

Where do YOU want the Next National Specialty to be?

THE NATIONAL SPECIALTY AROUND THE COUNTRY

As is the custom for many breed parent clubs, we've held our National Specialty in many different parts of the country over the years.

Different club members are given the opportunity to host the National as well as to once in a while not have to make such a long drive. This also allows those who come to see dogs from different kennels and you meet people from all over. In addition, interested folk who might not be show folk, but are ardent breed fans, can also easily enjoy the breed and the club.

But moving the National doesn't happen by chance!

Nearly every year a club member has stepped forward with a proposal of where to hold the National in their area, with what AKC club(s) and with (most important of all) their commitment to act as local-area show chair. It's hard work, but lots of fun too!

Examples of members who have, in the past, stepped forward:

1992-1995 Denise Rappaport & Rene' Evans working in New Jersey
1996 Janet Hospodar, Tom France and Peggy Wolfe in Chicago
1997 Dr. Sherilyn Allen, Harry Booker, Patti Care in Pennsylvania
1998 Theresa Phillips in Florida
1999 David Buldini in Massachusetts
2000 Jim Deppen, Sharon Costello, Dr. Allen and Peggy Wolfe in Maryland
2001 Frank Podgorski, Sue Luedemann, Janet Hospodar in Missouri
2002 Donna and Bill Welty, Sharon & Charlie Costello in New Jersey
2003 Janet Hospodar, Tom France, and Peggy Wolfe in Louisville, KY
2004 Janet Hospodar, Tom France and Peggy Wolfe in Tennessee
2005 and 2007 Marlene Church in West Virginia
2006 Harry Booker in Pennsylvania
2008 Jennifer Groves in Maryland
2009 Donna Welty, Sharon and Charlie Costello in New Jersey
2010 Dr. Pierligi Scalia in California
2011 Joe Attaway in Georgia
2012 Suzanne Storms in Missouri
2013 & 2014 Carlo Pietroniro & Lena Moles in Missouri
2015 Mike McDonald in Oklahoma

Offering to host the National doesn't mean YOU do all the work! The entire board of directors and plenty of other members pitch in to be responsible for various tasks and to do lots of labor!

Offering to host the National does mean:

- You act as liaison to the AKC all-breed club
- You may be asked to receive stuff shipped to the national (like trophies and ways-n-means etc) and to see that it gets to the national site itself
- You suggest local hotels with which you are familiar
- You suggest local restaurants for the traditional awards dinner, and are the liaison with the restaurant and hotels
- You get to answer tons of questions about directions and how to get to places like a local drugstore or grocery store for last-minute supplies

What do you need to know or experience you need to have to be the designated “host” for the National?

- Ideally you are a member of this AKC club or another one
- You’ve worked with this club before or with other AKC clubs so you’re familiar with how AKC dog shows are run.
- Ideally you’ve come to USNMC Nationals before so you have a general idea of how the USNMC operates or what it expects
- Ideally you’ve participated in Neapolitan Mastiff shows in your own area and can show that there are other breed people close enough to you to help you so you’re not totally alone locally.
- You look forward to doing the work and putting your own “stamp” on the proceedings to improve the show every year

HOW TO MAKE YOUR PROPOSAL:

There is a form you can use to make the proposal. (see form)

Please take into consideration the following requirements:

HOT WEATHER: The USNMC Board of Directors feels that it would be too stressful for the Neapolitan Mastiffs to travel or show in extreme heat. So avoid hot states in the Summer months. (from late May through August)

HAZARDOUS WEATHER: The USNMC Board of Directors feels that it would be too hard on owners to ask them to travel in snow, icy, or blizzard conditions. So avoid cold states in the Winter months (from late November through mid-March)

TRAVEL DISTANCE: It is understood that some shows will naturally have somewhat lesser entries due to distance. This should not prevent a proposal from any place in the country. But if you make a proposal for a location not near dense populations, please be prepared to show that there are enough breed folk willing to travel to your location to make the average entry of 30-45 that we’ve experienced in the past. For example, if you’ve had a good entry Neapolitan mastiffs at your local shows with regularly more than 10-15 dogs (not all coming from one kennel) this would be a sign that a well-promoted national could draw an acceptable number.

TIME BETWEEN NATIONALS: There should be at least six months between two successive nationals. (As there might be if one year the national is in the Fall, and the next it’s in the Spring.) There should be no more than 18 months between two successive nationals. (As there might be if one year the National is in the Spring and the next it’s in the Fall.)

LOCAL LIAISON: The USNMC member making the proposal is considered to be the local liaison for the national and will be on the show committee for that year. Ideally the local liaison can show strong experience in putting on AKC shows and working with the AKC all-breed club(s) named in the proposal. If such experience doesn’t exist, at a very minimum a local liaison must be able to name someone from the AKC all-breed club who openly consents in writing to the USNMC that they will work with and mentor the USNMC local Liaison in this role.

USNMC NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW CHAIR: Being Show Chair takes knowledge and experience and is lots of hard work. In most clubs, the properly experienced local-area coordinator will be named Show Chair for the whole show. The Show Chairman is the Head of the Show Committee for the National

Specialty and is responsible for committee meetings, and coordinating all committee work with the club's Board of Directors. The USNMC Board of Directors will need to approve the Show Chair for the National. This may be the Local Liaison, or if necessary, usually due to lack of knowledge, someone else.

HOW PROPOSALS ARE PROCESSED

1. The Board of Directors issues a call for proposals, giving, at least 30 days for response. The call for submission must be made ideally 24 months and at a minimum at least 18 months ahead of the national year being scheduled.
2. Members respond by filling out the form, or replying with all the pertinent information (as outlined on the form) in a letter or an email.
3. The Board considers all proposals submitted. They may contact some given liaisons for more information. The board will vote on awarding the national within 30 days of having received all proposals.
4. If more than one proposal is submitted for one year the board may decide to schedule multiple years ahead.
5. If no proposal is submitted the board will select site and date for the national and designate one of the board members to be show chair / liaison / coordinator.

NOTE: The board will not reject any properly submitted proposal unless one of the critical criteria is not met. And even in cases where it looks like some of the critical criteria isn't met, the board will attempt to work with any submitter to correct / resolve issues if at all possible.

It is the desire of the Board of Directors to work with any and all club members, not to reject any offer of a club member to help or to work.