



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Press Release

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2012 AKC POINTING BREED GUN DOG CHAMPIONSHIP TO RUN AT HISTORIC AMES PLANTATION IN TENNESSEE

– Area Rich in Bird Dog History –

New York, NY — The American Kennel Club® is pleased to announce the 2012 AKC Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championship will take place at the Ames Plantation near Grand Junction, TN, beginning Monday, February 27, 2012. The area has been long associated with bird dogs: the first organized field trial in the U.S. was held near Memphis, TN in 1874 and the American Field National Championship has been held on the Ames Plantation since 1915. Grand Junction is also home of the Bird Dog Museum, which preserves the history of the sport.

“We are very pleased to be running at Ames and feel this event provides a unique opportunity to appreciate the sport’s rich history,” said Doug Ljungren, AKC’s AVP of Performance Events. “Pointing breed enthusiasts will be able to watch great bird dogs and also visit both the Ames Plantation and the Bird Dog Museum to learn more about the history of their sport.”

The Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championship is the largest National Championship open to all pointing breeds. The traditional format of the event will be modified in 2012 to fit the historic courses at Ames, with only one Championship stake run. The one hour, non-retrieving, two series event will run for a total of 12 days, on birds native to the Plantation. The entry will be capped at 132 dogs.

Qualifiers for the 2012 event will include dogs that have earned their AKC Field Championship or Amateur Field Championship title or dogs that have placed in large stakes in 2011. In order to ensure representation of all breeds, dogs that win their breed’s 2011 AKC National Gun Dog Championship stake (Open or Amateur) will have a spot automatically reserved. The winners of the 2011 AKC Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championship held in Idaho will also have a spot reserved.

Event Chairman Ken Blackman, a resident of western Tennessee, has already been impressed with the local support shown for the trial. “The community has been extremely welcoming. Due to the region’s long involvement with bird dogs, sporting dog

events are appreciated, and this area understands and is grateful for the business these events bring to the community,” he said. “The local Chambers of Commerce, community groups and businesses are pitching in to ensure the success of the Gun Dog Championship. Our thanks also go to Dr. Rick Carlisle and his staff at the Ames Plantation for their assistance!”

Major sponsors of the 2012 AKC Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championship include Purina (*the official dog food sponsor of the AKC Gun Dog Championship*), Tri-Tronics, Eukanuba Pet Food, Garmin International, SportDOG, Hardeman and Fayette County Chambers of Commerce, Bank of Fayette County and the Hobart Ames Foundation.

For more information, visit:

www.akc.org/events/field_trials/pointing_breeds/gun_dog_championships/. The page will be updated throughout 2011.

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The American Kennel Club (AKC) proudly celebrated 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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