



2017 USASA Top 20 Event

Monday, May 15, 2017

United States Australian Shepherd Association

25th "Silver Anniversary" National Specialty

Suggested attire for the Top 20 event is Formal/Evening

The Top 20 Event will be general seating. Chairs will be available.

Schedule:

5:00 p.m.: Welcome Reception. Hors d'oeuvres and cake will be served. A \$5.00 donation is suggested. A cash bar will be available.

5:30 p.m.: Handlers Briefing to be held ringside

6:00 p.m.: Start of Judging

Top 20 Event Entry: Invitation for entry will be mailed by March 10, 2017 to dogs that attained a Top 20 ranking in American Kennel Club Breed Points from January 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2016.

Entries and payment must be received by Kate Johnson no later than April 21, 2017. Specific payment instructions and address for entry are included on the invitation.

The entry fee of \$100.00 will include one page in the Top 20 section of the National Specialty Catalog with a photo and narrative of your dog. Instructions for submission will be included with the invitation. Dogs qualifying for the Top 20, but not entered, can still be featured in the Top 20 section of the catalog for a fee of \$50.00. Note that the deadline for catalog submission for the Top 20 is April 8, 2017.

People's Choice Award: Ballots will be available for purchase beginning at 5:00 p.m. at \$10.00/each. One-half of proceeds will be retained for future Top 20 events and one-half of proceeds will be donated to the United States Australian Shepherd Foundation. There is no limit on the number of ballots that may be purchased.

USASA Top 20 & People's Choice - Ring & Judging Procedure

Ring & Judging Procedure:

All three (3) Judges will be centrally located in the ring.

Competitors will enter the ring one at a time as their armband number is called, circle the ring, and set up in the center of the ring for examination.

The Handler will show dentition while all three (3) judges observe. Each Judge will physically examine the dog individually. The handler may re-stack the dog for each Judge's examination.

Movement is evaluated simultaneously by all three (3) Judges; coming & going – a down & back pattern twice; and side gait – two full circles. When movement evaluation is complete, the dog will circle before exiting the ring. The next dog enters and follows the same judging procedure.

During the physical and movement evaluations, Judges may take notes that will facilitate their placement of dogs at the conclusion of all Judging.

While in the ring, there will be no conversation between Judges, and conversation with the Ring Steward will only concern procedure. Neither Judges nor Ring Steward will have a copy of the catalog.

Upon the completion of judging, all Top Twenty competitors will be brought into the ring as a group for a final view and individual recorded placement by the Judges. The Judges may individually observe and/or very briefly examine dogs as their placements are finalized, however no in-depth physical or movement evaluations will occur at this time.

Top 20 Placement Procedures:

Judges will place only their Top 10 dogs for the purpose of this competition, with their highest placing dog receiving a 1 through their 10th place dog receiving a 10. Dogs not placed in the Judges Top 10 dogs will receive a placement of 11 for placement scoring purposes. These placements will be recorded on the individual Judge's Placement Record.

Upon completion, the Judge's Placement Records will be presented to the Scoring Attendant (CPA) for final tally. The dog receiving the highest overall average placement will be named the Top 20 Winner. In the event of a tie, the dog receiving the highest placement from the Breeder-Judge will be named the Top 20 Winner.

Peoples Choice Award:

A ballot voting system will determine the People's Choice Winner. Ballots may be purchased for \$10.00 each. The dog receiving the largest number of total ballots will be named the People's Choice Winner. In the event of a tie, the dogs' armband numbers will be placed in a hat, with one random number drawn to determine the winner.

Awards Announcements:

During the time required by the Scoring Attendant, the announcer will showcase each individual dog, announcing by Registered Name, Owner, Breeder, and Handler, after which the Judges will present them a personalized Top 20 ribbon.

Upon finalization, the Scoring Attendant will present the ring announcer the armband numbers of the Top 20 Winner and the People's Choice winner.

The Winner of the Top 20 will be announced, presented the Top 20 Winner prize(s), by the Judges, and asked to go around the ring once for a celebratory lap. The People's Choice Winner will be announced after, presented the People's Choice prize(s) by the Judges, and asked to go around the ring once for a celebratory lap.

Photographs will be taken after all Judging and Awarding of Prizes is complete.

Records: Judge's records and final placements will not be published. All Placement Records will be provided to the USASA Secretary for historical record only, and will be kept confidential.

2017 USASA TOP 20 COMPETITION JUDGE'S PLACEMENT SHEET

Breeder-Judge: _____

Judges should place only their top 10 dogs for the purpose of this competition, with their highest placing dog receiving a 1, through their 10th place dog receiving a 10. Dogs not placed in the Judge's top 10 dogs will receive a placement of 11.

Armband #	Final Placement
14	
18	
19	
21	
24	
28	
31	
33	
34	
36	
37	
40	
41	
45	
47	
50	
51	
53	
54	
56	

EXAMPLE
ONLY

Judge's Signature

2017 USASA TOP 20 COMPETITION SCORING ATTENDENT PLACEMENT TALLY

Armband #	Breeder Judge Placement	All-Breed Judge Placement	Handler Judge Placement	Cumulative Placement Total	Average Placement (/3)
14	8	6	4	18	6
18	1	3	2	6	2
19	5	4	5	14	4.67
21	2	1	3	6	2
24	7	8	8	23	7.67
28	9	5	7	21	7
31	3	2	1	6	2
33	11	9	9	29	9.67
34	4	7	11	22	7.33
36	6	10	6	22	7.33
37					
40					
41					
45					
47					
50					
51					
53					
54					
56					

EXAMPLE
ONLY

Note: In the event of a tie, the dog placed highest by the Breeder-Judge will be named the Winner.

(In the example above, dogs number 18, 21, and 31 received the same highest average placement. Because dog number 18 was the Breeder Judge's highest placed dog of the three, number 18 is named the Winner of the Top 20 Event.)

United States Australian Shepherd Association (USASA)
Top 20 Judges Selection Process & Requirements

Judges Selection: The selection of the judging panel for the USASA Top 20 Competition will be made by a Top 20 Judge's Selection Committee comprised of six (6) or more individuals with extensive background and tenure in the Australian Shepherd breed.

Judges Selection Committee members must not have any interest in a dog that may be eligible to compete in the Top 20 Competition for which they are participating in the Judges selection process. This includes, but is not limited to, ownership, co-ownership, breeder of record, handling, or financial support.

The Judges Selection Committee will provide a list of one primary and two backup names in each Judge category to the USASA Show Chairperson who will be responsible for contacting the potential judges, securing commitments, etc.

Members of the Judges Selection Committee agree to keep all potential judges names confidential. Any violation of this agreement will result in the disqualification of members from future Judges Selection Committee participation.

Judges Requirements: The USASA Top 20 Competition will be judged by a panel of judges comprised of a Breeder-Judge, a Multi-Breed Judge, and a Handler-Judge.

Breeder-Judge: The Breeder-Judge should be an established Australian Shepherd breeder with a minimum of five (5) years' experience and has produced a minimum of five (5) AKC Champions of Record. The Breeder Judge is not required to be an approved AKC judge.

AKC-Licensed Judge: The AKC-Licensed Judge should be approved to judge Australian Shepherds with the American Kennel Club.

Handler-Judge: The Handler-Judge should be a professional handler who meets the requirements for membership in a Professional Handlers organization and at least five (5) years of experience.

Excluded from judging the event will be any person actively serving on the Top 20 Advisory Committee, Top 20 Selection Committee, and any Officer or Board Member of USASA.

2017 Top 20 Planning Committee

Kate Ellis-Johnson
Diane Keedy
Kevin Lord
Alex Weber

2017 Top 20 Judges Selection Committee

Heather Herron
Kate Ellis -Johnson
Diane Keedy
Kevin Lord
Paula McDermid
Robin Prouty

2017 Top 20 USASA Board Liaison

Jeff Margeson

2017 Top 20 Ring Steward

Kevin Lord

2017 Top 20 Decorations

Heather Moyer

2017 Top 20 Welcome Reception

Vicki Wehrle

Special recognition to Leon Goetz, Jeffrey Hanlin, Jeff Margeson, and Curtis Chlebeck VanLear
for providing the vision, mission, and foundational guidance
for establishing the USASA Top 20 Competition.