

American Whippet Club Top Twenty Event 2017

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Purpose:

The **AWC Top Twenty** event was established in 1990 to encourage the exhibition of Whippets in conformation. This event is part of the AWC National Specialty and is a showcase of the Whippets with the most outstanding records in breed competition. The event serves a variety of purposes in educating judges, exhibitors, breeders and fanciers, and will offer all an opportunity to view the “Cream of the Crop” competing together in one ring.

Eligibility:

The **AWC Top Twenty** standings are based on AKC show results January through December the year preceding the National Specialty as published on the AKC official website. Dogs are awarded 1 point for each dog defeated in breed competition only. Once the final statistics have been obtained from the AKC official website, the **AWC Top Twenty** Whippets are invited to participate at the event the following April at the AWC National Specialty.

Excluded in the event in subsequent years will be any previous **AWC Top Twenty** winners. They are encouraged to attend and are invited to show each year for exhibition only. If the final **AWC Top Twenty** standings include a previous winner or winners, the **AWC Top Twenty** Whippet(s) with the next highest point total that have not already won a previous **AWC Top Twenty** competition are invited to participate. Previous winners will be noted in the standings.

Judges:

AWC Top Twenty executive committee and subcommittee members (15 total) vote to invite three judges to officiate the event. Those judges must be in good standing with the AKC and have never judged the AWC Top 20 event before. Each person, their spouse or any member of their household should not own or co-own, have bred or co-bred or have handled any of the dogs in the Top Twenty for that year. They also shall not have owned, co-owned, bred or co-bred the stud dog of a Top Twenty participant for that year. Three judges will be selected, one from each of the following categories:

1. **Breeder** – An established Whippet breeder who has been breeding for at least five years or who has produced at least five Champions of record as published by the *AKC Awards Gazette*.
2. **Hound Group** – An AKC licensed judge approved to judge the entire hound group.
3. **Handler** – A professional handler meeting the requirements for membership in a Professional Handler’s organization, though not necessarily a member. The handler must have experience showing Whippets for at least five years.

Scoring:

All three judges will individually evaluate each participating Whippet and will create a score from their private notes and overall impression as they compare each exhibit to the AKC Whippet standard. Each judge will use these scores to place the contenders, using their armband number, in order from their first choice to their tenth choice on the official scorecard.

First place will receive 10 points, second place will receive 9 points, third place will receive 8 points, fourth place will receive 7 points, fifth place will receive 6 points, sixth place will receive 5 points, seventh place will receive 4 points, eighth place will receive 3 points, ninth place will receive 2 points and tenth place will receive 1 point.

The ranking scores for each dog from all three judges will be added and divided by three to determine each dog's average ranking score. The dogs with the 5 highest average ranking scores will become one of the five finalists.

The judges will then receive another scorecard with the armband numbers of the five finalists. All dogs will return to the ring for a final evaluation and only the judges will know which five dogs will be under consideration as finalists. The judges will rank the five dogs on their final scorecard, first through fifth. Their final scorecard will be collected and the auditors will give a 5 to each first ranked dog, 4 to each second ranked dog, 3 to each third ranked dog, 2 to each fourth ranked dog and finally 1 to each fifth ranked dog.

The auditors will then review the rankings and if a finalist receives 2 or 3 first place rankings that Whippet will be automatically declared the AWC Top Twenty Winner.

Should three finalists receive a first place ranking each dogs' score will be added and the total will be divided by three to give the average ranking score. Of the three, the Whippet with the highest average score will be declared the Top Twenty winner. In the event of a tie, the auditors will use the Breeder judge's score rankings to determine the Winner.

Awards:

All awards will be announced on the evening of the **AWC Top Twenty** event.

1. **The People's Choice Award** – The event spectators will receive an **AWC Top Twenty** People's Choice Ballot and they will write the armband number of their favorite contender on the ballot. Only one ballot from each spectator will be collected. The Auditors will count the ballots and the participant with the greatest number of votes will be declared the *People's Choice* Winner. This dog will be presented with an **AWC Top Twenty 2017** engraved crystal commemorative trophy.
2. The **Finalist Award** – The four dogs who are among the finalists who are not the Winner will be announced in random order and given a commemorative *Finalist Award*.
3. The **AWC Top Twenty Winner** – The dog chosen per the above criteria as the Winner will be awarded the Large **AWC Top Twenty 2017** engraved crystal commemorative trophy. This dog will then become forever etched in AWC history as one of the elite Top 20 Winners!