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THE 2018 WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB BEST IN SHOW WINNER WILL BE SELECTED BY MRS. BETTY-ANNE STENMARK OF CALIFORNIA

Judging Panel Announced for Westminster Week's Four Competitions Held in New York City

New York, N.Y. - Mrs. Betty-Anne Stenmark of Woodside, California has been chosen to select the Best in Show winner at the 142nd Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, which will take place Feb. 12-13, 2018. Mrs. Stenmark is a breeder, owner, and long-time dog club officer. She will join the elite list of judges who have presided over best in show at Westminster, "America's Dog Show."

Mrs. Stenmark has dedicated a lifetime to the sport of dogs as an exhibitor, breeder, canine advocate, judge and dog club show chairman. In 1967, she exhibited a Saint Bernard at her first dog show in Vancouver, British Columbia. After breeding Saint Bernards and

Salukis, she was charmed by the unique qualities of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier and for the past 41 years, she has continued in that breed under the King's Mtn. prefix.

In 1977, Mrs. Stenmark earned her AKC-license to judge Saint Bernards. Currently she is licensed to judge all breeds in the Sporting, Hound, and Terrier groups, 12 breeds from the Working group, Cardigan Welsh Corgis and Pembroke Welsh Corgis from the Herding group, and Best in Show.

In 1980, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore, California, which has since grown to attract one of the largest entries on the West Coast. Mrs. Stenmark recently retired as show chairman of the Del Valle Dog Club, after serving in that capacity for 70 consecutive events.

As a purebred dog advocate, in 1990 Mrs. Stenmark co-founded Responsible Dog Breeders of San Mateo County. The group successfully overturned restrictive breeding legislation and was later granted American Kennel Club (AKC) club recognition as Skyline Dog Fanciers.

In addition to her all-breed dog club involvement, Mrs. Stenmark has held many other positions including President of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, board member of the San Mateo County Fair board, board member of Take the Lead, and long-time member of the AKC Trial Board.

Her judging career includes receiving the prestigious Dogs in Review Winkie® award, based on voting by her peers, as Judge of the Year in 2011. This is her 11th assignment at Westminster. She previously judged the Hound group in 1998 and 2015 and the Terrier group in 2008.

Professionally, Mrs. Stenmark was a partner in the firm Stenmark Metal Specialties, with her late husband, Roy. The firm specialized in seismic motion systems. In later years, she was the volunteer coordinator at Palo Alto Animal Services. Now retired, Mrs. Stenmark lives with her husband, Ben, along with four Dandie Dinmont Terriers.

Mrs. Stenmark will be awarding the Best in Show ribbon to one of the seven group-winning dogs sent to her by a panel of esteemed group judges. The group judging held at Madison Square Garden the evening of Monday, Feb. 12th will be officiated by Mr. Jeffrey G. Pepper of Boynton Beach, Florida for the Hound group; Mr. David J. Kirkland of Sanford, North Carolina for the Toy group; Ms. Mary A. Miller of Lexington, Kentucky for the Non-Sporting group; and Mr. Robert L. Vandiver of Simpsonville, South Carolina, for the Herding group.

On Tuesday, Feb. 13th the group judges will be Ms. Elizabeth Sweigart of Bowmansville, Pennsylvania for the Sporting group; Mr. Robert H. Slay of Cary, North Carolina for the Working group; and Mrs. Rosalind Kramer of Leesburg, Virginia for the Terrier group.

For the 85th year, a Best Junior Handler will be awarded at Westminster. On Tuesday, Feb. 13th Mr. Clifford W. Steele of Carmel, New York. will select the winner at Madison Square Garden. The eight junior showmanship finalists will be determined in preliminary rounds by Mr. Ken J. Murray of Island Lake, Illinois, and Ms. Gretchen K. Schultz of Bethel Island, California.

Presiding over the 5th Annual Masters Agility Championship at Westminster on Saturday, Feb. 10th will be Mr. Don Farage of Bartlett, Tennessee and Mr. David Powell of Auzielle, Occitanie, France.

Mr. John Cox of Shoreline, Washington will determine the winner of the 3rd Annual Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster on Monday, Feb. 12th.

All daytime preliminary breed and junior showmanship judging, agility and obedience competitions will be held at Piers 92 and 94 on the West Side of Manhattan. The group, best in show and junior showmanship finals judging will be held at Madison Square Garden in the evening. All Westminster Week events are presented by Purina Pro Plan®.

The judging panel for the Best of Breed or Variety competitions held at Piers 92/94 in New York City on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 12 and 13, 2018 includes: (Pending American Kennel Club approval)

SPORTING BREEDS (32)

Mr. Paul Campanella of East Hampton, NY: Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers.

Mr. Stephen Dainard of Niagra Falls, Ontario, Canada: American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels (all Varieties), English Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels.

Ms. Pluis Davern of Royal Oaks, CA: Flat-Coated Retrievers, Irish Red and White Setters, Irish Water Spaniels, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Vizslas, Weimaraners, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas.

Mr. Robert D. Ennis of Blasdell, NY: Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Pointers, Lagotti Romagnolo, Welsh Springer Spaniels.

Ms. Gretchen K. Schultz of Bethel Island, CA: English Setters, Gordon Setters, Irish Setters.

Mrs. Faye Strauss of Kent, Wash.: Brittanys, Spinoni Italiani.

HOUND BREEDS (33)

Mr. Johan Beccera-Hernandez of San Juan, Puerto Rico: Borzois, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds, Sloughis, Whippets.

Mr. Edd Bivin of Fort Worth, TX: Dachshunds (all Varieties).

Ms. Pamela Bruce of Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Basenjis, Basset Hounds, Beagles (both Varieties), Harriers, Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

Mr. Ken Murray of Island Lake, IL: American Foxhounds, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, English Foxhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Plotts, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds.

<u>Dr. John Reeve-Newson</u> of Toronto, Canada: American English Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Otterhounds, Petit Basset Griffon Vendeens, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos.

Mrs. Abbe Shaw of Santa Barbara, CA: Afghan Hounds.

WORKING BREEDS (30)

Mr. Johan Beccera-Hernandez of San Juan, Puerto Rico: Akitas, Alaskan Malamutes, Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Boxers, Great Danes, Mastiffs, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Tibetan Mastiffs.

Mr. Clay Coady of Paradise Valley, AZ: Bernese Mountain Dogs, Bullmastiffs.

Mr. Milan Lint of New York, NY: Newfoundlands, Portuguese Water Dogs.

Dr. Elliott L. More of Deerfield, NH: Rottweilers, Saint Bernards, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies.

Mr. Ken Murray of Island Lake, IL: Cane Corsos, Chinooks, Dogues de Bordeaux, German Pinschers, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Komondorok, Kuvaszok, Leonbergers, Standard Schnauzers.

<u>Mrs. Faye Strauss</u> of Kent, WA: Black Russian Terriers, Boerboels, Doberman Pinschers, Giant Schnauzers, Great Pyrenees.

TERRIER BREEDS (32)

Mr. Edd Bivin of Fort Worth, TX: American Hairless Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers and Wire Fox Terriers.

Mr. Clay Coady of Paradise Valley, AZ: Airedale Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers.

Mr. Kenneth Kauffman of Sellersville, PA: Glen of Imaal Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Rat Terriers, Russell Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers.

Mrs. Betty McDonnell of Mahwah, NJ: Norwich Terriers.

Mr. Michael Shoreman of Phelpston, Ontario, Canada: Border Terriers, Bull Terriers (both Varieties), Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

Mrs. Rosemary Shoreman of Phelpston, Ontario, Canada: Miniature Bull Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Standard Manchester Terriers, Welsh Terriers, West Highland White Terriers.

TOY BREEDS (23)

Mr. Robert D. Ennis of Blasdell, NY: Chihuahuas (both Varieties), Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels (both Varieties), Shih Tzu, Toy Manchester Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers.

Mr. Randy Garren of Apex, NC: Miniature Pinschers, Pekingese, Pomeranians, Toy Poodles.

Mr. Michael Shoreman of Phelpston, Ontario, Canada: Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Papillons, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers.

Mrs. Rosemary Shoreman of Phelpston, Ontario, Canada: Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chin, Maltese, Pugs.

NON-SPORTING BREEDS (21)

Mr. Edd Bivin of Fort Worth, TX: French Bulldogs.

Mr. Clay Coady of Paradise Valley, AZ: Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos.

Mr. Randy Garren of Apex, NC: Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, Lowchen, Miniature Poodles, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu, Standard Poodles.

<u>Mr. Dennis McCoy</u> of Apex, NC: American Eskimo Dogs, Bichon Frises, Boston Terriers, Keeshonden, Tibetan Terriers, Tibetan Spaniels, Xoloitzcuintlis.

Mr. Michael Shoreman of Phelpston, Ontario, Canada: Coton De Tulears, Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz.

HERDING BREEDS (31)

Mr. Clay Coady of Paradise Valley, AZ: Bouviers des Flandres, German Shepherd Dogs.

Mr. Thomas Coen of Great Barrington, MA: Berger Picards, Border Collies, Briards, Canaan Dogs, Collies (both Varieties), Shetland Sheepdogs.

Mr. Peter Green of Bowmansville, PA: Australian Cattle Dogs, Bearded Collies, Bergamascos, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, Pulik, Pumik, Pyrenean Shepherds, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds.

Ms. Janina Laurin of Danbury, CT: Australian Shepherds, Beaucerons, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervuren, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs.

Mrs. Dorothy N. Collier of Sapphire, NC: Icelandic Sheepdogs, Miniature American Shepherds, Norwegian Buhunds.

Mrs. Faye Strauss of Kent, WA: Old English Sheepdogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis.

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About The 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, both held at Piers 92/94. More than 3,000 dogs from the US and abroad make Westminster Week like no other. Westminster. There's only one. Visit us at: www.westminsterkennelclub.org or follow <a href="h

About Purina Pro Plan – Purina Pro Plan is proud to be the food of choice for 10 of the past 11 Westminster Best in Show winners and 98 of the top 100 AKC All-Breed Champions.* With more than 400 on staff scientists, veterinarians and

nutritionists, it is our goal to provide dogs with the nutrition they need to be their absolute best, to help keep them energetic and resilient, and to maintain an ideal body condition, healthy skin and a stunning coat. Because being the best he can be means something different for every dog, our wide range of dry and wet foods and snacks, sold exclusively at pet specialty stores, can be found in 80+ formulas across four specialized categories, formulated for a dog's unique needs. For more information, visit www.proplan.com or follow @ProPlan on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Vine or Google+. The brand is manufactured by Nestle Purina PetCare, which promotes responsible pet care, humane education, community involvement and the positive bond between people and their pets. A premiere global manufacturer of pet products, Nestle Purina PetCare is part of Swiss-based Nestle S.A., a global leader in nutrition, health and wellness.

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