

The ABGA Outstanding Sportsmanship Award Program

To further encourage sportsmanship in our sport, the American Kennel Club (AKC) has developed “The Outstanding Sportsmanship Award Program” for member clubs. Through this annual award, the American Brussels Griffon Association (ABGA) and AKC will honor those individuals who make a difference in the world of purebred dogs every year.

Each year, the ABGA AKC Delegate will publicize the award to the membership of ABGA. This may be done by writing an article or short item for inclusion in The Bulletin and/or the ABGA website. This announcement will include a discussion of Outstanding Sportsmanship, the mechanism for submitting nominations, and a description of the selection and award process.

Only ABGA Members in good standing (both for the recognition year, as well as for the year in which the individual is being nominated) are eligible for nomination which states: “All nominees must also be in good standing with the American Kennel Club”. Nominations will include the name of the nominee, a description of how this individual demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship during the previous calendar year, and the name of the individual endorsing the nomination. (No additional weight will be given a nomination with multiple endorsements).

The nominations should take into consideration the AKC Code of Good Sportsmanship as described below:

AKC Code of Good Sportsmanship

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- 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 his 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.

Written nominations should be received by the deadline established each year and submitted to the related section of the ABGA website. The ABGA's Outstanding Sportsmanship Award Committee will review all applications and seek clarification from endorsers (as required). This Committee will be comprised of a minimum of three ABGA Members appointed by the ABGA President.

The Committee will review and vote on the nominees, accepting as many nominations as possible. The individual receiving a majority of the votes will be deemed the recipient of the award. There will be only one recipient of this annual award. (However, please note that a group of more than one individual may be nominated for the EXACT SAME reason [e.g., two or more working together who showed outstanding sportsmanship]. Additionally, should such a group of nominees receive a majority of votes to be selected as the recipient, only one medallion will be awarded and it must be shared by the group).

The name of the selected recipient(s) shall be provided to the ABGA Board of Directors prior to the Annual Meeting, and shall be kept in confidence until the ABGA Annual Banquet at the National Specialty.

The ABGA's AKC Delegate (or designee) will award the medallion at ABGA's Annual Banquet at the National Specialty. As follow-up to this award, the ABGA's AKC Delegate will provide

the name of the recipient to the AKC. Additionally, the award recipient will receive written recognition in The Bulletin and the ABGA website.