

2024 WCA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ellen Dodge

Ellen's tenure as Executive Secretary for the Weimaraner Club of America (WCA) is a story of unparalleled dedication, tireless work ethic, and a deep love for the breed and its community. Over her 19 years of service, Ellen not only fulfilled her duties, but went far beyond, leaving an indelible mark on both the WCA and the Weimaraner breed itself.

As both a paid contractor and a volunteer, Ellen selflessly gave to the WCA, consistently pouring her time and energy into the organization's success. Whether in her roles as the Futurity/Maturity Administrator or as Executive Secretary, she always did more than was asked. She volunteered for tasks beyond her job description, proving her unwavering commitment to the future of the breed and the club. Ellen was especially passionate about the Junior Program, ensuring the next generation of Weimaraner enthusiasts would carry the torch with the same care and enthusiasm that she had.

Ellen maintained a level of excellence throughout her career that was nothing short of inspiring. Even after her retirement, her contributions to the WCA continued in meaningful and lasting ways. A few examples of her ongoing dedication include:

- **BROM/FROM System:** Ellen was a key figure in the WCA's transition to an online BROM system. She spent countless hours helping to move, update, and test the data, ensuring that the system would meet the needs of the organization for years to come. She continues to meticulously enter all AKC titles (except for Champion) and ensures that titles are in the correct AKC-required order each month, an essential and time-consuming task that she performs without fail.

- **Event Support:** Ellen's efforts went beyond administrative duties. She has been instrumental in putting together premium lists and crafting event write-ups, showing her attention to detail and unwavering support for WCA activities. Her role as Secretary for the Winter Specialty is just one example of her continued commitment to the club's success even after retirement.

- **A Warm and Kind Presence:** Ellen's graciousness and kindness have made her beloved among WCA members. She's always been willing to help others, navigating the complexities of various programs and events with warmth and professionalism. Her generosity extended even to her retirement gift, where she requested that a generous donation be made to the Juniors Program, further solidifying her passion for nurturing the future of the breed.

Ellen's volunteerism, dedication, and exceptional contributions to the WCA and the Weimaraner breed have left an enduring legacy. Her efforts have shaped the history of the breed and the WCA, benefiting future generations of members, dogs, and enthusiasts. Ellen's legacy is a beacon of inspiration and will continue to guide us for years to come.