

WEIMARANER CLUB OF AMERICA

Conformation Top 20 Competition

PURPOSE:

Top 20 events as conducted by many National Breed Clubs offer all attendees the opportunity to view the breed's top conformation dogs for the previous year. Using a scale of points, each dog is evaluated according to how closely it conforms to the Breed Standard. This scoring procedure is not available at any point show and will allow Top 20 spectators the opportunity to evaluate the dogs, scoring them one at a time, at the same time they are being judged. The dogs are observed from a positive approach, they are NOT fault-judged.

The purpose of this event is to showcase and honor the Top Weimaraners in conformation, giving special recognition to those Weimaraners, breeders, owners and handlers that have worked hard all year to achieve these top honors. Additionally, the event may provide an educational experience for judges, exhibitors, breeders and fanciers. The Top 20 Competition will provide incentives for all to strive for excellence in structure, temperament, type and soundness, both mental and physical.

These events have proven to be educational in promoting discussion of the standard ...which encourages the exchange of ideas.

The Top 20 event is sponsored by the Weimaraner Foundation Fund (WFF) in hopes of increasing awareness of the WFF and becoming a fund-raising opportunity for the WFF.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Affiliation/Affiliated – Owners, breeders, handlers, trainers, backers or family of the aforementioned of any dog who is entered and under judgment in the Top 20 Competition.

Award of Merit – Two runners-up to the winner will receive the Judge's Select.

Deceased – Deceased dogs are eligible dogs that may participate in the Top 20 only once after their death. Obviously, they will not be examined in the ring but will receive a rosette if they are entered. Their photo and bio will be included in the Top 20 Catalog.

Eligible Dog – an eligible dog is one that is invited to enter the Top 20 based on the number of conformation points that they receive for the given year.

Entered – Owners/agents of eligible dogs must fill out an entry form and pay the entry fee in order to participate in the Top 20. Only entered dogs will receive a rosette. Entered dogs will

receive one page in the Top 20 Catalog with a photo and bio and be examined in the ring, unless they are Deceased.

First Impression Score – a score from 1-10 given by each judge prior to marking the score sheet. The First Impression Score will be used as a tie breaker in case of tie in the Total Score.

Representative of the Top 20 Committee – a person, not affiliated with any Top 20 dog who is entered in the event, and is appointed by the committee to help with the event.

Tabulating Committee – will consist of three members, not affiliated with any Top 20 dog who is entered in the event. Members of this committee tabulate the votes from the Top 20 and the People's Choice vote.

Theme Song – must be appropriate & specify a time frame. The song will only play for the length of time while the dog is gaiting around the ring, maybe 60 seconds or so. Anything that is considered inappropriate by the Top 20 Committee will not be allowed.

Top 20 Chair - Will be a member of the National Show Committee and will select appropriate stewards for the event and the 3 judges. The Chair will have no affiliation with any of the Top 20 dogs eligible to compete in the Top 20 event.

Top 20 Committee –The Committee will consist of a Top 20 Chair, a member to take the Top 20 entries, and a member to create and print the Top 20 Catalog. The Committee is also responsible for People's Choice ballots, managing trophies and ribbons, securing the Theme Songs for each dog, and mailing out rosettes to owners that didn't attend. They will coordinate with the National Show Committee and the Local Host Club regarding decorations, ring set up, and food to be served.

Total Score – the total of the 3 score sheets filled out by the judges. The Total Score is used to determine the winner.

CRITERIA:

1. The Top 20 Weimaraners in Conformation for any given year are based on the following: Statistics compiled by the AKC for events during the previous calendar year as reported in the AKC TopDogs Conformation Reports based on dogs defeated in just breed competition as well as on dogs defeated in all levels of conformation competition. Should there be multiple dogs tied in a position of 1 through 20 all dogs will be invited even if that means 21 or more dogs invited. These dogs are defined as eligible to attend the Top 20.

2. Eligible Dogs, including previous winners and Deceased dogs, must be entered to participate in the Top 20 (in the case of a deceased dog, to receive a rosette and catalog).

3. For the purpose of competition, a Deceased finalist will only be considered a competitor one time following their demise.
4. Only entered dogs will receive a Rosette to acknowledge their accomplishment for the previous year.
5. Each entered dog (including deceased dogs) will receive one page for a photo and biography in the Top 20 Catalog.
6. An entered dog will only be allowed to compete if the owner or agent attends the briefing held at least one-half hour prior to the event for the purpose of assigning armband numbers.

JUDGES:

Selection of judges will be made by the Top 20 Committee Chairman. Every attempt will be made to select judges that will be in the region that the Top 20 will be held. This is to keep expenses down, and not for any other reason. Excluded from judging the event will be any person affiliated with any dog entered in the Top 20, actively serving on the Top 20 Committee, any person judging any Weimaraner class during the National or corresponding local specialty. The Top 20 Committee Chairman will attempt to select one individual from each of the following categories:

1. HANDLER (past or present) - a professional conformation handler, meeting the requirements for membership in a Professional Handler's organization (though not necessarily a member). Must have at least five (5) years' experience with Weimaraners.
2. BREEDER - an established Weimaraner breeder who has been breeding for at least ten (10) years, having produced at least five (5) Champions of Record as published in the AKC Gazette, OR, meeting all requirements to act as a Judging Mentor as approved by the WCA Judges Education criteria.
3. MULTI-BREED AKC APPROVED JUDGE - approved to judge Weimaraners and at least four (4) other breeds (in any Group).

Each judge will be asked to send a photo and biography for submission in the Top 20 catalog. The Chair will acquaint the judge with any other necessary details pertaining to the event. The names of the winners in each category will be revealed only to those Committee members who must know (e.g. the member that is creating the catalog). The names of those selected to judge shall be kept CONFIDENTIAL until which time catalogs are sold for the Top 20 Event.

TOP 20 CATALOG:

1. Catalogs will be made available after judges have been introduced.
2. Each of the three judges will have a photo and a biography in the Top 20 catalog.
3. Each dog entered in the Top 20 will have a page with one photo and a biography in the Top 20 Catalog. The biography and photo should be sent in by the owner of the dog. Only WCA & AKC titles earned as of 12/31/XX (XX is ending year the Top 20 covers) will be published in the catalog.
4. Dogs that are eligible but are not entered will be printed in the Top 20 Catalog but will not receive a page with photo and biography.

JUDGING PROCEDURE:

1. Each dog will be scored by each judge individually, using the Scale of Points provided (Total Score).
2. The winner will be determined based on the Total Score of each dog.
3. In the event of a tie, it shall be broken by using the First Impression Score, (a scale of 1-10 marked by each judge prior to the marking of the score sheet) as the determining factor.

The above are the simple ground rules that will be followed in judging this exciting event.

The rationale for this system is as follows:

Whenever a judge examines an individual dog and compares it, mentally, to the judge's picture of the ideal, the judge is going through the work of judging by scoring. The scoring system adds the assigning of numerical values to the main factors of judging and it demands the judge indicate wherein he penalizes for less than ideal characteristics. The judge's scores, part by part are recorded. The judge will be indicating the degree of deviation in each part from the ideal. He must also score each dog before he actually judges it by using the First Impression Score of 1 - 10. In other words, he must look at the dog as a whole and place the dog on his scale, with a score of 10 meaning that the dog is in perfect harmony with the judge's picture of the ideal Weimaraner.

Scoring is much more time-consuming than the comparison judging we are accustomed to in the show ring ...where judges can handle 25 or more dogs in an hour. When scoring dogs, a judge can do no more than about 6-10 dogs an hour. But, when scoring is complete, it provides a written critique of the dog as seen by the judge. The Total Score gives some sense of the 'approximation of perfection' of the individual dog. Thus, tradition has it that the great dogs of the breed ...the landmark animals ...would have scored between 93 and 94 points. In theory, if

we had numerical scores of the great Weimaraners of years gone by, we could compare the scores of our present greats to them. So, in setting up the judging for the Top 20, we have set up a system that could provide numerical norms for future comparisons.

Scoring has another virtue. It is a strong discipline for the judge. A fault can seem to stand out to a judge. He can become sensitized to one difficulty or even to one virtue. And, he can over fault or overemphasize the virtue. Scoring checks this to a marked degree. It reduces the idiosyncrasies of individual judges.

RING PROCEDURE:

There will be a Master/Mistress of Ceremonies who will announce the activities during the event. The MC will introduce each judge, and the stewards. The MC will instruct the stewards to escort their judge to the center of the ring.

First Impression Judging:

Each participating Weimaraner is individually brought into the ring (in catalog order) and the MC will announce each dog, by catalog number only, as it enters the ring. Upon entering the ring, the dog will gait around the ring and line up along the ring barrier. Once all dogs are in the ring and stacked, the judges will walk the line-up and judge based on their first impression of the dogs in the ring. Dogs will then all exit the ring and individual judging will begin.

Individual Judging:

Dogs will be brought into the ring 3 at a time (in catalog order) and instructed where to stack. Judges will then begin their individual examinations. Once all 3 judges have completed their exam on each dog, each dog will be moved individually for the down & back and side movement then leave the ring. The next 3 dogs will be brought in for the same procedure. This will continue until all dogs have been examined.

After each group of dogs is judged the score sheets will be given to the Tabulating Committee who will then tabulate the individual dog's Total Score, and the dogs are dismissed and not needed until later presentation.

EVENT SCORING:

1. Each participating Weimaraner is individually evaluated by each judge using the scale of points on the score sheet (Total Score).
2. Immediately following the completion of judging, the judges' score sheets will be turned over to a Representative of the Top 20 Committee to be delivered to the Tabulating Committee.

- a. The scores for each dog, from each of the three judges, are tabulated, and added together to determine the dog's Total Score.
- b. In the event of a tie, the Tabulating Committee determines the winner by consulting the First Impression Score. The finalist with the highest First Impression Score is declared the winner. The First Impression Score is used ONLY to break a tie and is not included in tabulating the Total Score.
- c. In the event the First Impression Score results in an additional tie, there will be two (2) winners.

3. The finalist with the highest Total Score is the winner.

- a. The results of the tabulation will be returned to the Top 20 Chair to announce the winner and two awards of merit.
- b. The winner and the two awards of merit are announced at the conclusion of the event by the Top 20 Chair or Representative of the Top 20 Committee.

4. The Score sheets, Entry forms, and a copy of the Top 20 Catalog are the property of the WCA and will be retained by the Top 20 Committee.

Presentation of Dogs and Awards:

All the dogs judged earlier will be brought into the ring one at a time to their theme song, starting with the #20 dog, ending with the #1 dog as they were ranked on the Top 20 List. Their bio is read by the MC as they gait around the ring one last time, finishing in the middle for a quick free stack, then out and the next dog has their moment.

AWARDS:

A rosette will be awarded to the winner.

Two runners-up will receive award of merit rosettes.

PEOPLES CHOICE:

1. This award gives the spectators a chance to “judge and vote” for the Weimaraner they believe is the best of the best.
2. Official ballots will be handed out prior to judging and collected at the end of judging. They will then be tabulated by the Tabulating Committee and the People’s Choice Weimaraner will be awarded. Official Ballots will only be available to those who have purchased a banquet meal.

SCHEDULING:

The Top 20 competition shall be scheduled to take place during the National Specialty week and prior to the National Banquet. The Committee will coordinate with the Host Club and the Show Secretary to schedule the Top 20 judging no less than 2 ½ hours after the completion of scheduled judging that day. This will give everyone attending and participating in both the Host Club show and the Top 20 time to care for animals and ready themselves for the event.

<u>WCA TOP 20 SCORESHEET</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>SCORES</u>
Dog #	First Impressions (1-10)	
General Appearance (Type, balance, proportions, size, substance & condition)	20	
Head (Shape, proportion, expression, bite & ears)	5	
Body (Neck, topline, chest, brisket, loin, croup & tail set)	15	
Forequarter (Shoulder placement & angulation, return of upper arm, pasterns & feet)	15	
Hindquarter (Angulation, muscling, hocks & feet)	10	
Coat (Color, condition & markings)	5	

Temperament (Friendly, fearless, alert & obedient)	15	
Gait (Reach & drive, soundness coming/going)	15	
Total Score	100	