



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB & AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB WILL TAKE OVER NYC WITH MEET & COMPETE

- Cats Make Their Return to 2017 “Meet the Breeds” Event -

New York, NY – The Westminster Kennel Club and American Kennel Club (AKC®) present **Meet & Compete**, featuring the *4th Annual Masters Agility Championship at Westminster* and *AKC Meet the Breeds®*, brought to you by Purina® Pro Plan®. The joint event returns to New York City on **Saturday, February 11th** at **Piers 92 and 94**. Cats make their triumphant return to *AKC Meet the Breeds®* with **The International Cat Association® (TICA®)**, giving animal lovers the unique opportunity to meet and play with hundreds of adorable dogs and cats while learning about responsible pet ownership. Attendees also get the chance to see the nation’s top canine competitors race against the clock at the *4th Annual Masters Agility Championship*.

“Not only are we glad to again work with the Westminster Kennel Club to bring Meet & Compete to the public, but we’re excited to have TICA back at *AKC Meet the Breeds®*,” said AKC Vice President Gina DiNardo. “We’re looking forward to bringing attendees a fabulous lineup of dog and cat breeds to meet while learning about responsible pet ownership and what breed is right for them.”

“Meet & Compete was such a success, and we’re pleased to once again join the American Kennel Club to bring the event back to the public,” said Seán W. McCarthy, President of the Westminster Kennel Club. “The *Masters Agility Championship at Westminster* and *AKC Meet the Breeds®* are a great fit together and we’re happy to provide spectators with a pet-filled day of excitement.”

This *AKC Meet the Breeds*® will be TICA's fourth time participating in the event, and they will have ongoing exciting cat agility demonstrations for the public. TICA is the world's largest genetic registry of pedigreed cats and the largest registry of household pet cats and kittens. The organization currently recognizes 63 cat breeds.

"We at TICA are thrilled to be welcomed back to *AKC Meet the Breeds*®," said TICA President Fate Mays. "This event is a wonderful opportunity for animal lovers to meet various dog and cat breeds up close, and learn about them straight from the experts."

The 2017 event marks the eighth *AKC Meet the Breeds*®, the return of TICA and the third year that the event is part of the exciting Westminster Week roster. One daytime ticket will grant event-goers access to both *AKC Meet the Breeds*® and the *Masters Agility Championship at Westminster*. Attendees will be able to interact with nearly 200 breeds of dogs and cats in elaborately decorated booths that depict fun elements from the breed's history and talk to experts about each breed, as well as see the exciting Agility competition taking place in Pier 94.

The agility competition takes place all day (Preliminary rounds 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. / Finals 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.) in Pier 94, with the finals being televised on FOX Sports 1 Sunday, February 12 from 8-10 p.m. ET. *AKC Meet the Breeds*® will take place in Piers 92 & 94 from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

In addition to the **Westminster Kennel Club and American Kennel Club present Meet & Compete** on Saturday, February 11th, Westminster Week events include the iconic 141st Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show on Monday and Tuesday, February 13-14 and the Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster on Monday, February 13. All events are presented by Purina® Pro Plan®, which is dedicated to helping dogs of all activity levels excel through performance nutrition and expert resources.

To purchase tickets for Meet & Compete and find additional information about the event, visit www.westminsterkennelclub.org.

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About Meet the Breeds:

From Afghan Hounds to the Turkish Van and everything in between, AKC Meet the Breeds® is brought to you by exclusive pet care sponsor Purina Pro Plan. The eighth annual event gives pet lovers the unique opportunity to meet and play with more than 150 different dog and cat breeds in booths individually decorated to depict each breed's country of origin, historical purpose/function, and attributes as a family pet, all while learning about responsible pet ownership and which breeds may be right for them. Event sponsors include PetPartners, Ameriprise, Motel 6, and Pet Brands, Inc. For more information, visit www.akc.org/meetthebreeds.

About Westminster Kennel Club:

The Westminster Kennel Club is America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs. Established in 1877, Westminster's influence has been felt for more than a century through its famous all-breed, benched dog show held every year at New York City's Madison Square Garden. Today, America's dog show has expanded into Westminster Week which includes the Masters Agility Championship at Westminster and the Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster at Piers 92 /94. More than 3,000 dogs from the US and abroad makes Westminster Week like no other. Westminster. There's only one. Visit us at: www.westminsterkennelclub.org, [@WKCDogs](https://twitter.com/WKCDogs)

About Purina Pro Plan:

Purina Pro Plan is proud to be the food of choice for the past ten Westminster Best in Show winners and 96 of the top 100 AKC All-Breed Champions.* With more than 400 on staff scientists, veterinarians and nutritionists, it's our goal to provide a

dog with the nutrition he needs to be his absolute best, to help keep him energetic and resilient, and to maintain an ideal body condition, healthy skin and a stunning coat. Consumers can learn more about our 80+ formulas and discover the right diet to meet the needs of any dog, from competitive canine athletes, to dogs living the life of leisure, by visiting www.proplan.com or following @ProPlan on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. **The handler or owner of these champions may have received Pro Plan dog food as Purina ambassadors.**

About TICA:

TICA[®], The International Cat Association[®] is the world's largest genetic registry of pedigreed and household pet cats, the first and now the world's largest—registry to allow household cats of unknown ancestry to compete for the same titles and awards as pedigreed cats. The responsible breeding of pedigreed cats preserves the distinct characteristics of individual pedigreed breeds and ensures the continuation of predictable physical and behavioral traits for future generations. TICA is headquartered in Harlingen, TX, and administers the rules licensing and management of hundreds of cat shows annually across the globe in 104 countries. TICA and its members work together to promote the preservation of pedigreed cats and the health and welfare of ALL domestic cats through education, responsible cat ownership, and proper care to the owners of millions of cats worldwide. TICA currently recognizes 63 breeds of cats.

Wherever you are, you're in TICA's world. Fabulous felines...fun...and friendships.

To learn about TICA www.tica.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheInternationalCatAssociation

The American Kennel Club, founded in 1884, 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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