

THE 144<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW



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## ATHENS, GEORGIA WHIPPET WINS HOUND GROUP AT 144<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW IN NEW YORK CITY

**NEW YORK** – The Whippet "Bourbon" of Athens, Georgia, handled by owner Cheslie Smithey, and also owned by Justin Smithey, Dr. Ken Latimer, Judy Descutner, and Nancy Shaw, won the Hound Group under Judge Marjorie Martorella at the 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City on February 10, 2020.

Bourbon, a 4 ½-year-old female, officially known as GCHG Pinnacle Kentucky Bourbon, bred by Justin Smithey and Yvonne Sovereign, took top honors in a field of 35 Best of Breed winners entered, comprising the Hound Group. Westminster reached its conformation entry limit of 2,500 dogs, with three days of Best of Breed competition held at Pier 94, and Group and Best in Show competition held at Madison Square Garden.

"To win the Hound Group at Westminster with a breeder-owner-handled dog is a huge accomplishment," said Westminster Kennel Club Director of Communications Gail Miller Bisher. "Kudos to Bourbon and her dedicated team."

Selected highlights of the Best of Breed competitors were featured live on FS2 on Feb. 10-11. For full Hound Group results and video visit *www.westminsterkennelclub.org.* All Westminster Week events are presented by Purina Pro Plan.

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**The Westminster Kennel Club**, established in 1877, is America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs. Westminster's influence has been felt for more than a century through its famous all-breed, benched dog show held annually in New York City. Each year, 205 dog breeds and varieties — highlighting preservation breeders and purpose-bred dogs — are eligible to compete in the dog show at Pier 94. Best of Breed winners advance to the Group and Best in Show competitions at Madison Square Garden. America's Dog Show has expanded into Westminster Week, which includes the Masters Agility Championship at Westminster and the Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster, both held at Pier 94. Nearly 3,000 dogs entered from around the world compete in these events, making Westminster Week like no other. *Westminster. There's only one.*<sup>(R)</sup> Follow us, @WKCDOGS, or visit: westminsterkennelclub.org.

**About Purina Pro Plan** - Purina Pro Plan is a leader in the advanced nutrition category, with more than 70 formulas in dry and wet pet food to help meet a variety of needs. Its science is backed by 500 Purina scientists globally, including nutritionists, veterinarians and behaviorists, who continuously rethink what nutrition can do. It is also the food of choice for 12 of the past 13 Westminster Best in Show winners\*. For more information, visit <u>www.proplan.com</u> or follow @ProPlan on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook. The brand is manufactured by Nestlé Purina PetCare, which promotes responsible pet care, community involvement, and the positive bond between people and their pets. A premiere global manufacturer of pet products, Nestlé Purina PetCare is part of Swiss-based Nestlé S.A., a global leader in nutrition, health, and wellness.

\* The handler or owners of these champions may have received Purina Pro Plan dog food as Purina ambassadors.