



With over USD \$225,000 in prize-money on offer it was not surprising that Tampa, Florida was the place to be for the USA' top dogs over the 2nd weekend in January.

The 5th Annual show, which attracted 2648 dogs, is held in conjunction with the AKC National Agility Championship and the AKC National Obedience Invitational (entries of 689 and 134 respectively), making for a combined entry of 3741 for all 3 events.

The AKC/Eukanuba National Championship was televised live on Animal Planet (in 86 million homes nationwide) & Discovery Channel, with the National Agility Championship to be televised on 13th February. Viewers had the opportunity to vote for their favourite Breed from each of the 7 Group Winners for the "IAMS Viewers Choice Award", as well their choice for the Best in Show Award, with these awards presented "on air" immediately following the Best in Show decision.

All 153 AKC registered Breeds competed with 50 States represented. These were joined by exhibits from 20 countries, including France, Germany, UK, Mexico, Brazil, Malaysia & Japan.

66 Dachshunds (3 varieties) led the entry tally, followed by 43 Poodles (3 varieties), and 31 Cavaliers. 3 Breeds, Labradors, Beagles (2 size varieties), and Chihuahuas (2 varieties) each had 30 entries. Rounding out the highest entries with 29 each were French Bulldogs and American Staffordshires, and with 27 entries each, Boston Terriers, Pugs, Shar Pei and Havanese. Group Totals were: Toy-371 Terrier-357, Gundog-383, Hound-382, Working- 270, Utility- 372 and Non Sporting-335.

Invitations for the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship were extended to the 25 top ranked dogs in every AKC recognised Breed and variety, dogs that completed their AKC Championship in the "Bred By Exhibitor" Class, every dog awarded Best in Show at an All Breed AKC Show during the qualifying period, and for the first time, National Specialty winners as designated by the Breed's Parent Club. In addition the top ranked dog in each AKC registered Breed is invited from those countries around the world with registries that issue pedigrees acceptable for AKC registrations. The system used to select the top dog in each Breed is determined by each country's National Kennel Club.

The show offered \$50,000 for Best in Show and \$ \$15,000 for the Breeder of Best in Show as well as \$15,000 for Best Bred- By Exhibit in Show. Approximately 1000 dogs were entered in the "Bred By" competition.

176 entries competed in the Junior Showmanship competition, with a trip to Crufts as 1st prize, and a \$2000 scholarship for each of the 1st four placegetters.

The Commemorative Poster Contest is fast becoming an exciting annual tradition. The winner receives \$1000, a trip for 2 to the Show and the winning artwork is used in the commemorative poster sold at the Show and on the AKC web site. Proceeds are donated to a charity benefiting Pure Bred dogs.

Also benefiting from the Show was the AKC Charitable Health Foundation, this year \$130,000 was raised at the auction held at the "Gala on the Gulf", this "black tie" event was held on the Friday evening preceding the weekend's judging.



**Best in Show, Best in Working Group -
Alaskan Malamute
CH NANUKE'S SNOKLASSIC NO BOUNDARIES**



**Best in Toy Group - Papillon
CH INVOLVO SEEING IS BELIEVING**



**Best in Terrier Group - Bull Terrier (Coloured)
CH ROCKY TOPS SUNDANCE KID**



**Best in Gundog Group - English Springer Spaniel
CH FELICITY'S DIAMOND JIM**