THE 2027

PAWSCARS

Nominations Criteria

Who deserves to be recognised at The 2027 Pawscars?

Nominations are now open, giving everyone across the pedigree dog community the chance to recognise the people and organisations who make a real difference.

You can nominate in one or more categories until **midnight 2nd December**.

The committee will then draw up a shortlist for each award. Remember, quality counts as much as quantity - we will look not only at how many nominations someone receives, but at the reasons behind them. So make your nomination count by telling us exactly why your nominee deserves Pawscars recognition.

Take a look at the criteria for each of The Pawscars categories below:

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.

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 2026) 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.

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.

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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.

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. **The winning rescue will receive a significant donation, with donations also made to each of the other shortlisted organisations.**

Nominations close at midnight on 2nd December

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