

Contest Rules

South Central Puppy and Handler Contest

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Rules for the contest are as follows:

- Contestants must identify as a puppy or handler.
- The puppy and handler categories are judged separately, with the highest scoring contestant in each category winning.
 - Puppy and handlers may choose to compete together.
 - An individual puppy or handler may compete alone.
- Contestant must be 21 years of age or older before the first day of the contest.
- Contestants must live in the general south central region of the United States.
 - Loosely defined as Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.
- Contestants must meet any one of the following three qualification rules:
 - Have won a puppy or handler title within two years of the starting date of the contest.
 - Provide a letter of recommendation by a current or former puppy or handler titleholder.
 - Be sponsored by a recognized kink friendly business.
 - The South Central Puppy and Handler Contest, its producers, or owners, may not sponsor a contestant.
- Contestants must own all clothing and gear they wear during the event, onstage and off.
- Contestants agree to wear appropriate cloths and gear and participate in all judged categories while confirming to local and state regulations pertaining to nudity and obscenity.
- Contestants must agree to and sign the documentation including the Contest Application, Photograph and Image Release, and any other related forms.
- Contestant must register for Beyond Vanilla as a Puppy and Hander Contestant (at no cost for the basic package).
- Contestants must furnish at least one basket to be auctioned off.
- Contest applications must be received by 11:59pm central time on the Friday proceeding the first day of the contest.
- During the contest weekend, contestants and judges may only interact with each other at scheduled contest events or in public event settings. See the Fraternalization Policy below.
- Illegal drug use is prohibited – zero tolerance policy.
- All rules and regulations must be followed. Failure to do so may result in removal from the contest and expulsion from Beyond Vanilla.
 - Contestants: Immediate disqualification and may not attend any remaining contest segments.
 - Judge: Elimination of all scores (including previously scored segments) and may not attend any remaining contest segments.
- The Producers reserve the right to amend the rules if the need arises. If this occurs, all parties involved will be notified.

- The Head Judge is in charge of the panel of judges. As related to scoring, the decision of the Head Judge is final.
- Olympic Scoring will be utilized for all categories. For each contestant on each category, the highest and lowest judges score will be eliminated and the average of the remaining judges will be utilized as the contestants score for that category.
- In the case of an exact tie, the Head Judge will consult with the other judges and producers, but the Head Judge will make the final decision.
- Contestant and Judges are expected to be on time to contest events during the weekend. Contestant or judges may be disqualified from the contest at the discretion of the Producers if they are unable to make all scheduled events or if they are frequently tardy throughout the weekend.
- Contestants are not required to attend the formal dinner. Contestants may choose to purchase a formal dinner.
- Judges are required to attend the formal dinner, and it is included in their run package.
- Contestants and judges are expected to attend the victory brunch and should arrange travel to allow them to do so.

Winners Get

The Puppy and Handler winner will each receive:

- A backpatch and medal that are their to keep.
- A Sash they will hand down to the next winner.
- A travel fund from the sale of the contestant and other donated auction baskets.

Expectations of Winners

Each winner is required to:

- Represent the Contest, and the puppy and handler community, in a positive manner during their title year.
- Return the following year and:
 - Give a Stepdowm Speech.
 - Act as co-head judge.
 - Teach at least one class or lead a panel discussion.

Each winner is strongly encouraged but not required to:

- To attend the relevant international contest. Depending on timing of both contests and in consultation with the relevant contest, the winner may attend the next or the following international contest.
- Assist with other events around the region and country.

Violating the expectations or rules is ground for revocation of the title, requiring the return of the patch, medal, and sash, and forfeiting any remaining travel fund.

Fraternization Policy

Contestants, Judges, Producers, and Others formally involved with the contest are encouraged to get to know each other in public settings of the event and contest. Contestants are prohibited from having private meetings of any kind, or conducting scene play, with Judges, Producers, and Others formally related to the contest prior to the announcement of the contest results. Should any behavior be brought to the Producers attention, they, along with the Head Judge (if not involved) will determine if disqualification of a Contestant and/or Judge is warranted.

To avoid accidental violations, Contestants, Judges, Producers, and Others are to wear their identification at all times throughout the weekend.