

Once the judging of males and females is complete, resulting in the awarding of Winners Dog and Winners Bitch, these dogs, as well as the first place winners in the non-regular classes compete with the champions for Best of Breed. Best of Breed Competition is the high point of the Specialty, and takes up most of Saturday. The dog deemed by the judge to most closely meet the Breed Standard will be awarded Best of Breed. The judge will also select the best from between the Winners Dog and Bitch for Best of Winners. Finally, the judge will select the Best dog of the Opposite Sex to the Best of Breed dog.

There are also other classes where more than one dog comprises the entry. The Stud Dog and Brood Bitch class entry is comprised of the sire or dam and two of his or her offspring. The offspring are judged, based on the Standard of the Breed, but the sire or dam is the one that wins the prize. There is also a Brace class for two dogs of identical ownership.

During our lunch breaks, we will also have the opportunity to salute those Siberians that have been re-homed through Rescue efforts. And, also, we take the opportunity to salute both those dogs that have won at previous SHCA Specialties and those dogs holding American Kennel Club titles and Siberian Husky Club of America Sled Dog titles. These dogs will enter the ring in reverse order of age, ending with the oldest titleholder.

Thanks for joining us today! For more information about Siberians and the Siberian Husky Club of America, please visit our website (<http://www.shca.org>). We hope you have an enjoyable day!



## ***Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.***

### **Welcome, Spectator!**

We are delighted that you have joined us at the Siberian Husky Club of America's National Specialty Show & Junior Showmanship Competition, Agility Trial, Obedience Trial, Rally Trial, and Sweepstakes—for youngsters, veterans, and families! We hold this event every year, and it travels around the country. Every four years we are in the "West," this year holding our Specialty in Rohnert Park, California.

If you own a Siberian, it was a good idea that you left your dog at home. Although you may think that your Siberian would love to meet all of his or her relatives, a dog show with lots of dogs and people is often intimidating to a dog not used to this type of activity. Or, your dog, in wanting to play with all of his or her new-found friends, might distract those dogs in competition. And, without your dog, you are freer to view the show, talk with other Siberian owners and breeders, and to see what goodies might be for sale by our vendors.

If you are looking for a Siberian, you have come to the right place! Traditionally, there are a large number of dogs entered at National Specialties. You will have the opportunity to see local Siberians, as well as some from across the US and from around the world! You also have the opportunity of watching longtime judges, including Siberian Husky breeder-judges, evaluate the entrants. And, you will be able to speak with a number of Siberian breeders. If you have not done extensive research on the Breed, please do so. Visit the Siberian Husky Club of America's website (<http://www.shca.org>).

If you are new to dog shows, here's a brief description of what is happening. First of all, you will notice that only Siberian Huskies are entered. A "specialty" show is one where only a specific breed is exhibited. This is different from the "all-breed" shows with entrants representing all the American Kennel Club-recognized breeds. To help you keep track of the events, you might want to buy a catalog

of the Specialty. In addition to listing all of the dogs entered and their owners' names and addresses, there are quite a number of breeder and exhibitor advertisements.

First, a few words about dog show etiquette: Although these dogs are used to some distractions, it is always courteous to try not to cause any. Dogs or children playing near the ring; someone eating a sandwich at ringside; loud talking, shouting, or laughing can all distract the dogs and handlers. So, please try to be a good spectator. Make sure to ask before petting any dog. Also, if you want to speak with breeders or exhibitors, you will often find them distracted prior to competition. Please don't think them rude if they are busy grooming, practicing, or even trying to settle butterflies in their stomachs. You will often have a better opportunity for discussion after they have competed.

There are different types of competition at this Specialty. The first activity on Tuesday is the Agility Trial. This is one of the newer AKC activities, and requires dogs to perform a number of athletic activities in a specified order, quickly with no faults. Those succeeding will be "qualifiers" in Agility, and these scores work toward a number of Agility titles. If you have never seen Siberians in Agility, try to watch this trial, as it is always a great deal of fun!

Next up is Obedience. Dogs are entered in Classes of increasing complexity. Males and females are shown together in the Obedience classes. The judge scores each dog on specific exercises in each class based on a perfect score, and then totals all of the points earned for the dog's final score. If a dog earns enough total points and sufficient points in all exercises, he or she earns a qualifying score and a "leg" toward an Obedience title. Once the dog has earned three "legs" under different judges, the AKC awards that dog an obedience title. There is also an Obedience Trial Championship that can be earned by dogs competing at a high level over a number of trials with significant competition. We also offer some non-regular classes for veteran dogs and others.

The last competition on Tuesday is the AKC Rally Trial. Rally is a fairly new activity, and has been seen as a "stepping stone" to Obedience. Dogs receiving qualifying scores earn titles in this event.

Wednesday is Sweepstakes day for puppies, veterans, and generations of families. Dogs are entered in age groups, and divided by sex. The judge will evaluate the dogs in the ring, comparing them to the "perfect" Siberian as described in the Standard of the Breed. The dogs place 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> in each class, and win prize money. And, the winners of each age- and sex-divided class then compete for Best in Puppy Sweepstakes and the Best dog of the Opposite Sex to the Best in Puppy Sweepstakes. The veteran dogs and bitches (a minimum of 9 years of age) have a similar competition for Best in Veteran Sweepstakes.

Thursday and Friday are the Junior Showmanship competition for younger handlers, and Conformation classes, where the judge evaluates the dogs based on the Standard of the Breed. Dogs (males) are judged first, followed by bitches (females). Again, the dogs are entered in classes based on age, where the dog was bred, if the dog is owned and handled by its breeder, and others. When all of these classes have been judged, the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners from each class compete for Winners--the dog that will earn points toward its championship. A dog earning a sufficient number of points by defeating a number of dogs and winning under different judges earns its Championship, and the title "Ch." in front of its name.

At a Specialty, such as this one, we offer some special classes. Although in other breeds, a dog of seven years may compete in the Veteran Class, most Siberian people think that seven is too young for a Siberian to be considered a veteran. So, dogs competing in the Veteran Class at the SHCA specialty must be at least nine years of age. Additionally, SHCA has defined requirements for entrance in the Sled Dog classes, based on the number of miles of competition in harness on snow.