Date: May 2026

Subject: **NOHS Levels of Achievement Titles**

The American Kennel Club is pleased to share an exciting update regarding the National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) program. Effective May 20, 2026, owners of dogs that have earned NOHS Levels of Achievement certificates will have the option to add these accomplishments as an official suffix title to their dog's AKC record. This title will be reflected on all future AKC pedigrees and registration certificates. Owners may apply for the title at any achievement level (Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum), and titles will be grandfathered back to the inception of the NOHS program.

The NOHS program was created to showcase dogs exhibited by non-professional owner handlers. Launched as a pilot program in 2012, it has become extremely popular and is now offered at 92% of All-Breed shows across the country. The first NOHS Finals were held in Orlando in 2013, and the event has continued to expand, reaching 818 entries in 2025. Since 2022, AKC has recognized owner-handler achievements through the NOHS Levels of Achievement certificates and pins. The program continued to grow with the introduction of Regional stand-alone NOHS events in 2024.

Adding NOHS Levels of Achievement as suffix titles allows these accomplishments to become a permanent part of a dog's official AKC record, offering lasting recognition of the success of owner-handlers. Owners can apply through AKC Title Application Portal (TAP) using their dog's AKC registration number. This new addition reflects AKC's continued commitment to supporting owner-handlers and celebrating their contributions to the sport.

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