



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN MEET THE BREEDS™ STUDENT ART CONTEST

New York, NY— The American Kennel Club® and Cat Fanciers' Association® are pleased to announce the results of the Meet the Breeds™ Art Contest.

"Best in Show – Overall" and "Best in Show – Dog" were awarded to Alyssa, a 16-year-old 9th grader from Trumbull High School in Trumbull, CT. Alyssa's portrait of a Siberian Husky was drawn with color pencils and pastels and will be hung with the nearly 150 pieces of art received from student artists from Connecticut, New Jersey and New York. "Best in Show-Cat" was awarded to Jordan, a 10-year-old 5th grader from Fred W. Hill School in Brockport, NY who created a Himalayan cat using oil pastels.

"Congratulations to the winners of Meet the Breeds Art Contest - their work was superb and truly depicts the spirit behind the Meet the Breeds event," said Andrea Lane, AKC's Manager of Public Education. "We were also excited to receive so many great pieces, and look forward to welcoming the students and their families to the Javits Center in October where they'll be able to admire their work."

Children from schools and community groups were encouraged to submit artwork featuring a purebred dog or cat in celebration of this unique event. The contest was open to students from ages six through seventeen that were enrolled in grades 1-12 as of June 15, 2009 and who lived in New York, New Jersey or Connecticut. They were allowed to draw, paint or design on a computer a purebred breed recognized by either the American Kennel Club (www.akc.org) or Cat Fanciers' Association (www.cfa.org).

In addition to the overall winners, awards were also presented in grade level and dog/cat breed categories, as well as themed categories such as dogs doing what they were bred to do, dogs or cats participating in an event, dogs or cats participating in an activity that highlights the human/animal bond, and best entry depicting a dog's country of origin. Overall

winners received gift cards and rosettes. A panel of judges, including Westminster Kennel Club commentator David Frei and children's author Seymour Simon, selected the winners.

All submitted pieces will be hung at the Jacob Javits Center on October 17-18, 2009 and are currently online at www.meetthebreeds.com. The largest showcase of its kind in the world, Meet the Breeds plans to showcase 160 AKC registered dog breeds and 41 CFA registered cat breeds, allowing potential pet owners to interact with responsible breeders and play with dogs, cats, puppies and kittens while educating themselves about responsible pet ownership and how to choose the right pet for them.

For a full list of winners and categories, please visit http://www.akc.org/meet_the_breeds/MTB_Art_Contest_Winners.pdf

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About Meet the Breeds -- With 160 dog breeds and 41 cat breeds, plus demonstrations, shopping and children's activities, no pet lover will want to miss Meet the Breeds. Each breed will be presented in its own designated space, decorated to reflect its heritage, characteristics and unique attributes as a pet, while allowing attendees to literally "Meet the Breeds" by petting dogs, cats, puppies and kittens and learning about them directly from the experts. The event is proudly presented by **PetPartners, Inc.**, a leading pet healthcare provider, and will feature over 115,000 square feet of dog and cat festivities. Sponsors include Invisible Fence® Brand, ADT Security Services, JAKKS Pets™, Iams, WebVet, YourDogsHeart.com, Paramount Chemical Specialties Inc., GoPetFriendly.com, and Hartz. Get your tickets now at www.meetthebreeds.com.

The American Kennel Club (AKC), proudly celebrates its 125th Anniversary in 2009. Since 1884 the not-for-profit organization has maintained the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world, and today its rules govern more than 20,000 canine competitions each year. The AKC is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Along with its nearly 5,000 licensed and member clubs and its affiliated organizations, the AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Companion Animal Recovery and the AKC Museum of the Dog. For more information, visit www.akc.org.

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The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. (CFA) was founded in 1906 as a non-profit association of member clubs and is the world's largest registry of pedigreed cats. CFA's mission is to preserve and promote the pedigreed breeds of cats and to enhance the well-being of ALL cats. CFA promotes education, responsible cat ownership and proper care to the owners of millions of cats worldwide. CFA and its affiliate clubs work nationally with local shelters, at a grassroots level, to help humanely reduce homeless and feral cat populations, and to encourage voluntary neuter/spay of pet cats. To learn more about the Cat Fanciers' Association, the pedigreed breeds of cats, or to find the nearest CFA cat show, visit their web site at www.cfa.org