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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**92nd/93rd Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows
March 20 & 21, 2004 return to Cobo Center with New Demonstrations
and Exhibitions**

Annual shows are the most valuable resource for puppy shoppers

(DETROIT, Mich., February 17, 2004)— The annual Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows return to Cobo Hall on March 20 and 21 with a two-day celebration of dogs. This year's shows offer new spectacles like terrier racing, Iditarod demonstrations, herding demonstrations, a rare breed exhibit and more to entertain and educate visitors of all ages.

The DKC shows are a 'benched show', which offer visitors the unique opportunity to meet with owners and breeders and learn about breed characteristics, temperament, care, health, grooming, history and other issues dog owners face. When dogs are not in the judging rings, they are required by the rules of the show to be displayed on a bench according to breed, making it easy for a spectator to talk to several breeders of a specific dog in the same location. The DKC Dog Shows are one of only six benched shows left in the United States (Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Portland and New York).

The benched format show is demanding on both exhibitors and their dogs, but worthwhile for all because of the public support and appreciation. Visitors can leave with the show catalog containing a breeder's directory that is a year-long reference for local veterinarians, breeders and show spectators, and is considered "the local source" for a good breed referral.

"Every year we get calls from show visitors thanking us for the opportunity to talk to so many experienced dog people in one place," said Erik Bergishagen, president Detroit Kennel Club. "People have come to the show looking for a puppy and leave wanting a two year-old dog of a different breed. They did their homework at our show."

The 92nd DKC Show will take place on Saturday, March 20, and the identical 93rd annual show will follow on Sunday, March 21. This year more than 2,000 dogs from more than 150 different breeds are expected to compete for honors at each show.

Since 1916 the DKC has worked tirelessly through its show to educate the public about purebred dogs and their important role in everyday life. The Detroit Kennel Club proudly announces DKC C.A.R.E.S (Canine Awareness through Recreation, Education and Special events). The charity arm of the DKC will by fund canine health studies, competitions, special and educational events and demonstrations. The organization is in the process of becoming a tax exempt charity and exists to support and promote education, study and improvement of all breeds of dogs and their relationship to mankind.

The 92nd/93rd DKC Dog Shows, proudly sponsored by Purina, are packed full of fun for the whole family. Special events running throughout the day offer an entertaining look at the rewarding relationship between dog and man.

Conformation Competition

Each day, dogs of each breed will be judged in different classifications: puppies, novice, American-bred, bred-by-exhibitor, open class, winners' class, and best-of-breed competition.

Dog breeds are divided into seven groups (sporting, hounds, working, terriers, toys, non sporting, and herding.) Competition begins at the breed level and moves through groups to Best In Show.

The Best Bred by Exhibitor in Show Competition will be held on Saturday and will award a prize to the Best Bred by Exhibitor at breed, group and Best in Show levels. Sunday's show will feature the Best Puppy prize and will be awarded to the best puppy at breed, group and Best in Show levels. The Saturday show is the final show of the nationally acclaimed Pro Plan Champions Cup and will be taped for later broadcast on ESPN. Broadcast dates have not been announced but will be posted on the Detroit Kennel Club website when available.

Junior Showmanship competition is for youngsters from the ages of 10 to 18. Best Junior Handler from each show will receive an American Express gift certificate and a ribbon. In addition to its commitment to the public, the DKC is committed to supporting the professional dog game. Annually, the club offers seminars and classes to professional handlers, breeders and owners who are participating in the show. As a part of this year's program, The American Kennel Club is presenting a Junior Show Seminar immediately following junior showmanship judging on Saturday. Junior handlers interested in attending a hands-on lecture by an AKC superintendent Tommy Glassford will learn showmanship techniques to improve their performance in the ring. The seminar is open to the public.

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Special Events Make the DKC Dog Shows One-of-a-Kind

No other show in the Midwest brings as many special events, vendors and demonstrations under one roof! The DKC shows include demonstrations and feature events will run both days, including:

Ring A:

- **Bigger than before! American Kennel Club Agility Trials** – Back by popular demand, this display of dog talent organized by the Sportsmen's Dog Training Club of Detroit never fails in bringing spectators to their feet as dogs jump over hurdles, through tunnels, climb teeter-taughters and go through obstacles competing for ribbons.
Times: 8:00AM thru 6:00PM both days.

Ring B:

- **NEW - Rare Breed Exhibit:** Several clubs from across the United States will display a variety of rare breeds including the Kai, American Hairless Terrier, Rat Terrier, Teddy Roosevelt Terrier, Alaskan Klee Kai, American Bulldog, Sloughi, Chart Polski, the Leonberger and more!
Times: 10:00AM-4:00PM, Saturday only!
- **American Red Cross** will demonstrate how to recognize an emergency and administer emergency First Aid to your pet, such as mouth-to-snout CPR.
Times: 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 2:00PM and 4:00PM both days

Ring C:

- **NEW -- Iditarod Demonstration** - Nancy Russell a longtime breeder, owner, handler of Alaskan Malamutes has been active with her breed since 1964. Her dog team is the first AKC registered Alaskan Malamute team to run in the Iditarod Trail Race, on the 1,100 mile Iditarod Trail in Alaska. Nancy and 'Michigan musher' Tom Knoll will demonstrate with his team and have Iditarod veteran dogs on display with their arctic equipment.
Times: 10:00AM, 12:00PM and 2:00PM both days

Ring D:

- **NEW -- Terrier Racing** -- Watch 'em run! These terrier steam-powered pooches will chase a tennis ball down a 300 ft straightaway at amazing speeds when Carol Wainwright and the Motor Cities Fox Terrier Club demonstrate what terriers love to do best.
Times: 10:00AM, 11:00AM, 1:00PM and 2:00PM both days

Ring E:

- **Detroit Police Department Canine Unit** – Officers will be on hand both days to demonstrate their dogs' abilities in narcotics and explosives detection.
Times: 10:30AM, 12:30PM and 2:30PM both days
- **Michigan Technical Rescue Operations Team** – MTROT canine units will show how dogs use their tracking, trailing and air scenting capabilities to aid in search and rescue operations. This team is prepared to aid in many different types of disasters, including building collapses and water disasters.
Times: 9:30AM, 11:30AM, 1:30PM and 3:30PM both days

RING F:

- **Retriever and Field Training** – Len Jenkins will demonstrate techniques used in training upland bird dogs including field work, pointing, flushing and retrieving. Emphasis will be placed on teaching the techniques, equipment, and attitude necessary for developing a stylish upland bird dog.
Times: 9:30AM, 11:30AM, 1:30PM and 3:30PM.

Additionally, single, double, blind retrieves over barriers and various handling techniques used in training will be included. Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers will participate in the demonstration.
Times: 10:45AM, 12:45AM and 2:45PM both days

Ring G:

- **NEW -- Herding Demonstration** – The Border Collie Society of America will demonstrate herding using live ducks.
Times: 10:30AM, 11:30AM, 1:30PM and 2:30PM both days

Ring H:

- **ProPlan Performance Team** brings its high-flying antics to Cobo Center. This troupe of canine athletes travels the country performing acrobatic freestyle routines and demonstrates the amazing talents that can emerge when dog and Master work hard together. Stop by in between shows to get answers to dog training and behavior issues.
Times: 9:00AM, 11:00AM, 1:00PM and 3:00PM both days.
- **Sportsmen's Dog Training Club of Detroit Flyball Demonstrations** – A fast-growing team sport that just about any dog can do! Come see how these dogs work together in a relay race and compete to be the first to the ball and back again (*sometimes they forget the 'come back again' part*).
Times: 10:00AM, 12:00PM, and 2:00PM.
- **Back By Popular Demand – "So You Want A New Puppy" Spectator Breed Seminars** – Local breeders lead discussions on the following breeds: Alaskan Malamutes, Whippets, Siberians, Scottish Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Chihuahuas and Labrador Retrievers. Plus 'How to pick the right puppy' will be presented each day.
Times: Visit www.detroitkennelclub.com for complete schedule
- **Obedience Competition** - Obedience Trials test a dog's ability to perform a prescribed set of exercises on which it is scored. Dogs can earn titles on three different levels – Companion Dog, Companion Dog Excellent and Utility Dog.
Times: Trials will run both days
- **Expanded! - Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit Canine Care Merit Badge** – The Detroit Kennel Club Canine Care badge was well received and has been expanded. Brownies, Juniors and Scouts are invited to attend this two and a half hour course to learn about canine care basics, obedience and junior showmanship. Course limited to 40 girls, call 734-207-2018 to register.
Time: Saturday only, 9:30AM-Noon

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Booths

The shows have an Information Center staffed with qualified judges and breeders with years of personal and professional canine experience. Show visitors can take advantage of the 'Ask Me' Program that clearly identifies over 100 experts in all breeds and various canine programs. These volunteers are eager to answer questions about their breed and areas of interest and are identified by large orange buttons. Trained veterinarians from **Michigan State University** will be on hand to answer questions and canine friendly organizations such as **REGAP (Retired Greyhounds as Pets)**, **Paws for a Cause** and a number of breed rescue groups continue to be active participants in the shows.

Vendors come from across the US and Canada to exhibit their wares at over 100 retail booths offering pet supplies, unique gift items, canine art, and items of related interest.

Per American Kennel Club regulations, only dogs entered in the DKC Dog Shows and assistance dogs are allowed to enter Cobo Center during show hours.

Hours and Ticket Prices

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children (under 12) and senior citizens (65 and over). Family packs (2 adults, 3 children) are also on sale for \$30. Tickets will be sold separately for each show and are good only for that day's show. Group rates are available by calling (734) 207-2018.

Show hours: Dogs will be on display to the public and demonstrations will run from 9:00AM to 5:00PM Best in Show will go into the ring approximately 6:00PM each day. Tickets are available at the door and through TicketMaster (248) 645-6666. For more information call 248-DKC-SHOW [(248) 352-7469], or online at www.detroitkennelclub.com.

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EDITORS NOTE: TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH A SHOW PARTICIPAN IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Dog Show images are available for download in the Press Room at www.detroitkennelclub.com