

Opposite Sex to the Best in Puppy Sweepstakes. The veteran dogs and bitches (a minimum of 8 years of age) have a similar competition for Best in Veteran Sweepstakes. However, none of the Sweepstakes winners will earn any points toward their Championships.

The day continues with the Junior Showmanship Competition, where the young handlers are judged on their showing ability, rather than the dog's conformation to the Standard.

Then, with the judges judging different classes, we will hold our second specialty, which follows the same format as the Friday event.

The last event of the Specialty gives us the opportunity to salute those dogs holding American Kennel Club titles and Siberian Husky Club of America Sled Dog titles. These dogs will enter the ring in reverse order of age, ending with the oldest titleholder.

Thanks for joining us today! For more information about Siberians and the Northern California Siberian Husky Club, please visit our website (<http://www.ncshc.com>), "like" us on Facebook (Northern California Siberian Husky Club, Inc.), or e-mail us (info@ncshc.com). We hope you have an enjoyable day!



Northern California Siberian Husky Club, Inc.

Welcome, Spectator!

We are delighted that you have joined us at the Northern California Siberian Husky Club's biennial Specialty Show and Sweepstakes! As the name implies, we only hold this event once every-other-year, in odd-numbered years. We alternate our show on the same weekend as the Rocky Mountain Siberian Husky Club's Specialty, in the Denver area, which is held in even-numbered years.

If you own a Siberian, it was a good idea that you left your dog at home. Although you may think that your Siberian would love to meet all of his or her relatives, a dog show with lots of dogs and people is often intimidating to a dog not used to this type of activity. Or, your dog, in wanting to play with all of his or her new-found friends, might distract those dogs in competition. And, without your dog, you are freer to view the show, talk with other Siberian owners and breeders, and to see what goodies might be for sale.

If you are looking for a Siberian, you have come to the right place! Traditionally, there are a large number of dogs entered at NCSHC Specialties. You will have the opportunity to see local Siberians, as well as some from other western states, and even others from farther afield! You also have the opportunity of watching longtime Siberian Husky breeder-judges evaluate the entrants. And, you will be able to speak with a number of Siberian breeders. If you have not done extensive research on the Breed, please do so. Visit the Northern California Siberian Husky Club's website (<http://www.ncshc.com>) and the Siberian Husky Club of America's website (<http://www.shca.org>).

If you are new to dog shows, here's a brief description of what is happening. First of all, you will notice that only Siberian Huskies are entered. A "specialty" show is one

where only a specific breed is entered. This is different from the “all-breed” shows, with entrants of all the American Kennel Club-recognized breeds, which are held locally in Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Vallejo, and all across the country. To help you keep track of the events, you might want to buy a catalog of the Specialty. In addition to listing all of the dogs entered and their owners’ names and addresses, there are a number of breeder and exhibitor advertisements.

One word about dog show etiquette: Although these dogs are used to some distractions, it is always courteous to try not to cause any. Dogs or children playing near the ring; someone eating a sandwich at ringside; loud talking, shouting, or laughing can all distract the dogs and handlers. So, please try to be a good spectator. Also, if you want to speak with breeders or exhibitors, you will often find them distracted prior to competition. Please don’t think them rude if they are busy grooming, practicing, or even trying to settle butterflies in their stomachs. You will often have a better opportunity for discussion after they have competed.

There are different types of competition at these Specialties. We begin on Friday with our FIRST Specialty's Conformation judging, where the judge evaluates the dogs based on the *Standard of the Breed*. Dogs (males) are judged first, followed by bitches (females). Again, the dogs are entered in classes based on age, where the dog was bred, if the dog is owned and handled by its breeder, and others. When all of these classes have been judged, the 1st place winners from each class compete for Winners—the dog that will earn points toward its championship. A dog earning a sufficient number of points by defeating a number of dogs and winning under different judges earns its Championship, and the title “Ch.” in front of its name, and those successful in the Champions class can achieve their Grand Championship, and have the title of “GCh.” preceding their names.

At a Specialty, such as this one, we offer some special classes. Although in other breeds, a dog of seven years may compete in the

Veteran Class, most Siberian clubs think that seven is too young for a Siberian to be considered a veteran. So, dogs competing in the Veteran Class at the NCSHC specialties must be at least eight years of age. Additionally, SHCA has defined requirements for entrance in the Sled Dog classes, based on the number of miles of competition in harness on snow. NCSHC offers Sled Dog classes for both dogs and bitches.

There are also other classes where more than one dog comprises the entry. The Stud Dog and Brood Bitch class entry is comprised of the sire or dam and two of his or her offspring. The offspring are judged, based on the *Standard of the Breed*, but the sire or dam is the one that wins the prize. There is also a Brace class for two dogs with a common owner.

Once the judging of males and females is complete, resulting in the awarding of Winners Dog and Winners Bitch, these dogs, as well as the first place winners in the non-regular classes compete with the champions for Best of Breed. Best of Breed Competition is the high point of the Specialty. The dog deemed by the judge to most closely meet the Breed Standard will be awarded Best of Breed. The judge will also select the best from between the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch for Best of Winners. The judge will select the Best dog of the Opposite Sex to the Best of Breed dog. Then, the judge will award the Select Dog and Bitch (similar to a Runner-Up Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex). And depending on the number of dogs competing, the judge may award one or more Awards of Merit among those dogs he or she feels to be most deserving.

Saturday will begin our second Specialty, starting with the Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes competition. Dogs are entered in age groups, and divided by sex. The judge will evaluate the dogs in the ring, comparing them to the “perfect” Siberian as described in the *Standard of the Breed*. The dogs place 1st through 4th in each class, and win prize money. And, the winners of each age- and sex-divided class then compete for Best in Puppy Sweepstakes and the Best dog of the