

CSCA Top 10 Gala Event Guidelines



The Clumber Spaniel Club of America (CSCA) offers a Top 10 Gala Event to showcase excellence in the Clumber Spaniel dog. This event provides special recognition to those Clumber Spaniel dogs with the most outstanding records as well as their breeders, owners and handlers.

The inaugural event will take place at the 2018 CSCA National Specialty.

This event is an optional part of the CSCA National Specialty and serves many purposes. It offers education for breeders, exhibitors, fanciers and judges. The event offers all who attend a chance to view top dogs in the breed. The Top 10 Gala Event provides an incentive for breeders to strive for excellence in conformation, movement, structure and temperament.

Statistics and Eligibility:

Qualifying dogs are those ranked in the Top 10 (breed and all-breed) AKC rankings as of December 31 of the qualifying year prior to the CSCA National Specialty
OR/

a BISS Winner of the CSCA National, CSCA Independent Specialty or Regional Independent Specialty show (e.g. Williana Regional Specialty, Clumber Spaniel Club of Southern California Regional Specialty, Clumber Spaniel Fanciers of Michigan Regional Specialty) within the last 5 years prior to the year the Top 10 Gala Event is held. For example, for the 2018 Top 10 Gala Event, winners in 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013 will qualify to receive invitations.

Qualifying dogs are based on point standing in breed (total of Clumber Spaniels defeated) or all-breed (total of dogs defeated) as published by the American Kennel Club, counting on a calendar year basis. *Deceased qualifiers will be noted in the CSCA Top 10 Gala Event qualifiers list published in the event catalog.*

To compete in this event, all owners and/or co-owners of finalists must be in good standing with the AKC and CSCA at the time the invitations are extended AND at the time of the event.

All dogs must be eligible at the time of the event to compete in AKC events.

Spayed bitches or neutered dogs who have been named among the final CSCA Top 10 Gala Event qualifiers may compete in this event.

Invitations:

The CSCA Top Ten qualifiers will be sent an invitation to participate in this event. There is an entry fee to be returned with the entry form and other required information accompanying the invitation by the noted deadline on the entry form.

Invitation packets include:

- Formal Invitation
- CSCA Top 10 Gala Event Guidelines
- Catalog Advertisement Form
- Entry Form
- Instructional information, including music selection

All previous Conformation winners are invited to attend the event for 'exhibition only,' as they cannot compete even if eligible in the rankings. *This rule pertains to all CSCA Top 10 Gala Events held after the 2018 inaugural event.*

Judges:

There will be three (3) judges for the CSCA Top 10 Gala Event. There will be one judge from each of the following three categories:

1. Breeder - an AKC Clumber Spaniel Breeder in good standing with the CSCA. The Breeder must not own or co-own a dog in the CSCA Top Ten competition.
2. AKC Multi-Breed Judge - a person approved by AKC to judge Clumber Spaniels; not a breeder or owner of Clumber Spaniels.
3. Professional Handler – a person in good standing with the AKC.

The identity of the judges is not revealed until the evening of the competition.

Catalogs:

Each year a catalog is prepared exclusively for the CSCA Top 10 Gala Event. They are available for sale just prior to the scheduled starting time of the event, during the remainder of the CSCA National week.

The catalog contains a one-page spread for each competitor, with photograph and text supplied by the dog's owner. The catalog also contains score sheets and judging procedures, a profile of each judge.

2018 is the inaugural event. For future events a page listing all of the previous winners, the judges, and the year in which they won.

Event Scheduling:

The CSCA Top 10 Gala Event will be held during the CSCA National Specialty week and prior to the National Specialty Show.

The Draw for armband numbers and the order of competition will be drawn at least two hours before the beginning of the competition. The drawing time and location, will be published in the CSCA National Events Schedule.

The winners are announced immediately following the event.

The Rescue and Title Holder Parades will be held prior to the Top 10 Gala Event awards ceremony.

Prizes:

Participants: All exhibitors who have entered the CSCA Top 10 Gala Event will receive a commemorative rosette that includes their dog's name.

Winner: The judged overall winner will take home the rosette and an additional special prize, approved and funded by the CSCA National Committee.

People's Choice Award: At the same time as the Top 10 dogs are being judged, spectators can participate as People's Choice ringside judges, filling in the ballot provided. Ballots are tallied at the end of the evening and the winner of the People's Choice Award will be announced at the conclusion of the event.

All prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the CSCA Top 10 Gala Event, that evening.

Event Procedures:

Entrants and handlers will only be allowed to compete if at least one representative of the entrant attends the exhibitor briefing held at least 2 hours prior to the event commencement. The exhibitor briefing time and location, will be published in the CSCA National Events Schedule. The exhibitor briefing meeting will include the draw for armband numbers for competition order.

Exhibitor Briefing:

- 1) Check in with the Top Ten Committee
- 2) Receive armband
- 3) Receive instructions and order in which the participants will enter the ring
- 4) All participants will be given instructions regarding when to be ringside, where to wait, and specific ring/judging procedures.

Attire for the Top 10 Gala Event: This event is considered to be a formal event and as such formal, gala type attire is absolutely encouraged to be worn at the event, both by attendees and handlers. Costuming or props of any kind for dog are prohibited. There shall be NO extraneous props for the handler, as well. This event is about showcasing the dogs and their road to this prestigious Top 10 Gala Event. The dogs themselves should be showcased alone in a manner similar to any other AKC conformation event.

Event Procedure:

1. Before the Top 10 Gala Event begins, all competitors will be judged. No audience will be present during this time. The three judges, all handlers and dogs and ring stewards only will be present during the judging. The dogs will be scored during this time. All dogs are viewed in the ring and each dog will be judged individually by all the judges.
2. Dog and handler teams enter the ring, as determined in exhibition order. As each dog and handler team enters the ring, they will pose for "First Impression" judge scoring. Judges assign a score of 1-10 (10 being the highest) at this time to be used only in a case of tie points using the breed standard.
3. Once all dogs have entered the ring and completed the "First Impression" portion of the judging, individual judging will commence. Each dog will then be moved down and back, and in a circle while all three judges watch, and the judges will score the dog for movement.
4. Each dog will then be examined and scored completely by the three judges, each judge touching and examining the dog as he/she sees fit. Each dog will then circle the ring and exit. This process will be repeated until all dogs have been scored.
5. After judging is complete, the audience will be allowed entrance.
6. Once the audience is in the building, and final scores tabulated, the exhibition portion of the event commences.
7. Each dog and handler team enters the ring, as determined in exhibition order. The unique music for the dog will play as the dog enters the ring. The dog and handler, will enter the ring and pose according to a defined pattern given during the exhibitor meeting. All Dog and handler teams will have a total of 2 minutes maximum to complete their ring presentation.

8. The Rescue Parade and Parade of Title holders will commence.
9. All Top 10 Event dog and handler teams will be brought back into the ring for the awards ceremony, following the parades. The awards ceremony will include the Top 10 Winner and People's Choice Winner.

Scoring procedure:

1. All dogs will be scored by each judge using the scale of points as provided in the AKC approved standard for the Clumber spaniel.
2. Immediately following the completion of judging, the judges' marked score sheets will be turned over to an independent and impartial person or persons to be tabulated. The scores for each dog, from each of the three judges, are added together, then divided by three (3) to determine the dog's average score.
3. The winner will be determined on the basis of the average score of each dog. The score sheets and the identity of the winning dog will be given to the Top Ten Chairperson and awarded at the Event that evening.
4. In the event of a tie, the winner is determined by consulting the First Impression total. The dog with the highest First Impression total is declared the winner. The First Impression score is used ONLY to break a tie, and is not included in tabulating the average score. If there is still a tied score, there will be two (2) winners who shall share the title of Top Ten Winner.

TOP TEN SCORE SHEET		
DOG NO. _____	FIRST IMPRESSION (1-10) _____	
SCALE OF POINTS		
For Evaluation Of Individual Specimen On The Basis Of The Standard		
Category	Maximum Points	Points Assigned
General Appearance	15	_____
Size, proportion and substance	15	_____
Head	10	_____
Neck, topline, body	10	_____
Forequarters	10	_____

Hindquarters	10	_____
Coat	10	_____
Gait	10	_____
Temperament	5	_____
Color and markings	5	_____

Total: 100

FINAL SCORE: _____