



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALLING ALL STUDENT ARTISTS: MEET THE BREEDS™ ART CONTEST ENTRIES ARE OPEN!

New York, NY— The American Kennel Club® and Cat Fanciers' Association® are pleased to announce that entries are now open for the inaugural Meet the Breeds™ Art Contest, to be held in conjunction with the upcoming Meet the Breeds Presented By Pet Partners, Inc. The largest showcase of its kind in the world, Meet the Breeds will feature more than 160 dog breeds and 41 cat breeds at NYC's Jacob Javits Center on October 17-18, 2009. Children from schools and community groups are encouraged to submit artwork featuring a purebred dog or cat in celebration of this unique event.

"We encourage all young dog and cat lovers to submit their drawings, paintings and designs to the Meet the Breeds Art Contest," said Andrea Lane, AKC's Manager of Public Education. "The contest is turning into a fun and exciting component of our event, and we want to make sure the Javits Center is covered in cats and dogs come October – of both the real and artistic variety!"

The contest is open to students from ages six through seventeen that are enrolled in grades 1-12 as of June 15, 2009 and live in New York, New Jersey or Connecticut. Kids must 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). Entries must be submitted between June 1st and August 15th and will be judged by animal and art experts based on originality, content, quality, appeal and adherence to the contest rules, theme and guidelines.

Winning entries will be hung at the Javits Center during the Meet the Breeds event and posted on www.meetthebreeds.org, and may also be included in AKC's *Family Dog* magazine and the CFA's bi-monthly online magazine *Fanc-e-Mews*. All students who submit artwork by the deadline will also receive one adult ticket and one child ticket to attend the Meet the Breeds event. Entrants will be eligible to win prizes, including gift cards and rosettes, in a variety of judging categories.

Deadlines and Entry Details

Student Submission Deadline: August 15, 2009

Meet the Breeds Art Contest Winners Announced: September 15, 2009 (posted on

www.meetthebreeds.org)

Display of Meet the Breeds Art Contest Winner Works: October 17-18, 2009

Entries must be submitted on the official template provided online at http://www.akc.org/meet_the_breeds/art_contest.pdf or on paper measuring 8.5"H x 11"W no more than 1/8" thick. The official Meet the Breeds Student Entry Form should be securely attached to the back of the art work.

Please mail all entries to:

American Kennel Club, Inc.
ATTN: Public Education Manager
8051 Arco Corporate Drive
Raleigh, NC 27617-3390

For a full list of categories, contest rules, entry form and additional details, please visit http://www.akc.org/meet_the_breeds/art_contest.pdf

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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 the uniqueness and beauty of the pedigree 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 affiliates work nationally with local shelters, at a grassroots level, to help improve the problem of stray cats and abuse, and to encourage neuter/spay programs. 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.

