



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2016 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGING PANEL NOW AVAILABLE

NEW YORK, NY (February 11, 2016) – The American Kennel Club® (AKC®) and Royal Canin are pleased to announce the judging panel for the 2016 National Championship to be held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida on Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18, 2016.

The 2016 event will showcase the top national and international dogs and will also include popular attractions such as the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor competition, the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals, AKC Meet the Breeds® and the NADD/AKC Dock Diving National Championship. The show will once again take place alongside the AKC Agility Invitational and AKC Obedience Classic, with junior events in each sport.

The Brevard Kennel Club, the Central Florida Kennel Club and the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay shows will precede the National Championship at the same site on Dec. 13-15, 2016 and a day of specialty and group shows will be held Dec. 16, 2016.

Heading the panel as Best in Show judge for the 2016 National Championship is **Dr. Anthony DiNardo** of West Hartford, Connecticut and **Dr. Robert Indeglia** of Narragansett, Rhode Island will judge Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show.

"We are proud of our judges and particularly honored to have Tony and Bob leading the panel with their talents for our breeders and exhibitors," said Show Chairman Dennis B. Sprung.

Dr. Anthony DiNardo, of West Hartford, Connecticut, began exhibiting dogs in 1970. "We purchased a family Great Dane for the children," he says, "and he turned out to be a successful dog in the ring."

Pursuing a limited breeding program, Dr. DiNardo produced a record-setting Doberman Pinscher that was number-one dog in the breed from 1982 to 1985. He has also bred winners of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America's Top 20 and the breed's national specialty show.

Dr. DiNardo became an AKC judge in 1980 and is approved to judge all sporting, hound, working, toy and non-sporting breeds, as well as a few terrier and herding breeds. He

includes among his judging highlights Best Bred By Exhibitor in Show at The AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, the Doberman Pinscher Club of America nationals, the Rottweiler Club of America's Top 20, and judging Best of Best in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. DiNardo is the founder and president of the Connecticut River Working Group Association, the first AKC working-dog member club. A past president and former delegate of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America, and is proud to have "contributed to many changes at the DPCA."

He and his wife Shelia DiNardo, have four children, all of whom grew up in the sport of dogs.

Dr. Robert Indeglia is a native New Englander, born and raised in Rhode Island. His schooling has included Johns Hopkins University and Georgetown Medical School, with further training in surgery and cardiovascular surgery at the University of Minnesota during the infancy of cardiac surgery, where he also received a PhD in surgery and biomedical engineering. He is currently emeritus at the Miriam Hospital, a major Brown University teaching institution. Although he is now less active clinically, he served as chief of cardiac surgery and led one of the most active cardiovascular and thoracic surgery practices in New England. He also served as chief of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at several private hospitals in Providence. In addition, he served as President of the Rhode Island Heart Association and member of the New England Council of the American Heart Association.

His activities in purebred dogs began in early childhood with his parents' involvement with Cocker Spaniels in the 1930s and 40s. He became involved with Norwegian Elkhounds in 1960 and over the next 37 years bred 40 litters and has shown over 50 champions. He has been active in the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America and served on its board as well as President and AKC delegate in the 1970s and 1980s. He was Chairman of the first standard revision committee in 1972. He bred two Boxer litters in the 1960s and has shown and owned Irish Setters, Golden Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers. His wife, Mary, a Whippet enthusiast, currently has group-winning Whippets and two Elkhound puppies, as well as an ever present Yorkie.

He began judging Elkhounds in 1971 and is currently licensed to judge the Sporting, Hound, Working and Non-Sporting Groups, and a number of Herding breeds. His outside interests include golf, as well as following all major sports. He has been a season ticket holder for the Boston Bruins hockey team and The New England Patriots football team, but his Achilles heel (except recently) has been the yearly trail of disappointment of the classic Boston Red Sox fanatic.

Judges for each of the seven variety groups and the Miscellaneous Classes are:

SPORTING – Ms. Pamela Bruce – Ontario, Canada

HOUND – Mr. Houston Clark – Decatur, Tennessee

WORKING – Mrs. Kimberly Meredith-Cavanna – Pleasant Hill, California

TERRIER – Mr. Geir Flyckt-Pedersen – Raleigh, North Carolina

TOY – Mr. Peter Green – Bowmansville, Pennsylvania

NON-SPORTING – Mr. Wayne Burton – New South Wales, Australia

HERDING – Mrs. Barbara Dempsey Alderman – Moon Township, Pennsylvania
MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES – Mr. Wayne Burton – New South Wales, Australia

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

SPORTING – Mr. Robert Vandiver – Simpsonville, South Carolina

HOUND – Mrs. Toddie Clark – Decatur, Tennessee

WORKING – Ms. Helene Nietsch – Newtown, Connecticut

TERRIER – Mr. William DeVilleneuve – Dix Hills, New York

TOY – Mrs. Gina Weiser – Weston, Missouri

NON-SPORTING – Ms. Janet Allen – Point Reyes Station, California

HERDING – Mrs. Susan Vroom – Denton, Texas

BEST JUNIOR HANDLER – Mr. Edd E. Bivin – Ft. Worth, Texas

JUNIOR PRELIMS – Mrs. Elizabeth Jordan-Nelson of Sacramento, California and Ms. Whitney Perry of East Falmouth, Massachusetts.

SPORTING GROUP:

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Edd E. Bivin

Setters (English)

Mr. David Kittredge

Spaniels (American Water), Spaniels (Boykin), Spaniels (Clumber), Spaniels (Cocker - ASCOB), Spaniels (Cocker – Black), Spaniels (Cocker – Parti Color), Spaniels (English Cocker), Spaniels (English Springer), Spaniels (Field), Spaniels (Sussex), Spaniels (Welsh Springer)

Mrs. Marion Lyons

Brittanys, Retrievers (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling), Retrievers (Curly-Coated), Retrievers (Flat-Coated), Vizslas

Mrs. Paula Nykiel

Lagotti Romagnoli, Pointers (German Shorthaired), Pointers (German Wirehaired), Pointers, Spinoni Italiani, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas

Ms. Beth Sweigart

Retrievers (Chesapeake), Retrievers (Labrador), Spaniels (Irish Water)

Mr. Elliott Weiss

Retrievers (Golden), Setters (Gordon), Setters (Irish), Setters (Irish Red and White), Weimaraners

HOUND GROUP:

Mr. Luc Boileau

Dr. John Reeve Newson

Mr. Frank Kane

Mrs. Barbara Pepper

Mr. Gene Vaccaro

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Cirnechi dell'Etna, Dachshunds (All Varieties), Sloughis

Basenjis, Borzoi, Greyhounds, Harriers, Irish Wolfhounds, Otterhounds, Plotts, Redbone Coonhounds, Scottish Deerhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds, Whippets

Ibizan Hounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

American English Coonhounds, Basset Hounds, Beagles (Both Varieties), Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Foxhounds (American), Foxhounds (English), Petit Basset Griffon Vendéens, Pharaoh Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos

Afghan Hounds, Salukis

WORKING GROUP:

Mrs. Dorothy Collier

Mrs. Sheila DiNardo

Mrs. Paula Nykiel

Dr. John Reeve-Newson

Mr. Robert Vandiver

Mrs. Wendy Willhauck

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Cane Corso, Komondorok, Kuvaszok, Leonbergers, Mastiffs, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Saint Bernards

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Doberman Pinschers, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Newfoundlands, Tibetan Mastiffs

Boerboels, Bullmastiffs

Giant Schnauzers, Standard Schnauzers

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Boxers, Dogues de Bordeaux, German Pinschers, Rottweilers

Akitas, Alaskan Malamutes, Chinooks, Great Danes, Portuguese Water Dogs, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies

TERRIER GROUP:

Mr. Edd E. Bivin

Mr. Gary Doerge

Ms. Kathy Ferris

Mr. Frank Kane

Ms. Beth Sweigart

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Fox Terriers (Both Varieties), Parson Russell Terriers, Skye Terriers

American Staffordshire Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Bull Terriers (Both Varieties), Cesky Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Manchester Terriers (Standard)

American Hairless Terriers, Airedale Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Scottish Terriers, Welsh Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

Australian Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

Border Terriers, Rat Terriers, Russell Terriers

TOY GROUP:

Mr. Edd E. Bivin

Mr. Andrew Brace

Mr. Robert Ennis

Mr. Frank Kane

Mrs. Rosalind Kramer

Dr. Gareth Morgan-Jones

Ms. Margaret Reed

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Pomeranians, Poodles (Toy)

Italian Greyhounds

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, English Toy Spaniels (King Charles & Ruby), English Toy Spaniels (Blenheim & Prince Charles), Japanese Chin, Silky Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers

Miniature Pinschers, Pugs, Shih Tzu

Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Toy Fox Terriers, Manchester Terriers (Toy)

Chinese Cresteds, Havanese, Maltese

Chihuahuas (Both Varieties), Papillons, Pekingese

NON-SPORTING GROUP:

Mr. Edd E. Bivin

Mr. Andrew Brace

Mrs. Sheila DiNardo

Mr. Gary Doerge

Ms. Pamela Bruce

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Cotons de Tulear, Poodles (Miniature),
Poodles (Standard)

Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Lhasa Apsos,
Löwchen, Tibetan Terriers

French Bulldogs

American Eskimo Dogs, Bichon Frises,
Chow Chows, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden,
Norwegian Lundehunds, Shiba Inu,
Xoloitzcuintli

Boston Terriers, Dalmatians, Schipperkes,
Tibetan Spaniels

HERDING GROUP:

Mr. Edd E. Bivin

Mrs. Dorothy Collier

Mr. Frank Kane

Ms. Minna-Liisa Koltes

Mr. Ken Rayner

Mrs. Sharon Redmer

BREED ASSIGNMENTS:

Australian Cattle Dogs

Bouvier des Flandres

Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Beaucerons, Bergamascos, Border Collies,
Briards, Canaan Dogs, Cardigan Welsh
Corgis, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Finnish
Lapphunds, Icelandic Sheepdogs,
Norwegian Buhunds, Pumik, Shetland
Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs

Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies,
Miniature American Shepherds, German
Shepherd Dogs, Pyrenean Shepherds

Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs,
Belgian Tervuren, Berger Picards, Collies
(Rough), Collies (Smooth), Old English
Sheepdogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs,
Pulik, Swedish Vallhunds

*Panel subject to final approval.

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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 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 and "LIKE" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/royalcanin.us.

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