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**WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW**  
 FEBRUARY 16-17 2015

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### Let the Games Begin!

Posted on February 16, 2015 by Susi

The week we've all been waiting for is here, the 139th Westminster Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show, and this year there is something for everyone. Agility, America's fastest-growing canine sport, came to Westminster for the first time last year; it was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by spectators in the sold out event as well as by viewers at home seeing it live on television. The Masters Agility Championship returned on Saturday with more dogs (a 45 percent growth from Westminster's first agility contest last year) and tougher entry qualifications. Qualifying rounds started in the morning, and on Saturday night, winners of Masters Agility Championship were determined in the exciting Championship Finals. A 5-year-old Border Collie named, "Tux," owned and handled by Rose Savkov of Long Valley, New Jersey, took his place in the Winners Circle along with Roo!, owned and handled by Stacey Campbell, winner of Best All-American (mixed breed).


 

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"Tex" Photo: Steve Surfman/WKC



"Rool" Photo: Steve Surfman/WKC

This year for the first time, Westminster partnered with the American Kennel Club as Westminster presented "AKC Meet the Breeds" brought by Purina Pro Plan. As soon as the doors opened to Pier 92, a steady stream of visitors strolled through two large hallways lined with booths decorated in themes relevant to the breeds found within. In this immensely popular hands-on education venue, the public met "up close and personal" their favorite breeds, as well as some rare ones, while learning from the dogs' owners what it's like to live with their dogs.

This morning, conformation judging begins, and over the next two days, 192 Best of Breed/Varieties will be determined. After last year's Best in Show line up, I thought it would be a long time before another seven dogs would gather in the same ring that had among them 522 Bests In Show, a number unparalleled in Westminster history, or in the history of dog shows anywhere, for that matter. It's possible that 2015 could come close, and we'll find out Tuesday night when one dog is crowned Westminster's Best in Show for 2015.

By now you've determined that also new this year is this blog. There's always so much happening at Westminster that we felt you deserved to be given an expanded view of the goings-on at Pier 92 and Madison Square Garden. Helping me bring you an "insider's view" is Susi, a long time Puli fancier and self described Westminster "junkie." I'll let her take it from here.



It's a complete thrill to be at Westminster where fabulous dogs and the people who love them create an atmosphere like none other. Westminster is, in my view, **the** crown jewel of dog shows that consistently attracts the best our sport and our breeds have to offer. Tagging along after David Frei, the "Mayor of Westminster," confirms something that television viewers have always sensed about him when he "calls" the dog show: He is as much a fan of dogs as we are.

Over the next few days, we'll be describing what's it's like to be here for those of you who haven't been able to attend. We'll pass along some behind-the-scene pictures, and perhaps throw in comments overheard in the crowd or at ringside. I end with a few pictures taken as I followed David around the show on Saturday.



In this crush of people is one of "dogdom's" biggest fans, the Mayor of Westminster, David Frei



David stopped to take a picture of a Kooikerhondje on his cell phone



David's affection for the Brittany is well known (just ask the one he has at home!), so stopping at the Brittany booth was predictable



A quick stop to welcome one of two breeds new to Westminster this year, the Coton de Tulear

(we just missed the other, the Wirehaired Vizsla)



The floral Bergamasco begged to be touched by everyone who tried, but failed, to walk past it.



Agility is fast paced, exciting and utterly fun to watch. First introduced in 1979, the sport is based on equestrian jumping competitions. Dogs run through a timed obstacle course under the guidance of the handler.

This entry was posted in History, Uncategorized and tagged Agility, AKC, Conformation, David Frei, dog show, Westminster, Westminster Kennel Club by Susi. [Bookmark the permalink.](#)

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