



AKITA CLUB OF AMERICA

SHOW COMMITTEE

POSITION OUTLINES

PARADE OF

TITLEHOLDERS/RESCUE/THERAPY

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Parade is generally held on Thursday evening after the Top 20

We have found that the only way to get people to stay is to provide Food and arrange a Cash Bar

The Top 20 Committee is restricted in what they can have in the way of a party and in the past they have not had enough money for very much

We have found that having a cocktail party with hearty appetizers and a cash bar between the Top20 when photos were being taken and while the Parade was being set up. By the time it was ready to go, people were full enough to stay. Otherwise, they all want to leave to eat dinner. This was VERY successful

The Parade has two components—the Titleholders and then the Rescue & Therapy Akitas. The secret to getting people to stay is to keep this moving as quickly as possible, while still affording the exhibitors a moment in the spotlight. It's definitely better for this to be held indoors in a ballroom rather than in an outside ring, because it's a night event and the lighting is a real problem and terrific expense in a tent

If someone volunteers to handle putting music to the event it adds a nice touch but this is not essential. The arrangements for this must be made ahead of time with the person who is setting this up. They will have to let the site coordinator know what equipment they will need from the hotel and arrive early enough at the event to be sure it is set up and working

For this event, you will need quite a few people working. It's a good idea to ask the ring stewards from the Top 20 if they will stay and help out with this event. If possible, ask one of them to be the person in the ring handing out the ribbons. Someone will have to be on the spotlight...this is usually a hotel employee, but make sure the site coordinator knows this person needs to be on deck for the entire night. You'll need wranglers to get people lined up outside the ring and keep them moving over to outside

The photographer will have a set up as well, where the Top20 dogs are photographed, and the Parade dogs can be done as well when they get out if the photographer is willing to do this. Sometimes the rescue dogs come with their entire family and this is very special for them

Each dog has a write up that should be sent ahead of time to the Show Chair either by fax or email. If people give them to you handwritten, BE SURE you can read them before you let them get away or you'll be stammering around while you're on the mike. And whoever does the announcing CANNOT cry easily because the rescue parade is a real tearjerker

All entries have to be made ahead of time through the superintendent, just like the show entries, and the special rosettes with the dog's names will be available from the super. Order is from the oldest dog to the youngest and the titleholder parade goes first.

The announcer and the music coordinator need light but the overhead lights are dimmed and the dogs are in a spot

Wranglers get the dogs lined up in order and the ribbons are set out where the presenter can get them easily. Music starts (if available), and as the dog enters, the announcer reads the name and begins the write up. In the ring, the dog is set up or just stands there for a second, then circles around the ring and picks up the ribbon from the person in the ring, then exits. Then next dog comes in. Timing per dog is limited to about 2 minutes each so write ups have to be kept short

The real secret to keeping this on time are the wranglers who need to repeatedly explain to the people outside what the procedure is—come in, set up, circle, get ribbon and leave. As soon as the titleholders are done, the rescue parade starts. They should just come in with the dog and circle to pick up the ribbon then pause until the reading is finished. The best way to get through this as the announcer is to not look at the dogs overly much and don't look at anyone in the audience, especially people who are crying

When the parade is over, any ribbons not presented need to be gathered up. Mailing them to the participants who were unable to attend is a nice touch, not too expensive, and could mean a lot to them, especially the rescues. This is entirely up to you, since the super does not do this and it's not our custom. Everything needs to be picked up and stowed. If the bar is still open, a lot of people will be milling around, talking and still having drinks

Done well, this can be one of the best nights of the national, but it is essential that it begin early enough to be finished at a reasonable hour; otherwise, it's unfair to the later dogs. Lots of food and drink need to be available at the break between the Top 20 and the Parade so people do not leave. The Parade needs to start promptly and run quickly, so people don't get bored enough to remember they haven't eaten