

THE 11TH

PAWSCARS

Nominations Criteria

Who would you like to see picking up one of the prestigious PAWSCARS awards next year?

It's time for us to seek nominations from the wider pedigree dog community. This is your chance to have a say in who will pick up an award at the PAWSCARS gala dinner on the eve of Crufts 2026.

Between now and midday on 16th November 2025 you have the chance to nominate in one or more categories. The committee will then produce a shortlist in each category. They will consider not just the number of nominations each individual or organisation receives but also the quality of the nomination itself, so make sure you explain clearly why you think your nominee is deserving of an award.

Here is a full breakdown of the criteria you should consider in each of the PAWSCARS categories:

Training Class of the Year

To actively help and encourage newcomers into the sport and to host regular training classes/ matches and activities encouraging newcomers and junior handlers to progress and learn. Whilst offering ongoing training to the more experience all in a friendly and welcoming environment for everyone. To be a training class for any dog competing at any level.

Breed Club of the Year

A breed club that has worked tirelessly and collaboratively to achieve and embrace progress towards the betterment of the breed and the club. Areas such as health, breed rescue, breed events, judges' education and varied disciplines are promoted widely.

Steward of the Year

A Steward who knows, implements and demonstrates correct procedure and the RKC rules, and who actively supports the education of less experienced stewards. A Steward who has good control of the ring; is unobtrusive, helpful and polite to all judges and exhibitors and who at no point becomes centre of attention when in the ring.

Open Show of the Year

To have offered a well organised and well-run show which is exhibitor friendly. To provide exhibitors a varied schedule of classification and activities with recognition for prize-winners and demonstrating value for money for exhibitors and visitors. To be forward thinking to exceed exhibitor expectations. To promote a good mix of breed judges and all-rounders' and to schedule a representative blend of breeds. To try to generate as big an entry as possible and promote this level of show to its maximum potential.

Junior of the Year

A junior (under the age of 18yrs as of 31st Dec 2025) who above all handles their dogs correctly, calmly and in a breed specific manner. A junior handler who demonstrates good sportsmanship in the ring with all exhibitors, judges and officials and who accepts their placements respectfully. A junior handler who shows genuine interest in learning more about dogs. A handler who shows dogs in junior handling competition and breed classes with achievements in both.

WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH 2026

THE NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM BIRMINGHAM

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Breeder of the Year

A breeder who continually produces top quality dogs within the breed(s) they are involved in. A breeder who makes their mark on a breed by encouraging and supporting newcomers and who produces quality dogs for others who have also achieved success. A breeder who demonstrates a passion for health and who openly conducts relevant health tests and who considers ‘fit for function’. A breeder who demonstrates good sportsmanship and is polite to fellow breeders, exhibitors and judges and accepts their awards with grace and help promote their breed(s) to new levels.

Exhibitor of the Year

An exhibitor who above all handles their dog(s) in a kind and gentle manner to get the most out of them. An exhibitor who presents themselves and their dog(s) to the very highest standards. An exhibitor who is courteous and respectful to judges, officials and other competitors and who demonstrates exceptional sportsmanship.

Trade Stand of the Year

Trade stands are an intrinsic part of all our shows from open to group and championship shows. A quality stand is one that has excellent customer service as one of its core values, shows up in a professional way, offering an in-depth range of products within their sector, making it a must visit stand and an attraction for all those attending the show.

Championship Show of the Year

This is open to all group and general Championship shows held within the calendar year. A show which puts on a well-run event with exhibitors at the forefront, a committee that is there to help and assist as well as selecting a good judging panel. A show that is innovative and open to trying new ideas, always looking to improve for the benefit of exhibitors, trade stands, judges, visitors and committee. A show that is a highlight on everyone’s dog showing calendar.

Special Beginner of the Year

This award is to honour and recognise an exhibitor within their breed that is regularly competing in the Special Beginners scheduled classes, showing their dogs in the correct breed specific manner and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship. An exhibitor who is keen to learn from the more established and experienced exhibitors within both their breed and others.

Breed Rescue of the Year

A registered breed specific rescue that has an open house policy to assist in rescuing and re homing their breed. We are looking for a well-run breed rescue with trustees and the correct roles and responsibilities needed to place dogs in suitable homes with health and well-being being a priority. A breed rescue that is highly regarded and well respected and considered as the ‘go to’ within the breed community.

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