

INDIANA PUPPY 2017

CONTESTANT GUIDE AND APPLICATION



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Purpose of Contest

The Indiana Puppy Contest serves three distinct purposes to the Indiana pup and handler community:

1. Provide a fun and unique social and educational experience to the pup and handler community as a whole. Historically, contests such as Indiana Puppy Contest have been established to bring the community together. In that spirit this contest exists to allow new connections to be built and to educate the community on resources while providing an outlet to share common interests.
2. Select a representative of the Indiana puppy community to represent at events, contests and throughout our community during their title year.
3. Educate contestants and the public about the importance of events, such as the Indiana Puppy Contest, in building and supporting a stronger community identity with shared goals and values. This is done through open-to-the-public educational opportunities leading up to the contest, educational opportunities at the event itself and explicitly sharing contest goals and judging criteria during the contest in order to build enthusiasm surrounding the title and its potential for the community.

Contestant Resources

Indiana Puppy Contest is an educational event, both for the general community and the contestants. It is not unreasonable to expect that many who enter this contest have never competed in a similar event before, although they may have witnessed similar events taking place. Not only does it take courage to get up on stage and be judged by your peers: the lack of knowledge and experience can make it difficult to contemplate submitting the application. Our contestants provide a peek into our future, and we all have a stake in helping them succeed. Whether a contestant wins or never wins, their enthusiasm and our passion in their success are a powerful community driver. Without aspirations and gumption to follow through on them, our community would potentially be devoid of leadership to make events and gatherings happen.

Pre-Contest Training

Indiana Puppy Contest wants to take the community as well as potential contestants on a behind-the-scenes look at the hows and whys of the contest system. We also want to encourage and reassure potential contestants that we are here because of them and walk them through the contest process before they ever step in front of a judge. Look at our Facebook page for event dates when we will be covering topics such as what our pup and handler contest circuits are, as well as in-depth discussions and demonstrations of how to prepare and what to expect for each component of the Indiana Puppy Contest. These educational opportunities are open to the public – feel free to sit in, participate and learn with our contestants!

Den-Daddy

Like many other contests, we have a person assigned to chaperone our contestants, and help take care of any last minute issues. The Den Daddy will be there to assist the contestants in getting where they need to be when they need to be there, wearing what they need to wear, as well as providing last minute advice and behind-the-scenes support to those competing.

Contestant Prerequisites

To participate in the Indiana Puppy Contest, you must first meet the following criteria.

1. Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age on or before the first day of the contest.
2. Currently reside in the state of Indiana.
3. Have been in residence for the prior six months leading up to the contest.
4. Agree to participate in all categories while conforming to all state and local regulations pertaining to nudity and obscenity.
5. Permit photography or other recordings of themselves for use in promotion of the Indiana Puppy Contest for both current and future events.
6. Own all gear worn during the contest.
7. Represent the Indiana Puppy title for the title year following the contest and abide by the expectations in this document.

Contest Components

Each contestant of the Indiana Puppy contest will be judged in five different components. Besides the judging criteria below, any component of the contest may have points deducted by the judges for tardiness, un-sportsmanlike or generally egregious behavior.

Weekend Social Image – 20% of Overall Score

A general segment comprised of evaluation of the contestant from the time the contestant is introduced to the public Friday evening until the beginning of the on stage contest Saturday evening. Judges will award points based on their opinions of how each contestant behaves and interacts socially with the judges and community as a puppy.

Interviews – 30% of Overall Score

A private opportunity for the judges to directly assess the aptitude, capabilities and potential of the contestant to fulfill the role of title holder. Each contestant will be presented to the judging panel for a private 15-minute interview. The head judge and if necessary the Producer will moderate the interview, ensuring each judge is given an opportunity to ask questions and intervening if any question is deemed inappropriate. All contestants will be in the vicinity during the interview process so that they may be recalled for further questioning if necessary.

Pup and Handler Presentation – 15% of Overall Score

This portion will present to the judges how well the contestant works with a pup or trainer on a one on one situation – starting with the trainer showing off his pup in a manner similar to a dog show, by leading the pup through exercises such as assuming the “stack” position and performing a common set of commands as indicated by the head judge, and followed by a free-play segment where the pup and trainer are encouraged to show off their distinct personalities and entertain the audience with a sampling of their favorite activities. The free-play segment should not exceed 5 minutes.

Speech – 20% of Overall Score

Speech is an opportunity for the contestant to share something they are passionate about with their community. Judges will award points based on speech content and delivery. The speech should last between ninety (90) and one hundred and twenty (120) seconds, running over will incur an automatic

10% penalty for points awarded in the category (ex. 70 points awarded will have 7 points deducted,) however the contestant will not be stopped once the time has expired.

Questions From The Public – 15% of Overall Score

Possibly the most difficult component of the contest to prepare for – all contestants will be brought on stage and be asked questions from their community. Questions may be very serious – such as “What’s the first thing you’d introduce to a new puppy to help them explore puppy head space?” or funny and non-sensical such as “What’s your favorite Disney princess and why?” Contestants will be awarded points for engaging the audience, comfort in answering questions and the ability to land on their verbal paws when presented a challenging or ridiculous question. The head judge, or if necessary the Producer, will stop any questions deemed inappropriate.

Judging Method

Each year, a panel of judges is selected by the Producer. All efforts will be made to make the panel as diverse as our community. The judges will have knowledge and experience that help make them qualified to subjectively judge the contestants. A head judge is assigned to lead the group and moderate the necessary segments. The head judge will also have the responsibility to ensure that the panel is following guidelines spelled out by the contest, both explicitly and in the spirit of the contest and title. If necessary, the head judge will bring any concerns or request clarification from the Producer. Every judge is not just assigning a score to a contestant, but also actively providing notes on what went well and what can be improved upon for next time.

Contestants are encouraged to get to know the judges and interact with them, however contestants shall be prohibited from having private meetings or engaging in any sexual activity or play scene with the judges prior to the announcement of the contest results. To help avoid accidental violation of this policy contestants and judges must display their ID badges at all times.

Olympic Scoring will be used to determine final scores and placement of contestants. In Olympic Scoring, high and low scores for each contestant, in each category, is dropped with the remaining scores totaled for each contestant. The contestant with the highest point score will be declared the winner, and the second highest contestant declared runner-up. Additionally, total scores must be above 70% of available points in order for a winner or runner-up to be declared regardless of the number of contestants. In the event of a tie, the high and low scores will be added back into each category to determine the winner. In the very unlikely event there is still a tie, the tally masters shall oversee a judges’ secret ballot to determine the winner.

Scoring will be tabulated by two tally masters (two members of the community who will individually tabulate the scores and confirm each other’s work). These two have the somewhat tedious job of evaluating and requesting clarification on judges scoring sheets, adding up and determining the component and final scores while maintaining full confidentiality of the running totals.

If the contest has eight (8) or more contestants competing, there will be an elimination of the lowest scoring contestants until only five (5) remain. The elimination will occur based solely on the Weekend Social Image and Interview scores (50% of scoring complete) and will occur before the on-stage portion of the contest. This is done to ensure that both the community and the judges are able to spend ample time with each of the remaining contestants during the most time-constrained portion of the contest.

Expectations of the Winner

The primary responsibility of the winner of the Indiana Puppy title is to build and maintain a positive and respectful image of the contest as well as the pup and handler community. Tarnishing the perception of the contest or community or failure/inability to fulfill the requirements of the Winner can result in revocation of the title with reassignment chosen by the producer. Each titleholder must fulfill the requirements listed in this document, however each Winner is unique in their goals and aspirations they are encouraged to exceed minimum requirements whenever possible.

Communication with Producers

The Winner will maintain an open dialog with the Producer regarding the Winner's goals and plan of action. This is important so that the Producer can promote the Winner and contest while being consistent with Winner's goals. The Producer and the Winner will work together to achieve Winer's goals.

Event Attendance

The Winner is expected to attend and represent at a minimum of five (5) puppy related events during their title year:

- Be in attendance at a minimum of one (1) next-level puppy contest (as a contestant or just representing Indiana Puppy).
- Attend four (4) additional events or puppy-centric community activities with a minimum of two (2) of those being local to Indiana such as Indy PAH events or participating in the Indiana Pride Parade.

The Winner will notify the Producer of planned event attendance with enough time that the Producer may also attend or provide assistance and determine compliance with the event attendance requirement.

Attending Successor Contest

Winner agrees to attend, provide a step-aside speech and assist in whatever manner deemed necessary by the Producer at the following years contest when their successor is determined.

Resignation or Termination of Title

If the Winner is unable to fulfil their duties, or their title is revoked, the Winner will return all title items to the Producer.

Competition in Title Contests

The Winner needs the express permission of the Indiana Puppy Contest Producer (Producers) to compete in any other title contests during the period of time that the Winner represents the Indiana Puppy Contest.

Making Indiana Puppy Contest Successful

Everyone associated with Indiana Puppy Contest is a volunteer. No one gets paid, but we are just as excited as the contestants about having a successful and enjoyable event. The Producer (Producers) provide overall guidance and final word on any contest issue, but without help from others no contest would happen. It takes judges, tally masters, MC's, Den-Daddies, Judges Assistants, Contestants, other un-titled volunteers and support from the community for a successful contest to occur.

Weekend Schedule

Times and locations are subject to change. Contestants are required to participate in all activities with the exception of Kink-U and Brunch (attendance at Kink-U and Brunch are of course encouraged):

Friday, September 9th, 8-11PM Meet & Greet @ 501

Introduce Contestants and Judges

Saturday, 501 Eagle Unless Otherwise Noted

12-4PM Kink-U

4-6 Interviews

6-8 Judges and Contestants Dinner

10:30 Contest Start

Sunday, September 11th

11AM Brunch at Ralson's Draft House

Entry Deadline

Applications should be received by the Producer by 12AM (Midnight Sunday) Monday, September 5th 2016. Applications may be emailed to IndianaPupContest@gmail.com, with paper copies of the waver and indemnification provided to the Producer before the start of the contest.

Application Checklist

- Head Shot photo – a digital photo including your shoulders to the top of your head without a puppy hood on. This photo will be provided to the judges along with your application. Please, email the photo to the address above with your application. This photo does not need to be professional or artistic – it's simply used as a "cheat sheet" so the judges will recognize you.
- Contest Application – Feel free to use the PDF text feature to type your application and save it before printing or emailing to the address above.
- Contest Fee – The application fee is \$20, however \$10 is waved if you purchase a fundraising T-Shirt. This helps offset contest costs and entices contestants to put their money where their mouth is (i.e., actually show up and compete). This fee is non-refundable.
- Photographic & Image Release Waver, Indiana Puppy Contest Indemnification – printed, signed in witness of the producer or representative and handed over before the start of the contest.
- A copy of your driver's license or a current photo ID indicating your date of birth.

Contestant Registration & Application

Human Name:		Puppy Name:	
Street Address:		Phone # (indicate if mobile):	
City/State:	Postal Code:	Eye Color:	Hair Color:
Email:		Height:	Weight:
Date of Birth:	Body Hair:		
Puppy Breed (if chosen):			
Have you ever been convicted of a felony or any criminal activity? If so, please explain:		Have you ever appeared in any pornographic photos, films or videos? If so, please explain:	
Body Modifications (piercings, tattoos, brandings, etc.):		List any clubs/organizations you are involved with (if applicable):	

How long have you been a puppy and what got you involved into this lifestyle?

What makes you a puppy?

What is your favorite piece of puppy paraphernalia?

List other fetishes / BDSM / leather lifestyles you have an interest in:

Why do you want to become Indiana Puppy 2017?

Tell us something unique and surprising about yourself that others in the puppy community don't know about:

Photographic & Image Release Waiver

I, the undersigned, hereby give Indiana Puppy Contest (the contest), its photographers, legal representatives, agents or assigns, the right and permission to copyright, use, reuse, broadcast and/or publish any and all Photographic Pictures (including digital images and pictures) of me, which shall be taken during the contest, or as a result of my preparation for the contest, or as a result of my having Participated in the contest, Pictures, as herein, shall include Portraits or reproductions thereof, including audio and videotapes, made through any media. I further assign the right to use such pictures in conjunction with my name, and through any media outlets, for any purpose deemed appropriate by the Producer (Producers). I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the finished Pictures or the method of their eventual use, including any related audio, video or printed copy that may be used in conjunction therewith. I hereby release, discharge, and agree to save harmless Indiana Puppy Contest and the Producer(s), their photographers, legal representatives, agents or assigns, including those publishing and/or distributing the finished product, in whole or in part, from and against any liability or claim as a result of the use or publication of said pictures, including from any distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion or use in composite form, either intentionally or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking, processing or reproduction of the pictures, their publication or distribution. I have read the foregoing Release and Waiver before signing below. I warrant my full understanding of its contents, and that I am of legal age to give my consent in this state.

Indiana Puppy Contest Indemnification

I hereby certify that I have attained at least twenty one (21) years of age and that I, based upon mutual covenants and considerations (including granting me the privilege of attending and participating in the Indiana Puppy Contest Weekend) will not hold the Producer(s), nor the individual and collective owners, officers, agents and employees thereof liable for any injury to my person or property during the period of the Indiana Puppy Contest Weekend, and I further agree to indemnify and save harmless the producer(s), the individual and collective owners, officers, agents and employees thereof from any and all liability, injury or economic loss or other damage.

Compliance

By signing below I agree to comply with all rules and regulations set forth by Indiana Puppy Contest.

I certify that all information provided on the accompanying forms are accurate.

I certify that I meet all qualifications specified in the Qualification Statement.

I understand that if I win the contest I will be expected to fulfill the duties of the title as outlined.

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Witnessed by (Contest Representative): _____