

The Hill's Australian Shepherd Speciality Dog of the Year



A National Initiative for Breed Excellence, Transparency, and Growth

Introduction

The Hill's Australian Shepherd Speciality Dog of the Year is a visionary national initiative by the Australian Shepherd Club Western Cape. This initiative aims to foster transparency in judging and celebrate excellence among Australian Shepherds. Through cooperative organisation and international involvement, this event will set a new benchmark for breed competitions in South Africa.

Show Schedule and Points System

The initiative will feature six annual shows:

- Four Australian Shepherd Speciality Shows
- Two National shows organised by KUSA namely Kusa Winners show and the A2O Championship show

At each show, points will be awarded to the first-place winners in each category. These points will accumulate across all six events, culminating in the prestigious "Hill's Australian Shepherd Speciality Dog of the Year" title. This transparent points system ensures that every competitor's performance is tracked fairly and consistently throughout the year.

Classes Eligible for Points

- Minor puppy
- Puppy
- Junior
- Graduate
- SA Bred
- Open
- Champion
- Veteran

Bonus Points may be won for:

- Best of Breed
- Reserve Best of Breed
- Best Puppy & Reserve
- Best Veteran & Reserve
- Best Junior & Reserve
- Best SA Bred & Reserve
- Challenge Certificate
- Reserve Challenge Certificate

Judging Standards: International Expertise and Integrity

To further strengthen the integrity and credibility of the competition, the Club will make every effort to secure international judges for its Club shows. Appointing international judges remains a priority to ensure independent and impartial evaluation of the breed. These judges will be encouraged to provide thorough assessments of all exhibits, offering meaningful feedback to breeders and exhibitors dedicated to the ongoing development and improvement of the Australian Shepherd breed.

Transparency and Accessibility

After each show, the accumulated points and standings will be published on the club's social platform or website. This allows every exhibitor to track their progress, view the current leaders, and see where they stand in the overall rankings. This open access to results fosters a sense of community, healthy competition, and trust among participants.

Conclusion

The Hill's Australian Shepherd Speciality Dog of the Year is more than just a title—it represents a commitment to breed excellence, transparency, and community growth. By embracing international standards, the Australian Shepherd Club Western Cape is poised to set a new standard for canine competitions in South Africa, ensuring a brighter future for the Australian Shepherd breed and its dedicated enthusiasts.



Terms and Conditions

The Hill's Australian Shepherd Speciality Dog of the Year

These Terms and Conditions govern the Hill's Australian Shepherd Speciality Dog of the Year initiative, administered by the Australian Shepherd Club Western Cape (ASCWC).

1. Definitions

- **ASCWC:** Australian Shepherd Club Western Cape
- **KUSA:** Kennel Union of Southern Africa
- **Championship Show:** Any KUSA-licensed show officially designated by ASCWC as forming part of the six-show points cycle
- **Points Season / Show Cycle:** The defined period consisting of six (6) Championship shows starting from January 1st to December 31st of each year
- **Stand-Alone Entry:** A class entry in which only one (1) Australian Shepherd is entered and exhibited in that class
- **Dogs Beaten:** The number of dogs defeated by the class winner within the same class, excluding absentees or withdrawn entries
- **Challenge Certificate / Reserve Challenge Certificate:** As awarded in accordance with KUSA rules
- **System Manager:** A designated member/s appointed by ASCWC responsible for maintaining and verifying the points system
- **Exhibitor:** Any owner, handler, or representative exhibiting an Australian Shepherd at a Championship show
- **Dispute:** Any written objection relating to eligibility, points allocation, rankings, judge eligibility, or administration of this initiative

2. Participation and Eligibility

- Participation is limited to registered Australian Shepherds
- All shows must be held under KUSA rules and regulations
- Exhibitors must maintain professional and respectful conduct
- Poor sportsmanship may result in disqualification

3. Show Structure and Adjudication

Event Cycle:

Six (6) annual shows:

- Four (4) Australian Shepherd Speciality Shows
- Two (2) KUSA National Shows

No points may be accumulated outside this cycle.

Judge Selection:

International judges will be prioritised.

4. Points Accumulation System

- Points awarded to first-place winners only
- One dog per exhibitor per class may claim points
- Stand-alone entries receive minimum points

4.1 Standard Class Wins

Eligible Classes:

Minor Puppy • Puppy • Junior • Graduate • SA Bred • Open • Champion • Veteran

Base Points:

- 10 points per class win (Champion Class: 15 points)
- 5 points for stand-alone entry
- +2 points per dog beaten in their class

Champion Rule:

Champions may only accumulate points in Champion Class. If entered elsewhere, points go to the next eligible non-Champion.

5. Additional Points

- Best of Breed – 25
- Reserve Best of Breed – 15
- Best Puppy/Junior/SA Bred/Veteran in Speciality Show – 15
- Reserve awards in Speciality Show – 7.5
- Challenge Certificate – 10
- Reserve Challenge Certificate – 10
- A20 CAC – 10
- Reserve A20 CAC – 5

KUSA Winners Show:

- Group Placement – 4 points
- Best in Show Ring Placement – 8 points

6. Transparency

- Points will be updated after each show
- Records will be open for exhibitor inspection

7. Title Awards

- (Year) Hill's Australian Shepherd Speciality Dog of the Year
- (Year) Reserve Hill's Australian Shepherd Speciality Dog of the Year

Tie Breaker:

Based on quality of conversions from class win to higher awards (BOB, RBOB, CC, BVIS, BJIS, BPIS, BSABIS).

Prizes and Rosettes:

A floating trophy, engraved annually with the winner's details, will be awarded to the Hill's Australian Shepherd Speciality Dog of the Year. A holding deposit will be required when the winner takes the trophy home, refundable upon its safe return. Rosette costs will be covered by ASCWC.

Hill's has kindly donated prizes for both the Hill's Australian Shepherd Speciality Dog of the Year winner and the Reserve winner. These prizes are awarded in recognition of excellence, consistency, and dedication to the breed standard throughout the six-show cycle

8. Dispute Resolution

- Written disputes must be made in writing within 7 days
- Reviewed by the ASCWC System Managers
- Final decision will be issued within 14 days and is binding