

## **PURPOSE**

To showcase excellence in Chihuahuas, the CCA sponsors a Top 20 event. This event is a part of the CCA National and is intended to educate and entertain judges, exhibitors, breeders and fanciers. This event provides special recognition to those Chihuahuas with the most outstanding records in the show ring during the previous calendar year. The event provides a continuing incentive for Chihuahuas to excel in structure, movement, temperament and conformation to our written standard. The event offers all who attend a chance to view the very best Chihuahuas in the Country based upon their competitive standings for the previous year. Using a scale of points, each dog is evaluated according to how closely it conforms to the breed standard (Top 20 Winner). This procedure is NOT available at any AKC show. The spectators have the opportunity to 'ring-side' judge and vote on the individual they think is best (People's Choice). This is NOT an AKC licensed/sanctioned event.

## **STATISTICS & ELIGIBILITY**

1. A dog may win the Top Twenty just once.
2. Past winners of the Top Twenty will not be allowed to compete in the Top Twenty Competition again. However, they will be invited back as a Past Winner Exhibition.
3. Qualifying dogs are those ranked in the Top Twenty (breed or all-breed) AKC rankings.
4. To compete in this event, all owners and co-owners of finalists must be in good standing with the AKC and CCA (if member/s) at the time the invitations are extended and at the time of the event. All dogs must be eligible at the time of the event to compete in AKC events.

## **PROHIBITIONS**

1. A person listed on the slate of judges for the current year's CCA National Specialty Show, including Sweepstakes, may not exhibit or have a dog exhibited in the CCA Top 20 that is owned or co-owned by that judge. The dog, if qualified, may be shown in "Exhibition Only".
2. No dog that is owned, co-owned, or shown by a member of the CCA Top 20 Committee, or a member of their family as defined by AKC rules can compete at the Top 20 Competition. The dog, if qualified, may be shown in "Exhibition Only".

## **INVITATIONS:**

1. The CCA Top 20 qualifiers will be sent a CCA Top 20 invitation to participate in this competition. There is an entry fee to be returned with the response card and other required information accompanying the Top 20 invitation by the noted deadline on the invitation. Every attempt should be made to send an invitation to each owner of a Top 20 dog.
2. All past Top 20 Winners will receive an invitation and their response card should be marked "Exhibition Only". Every attempt should be made to send an invitation to each owner of a past Top 20 Winner.

## **JUDGES:**

There will be three (3) judges for the CCA Top Twenty event. There will be one judge from each of the following three categories:

### **AKC JUDGE**

A person approved by the AKC to judge Chihuahuas; having judged the breed for at least five (5) years.

### **BREEDER JUDGE**

An established Chihuahua breeder who has bred Chihuahuas for at least ten (10) years. The Breeder Judge must not own or co-own either a dog in the CCA Top 20 Competition or its sire or dam.

### **HANDLER JUDGE**

A professional handler, either active or retired, who meets the requirements for membership in a Professional Handlers' Association (though not necessarily a member). The Handler Judge must have at least five (5) years' experience. The Handler Judge must not have shown a Chihuahua for an owner of a dog in the Top 20 Competition for two (2) years preceding the event. In addition, the Handler Judge may not handle any dog at the CCA National Specialty Show or associated Chihuahua Specialty Show that is owned or co-owned by an owner of a Top 20 entrant.

### **PROHIBITIONS**

1. Any person serving on the Top 20 Committee including family members.
2. Any person who has previously judged a CCA Top 20 Competition in any of the three categories in the past seven (7) years.

Selection of the judges for the three categories should be made by no more than three (3) people. The Chairperson of the Top 20 Committee will make the final decision. Asking committee members is encouraged but the final judges are to be selected by the chairperson and remain secret to everyone. It will be the Top 20 Chairperson's responsibility to insure that the judges understand that their assignment must remain totally confidential. If a judge's identity becomes known, they shall be replaced immediately.

### **CATALOGS**

Each year a catalog is prepared for the Top 20 Competition. They are available for sale just prior to the scheduled starting time of the event, during the remainder of the CCA National week, and by mail thereafter through a designated Top 20 Committee member.

The catalog contains a page for each competitor, with photograph and pedigree supplied by the dog's owner or agent.

### **TROPHIES, ROSETTES AND CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY**

1. The owner of the winner of the Top 20 and People's Choice will receive a trophy made especially to commemorate the Top 20 Competition and a Rosette of the win.
2. All finalist will receive a formal rosette with dog's name on one of the streamers.
3. The owner of a past winner that is deceased shall receive a rosette the following year after his/her death.
4. Co-owners and breeders of a finalist may also purchase rosettes by ordering from a designated Committee member (advance response is mandatory). The total number of additional rosettes ordered may not exceed the number of listed breeders and co-owners of the finalist.
5. Past Winners in attendance will receive a rosette and a bio read.

**Rankings shall be listed in the catalog.**

### **EVENT SCHEDULING**

1. The Top 20 Competition will be held at the CCA National Specialty Show Banquet.
2. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the competition by the Top 20 Chairperson or his/her designee.

### **JUDGING PROCEDURE**

1. Each competitor will enter the ring one at a time (while their music selection is played). Go around the ring, down the diagonal, half way back up and stop and bait your dog for up to 30 seconds and then back up to the judges. This is to determine the "First Impression" score. The First Impression score is only used to break a tie. The dog will then move down and back and around the ring to a table while all three judges watch and the dog will be scored for movement. This process will be repeated until there is a dog on each of the three tables.
2. The dogs will then be examined by each judge and scored on their (the judge's) score sheet.
3. Immediately following the completion of judging, the judges' marked (but not tallied) score sheets will be turned over to independent and impartial persons for tabulation. The score for each dog, from each of three judges, are added together, then divided by three (3) to determine the dog's average score.
4. The winner will be determined on the basis of the average score of each dog. The dog with the highest score is the Top 20 Winner.
5. In the event of a tie, the winner is determined by consulting the FIRST IMPRESSION TOTAL. The dog with the highest First Impression total is declared the winner. THE FIRST IMPRESSION SCORE IS USED ONLY TO BREAK A TIE, AND IS NOT INCLUDED IN TABULATING THE AVERAGE SCORE. If there is a tie score, there will be two (2) winners who shall share the title of Top 20 Winner.

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### **PEOPLE'S CHOICE GUIDELINES**

The winner of the People's Choice will be selected from the current Top Twenty entries in attendance at the time of judging. People's Choice will be judged and voted on by ballot by the banquet attendees.