

BULLDOG *of the* YEAR GALA

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1. PURPOSE

This event was created to showcase bulldogs that have made greatest contribution in the ring to breed recognition during the previous calendar year.

2. SUMMARY OF EVENT RULES

- At least one owner(s) of all participating dogs must be members in good standing of the bulldog Club of America (BCA).
- The event is intended to be formal.
- All committee members and directors are eligible to participate.
- Invitations will be mailed August 1, 2026 prior to the National Specialty at which this event will be held.
- All RSVPs must be returned to the Event Director by September 1, 2026. Late entries will not be accepted and will be returned.

3. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Participation is by invitation only.

To receive an invitation, a dog or bitch must have achieved at least one of the following during the previous calendar year:

- Ranked among the Top 20 bulldogs in breed points the previous year (2025), or
- Won a bulldog specialty show within July 1, 2025 – July 1, 2026, or
- Won Best of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Show 2026 or the AKC National Championship 2025.
- Won an all-breed Best in Show between July 1, 2025 – July 1, 2026.

The entry fee for this event is \$50.00, which is non-refundable.

4. JUDGING QUALIFICATIONS

1. Category No. 1 – Multi-Breed Judge

- Must be licensed by the AKC, FCI or KC to judge bulldogs and at least one other breed.
- If no multi-breed judge is present, a breeder judge may be selected from the breeder judge ballot box.

2. Category No. 2 – Breeder Judge

- Must be AKC, FCI or KC licensed to judge bulldogs.

3. Category No. 3 – Breeder

- Must have a minimum of 10 years of documented experience breeding bulldogs.

4. Category No. 4 – Professional Handler

- Must be a professional handler who charges a fee for services and has experience handling multiple breeds, including bulldogs.
- If no professional handlers are present, a breeder may substitute in this category.

Judge Selection Process: The names of eligible judges will be placed into individual ballot boxes by category. At the start of the event, the current BCA President will draw one name from each box to determine the judging panel. All individuals who wish to be considered should dress in appropriate formal attire in case they are selected.

Dogs owned by the event's judges may not participate in this event but may enter other regular or non-regular BCA classes. Once a person has judged the Bulldog of the Year event, they are ineligible to judge again for a period of three years.

5. SEQUENCE OF JUDGING

Each participant will be judged by four judges.

Each judge will award up to 100 points according to the AKC breed standard, for a possible total of 400 points per participant.

Scale of Points

General Properties: Proportion and symmetry 5 | Attitude 3 | Expression 2 | Gait 3 | Size 3 | Coat 2 | Color of coat 4 – Total 22

Head: Skull 5 | Cheeks 2 | Stop 4 | Eyes and eyelids 3 | Ears 5 | Wrinkle 5 | Nose 6 | Chops 2 | Jaws 5 | Teeth 2 – Total 39

Body, Legs, etc.: Neck 3 | Dewlap 2 | Shoulders 5 | Chest 3 | Ribs 3 | Brisket 2 | Belly 2 | Back 5 | Forelegs and elbows 4 | Hind Legs 3 | Feet 3 | Tail 4 – Total 39

Total 100

- Each dog five minutes to examine each entry before proceeding to the next.
- Four committee members who are not exhibitors will serve as official scorekeepers.

- Scorecards will be collected immediately after each dog is judged.

- The dog or bitch receiving the highest total score (closest to 400) will be awarded the title 'Bulldog of the Year.'

- In the event of a tie, the tied dogs will return to the ring for a tiebreaker round. All four judges will then select the winner by $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote.

- Second runner-up and First runner-up will also receive a rosette.

6. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

- The winner will receive a commemorative rosette and ribbon, with colors to be determined by the event committee.
- All qualified participants will receive a commemorative award.
- The breeder of the winning dog will receive a commemorative ribbon equivalent to that of the owner's award.
- It is the responsibility of each owner to pick up all prizes or make prior arrangements. No awards will be shipped.

7. DISTRIBUTION OF EVENT FUNDS

- 50% of the total entry fees will be awarded to the Bulldog of the Year: 70% to the owner(s) and 30% to the breeder. One party must be a BCA member. If one party is not a member, that portion of the funds will be retained by the division.
- 50% of entry fees will be go the division to help fund the current national specialty.

8. PEOPLE'S CHOICE

BCA members in good standing are eligible to receive a ballot and vote for their favorite dog of the evening. Membership will be verified, and only those on the current roster will be issued ballots.

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Event Director
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