



American Maltese Association

Top 20 Policies and Procedures

Purpose

This event is held in conjunction with the AMA National Specialty. It is intended to educate and entertain exhibitors, breeders, judges and fanciers. This event provides special recognition to those Maltese with the most outstanding records in the show ring during the previous calendar year, together with their breeders, handlers and owners. The event provides a continuing incentive to strive for Maltese that excel in structure, movement and conformation to our written standard.

The event offers to all who attend, a chance to view the very best Maltese in the country based upon their competitive standings in breed points from the previous year. Using a scale of points, each dog is evaluated according to how closely it conforms to the breed standard. This procedure is not available at any AKC show and allows the spectators an opportunity to evaluate the dogs, scoring them at the same time they are being judged. The event is educational, promoting discussion of the standard and providing spectators an opportunity to see how individual views can produce a consensus decision, which can then be compared to their own impressions.

Entry fee and entrance fee for attendees will be determined on a yearly basis by the Top 20 Chairperson and Show Chairperson.

The ring size for the Top 20 competition will not be smaller than the AKC approved size for the show ring.

Eligibility and Invitations

1. Any champion Maltese ranked in the Top 20 dogs and bitches based on Breed Points and the Top 20 dogs and bitches based on All Breed points during the previous calendar year (January 1 through December 31) will be invited to compete as determined by AKC year-end statistics.
2. Any champion Maltese ranked in the Top Fifteen of the AKC Owner/Handler series during the previous calendar year (January 1 through December 31) will be invited to compete as determined by AKC year-end statistics.
3. To compete in this event, all owners, co-owners, and handlers must be in good standing with the AKC at the time the invitations are extended, and at the time of the event. Membership in the American Maltese Association is **not** required.
4. Spayed bitches or neutered dogs that have been named among the final Top 20 Maltese may compete in this event.
5. Previous winners of the Top 20 Event are not eligible to compete in the current year's Top 20. Each year, previous Top 20 winners will be invited to exhibit in the Showcase of Previous Winners either just before actual judging, or just before the winner is announced.
6. The dogs currently eligible to compete, and the previous winners of the Top 20 Event, must all be invited to participate in the event by formal written invitation.
7. In order to eliminate any possible conflict of interest, no dog that is owned, co-owned, or shown by an active, voting member of the Top 20 committee, or a member of their family as defined by AKC rules may compete at the Top 20 event. The dog, if qualified may be listed in the event catalog and shown for exhibition only. No entry fee will be charged and they may run a small photo in the catalog at no charge.

8. All handlers will attend a brief meeting held prior to the event for the purposes of assigning arm band numbers, and reviewing the staging of the event.
9. All participants agree to abide by any and all rules as may become effective through authorization of the Top 20 Committee and/or the AMA Officers and Board of Directors as concerns the conduct of finalists participating in the event. Failure to do so may revoke the privileges of invitation in the future, regardless of eligibility.
10. The Score Sheet *must* be used by judges.
11. The winners shall be announced at the Top 20 Event.

Catalogs

1. A catalog is prepared exclusively for the Top 20 event.
2. The catalog will have a maximum of 2 pages per exhibitor, with photograph, pedigree, and text supplied by the dog's owner or agent. The catalog also contains score sheets and judging procedures, a page listing all the previous winners, the previous judges, and the year in which they won.
3. Pages with the judge's biographies will be handed out with the catalogs the night of the Top 20 competition.

Trophies and Rosettes

Top 20 dogs in attendance will receive a formal rosette.

1. Finalists are afforded the privilege of responding "no" to the invitation. If they are unable to, or do not plan to attend, may still obtain their rosette by ordering it in advance from the committee chair for a nominal fee. Rosettes will also be awarded to the finalists qualifying and opting to attend for Exhibition Only. A shipping fee will be required for rosettes to be mailed.
2. Co-owners and breeders of finalists may also purchase rosettes by ordering them from the committee chair (advance response is mandatory by a set date). The number of additional rosettes ordered may not exceed the number of listed breeders and co-owners of the qualifying dog.
3. Finalists responding "no" to the invitation and not in attendance at the event will be noted in the rankings in the catalog.

Event Scheduling

1. The Top 20 Event will be held prior to the regularly scheduled AMA National Specialty show.
2. Armband numbers will be distributed and the draw for order of competition will be held at least one half hour before the beginning of the Top 20 competition.

The winner of the event will be announced at the Top 20 competition, after the counting of the ballots by the Show Chairperson, the Top 20 Committee Chairperson and a volunteer from the attendees. The winner will be announced by the AKC Judge.

Judges

1. There will be (3) judges of the Top 20 event. There will be one judge from each of the following three categories. All selected judges MAY exhibit Maltese in all classes of the AMA National Specialty.

- a. **Breed judge:** a person approved by the AKC to judge Maltese. The judge must not own or co-own a dog in the Top 20 or be a recorded breeder of the same.
 - b. **AMA member Breeder**
 - c. **Professional Handler**
2. Excluded from judging the event will be the following:
 - a. Any person actively serving on the Top 20 Committee
 - b. Any person that has previously judged an AMA Top 20 event in any of the three judging categories in the past 3 years.
 3. The Top 20 committee Chairperson will select the judges, who will not be revealed until the night of the Top 20 competition.
 4. Top 20 Chairperson and committee members are not permitted to serve on the committee if they are the handler, owner, co-owner, or financial backer of a Top 20 eligible dog.
 5. The breeder of a Top 20 eligible dog shall not serve as Top 20 Committee Chair.

Event Guidelines

A ballroom in which to hold the event is required. Ideally, the ballroom should be large enough to comfortably accommodate the show ring and seating for up to 100 spectators, including a clear aisle for safety.

1. A show ring is required. The recommended minimum ring size is 40 feet by 50 feet. Reserved seating for spectators, either chairs or tables with chairs. If possible, there should be seating reserved for the Top 20 Event participants.
2. A total of three judges
3. A total of three ring stewards, one to be designated chief ring steward.
4. Three judges' tables with chairs at each table.
5. Three exhibit examination tables.
6. One table and chair for the announcer.
7. A microphone and sound system.
8. An area to display the Top 20 Event Trophy and rosette ribbons.
9. Rosettes (or suitable awards) for each participant and any former winners of the Top 20 Event who are in attendance, and a rosette for the winner of the current year's Top 20 winner.
10. Formal invitations to be sent to each of the current year's finalists and the winners of the previous Top 20 Events.
11. A videographer, if possible. The top 20 Event Committee should work with the AMA National Specialty Show Chairperson to arrange for the videotaping.
12. A photographer.
13. Top 20 Event Catalog
14. Top 20 Event exhibitor armbands.
15. A high-quality item to serve as a trophy for the winner of the Top 20 Event and People's Choice.

TOP 20 EVENT FUNDING

The Top 20 Event Committee is responsible for fund raising to help financially support the Top 20 Event. Fund raising may be done at any time during the year prior to the AMA National Specialty show, as well as during the Top 20 Event. The AMA will advance funds (up to \$1,000) annually.

AUCTIONS/RAFFLES

1. Fund raising can include the auctioning or raffling of high quality items only. Proceeds go to the general AMA fund.
2. A 50/50 raffle to benefit the Top 20 Event may be held during the AMA National Specialty Show on the day the Top 20 is held.

ENTRY FEES

1. The amount of the Top 20 Event entry fee shall be reviewed each year for adequacy by the Top 20 Event Committee.
2. Top 20 entry fees must be paid by the Top 20 entrants when responding to the formal invitation sent to them by the Top 20 Committee.
3. Payment of entry fees entitles the Top 20 entrant to receive one rosette, a two page spread in the Top 20 Catalog, a copy of the Top 20 Catalog, and one ticket for the event.

CATALOG ADVERTISING

1. Catalog advertising is limited to invitees to the Top 20 Event and to businesses.
2. The cost of advertising in the Top 20 Catalog shall be reviewed by the Top 20 committee annually.
3. The cost of an advertisement for a business in the Top 20 catalog should be no less than \$40.00 per page and adjusted to ensure covering expenses and showing some profit.
4. Invited dogs that do not enter may also advertise in the catalog and receive their rosette, for a fee to be determined.

CATALOGS

1. A Top 20 Event Catalog shall be printed. It will be for sale just prior to the scheduled starting time of the event, during the remainder of the AMA National week, and by mail thereafter, through a designated Top 20 Committee member and by payment of an extra mailing fee.
2. Each Top 20 entrant will be provided a two page advertisement. The advertisement shall include a photograph of the dog and a three or four generation pedigree of the dog. *Invited dogs that do not enter may also advertise in the catalog for a fee to be determined by the chair.*
3. Every effort should be made to ensure that the armband number for each Top 20 entrant corresponds to the page number for the entrant's listing in the Top 20 catalog.

THE TOP 20 CATALOGS SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE:

1. The judging procedure for the Top 20 Event.
2. The scale of points to be used in judging the Top 20 Event.
3. A photograph and brief bio of each of the three judges.
4. A list of the Top 20 finalists, whether entered or not.

5. Advertisements placed by businesses for inclusion in the Top 20 Catalog.
6. Score sheet for evaluating the Top 20 entrants.
7. The people's choice ballot, (must be printed on colored paper) may be inserted in each catalog.

CATALOG SALES

1. The Top 20 Event Committee shall review the cost of catalogs annually to ensure the cost of the catalog is adequate to cover expenditures.
2. The Top 20 catalog mailed to individuals requesting catalogs shall incur an additional cost over and above the cost of the catalog, to cover the cost of mailing.

JUDGING PROCEDURE SUGGESTIONS

(Judging procedure may vary according to the procedure used, but in any case, each dog will be judged individually by each judge)

1. Each dog will be judged individually. The first dog will enter the ring and go around, then pose for "First Impression." The dog will then be moved down and back, and in a circle while all three judges watch, and the judges will score the dog for movement. The dog will then be examined and scored individually by the three judges, each judge examining the dog on the table as he/she sees fit. The dog will then circle the ring and exit. This process will be repeated until all dogs have been scored.
2. All dogs will be scored by each judge using the scale of points as provided by the Top 20 committee.
3. Immediately following the judging of each dog, each judge will fold the score sheet and hand it to his steward, who will then turn it over to an independent and impartial person or persons to be tabulated. The scores for each dog, from each of the three judges, are added together by the independent and impartial person or persons. The total is the dog's score.
4. The winner will be determined on the basis of the total score of each dog
5. In the event of a tie, the winner is determined by consulting the First Impression total. The dog with the highest First Impression total is declared the winner. If there is still a tied score, there will be two winners who shall share the title of Top 20 winner.
6. The ballots for the People's Choice Award will be collected in a box prior to announcement of the judge's choice winner. These ballots will be tabulated by the same person or persons tabulating the judges' sheets.

**American Maltese Association
TOP 20 SCORE SHEET**

DOG NO. _____

FIRST IMPRESSION (1-10) _____

SCALE OF POINTS

For Evaluation of Individual Specimen
On The Basis of the Standard

CATEGORY	MAXIMUM POINTS	POINTS ASSIGNED
General Appearance	15	
Balance, Proportion, Substance	10	
Head (expression, eyes, skull, muzzle, bite)	10	
Neck, Top line, Body	10	
Forequarters	5	
Hindquarters	5	
Feet	5	
Coat - Condition	15	
Gait	10	
	TOTAL: 100	
	FINAL SCORE:	_____

PLEASE NOTE: Final Score is NOT to be tabulated by judges or stewards.