



## **THE KENNEL CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA WINS “SHOW OF THE YEAR” FOR 2017**

*63<sup>rd</sup> Annual ShowDogs of the Year Recognizes  
Tradition-Rich Club and The National Dog Show*

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NEW YORK (February 15, 2018) - The 149-year-old Kennel Club of Philadelphia won the 2017 Show of the Year award presented by Purina Pro Plan’s ShowDogs of the Year on Saturday night in New York City.

The club’s annual November event, the National Dog Show, won the award based on several criteria, including excellence in the judging panel, smoothness of operations, quality of the venue and overall satisfaction of the exhibitor during the event. Industry voters also considered the communication efforts made to increase spectator interest and understanding of the event. Club president Wayne Ferguson accepted the award during ceremonies at Gotham Hall in Manhattan.

“This is one of the most prestigious awards in our industry,” said Ferguson, the club’s longtime chief executive. “As we’ve grown in the past several years, we’ve maintained the operational excellence that is required to achieve this honor. People don’t realize there are over 3,000 dog shows in America, so we’re privileged to receive this honor.”

The Kennel Club of Philadelphia (KCP) traces its roots back to 1869 and hosted an “Exposition of Dogs” at America’s Centennial Celebration in 1876. The club staged its first “benched” show in 1896 and today is one of only three shows in the country that remains “benched,” meaning that dogs and handlers are at designated locations throughout the entire weekend of competition to meet the public. The KCP has presented shows continuously since 1933 and now attracts some 15,000 people each November to the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA (15 miles west of Philadelphia).

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The KCP's Saturday show is "The National Dog Show Presented by Purina," which NBC tapes and then airs on NBC Thanksgiving Day to a total audience of some 25 million people.

"The Kennel Club of Philadelphia's ability to reach into America's homes on Thanksgiving Day following the Macy's Parade has made "AKC Dog Shows" a household phrase," offered the ShowDogs of the Year website. "The broadcast results in publicity and good will that shines a positive light on purebred dogs via network television that is viewed by tens of millions of people and has become a Thanksgiving Day tradition. The club also is involved in many philanthropic ventures in the dog world."

The ShowDogs of the Year ceremony was held in conjunction with the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City.

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