



THE 146<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**WESTMINSTER**  
KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW

PRESENTED BY



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**\*\*Interviews Available\*\***

***MIDDLETOWN, NEW JERSEY RESIDENT WINS BEST JUNIOR  
HANDLER AT THE 146<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB  
DOG SHOW***

**New York, NY** — Erin Bernecker won Best Junior Handler with Rip under judge Mrs. Karen Mammano at the 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show presented by Purina Pro Plan held at the Lyndhurst Estate on Wednesday, June 22, 2022.

Bernecker, handling the 1-year-old Lowchen, officially known as CH Skyline's Take 'Em To The Station, took top honors in the Junior Showmanship competition besting a field of 86 entrants, narrowed down to eight finalists. Finalists were selected over two days of preliminary competitions held at the historic estate just 30 miles north of New York City.

As the 2022 Westminster Kennel Club Best Junior Handler, Bernecker will receive a \$10,000 Junior Showmanship Finalists Scholarship Award. All other Finalists also receive scholarship awards: Second place \$5,000, Third place \$4,000, and Fourth place \$3,000. The remaining four finalists receive a \$500 scholarship award. The scholarships are for their use in post-secondary schooling for the college or technical school of their choice.

Junior Showmanship is a competition assessing the handling skills of children 9-18 years of age, independent of the traits of the dog. This competition has been held as part of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog show since 1934.

For full results and video, visit [westminsterkennelclub.org](http://westminsterkennelclub.org).

LINK TO IMAGES: [HERE](#)

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**About the Westminster Kennel Club**

The Westminster Kennel Club, established in 1877, is America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of dogs. It hosts the iconic, all-breed Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, the second-longest, continuously held sporting event in the U.S., and since 1948, the longest nationally televised live dog show. The annual dog show—a conformation competition for purebred dogs—and the Masters Agility Championship and Masters Obedience Championship—where dogs from all backgrounds are eligible to compete—make Westminster Week with its nearly 3,000 dogs from the U.S. and around the world a

pinnacle experience for any dog lover. America's Dog Show has captivated canine enthusiasts for more than a century with its educational benched format, where the public can engage with more than 200 breeds of dogs in New York City. The Club's mission, which enhances the lives of all dogs, celebrates the companionship of dogs, promotes responsible dog ownership, and breed preservation. WESTMINSTER. *There's only one.*® Visit: [westminsterkennelclub.org](http://westminsterkennelclub.org) and follow us @WKCDogShow.

### **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 14 of the past 15 Westminster Best in Show winners\*. For more information, visit [www.proplan.com](http://www.proplan.com) 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.