

WESTMINSTER

KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contacts: Allison Younger ayounger@westminsterkennelclub.org

Shawn Purdy / Alicia Mohr – SLATE PR westminster@slate-pr.com

THE WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB ANNOUNCES RETURN TO MANHATTAN AND ITS ORIGINAL HOME, MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, FOR 149th ANNUAL DOG SHOW IN FEBRUARY 2025

Judging to be held on February 10 & 11 at Madison Square Garden, with agility and breed competitions on February 8, 10, & 11 at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center

New York, NY (June 12, 2024) – The Westminster Kennel Club is excited to announce that **the 149th Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show presented by Purina Pro Plan** will return to Manhattan in February 2025. Daytime events will kick off on February 8 and will be held at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on all three days. The evening events on February 10 & 11, including group judging and the Best in Show ceremony, will take place at New York City's iconic Madison Square Garden (MSG). The 2025 return is a continuation of the long-standing relationship between The Garden and The Westminster Kennel Club – marking the first time since 2020 that the Dog Show will be held at MSG, where it was one of the storied venue's original events.

"The Westminster Kennel Club is thrilled to bring America's most prestigious dog show back to *The World's Most Famous Arena* in February," said Dr. Donald Sturz, President of The Westminster Kennel Club. "As Westminster approaches its 150th anniversary in 2026, we could not be more excited to welcome our celebration of the world's top canines, as well as our incredible fan base, back to this global stage and to two prominent New York City event venues, including the place where it all began, Madison Square Garden."

Featuring nearly 3,000 top-winning dogs, the 149th Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show will feature its 12th Annual Masters Agility Championship presented by Purina Pro Plan on February 8 at the Javits Center. The events on February 10 & 11 across both venues will include breed competitions, group judging, and the Junior Showmanship competition, culminating with the coveted Best in Show ceremony at Madison Square Garden on the evening of February 11.

The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show held its first event in 1877 at Gilmore's Garden, which was officially renamed Madison Square Garden in 1879. Between 1877 and 2024, the Dog Show was held at The Garden in all but 11 years, creating a lasting connection between The Westminster Kennel Club and MSG.

Additional event information including ticket sales, partner hotel listings, <u>FOX Sports</u> broadcast and streaming schedules, and more will be available at <u>westminsterkennelclub.org</u>. Be sure to follow The Westminster Kennel Club on social media to keep up on event news and special announcements.

WESTMINSTER. *There's only one*.[®] Visit us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>TikTok</u>, <u>X</u>, <u>YouTube</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u>.

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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 showing dogs. It hosts the iconic, all-breed Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, the second-longest, continuously held sporting event in the U.S. after the Kentucky Derby and, since 1948, the longest nationally televised live dog show. The Club's mission is to enhance the lives of all dogs by celebrating the companionship of dogs and promoting responsible dog ownership and breed preservation. The Club advocates for purpose-bred dogs, with an understanding that each breed has a legacy and history that deserves to be taught, honored, and preserved. The Club uses education to raise awareness and encourage owners to conscientiously select dogs that are the right match for their families. The annual dog show—a conformation competition for purpose-bred dogs from all backgrounds are eligible to compete—make Westminster Week, with thousands of dogs from the U.S. and around the world, a pinnacle experience for any dog lover. The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show has captivated canine enthusiasts for more than a century. Learn more at westminsterkennelclub.org.

About Nestlé Purina PetCare

Nestlé Purina PetCare creates richer lives for pets and the people who love them. Founded in 1894, Purina has helped dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives by offering scientifically based nutritional innovations. Purina manufactures some of the world's most trusted and popular pet care products, including Purina ONE, Pro Plan, Fancy Feast and Tidy Cats. Our more than 11,000 U.S. associates take pride in our trusted pet food, treat and litter brands that feed 46 million dogs and 68 million cats every year. More than 500 Purina scientists, veterinarians, and pet care experts ensure our commitment to unsurpassed quality and nutrition.

Purina Pro Plan is a leader in the advanced nutrition category, with more than 140 targeted formulas to help your pet thrive throughout every stage of life. It is also the food of choice for 17 of the past 18 Westminster Best in Show winners*. For more information, visit <u>www.proplan.com</u> or follow @ProPlan on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook.

Purina promotes responsible pet care through our scientific research, our products and our support for pet-related organizations. Over the past five years, Purina has contributed more than \$150 million towards organizations that bring, and keep, people and pets together, as well as those that help our communities and environment thrive.

Purina is part of Nestlé, a global leader in Nutrition, Health and Wellness. For more information, visit <u>purina.com</u> or <u>subscribe here</u> to get the latest Purina news.

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