



## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB HONORS OLYMPIC KENNEL CLUB WITH A COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD***

**New York, NY** – The American Kennel Club® announced recently that the Olympic Kennel Club (OKC) of Seattle, Washington has been named a recipient of the AKC® Community Achievement Award for promoting responsible dog ownership in its community. The OKC received one of three awards for the first quarter of 2009– Boca Raton Dog Club and Anne Humphreys of the Heart of the Plains Kennel Club also received recognition.

The AKC Community Achievement Awards support and recognize outstanding public education and legislation efforts of AKC-affiliated clubs, AKC-recognized federations and their members. The AKC selects award recipients who promote purebred dogs and responsible dog ownership within their communities or who have successfully introduced, monitored and responded to legislative issues affecting dog ownership.

Club president and AKC Delegate Harvey Mueller works with local 4-H members, introducing them to the dog show world and helping them to become junior club members. The OKC also sponsors a purebred dog art contest for local 4-H groups, hosts an annual AKC match show where 4-H members can practice their skills and conducts handling clinics assisted by AKC judges.

The OKC has worked hard to establish their club in the local community. Members make annual donations to charities that support service-dog work, canine health and other worthy causes. The club has also developed strong relationships with the local government, chamber of commerce, neighboring dog clubs and local businesses which has positioned them as a leading community resource when it comes to dealing with canine legislation.

“We applaud the Olympic Kennel Club for making a concerted effort to involve youth in their club and for creating activities specifically for them,” said Noreen Baxter, AKC’s VP of Communications. “Juniors are the future of our sport as well as our next political leaders and business owners who may have a say on dog-related legislation in the future. OKC is a model for how to attract younger club participants and nurture them as they grow in the dog world.”

Nominations for the AKC Community Achievement Awards are accepted year-round. Up to three honorees are named each quarter. They receive a certificate of appreciation and a \$1,000 check payable to the club or federation's public education and canine legislation efforts. To nominate a club, visit [http://www.akc.org/public\\_education/community\\_achievement.cfm](http://www.akc.org/public_education/community_achievement.cfm)

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**The American Kennel Club** (AKC), proudly celebrates 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](http://www.akc.org).

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