Owners and co-owners must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club, but need not be a member of the PBGVCA. Owners and co-owners must agree to abide by all of the Top-20 rules. These rules apply to the finalists' participation in this event and failure to follow these rules may result in revocation of the privilege of future participation, regardless of eligibility.

Spayed bitches and neutered dogs that have been named among the Top-20 may compete in this event. Any deceased finalist will be invited and will be granted the same honor as the rest of the Top-20 participants, i.e. catalog pages, biography and rosette.

Finalists will be allowed to compete only if their owner or agent attends the mandatory briefing that is held at least one hour prior to the start of judging.

When the final statistics for the previous year have been compiled by the **AKC**, the **Top-20 PBGV's** are invited to participate in the competition subject to the **PBGVCA Top-20** event Rules and Regulations.

The invitations will be sent by the Top-20 Chairperson and will be addressed to the dog, in care of the dog's owner. A response card will be included with the invitation and the owner must RSVP no later than six weeks prior to the date of the event. The number of dogs eligible and invited to the Top 20 is based on the dogs actually ranked in the Top 20 by breed points by AKC. Based on numeric "ties", the AKC might actually list more than 20 dogs in the Top 20. All of the dogs in the AKC Top 20 by breed points will qualify for this event.

An entry fee, the amount of which shall have been determined by the Top-20 Executive Committee is to be returned with the RSVP card. In addition, the dog's biography, photograph, and a 3-generation pedigree to be used for the Top-20 Catalog must be returned to the Top-20 Chairperson no later than six weeks prior to the date of the competition.

Dogs that are owned, co-owned or bred by a Top-20 Committee Member are permitted to participate in the Top-20 competition. However, dogs owned, co-owned, bred or handled or by the Committee Chairman are not allowed to compete. Any PBGV owned, co-owned, bred or handled by one of the Top-20 judges is not eligible to compete in this event.

All dogs deemed ineligible to compete due to a conflict of interest may be presented For Exhibition Only and will receive all honors.

JUDGES SELECTION

Judges for Top-20 Competition are selected by the Top-20 Executive Committee (the "Committee") as follows:

1. Each member of the Executive Committee may nominate up to three judges in each category listed below and forward the names to the Committee Chair-man. The Committee Chairman will then review those judges nominated for eligibility and will prepare and mail a ballot to each participating Committee member. The PBGVCA Board of Directors will authorize the Top-20 Committee Chairman to select and secure judges for this event.

2. The Executive Committee members will vote by secret ballot, return their ballot to the Committee Chairman or designee who will solely tabulate and keep the results secret until the Event. In the event two people from the same house-hold serve on the Top-20 Executive Committee, the Top-20 Chairman or designee will count their vote as only one in the selection of judges.

3. The Top-20 Chairman or designee will confirm the acceptance of the winning nominee judges based on their availability. If the top judge is not avail-able, the Chairman or designee will try to secure the 2nd ranked judge and so on.

4. The Chairman or designee will inform each judge that is contracted that he/she is **NOT** to disclose their selection to anyone, including the Top-20 Committee. The Catalog Chairman, who will be responsible for the printing of the Top-20 Catalog, will be advised of the judges' selection. The names of the selected judges must be kept **CONFIDENTIAL** until one hour before the start of the Top-20 Competition judging.

Exclusions From Judging:

- Any person actively serving on the Top-20 Committee.
- Any breeder, co-owner, stud dog owner, handler/agent who has an association or conflict of interest or has exhibited a qualifying PBGV within twelve months of this event.

Any person who has a vested interest in a Top-20 qualifier will be considered ineligible to judge at the Top-20.

Judge Selection Process:

The committee will select an individual from each of the following judging categories:

1. (Judge #1) Breeder: A PBGV breeder who has been breeding for at least five years, having produced at least five AKC Champions of Record from at least three different litters.

2. (Judge #2) Handler (Past or present): A professional handler who meets the requirements for membership in any professional handler's organization, though not necessarily a member. The person must have at least five year's professional handling experience and must be in good standing with the AKC, CKC, etc.It is preferred that the handler have at least three years' experience handling two or more PBGVs.

3. (Judge #3) AKC Approved Group Judge: An AKC judge approved for PBGVs and preferred to have judged a major entry at least five times, may be considered when selecting a multi-breed judge.

4. Each Judge will receive one night's lodging, meal and a gift.