

## THE AKC OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

In the American Kennel Club's ongoing efforts to recognize and celebrate its volunteer club members, The AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award program was established in 2006 to provide each member club with an AKC Medallion to award to one of its own on a yearly basis.

This award honors those individuals who deserve special recognition that have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, and have been an active and valued member of an AKC member club. Medallions are awarded solely at the club's discretion.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

The AKC has left the structure of the program up to each individual club to decide its own process and criteria. The ATCA Board has asked me to convey the following in deciding if you feel someone is worthy of nomination for this prestigious award

- Nominees must have aided by the AKC Sportsman Code of Ethics in all cases.
- Nominations will start 6 months prior to the National Specialty for that year. A call for nominations should appear in at least two issues of the Talkabout.
- Nominations will be received from any member in good standing of the ATCA and AKC and can be received for any member in good standing of the ATCA and AKC.
- Nominations will be received in writing. The program will start in 2009.
- The ATCA Board and officers will vote on the winner at the Annual Board meeting by anonymous ballot. A discussion of each nominee is encouraged prior to vote. Each Board member will vote for one winner or each Board member will rank each and every nominee and the ranks will be tallied to determine the winner.

(Board Meeting, April 2008)