

MERIT PROGRAM RULES

SECTION 1 - ELIGIBILITY

In order to qualify for the year-end awards for the Merit Program, the following must be observed:

- A. Every participant must be a WCASA member in good standing. For Adults this means having paid your dues and have attended at least 3 business meetings during the year. This includes meetings from November 1 through October 31 of the merit year, but not including the December awards banquet.
- B. A Junior may be sponsored by an Adult member in good standing, not necessarily their parent. An adult sponsor of a Sub-novice junior must participate in one fund raiser.
- C. To be able for merit points each person participating shall work at least two full-time or six part-time jobs at a WCASA dog show or trial.

Full time jobs are: Show Secretary, Obedience Secretary, Course Director, Tracking Trial Secretary, Agility Secretary, Agility pre-entries, Agility ring help, ring steward (full day), hauling the show trailer, handling stock or time keeping or score keeping for ducks, sheep and cattle provided they work all day (when two types of stock are combined, this means working both) and catalog preparation as per ASCA show rules.

Part-time jobs are: taking pre-entries, taking day-of-show entries, set-up and tear down (both - or any combination of two), working trial set up, working trial tear down, procuring trophies or ribbons, obedience ring help (all day) and lunch coordinator (coordinate and serve), working any one type of stock when they are combined at a trial.

- D. Co-owned dogs must live with a WCASA member in good standing for at least six months of the year. Points will only be recorded this period of time. If both/all co-owners are WCASA members in good standing, all points earned during the year will count toward the year end award, regardless of who the dog lives with.

SECTION 2 - AWARDS / RECORDING POINTS / JOBS

- A. Points are recorded from November 1 through the following October 31st. It is the responsibility of each participant to keep a record of show wins for verification purposes. The official WCASA merit awards will be given to the winner in each category as follows in Section 3. Awards will be presented at the Christmas banquet. Certificates will be presented for all 1st through 4th placings and in case of a tie all dogs will be recognized. All Merit Program participants will receive a title pin for all titles earned. All members, not in the Merit Program, will receive a certificate for any titles earned.
- B. Any titles that are recognized will be ASCA awarded titles.
- C. When submitting a dog's first points, the following must be included:
 - 1. A fee of \$5.00 per dog. Money is not transferable and not refundable. This will go toward the year-end award.

2. A copy of the registration papers for each dog entered over 6 months of age.
- D. All wins and jobs must be submitted on proper forms and turned into the merit chairperson postmarked within thirty days after the show for which they were won or done. EXCEPTION: Points earned during the month of October will not be accepted if postmarked after November 5.
- E. Jobs worked may also be recorded on the sign-in sheet the day they are earned.

SECTION 3 - CATEGORIES

Merit awards will be given in Conformation, Obedience, Working and Agility.

Merit awards will be given to the Top Champion, Adult and Puppy for both Dog and Bitch in conformation. In Obedience, merit awards will be given for Highest Scoring Novice, Open and Utility Aussie regardless of sex. Working awards will be given for Highest Scoring Aussie in Started, Open and Advanced/Post Advanced – Cattle, Sheep and Ducks regardless of sex. In agility, merit awards will be given for the highest point accumulation in Regular Gamblers, and Jumpers - Novice, Open and Elite, regardless of sex.

SECTION 4 - CALCULATING POINTS

A. Conformation Points

Will be awarded to the top Champion, Adult and Puppy, for both Dog and Bitch. One point will be awarded for each dog defeated in your class in addition to one participation point. Example: Your dog takes a first in a class of six; your dog gets six points. Your dog gets fifth in a class of five, your gets one point - fourth place dog gets two points.

Winners Dog/Bitch get the total number of competing regular dogs/bitches of the day of its sex (excluding your dog) in addition to one participation point. Do not include your class win because this will count those dogs/bitches twice.

Reserve Winners Dog/Bitch get the total number of competing dogs/bitches of the day (excluding your dog and Winners Dog/Bitch) of its sex, in addition to one participation point. Do not include your class win because this will count those dogs/bitches twice.

Best of Breed Puppy gets the total number of competing puppies of the day of its sex, excluding your puppy, in addition to one participation point. Do not include your class win because this would count these puppies twice.

Best Opposite Sex Puppy gets the total number of competing puppies of the day of its sex, excluding your puppy, in addition to one participation point. Do not include your class win because this would count those puppies twice.

Best of Breed Adult gets the total number of competing regular and special dogs and bitches of the day excluding your dog and one participation point.

Best Opposite Sex Adult gets the total number of competing regular and special dogs or bitches of the day of your sex, excluding your dog, in addition to one participation point.

If Winners Dog or Bitch goes BOS it gets the total number of competing regular and specials dogs/bitches of its sex excluding your dog, including winners of the opposite sex and one participation point.

Best of Winners gets the total number of regular dog and bitches competing for the day excluding your dog plus one participation point.

B. Obedience Points

Qualifying score are to be accepted from Novice, Open and Utility classes for Aussies. Non-Regular Classes (Novice Y and Grad Novice) will not be included. The top two scores will be used for the merit standings in each division. At least two scores must be submitted to qualify for the merit award.

C. Working Points

One qualifying score will qualify for entry into the program. If more than one score is submitted, the winner will be figured by adding the dogs top two scores. Qualifying scores will be accepted from Started, Open, Advanced/Post-Advanced, and Ranch Trial.

D. Agility Points

Only qualifying scores count. Awards will be given in Novice, Open and Elite in Regular, Gamblers and Jumpers. Points will be accumulated as follows in all categories:

1st place = 4 points + 1 participation point

2nd place = 3 points + 1 participation point

3rd place = 2 points + 1 participation point

4th place = 1 points + 1 participation point

If dogs are entered in more than one run per day, only one run can be submitted per category (Regular, Gamblers or Elite).

***This program is subject to revision at end of the merit year 1996.

E. Special Awards

Upon the development and acceptance of a new program into ASCA, new categories may be developed and incorporated into this merit program as the need arises.

SECTION 5 - PROGRAM RULES CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

A. Upon recognition and acceptance of these merit rules by WCASA, these rules will be enforced until the merit year ends in the year 1999.

B. Amendments can only be made for clarification; ASCA rules changes, or program enhancements.