

Media contact: Gail Miller Bisher (212-213-3212) gail@westminsterkennelclub.org

# THE 145th ANNUAL WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW MOVES TO JUNE 2021 AT HISTORIC LYNDHURST ESTATE IN TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK

New Breeds Barbet, Belgian Laekenois, and Dogo Argentino Join America's Dog Show

**New York, NY** – The 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show will be held at Lyndhurst, a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, in Tarrytown, New York on Saturday, June 12 and Sunday, June 13, 2021, with live coverage across FOX Sports networks. Due to the ever-changing government restrictions during the pandemic a move to a springtime, outdoor dog show was necessary to uphold Westminster's strong commitment to the health and safety of everyone who attends our show.

Westminster Weekend will kick-off with the Masters Agility Championship on Friday, June 11, 2021 followed by the Masters Obedience Championship on Saturday, June 12, 2021. Junior Showmanship, Breed, Group, and Best in Show judging will be June 12 - 13, 2021. For the first time, the Best in Show competition will be televised live on FOX.

"We are excited to host the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Lyndhurst, a unique icon of American culture with its park-like landscape and majestic castle overlooking the Hudson River," said Westminster Kennel Club President Charlton Reynders III. "The wide-open outdoor space at this extraordinary venue allows us to hold a dog show safely while following current social distancing guidelines and public health regulations."

## **Lyndhurst** — A National Trust for Historic Preservation Property

Lyndhurst—home to America's Finest Gothic Revival mansion just 25 miles north of New York City—is a 67-acre estate on Route 9 in Tarrytown, New York. The property was donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded not-for-profit, in 1961. The estate was designed in 1838 by renowned architect Alexander Jackson Davis. Noteworthy occupants include former New York City mayor William Paulding, merchant George Merritt, and railroad tycoon Jay Gould.

Gould's youngest son, Frank Jay Gould, was an avid owner, breeder, and exhibitor of rough- and smooth-coated St. Bernards at Westminster in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The family offered many trophies to St. Bernard winners including the silver Gould Challenge Cup.

Lyndhurst is no stranger to dog shows having hosted them for more than three decades. In 1983, the legendary *New York Times* dog show reporter Walter Fletcher called Lyndhurst, "one of the most beautiful show sites in the country."

For more information visit Lyndhurst.org.

#### **FOX Sports Television Schedule**

### Saturday, June 12, 2021

- FS2 Select daytime breed judging, junior showmanship preliminaries, and obedience highlights will be televised live from 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. (EDT)
- FOX The Masters Agility Championship will be televised from 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. (EDT)
- FS1 Pre-show at 7:00 p.m. (EDT) televised live
- FS1 Groups from 7:30 p.m. 11:00 p.m. (EDT) televised live

### **Sunday June 13, 2021**

- FS2 Select daytime breed judging and junior showmanship preliminaries will be televised live from 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. (EDT)
- FOX Pre-show at 7:00 p.m. (EDT) televised live
- FOX Groups and Best in Show from 7:30 p.m. 11:00 p.m. (EDT) televised live

#### **New Breeds at Westminster 2021**

Three newly AKC-recognized breeds will join the 208 eligible breeds at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 2021. The archetype water dog of France, the **Barbet** is a joyful, bright, and loyal companion. A rustic breed with roots as far back at the 16<sup>th</sup> century, this medium-sized dog locates, flushes, and retrieves birds. The Barbet will join the Sporting Group.

The rarest of the four native Belgium breeds, the **Belgian Laekenois** (pronounced "Lakin-wah") is an affectionate, alert and intelligent dog bred to herd and guard flocks and fields. Similar to the Malinois, Shepherd and Tervuren, this sturdy dog's main difference, besides region of origin, is his rough, coarse coat with a tousled look. The Belgian Laekenois joins the Herding Group.

The **Dogo Argentino**, developed in Argentina's Cordoba province in the 1920s, was bred to find, chase, and catch dangerous game such as wild boar, pumas, and other destructive predators. The Dogo Argentino joins the Working Group.

The Westminster Kennel Club wishes to thank the Greenwich Kennel Club and the Longshore Southport Kennel Club for relinquishing their respective AKC-licensed dog show dates to the Westminster Kennel Club so its dog show could continue in 2021, securing its history, since 1877, as the second, continuously held sporting event in America behind the Kentucky Derby. The club would also like to thank the LEAP Agility Club of Central Massachusetts for allowing Westminster to hold the Masters Agility Championship within the 100-mile limit of their event.

Details regarding entries, invitations, junior showmanship qualifications, host hotels, and other information will be announced once finalized. For the latest updates visit westminsterkennelclub.org.

Purina Pro Plan® — Celebrating a decade as presenting sponsor of all Westminster events.

#### ###

The Westminster Kennel Club, established in 1877, is America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs. Westminster's influence has been felt for more than a century through its famous all-breed dog show held annually at iconic New York venues from Madison Square Garden to Lyndhurst, a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Each year, more than 200 dog breeds and varieties — highlighting preservation breeders and purpose-bred dogs — are eligible to compete in America's Dog Show, the Masters Agility Championship at Westminster, and the Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster. WESTMINSTER. *There's only one.* (R) Follow us, @WKCDOGS, or visit: westminsterkennelclub.org.

**About Lyndhurst.** Originally built in 1838, Lyndhurst is considered by many to be the most important American home of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Designed by A.J. Davis, the Frank Lloyd Wright of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Gothic Revival style, Lyndhurst was one of the first homes to be built in the Hudson Valley as a romantic retreat. Lyndhurst is situated on 67 magnificently landscaped acres on the widest part of the lower Hudson River. Lyndhurst is where the Hudson Valley begins. Lyndhurst.org.

#### **About Purina Pro Plan**

Purina Pro Plan is a leader in the advanced nutrition category, with more than 70 formulas in dry and wet pet food to help meet a variety of needs. Its science is backed by 500 Purina scientists globally, including nutritionists, veterinarians and behaviorists, who continuously rethink what nutrition can do. It is also the food of choice for 13 of the past 14 Westminster Best in Show winners\*. For more information, visit <a href="www.proplan.com">www.proplan.com</a> or follow @ProPlan on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook. The brand is manufactured by Nestlé Purina PetCare, which promotes responsible pet care, community involvement, and the positive bond between people and their pets. A premiere global manufacturer of pet products, Nestlé Purina PetCare is part of Swiss-based Nestlé S.A., a global leader in nutrition, health, and wellness.

\*The handler or owners of these champions may have received Purina Pro Plan dog food as Purina ambassadors.

#### **About FOX Sports**

FOX Sports is the umbrella entity representing FOX Corporation's wide array of multi-platform US-based sports assets. Built with brands capable of reaching more than 100 million viewers in a single weekend, the business has ownership and interests in linear television networks, digital and mobile programming, broadband platforms, multiple web sites, joint-venture businesses and several licensing relationships. FOX Sports includes the sports television arm of the FOX Network; FS1, FS2, FOX Soccer Plus and FOX Deportes. FOX Sports' digital properties include FOXSports.com and the FOX Sports App, which provides live streaming video of FOX Sports content, instant scores, stats and alerts to iOS and Android devices. Additionally, FOX Sports and social broadcasting platform Caffeine jointly own Caffeine Studios which creates exclusive eSports, sports and live entertainment content. Also included in FOX Sports' portfolio are FOX's interests in joint-venture business Big Ten Network, a licensing and commercial relationship with The Stars Group that created the FOX Bet sports betting platform and the FOX Bet Super 6 free-to-play game, as well as a licensing agreement that established the FOX Sports Radio Network.