



2027 ADVANCE™ SYDNEY ROYAL DOG SHOW

‘MEET YOUR JUDGES’

CONFORMATION AND SWEEPSTAKES



ESPEN ENGH (NORWAY)

The world of dogs has always been a profound part of Espen Engh's life, in fact the renowned Norwegian Judge and breeder was only a few weeks old when he attended his first show.

A third generation Greyhound fancier, Espen and his mother Kari bred their first litter, carrying the prefix Jet's in 1975. To this day Jet's remain the top winning Greyhound kennel of all time, producing 228 homebred champions with more than 820 champion titles.

Espen's journey with dogs has also included several Afghan Hound and Whippet champions and in recent times he's been focused on the Griffon Bruxellois, becoming top breeder of the year in the UK.

Since judging his first show in 1984, Espen has amassed more than four decades of experience, officiating in over 100 countries. His Best in Show judging engagement at Westminster in February 2027 is his fourth appearance at the prestigious event and he will take on the same role at Crufts in 2028.

Espen, a veterinarian by education, lives in Lier, south of Oslo in Norway, with his husband and their collection of dogs including Greyhounds, Griffons, Afghan Hounds and Miniature Poodles.



KIM LEBLANC (CANADA)

Kim Leblanc's long and illustrious career as a dog Judge, owner and breeder began in 1973 with a Siberian Husky who became her first champion and sired the litter that founded Snowmist Siberians.

The kennel has enjoyed enormous success in Canada and around the world with Best in Show winners in multiple countries. As well as showing, Kim spent several years competing in sled dog races. In 1993 and 1994 her

lead dog Northstar's Snowmist Birch C.D. S.D.U received back-to-back honours for successfully competing in showing, obedience and sled dog racing in one year.

Kim became a judge in 1994 and has officiated across five continents including at four World Dog Shows. She's also been honoured with awards including Canadian Kennel Club Breeder of the Year and Siberian Husky Club of America Breeder of the Year.

Today, Snowmist is home to more than 20 Siberian Huskies, and alongside her judging, breeding and showing commitments, Kim's greatest joy comes from watching her granddaughter develop her own love of dogs through Junior Handler events.



STEFAN MITREVSKI (MACEDONIA)

Stefan Mitrevski began his career with dogs in 2005 as a passionate and successful Exhibitor, having grown up in Skopje with hunting dogs, an Irish Setter and German Shepherds.

In 2007 he established his 'Inner Vision' kennel with Siberian Huskies, Pomeranians and Boston Terriers. Stefan's breeding program has generated outstanding success with many national and international Champions and multiple Best in Show winners.

He's also exported show dogs to respected kennels across the USA, Europe and Asia.

Stefan became an FCI Judge in 2011 and has officiated in countries across every continent including America, Belgium, China, Croatia, Serbia, South Africa and at the European Dog Show in the Czech Republic.

He's held distinguished positions within Macedonian canine organisations, has been a member of the FCI Judges Examination Commission and is the President of the Kennel Club 'Polaris'.



CHRISTY WANG (CHINA)

Christy Jie Wang is an accomplished Judge, breeder and educator whose passion for dogs began with Miniature Schnauzers.

She founded Diego China Kennel in 1999, cultivating one of the world's most successful Miniature Schnauzer breeding programs, having produced top-ranked dogs across China, the US, Portugal, Australia, Argentina and the Philippines including three World Dog Show winners.

Considered an authority on the Miniature Schnauzer, Christy's love for and knowledge of the breed has seen her conduct seminars in countries including Italy, Singapore,

Malaysia and Russia. She's also recognized in the dog show world for her success as a groomer and serves as Vice President of the FCI Grooming Commission. Christy has won China's top grooming award across four consecutive years.



LYKOURGOS ZOUMPOULIDIS (GREECE)

As a child growing up in Athens, Lykourgos (Leo) Zoumpoulidis had a love for dogs, but it was when an Old English Sheepdog by the name of 'Mickey' came into his life in 1988 that he developed a true devotion to a particular breed.

Leo's kennel 'Micky's Land' was founded soon after and continues to breed Old English Sheepdogs with an uncompromising commitment to the preservation of the breed's characteristics and prosperity. Dogs he's bred or shown have achieved enormous success with titles at home and overseas including several Dog of the Year awards in Greece.

Leo has been an international Judge for more than 20 years, highly respected across countries he's officiated in including France, Germany, Croatia, Ireland, Israel, Cyprus, UK and Hungary.

He's held a range of leadership roles across canine organisations in Greece and in addition to his judging and breeding commitments, manages a technical contracting and pet care equipment firm. Leo is honoured to be judging for the first time in Australia at the 2027 Sydney Royal Dog Show.



JAMES DONAHUE (UNITED STATES) Sweepstakes

James Donahue has been a breeder, owner and handler of dogs since he was a teenager. A sighthound specialist, he's best known for his experience and success with Afghan Hounds, Greyhounds and Salukis, his dogs having won over 80 AKC All-Breed Best in Show Awards.

James began judging in 2017 and has been privileged to officiate at shows throughout North America, Europe and Asia. The 2025 World Dog Show in Finland was a particular highlight.

As the Judges' Education Chair for the Afghan Hound Club of America, James conducts study groups, presents seminars and hosts judging workshops on the breed. He also has extensive expertise in show management, holding the position of Vice President of operations for the prestigious Chicago Kennel Club which runs the Great American Dog Show.

JUNIOR HANDLER



SCOTT PFEIL (UNITED STATES)
Junior Handler

Scott Pfeil is an AKC Best in Show, Group, Breed and Junior Showmanship Judge who has been immersed in the world of purebred dogs since the age of 14.

At just 16 he discovered a love of hounds, and under the prefix 'Wynsyr', founded in 1992, has bred, owned and handled well over 100 champions including multiple Best in Show winners.

Scott is also honoured to have bred and owned the number one Afghan Hound male in the US in 2008 and the number one Afghan Hound female in the US in 2009.

Scott became an international Judge in 2004 including Junior Showmanship competitions and believes that mentoring the younger generation of fanciers can shape a lifelong involvement and love for showing dogs.

Along with his judging and breeding commitments, Scott is the principal/co-owner of the International Kennel Club of Chicago and the President of the Afghan Hound Club of America.

OBEDIENCE AND RALLY



RAY ASHMAN (VIC)
Obedience

Ray's involvement in competitive dog sports began in 1965 when as a child he was introduced to Obedience with his first Labrador, sparking a lifelong passion.

Over the years Ray has participated in a broad range of disciplines including Obedience, Agility, Tracking, Endurance, Rally, Conformation and Retrieving. He's trained and handled a variety of breeds, achieving titles across the board.

Ray began judging in 1973 and has officiated across Australia as well as in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Judging at the Royal Shows in Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane have been a highlight and he's delighted to be adding Sydney to the list in 2027!

Between judging engagements Ray still competes and is trialling a Golden Retriever in Open Obedience and Rally Excellent. He values consistent, fair judging and after more than six decades in dog sports, remains passionate about training and celebrating the partnership between dog and handler.



ELAINE TEMBY (ACT)

Obedience

Elaine has been trialling in dog sports including Obedience and Rally since 1997 and has trained several Cocker Spaniels to UD level including one Rally Champion.

After officiating as a Steward for several years, Elaine joined the Obedience Judges Training Scheme in 2006 as a way of giving back to the sport she loves. Today she judges Obedience, Rally, Endurance, Scent Work and SprintDog, with appointments having taken her across the eastern states of Australia as well as to the Northern Territory.

Elaine says competing and judging have introduced her to lifelong friends and given her the privilege of seeing the care, love and dedication handlers have for their dogs. She is delighted to be judging at the 2027 Sydney Royal.



GAYE TODD (VIC)

Rally

Gaye joined the Southern Obedience Dog Club in the early 80's with her first Weimaraner called Jessie and was instantly drawn to Obedience.

Two Dalmatians, Rommy and Rebel soon joined the team with Rommy achieving her Australian Obedience Champion title in 2005. German Shorthaired Pointer Ringo also notched up multiple wins including many 'High in Trials', his UD title and Rally Champion title. Gaye has titled five Weimaraners including the now retired Eli, a triple Champion with titles in Conformation, Rally and Tracking.

Wanting to give back to the sport she loves, Gaye joined the OTEC Judges Training Scheme in 2019 and became a Rally, Obedience and Tricks Judge. She loves nothing more than seeing a wonderful dog and handler team working together and enjoying themselves in the trial rings.

Gaye is honoured to be judging at the 2027 Sydney Royal and is looking forward to seeing some fabulous teams.



MAELYN DRAPER (ACT)
Rally

Maelyn's interest in dog training and sports began in 2011 when her first dog Chloe joined the family. Through Chloe, Maelyn has become heavily involved with the Belconnen Dog Obedience Club, where she has served as an instructor and committee member for many years and is currently the club's President.

Maelyn has competed in Obedience, Rally and Tricks with Chloe, and in Conformation, Agility, RATG, Scent work and Sprint Dog with her Tollers, Tango and Splash. She's currently training her next performance prospect Rumble the Toller.

Maelyn is excited for her first Royal judging appointment at the 2027 Sydney Royal Dog Show.

AGILITY



CLOVER WARD (TAS)
Agility

Clover Ward has been competing in Agility since the age of 12, having attended multiple Nationals and State events, representing Australia for the World Agility Open and competing in several UK shows in 2026.

She is currently competing with her four year old Border Collie, Dream, and has embarked on a new journey with a smaller breed.

One year old Miniature American Shepherd Chime is so far proving that great things really do come in small packages while at the age of ten, her Border Collie Laken, is enjoying Tricks, Rally & Obedience.

Clover enjoys setting courses with a nice flow, safe lines, and of course, just a bit of running! She can't wait to watch teams give it their best shot at the 2027 Sydney Royal.



ROBYN JONES (NSW)

Agility

Dogs enjoying themselves while working with their humans has always fascinated Robyn, so after competing in Retrieving trials in the 1980's then conformation, she gravitated towards Obedience and Agility.

Robyn's first dogs were Labradors but since 1994 she's had Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, also competing in Rally and Scent Work.

Agility combines fun, movement and communication between the dog and handler. It demonstrates what amazing animals dogs are and Robyn says it's a privilege to watch teams working together.

Robyn's courses are a balance of good dog lines, where the dog can stretch out, and control sections, where the dog and handler can demonstrate the moves they have learnt together.

FESTIVAL OF DOG SPORTS (SCENT WORK)



NATASHA NEPPL (NSW)

Scent Work

Natasha has been actively involved in the sport of Scent Work since 2015, first as a competitor and then as an instructor. She is an ANKC Foundation Scent Work Judge and served as Trial Manager for the first NSW Scent Work Trial held in the Southern Highlands of NSW.

Professionally, Natasha is a Speech Pathologist with the NSW Department of Health and therefore brings a strong understanding of communication to her training. This perspective informs her judging with a focus on effective teamwork and a positive working relationship.

Natasha previously competed with Tari and is now enjoying the sport with her girl Blitz. She is looking forward to officiating at the 2027 Sydney Royal Dog Show.



SHARON WEE (NSW)
Scent Work

Sharon is an experienced and passionate Scent Work competitor, trainer, and judge who has been involved in dog sports for many years.

She began her journey with her Springer Spaniel, Rufus, and quickly discovered how Scent Work could inspire and improve teamwork, focus, and confidence. Since then, she has competed across multiple sports including Tricks, Rally, Obedience, Dancing with Dogs, and Agility.

Scent Work remains her true love however, and as a Judge, she enjoys seeing teams grow in confidence. She is thrilled to be back judging at the 2027 Sydney Royal and says she'll never get tired of watching dogs light up when they solve an odour puzzle.

FESTIVAL OF DOG SPORTS (TRICK DOG)



SHANELLE CORBEN (NSW)
Trick Dog

Shanelle's involvement in dog sports began in 2013 with her much-loved Border Collie, Kadie, and what started as a new hobby quickly developed into a lasting passion for canine performance sports.

Shanelle and Kadie enjoyed many years competing together across Obedience, Rally, Dances with Dogs and Trick Dog, with Kadie achieving her Rally Championship in 2018. Now happily retired from competition, Kadie has handed the reins over to Shanelle's young Border Collie, Ember, who is beginning her own journey in dog sports.

As a Rally and Trick Dog judge, Shanelle particularly enjoys seeing the connection between handlers and their dogs and watching teams enjoy what they have trained so hard to achieve together.

Away from judging, Shanelle remains actively involved in the dog sport community through instructing and mentoring and enjoys helping handlers discover just how much they and their dogs can achieve together.



CAROLYN JENSEN (NSW)

Trick Dog

Carolyn has always owned and loved dogs but her involvement in performance sports began in 2018 with ‘that’ dog, the problem one she knew she could learn a lot from!

Their journey began at their local club in Sydney and the pair began competing in Tricks, achieving their first title in 2021. Carolyn was hooked and in early in 2023 they gained their Advance Trick title amongst several others.

With a commitment to sports and an undeniable talent for training dogs, Carolyn became an instructor at Hills Dog Club in 2024. This led to her becoming a Judge in Trick Dog and then Dancing with Dogs. She is passionate about seeing new competitors discover their own thrill for sports and helping them learn and improve. Carolyn is thrilled to be back, judging the Trick Dog competition once again at the Sydney Royal Dog Show.



LORETTA RABBITT (NSW)

Trick Dog

Loretta Rabbitt is a long-time competitor and Judge, specialising in Tricks and Dancing with Dogs. She has also competed in Agility, Obedience and Rally.

Over recent years Loretta has become a small screen sensation, performing with her toy poodles in music videos, commercials and regularly on television programs including The Channel 7 Morning Show. Reaching the semi-finals of Australia’s Got Talent was a highlight!

Loretta is passionate about encouraging the next generation to take up canine performance sports and discover the joy of developing a true bond with their dog.