C. Stebbins – Port St. Lucie, FL

MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES – Mr. Johan Becerra-Hernandez – San Juan, PR

BEST JUNIOR HANDLER – Mr. Michael Faulkner – Center Cross, VA

JUNIOR PRELIMS – Ms. Grace Freeman and Ms. Kellie Dahlberg

Judges for the seven Bred-by-Exhibitor variety groups are:

SPORTING – Mr. Michael Faulkner – Center Cross, VA

HOUND – Mr. James J. Mitchell – Wilmington, DE

WORKING – Dr. Thomas Davies – Brimfield, MA

TERRIER – Mr. Harold “Red” Tatro III – Crowley, TX

TOY – Mr. David J. Kirkland – Sanford, NC

NON-SPORTING – Mrs. Jacqueline L. Stacy – Chapel Hill, NC

HERDING – Ms. Janina K. Laurin – Danbury, CT

BREED JUDGING FOR THE AKC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:

SPORTING GROUP:

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Jamie Hubbard

Barbets, Brittanys, Retrievers (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling), Setters (Irish Red and White), Wirehaired Vizslas

Mr. Sam Houston McDonald

Spaniels (English Springer), Spaniels (Irish Water)

Ms. Corinne Miklos

Pointers (German Shorthaired), Pointers (German Wirehaired), Spaniels (Welsh Springer), Vizslas, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Mrs. Sheila Polk

Retrievers (Chesapeake Bay), Spaniels (Clumber)

Mr. William P. Shelton

Pointers, Setters (English, Gordon & Irish)

Mr. Richard W. Powell

Lagotti Romagnoli, Spaniels (American Water), Spaniels (Boykin), Spaniels (Field), Spaniels (Sussex)

Mr. Rick Gschwender

Retrievers (Curly Coated), Retrievers (Flat Coated), Spinoni Italiani, Weimaraners

Ms. Grace M. Fritz

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes

Ms. Shirley Fippin

Retrievers (Golden)

Mr. Elliott B. Weiss

Spaniels (Cocker – all varieties), Spaniels (English Cocker)

Lorri Isenhath Gordon

Retrievers (Labrador)

HOUND GROUP:

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Johan Becerra-Hernandez	Basenjis, Basset Hounds, Bloodhounds, Borzois, Grand Basset Griffon Vendéens, Otterhounds, Petit Basset Griffon Vendéens, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos
Mr. James Donahue	Afghan Hounds
Ms. Grace M. Fritz	Whippets
Mr. D. Scott Pfeil	Azawakhs, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Salukis, Sloughis
Mrs. Sheila Polk	Rhodesian Ridgebacks
Mr. Richard L. Reynolds	American English Coonhounds, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Foxhound (American), Foxhound (English), Greyhounds, Harriers, Irish Wolfhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds
Ms. Sherrill C. Snyder	Dachshunds (all varieties)
Mr. Elliott B. Weiss	Beagles (both varieties), Scottish Deerhounds
WORKING GROUP:	BREED ASSIGNMENTS:
Mr. Edd Bivin	Alaskan Malamutes, Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Bullmastiffs, Saint Bernards
Mr. Rick Gschwender	Akitas, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Chinooks, Great Danes, Siberian Huskies, Tibetan Mastiffs
Ms. Grace M. Fritz	Newfoundlands, Portuguese Water Dogs
Mr. Brian Meyer	Boerboels, Komondorok, Rottweilers
Ms. Helene Nietsch	Dogues de Bordeaux, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Leonbergers, Mastiffs, Neopolitan Mastiffs, Standard Schnauzers
Mr. William P. Shelton	Doberman Pinschers, German Pinschers, Samoyeds
Dr. Geno Sisneros	Kuvaszok

Mr. Robin Stansell

Black Russian Terriers

Mr. William C. Stebbins

Boxers, Cane Corsos, Dogos Argentinos,
Giant Schnauzers

TERRIER GROUP:

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Ms. Kathi Brown

American Hairless Terriers, Australian
Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Bull Terriers
(colored & white), Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue
Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Norfolk
Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell
Terriers, Rat Terriers, Russell Terriers, Skye
Terriers

Mr. Jon R. Cole

American Staffordshire Terriers, Cairn
Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Dandie Dinmont
Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham
Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Mrs. Cindy Meyer

Manchester Terriers (Standard), Miniature
Schnauzers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

Mr. Richard W. Powell

Airedale Terriers, Border Terriers, Fox
Terriers (Smooth), Fox Terriers (Wire), Glen
of Imaal Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Welsh
Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

TOY GROUP:

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Mrs. Tammy K. Jackson

Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds, Shih
Tzus, Toy Fox Terriers

Mr. Douglas Johnson

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Mr. Desmond J. Murphy

Poodles (Toy)

Mr. Richard W. Powell

Affenpinschers, Toy Manchester Terriers,
Silky Terriers

Mr. Johnny R. Shoemaker

Havanese, Maltese, Pekingese, Yorkshire
Terriers

Dr. Geno Sisneros

Toy Spaniels (both varieties), Japanese
Chins, Miniature Pinschers, Papillons,
Pomeranians

Mrs. Jacqueline L. Stacy

Chihuahuas (both varieties), Italian
Greyhounds, Pugs

NON-SPORTING GROUP:

Mr. James Dalton

Ms. Grace M. Fritz

Mr. Desmond J. Murphy

Ms. Helene Nietsch

Mrs. Sheila Polk

Mr. Timothy S. Robbins

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

French Bulldogs

Löwchens, Shiba Inus, Tibetan Spaniels

Bulldogs, Poodles (Miniature & Standard)

American Eskimo Dogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes

Xoloitzcuintli

Bichon Frises, Boston Terriers, Chow Chows, Coton de Tulear, Lhasa Apsos, Tibetan Terriers

HERDING GROUP:

Mr. Thomas Coen

Mr. Michael Faulkner

Mr. Rick Gschwender

Mr. David J. Kirkland

Mr. Sam Houston McDonald

Mr. Brian Meyer

Ms. Sheree W. Moses

Mr. William P. Shelton

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Belgian Lakemois, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Miniature American Shepherds, Norwegian Buhunds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Swedish Vallhunds

Australian Shepherds

Finnish Lapphunds, Old English Sheepdogs

Bearded Collies, Border Collies, Collies (both varieties), Shetland Sheepdogs

Berger Picards, Pulik, Pumik, Spanish Water Dogs

Bouvier des Flandres, Briards, Canaan Dogs, German Shepherd Dogs

Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pyrenean Shepherds

Australian Cattle Dogs, Beaucerons

*Panel subject to final approval.

About Best in Show judge James A. Moses:

James A. Moses, of Wentzville, Missouri, has been involved with dogs all of his life. His mother bred Miniature Poodles from which Mr. Moses won his very first Best in Show.

His father gave him his first dog, a German Shepherd Dog, when he was 9 years old. Mr. Moses finished his first champion by the age of 13, and by 19 handled the number-one dog, all breeds, in Canada. He has handled dogs to over 1,000 Bests in Show.

Over the years, Mr. Moses has been honored to have won some very notable shows, including the AKC Centennial show and the Westminster Kennel Club with Ch. Covy Tucker Hill's Manhattan. He has handled four dogs in the "100 Club" including the number-one dog of all time, Ch. Altana's Mystique (275 BIS and 30 BISS). Mr. Moses has handled many other breeds to best in show and specialty wins. In 1999, he was inducted to the Dog Show Hall of Fame.

In addition to handling, Mr. Moses has been the top Herding Group winner with several German Shepherd Dogs he has bred under the Kaleef prefix. The past few years have seen several Kaleef dogs take the Grand Victor honors at the Canadian and U.S. German Shepherd Dog nationals. Mr. Moses's next chapter in dogs is judging, which he says, "he is thoroughly enjoying." His love of dogs and the sport has been the focus of his adult life. Mr. Moses is also an avid sportsman and outdoorsman and enjoys balancing breeding, judging, and retirement.

About Best Bred-By-Exhibitor judge Patricia Cruz:

Patricia M. Cruz, of Coram, New York, has been part of the dog world for more than 55 years and currently serves as delegate for the Heart of the Plains Kennel Club. She is a former AKC Field Representative, a member of the Afghan Hound Club of America, and Afghan Hound Club of Long Island. She is also an internationally experienced judge for over 40 years as well as one of the founders of the Owner Handler Association. She has served as an officer and on the Board of the Ladies Kennel Association of America and the Riverhead Kennel Club. She is a former member of the American Kennel Club Board of Directors, and served as Vice Chair of the Board.

Professionally, Patricia is a journalist and Board member of the Dog Writers Association of America. She is the former president of a civilian employee union in one of the largest police departments on the east coast and secretary of a county-wide union representing over 10,000 employees. She also served as sales manager and marketing consultant for radio stations in the number one market in U.S.

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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.

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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 50 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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