



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***AKC NATIONAL OWNER-HANDLED SERIES FINALS JUDGING PANEL RELEASED***

**NEW YORK, NY (April 6, 2017)** – The American Kennel Club® (AKC®) is delighted to announce the judging panel for the ***2017 AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals (NOHS)***. The Finals will be held in December in Orlando, Florida as part of the ***AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin***. Breed and group judging will be held Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, with *Best in Show* to be selected in the main ring on Saturday evening, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Ms. Patricia W. Laurans** of Newtown, Connecticut heads the panel as *Best in Show* judge for the 2017 AKC NOHS Finals.

“We’re very pleased with the knowledgeable group of judges we have this year, and are honored to have Patricia Laurans heading up the panel,” said Bri Tesarz, Manager, Dog Show Rules & Programs.

Judges for each of the seven variety groups are:

**Sporting Breeds and Group:** Dr. Alan Santos  
**Hound Breeds and Group:** Mr. James Owens  
**Working Breeds and Group:** Mr. Bob Busby  
**Terrier Breeds and Group:** Mr. Michael Koss  
**Toy Breeds and Group:** Mrs. Inge Semenschin  
**Non-Sporting Breeds and Group:** Mrs. Sharon Lyons  
**Herding Breeds and Group:** Mrs. Lorna Menaker

*Best of Breed* and *Best of Opposite Sex* will be awarded in each breed.

Dogs [ranked in the top ten \(plus ties\) of their breed](#) at the end of the 2017 qualifying period (October 13, 2016 – October 11, 2017) will be invited to compete in the AKC NOHS Finals. The Finals premium list will be available in September when the overall

AKC National Championship information is published and Finals qualifiers will be sent full details about the event and notified about how to enter in early November.

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**The American Kennel Club (AKC)**, founded in 1884, maintains the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world. Its rules and regulations govern more than 22,000 canine competitions each year. For more information, visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

**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 more than 40 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](http://www.royalcanin.com) and visit the company on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/royalcanin.us](https://www.facebook.com/royalcanin.us).

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