



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®**

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB ANNOUNCES BREEDER OF THE YEAR BY SPORT

New York, NY- The American Kennel Club (AKC®), a not-for-profit organization, the world's largest purebred dog registry and leading advocate for dogs, wishes to acknowledge those individuals that have excelled at breeding dogs that have proven to be outstanding in AKC sports. The commitment to preserve, protect and improve a breed represents the very essence of the AKC. The AKC Breeder of the Year by Sport Award is given to those who have dedicated themselves to improving the health, temperament, and performance of dogs in a given sport.

The 2023 Breeder of the Year by Sport award recipients are:

Pointing Breed Field Events	Dennis and Jennifer Hazel	German Shorthaired Pointers
Retriever Field Events	Jason Heffelmeier	Labrador Retrievers
Spaniel Field Events	Kim Hansen	English Springer Spaniels
Hound Field Events	Raymond Brantner & Robert Connell	Beagles
Herding	Deborah George	Border Collies
Lure Coursing	Liz Green	Borzoi
Earthdog	Peggy Metcalf	Norfolk Terriers
Coonhounds	Walter Carlee	Black & Tan Coonhounds
Agility	Julie Oakes	Border Collies
Obedience	Nancy Jablonski	Border Collies
Rally	Billy & Dee Dee Anderson	Golden Retrievers
Tracking	Thomas Woodward & Teresa Bradley	Rottweilers

"Knowledgeable breeders are critical to the continued success of canine sports. These breeders have shown a long-term dedication to enhancing breed instincts and breeding sound dogs," said Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President for Sports and Events, "Their accomplishments represent the highest level of commitment to their breeds and sports."

Each recipient received a Breeder of the Year rosette mounted in a shadow box.

The American Kennel Club salutes these individuals for their dedication and success in breeding purpose-bred dogs.

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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 26,000 competitions for AKC-registered purebred and mixed breed 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, the AKC Museum of the Dog, and the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank. For more information, visit www.akc.org.

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