



THE BULL TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

COUNTRY COMPETITION

(Hosted by the Netherlands Bull Terrier Club)

HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

The Netherlands Bull Terrier Club (NBTC) hosts a Championship Show and a Country Competition annually. These shows are held in Leiden, Holland during the month of November.

The Bull Terrier Club of America (BTCA) and its Board of Directors has established the rules of participation of a team from the United States in the Country Competition, compliant with any rules determined by the NBTC for said participation.

This Handbook defines the rules of qualification and selection, timelines, committees, points of information and protocols for the team in the Country Competition, as established by the BTCA. Jurisdiction over any and all further rules, components of selection and final participation in the competition will be determined by the Board of Directors of the BTCA, who may amend, delete or add to these rules and components.

Although the intention of the BTCA Board, the Team USA Committee, and the Selection Committee is to select a the best team possible to represent the United States in the Country Competition each year, there may be years where a team cannot be sent. This may be due to external factors such as airline constraints or acts of war, or internal factors such as a small number of applications received, a lack of quality applicants, or the inability to create a full team contingent.

THE TEAM USA COMMITTEE

The logistics to manage all components of the competition require a collaborative effort. The Board of Directors of the BTCA will appoint five individuals to serve as Country Competition Team USA Committee members. The Committee members will serve a two-year term. It is recommended that Committee members have attended the competition in the past and/or plan on attending at least one of the two shows scheduled during their two-year term. Individuals interested in serving for a two-year term must notify their intent to the Executive Secretary of the BTCA at least two weeks prior to the October Board Meeting. The Board will determine the composition of the Committee at the October Board Meeting.

Assignment to the Committee will involve the following:

Committee Chair - responsible for the overview of all Committee activities. Specific responsibility is to act as liaison with the NBTC where warranted and between the Board and Selectors, including selection communication, decision-making, timelines, plus appoint any BTCA member to specific assignments or tasks.

Committee Administrator- responsible for all paperwork, application forms and application timeline processes for participation on the team.

Logistics Administrator- responsible for the coordination of travel information, health certificates, microchip, hotel accommodations and related activities.

Fund Raising Coordinator - responsible for all fund raising activities for the year's competition. Allocation of raised funds, as determined by the BTCA Board, will be distributed proportionately to exhibitors during the show weekend by the BTCA Board or its designee.

Member At Large- responsible for special assignments and projects as determined by the Committee.

COUNTRY COMPETITION FORMAT

Each country is represented by a Team of eight exhibits: two under 2 years of age on the day of competition in both sexes, and two over 2 years of age on the day of competition, in both sexes.

A panel of three judges determines their placements using a ranking system of 0 to 12 for each exhibit. (11 is not used to avoid the possibility of a tie.)

Final country placements are determined by an aggregate of these individual totals.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION ON THE TEAM

The exhibit must be:

- owned or co-owned by a BTCA member in good standing
- born in the United States from a dam that was registered with the American Kennel Club on the date of whelping

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

As previously indicated, any Bull Terrier whelped in the United States out of a dam that was registered by the AKC at time of whelping and that is owned or co-owned by a BTCA member in good standing, may apply for consideration to be selected for the team.

It should be recognized that prior to submitting an application the individual, if selected, will be required to commit to attending the Country Competition, barring any unforeseen circumstance, by the August 1 deadline as reflected on page 9 of the Handbook.

The process for selection, along with the application procedures outlined in this Handbook, includes a **strong** recommendation of participation in one of the Country Competition Exhibitions (as defined by the BTCA). It is important to note that these events offer the judges/selectors the opportunity to place their hands on the dog/bitch to-determine his/her ability to participate as a member of the Team.

An *Application Form for the Country Competition* (see Appendix A) and required photos/videos must be submitted to the Administrator of the Team USA Committee by May 15th. The video and photos submitted must be current, that is, taken/filmed no earlier than 60 days prior to submission (March 15th).

Photos required:

- Both side views
- Front on
- Rear
- Mouth

Video must include:

- Movement down and back, and
- Triangular formation (to show side movement)

THE SELECTION PROCESS: THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee for the Country Competition will serve a one-year term and will be comprised of five members, four of whom must be BTCA approved ROM judges as determined by the BTCA. The fifth selector may be from the Sweepstakes Judges List as maintained by the Show Secretary of the BTCA.

ROM judges and Sweepstakes judges who are interested in participating as Selectors must self-nominate to the designated Chair of the Team USA Committee and to the Executive Secretary of the BTCA by October 1st each year.

Self-nominated judges must recognize that it is expected that they will attend a minimum of three ROM show weekends during the Team Competition year, and can judge at least one Country Competition Exhibition, such that they will have seen as many of the selectees as possible. It is a requirement that all selectors have attended Silverwood and the National Specialty shows the previous year.

The BTCA Board of Directors will appoint and announce composition of Selectors prior to January 1 of each year. The Board will also determine the Chair of the Selection Committee.

THE SELECTION PROCESS: THE DECISIONS

The Administrator of the Team USA Committee will submit all applications, videos and photos to the Chair of the Selection Committee by June 1.

The Chair of the Selection Committee will then be responsible to coordinate all conference calls, emails, and all correspondence regarding the selection process.

Using the AKC breed standard as their guide, the Selectors will begin to identify their choices for participation on Team USA, by July 1.

The Chair of the Selection Committee will submit, to both the Chair of Team USA and the President of the BTCA, a list of the identified recommendations, by July 10.

The Board of Directors of the BTCA will begin the review of the identified recommendations for Team USA, submitted by the Selection Committee, by July 15.

The Board of Directors of the BTCA will finalize approval of the Team by July 24 and will notify both the Chair of Team USA and Selection Committee of said approval.

The Administrator of the Team USA Committee will then send out letters of notification/invitation to the eight Selectees by July 27.

The Selectees will be required to commit to participation on Team USA by August 5.

The Chair of the Team USA Committee will communicate to the President of the BTCA the list of confirmed participants. The President of the BTCA will then release the Team USA information to the BTCA Membership, no later than August 15.

LOGISTICS: PEOPLE AND TRAVEL; DOGS & REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Before BTCA members submit your Application for consideration for Team USA, there are a number of items to think about:

- Your passport must be valid and ensure it will not expire within 6 months of your travel dates;
- Ensure your dog has an international (ISO) microchip (if your dog already has a microchip that is not international, you must carry your own microchip reader);
- Your dog's rabies vaccine must be up-to-date, and done at least 21 days prior to travel;
- Ensure your veterinarian places the dog's microchip number on your rabies certificate.

Required paperwork for travel from USA/Canada/Netherlands:

- The *Checklist for Obtaining an International Health Certificate for Pets* must be completed. You may obtain this from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website (www.aphis.usda.gov)
- Dogs must be microchipped with an ISO compliant (11784 and 11785) microchip (15 digits long), or if your microchip is not ISO compliant you will need to travel with your own microchip reader.
- The Rabies Certificate must include dog's microchip number on the certificate. The rabies vaccine must be valid and up-to-date and given no earlier than 21 days before entering The Netherlands.
- The *United States Interstate and International Certificate of Health Examination for Small Animals* form (APHIS Form 7001) must be properly completed and signed by a Veterinarian 14 days prior to flight.
- The completed APHIS Form 7001, Rabies Certificate, and Checklist must be immediately mailed to USDA Veterinary Services for endorsement. The paperwork should be sent via overnight mail and a prepaid label and return envelope should be included. The fee for endorsement is \$38.00, and included with submission.
- Visit the website for detailed information to find your regional USDA Veterinary Office: www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pettravel
- It is not a requirement, but a good idea, to have paperwork showing the breed of your dog. Some airline personnel will say Bull Terriers are on the 'No Fly List' because they think they are a different breed, like a Bulldog.

Airlines

Many airlines will not fly dogs. Here are a few to consider:

- KLM (Dutch Airline) allows a dog plus crate (up to 165 pounds total weight) to fly as checked baggage for \$200 each way.
- American Airlines allows a dog plus crate (up to 100 pounds total weight) to fly as checked baggage for \$200 each way.
- United's 'Petsafe' allows a dog to fly as checked baggage for \$800- \$1,200 each way.
- Delta does not allow a dog to fly as checked baggage. Dogs must fly as cargo, but are in the heated section of the hold. Flying as cargo costs \$500-600 each way depending on weight.

Make sure to get a direct flight to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport (airport code = AMS) if possible. You will not want transfers on route, adding the stress of ensuring your dog transferring from one flight to another flight. For people in the Northeast, it is worth looking into flying out of Toronto or Montreal, Canada via KLM as these are direct flights into Amsterdam. If you are flying from the West Coast it may be a good idea to fly into an East Coast city that flies directly to Amsterdam. Perhaps spend the night or meet up with another Team USA member. This will break up the trip for you and your dog.

For peace of mind while traveling with your dog, you might look into a GPS collar or small tracker you can attach to the crate. You can locate the GPS signal with a smart phone.

Do not be afraid to make every airline personnel you come in contact with aware that you are flying with your dog! Ask to be informed when your dog has been loaded onto the airplane.

Hotel Accommodations

Holiday Inn Leiden is the host hotel and the show site. The BTCA will reserve 8 rooms, to be set aside for the Team. Once the Team is announced, team members will be advised how they can secure one of these 8 rooms. The NBTC announces when hotel rooms are available for booking, and a form is available on their website. If you choose to make your own reservations, do so quickly after hotel opens reservations. The hotel will sell out fast!

All the hotel employees speak very good English and are extremely helpful.

Most flights from North America arrive at Schiphol Airport (Amsterdam) in the morning, but the hotel does not allow check-in until early afternoon. Be prepared to wait for your room to be ready. The hotel has a safe, locked room for you to store your luggage. The lobby has many areas to sit and relax with your dog, while you wait.

The hotel is 3 stories high (with stairs and elevators) and the rooms are spread out over several long hallways, so be prepared to do some walking. The show area is attached to the hotel, but again a decent walk. There is a dog area in the exhibition hall for your dog and crate during the show.

If you plan on exchanging dollars to Euros and do not have the chance to at home before you leave, there is an ATM in the lobby of the hotel. Like most hotel bank machines during a busy weekend, it runs out quickly! You should plan on withdrawing money while at the airport at a Currency Exchange. You can also withdraw cash from ATMs in Leiden or Amsterdam.

Once you have been given your room, which are quite nice and comfortable, a few tips for first timers:

- The lights are activated by you placing your room key card in a small holder on the wall behind the door.
- The lights in the bathroom are on a motion sensor and are timed, so if they go out while you are showering, just wave your arm outside the tub!
- All rooms have a very small refrigerator.
- Your reservation includes a very nice breakfast buffet, in the center of the hotel. There are many choices, and you can eat as much as you like! There is also a coffee machine that makes the most delicious coffee and lattes. This is a great time to get together and chat with your team! Don't skimp on breakfast, you have long days of dog shows ahead!
- The lunch served during the Saturday Championship show is also included in your room rate, and is quite simple (rolls, cheese, cold meats). There is a small snack bar too, but the drinks are very expensive. Bring snacks with you to eat during the show. Meals can also be ordered in the bar during specified hours.

Taxi/Other Transportation to/from Schiphol Airport

Getting to the host hotel from Schiphol airport is very easy. The Holiday Inn Leiden will happily provide you with the recommended taxi company's name and phone number. You must pre-book your transportation a week or two before you arrive. Try to coordinate your arrival and trip to the hotel with others also going to the show to save money. The taxi company has many mini vans that can be reserved for a reasonable price (65-100 Euros), so sharing is economical. The hotel is approximately 20-30 minutes from the airport by car.

If you are travelling to the show without a dog, consider taking the train. The train station is attached to the airport and the trip to Leiden is very reasonably priced (less than 10 Euros). The train trip is approximately 20 minutes. Once you arrive in Leiden, you can then take a taxi to the hotel.

Travelling with Food and Supplies for Your Dog

- You can pack dog food (dry or cans) in your checked baggage. Bring only enough food for the days you will be gone, as you cannot bring dog food back with you into the USA (or Canada if flying via Toronto or Montreal).
- If your dog eats a raw diet, consider bringing dehydrated or freeze dried food as an option.
- Small amounts of raw frozen dog food or fresh meat can be purchased at the local grocery store, “Jumbo” which is located right across from the Leiden train station.
- The hotel rooms have very small refrigerators to store small amounts of food.
- The single most useful item to have for your dog is a wheeled dolly or cart! If you have the ability to ship one, do so!
- The grooming/crating area at the hotel show is very snug, and no chalking is allowed in the building, therefore either grooming outside or in your hotel room is a necessity. Bring the bare minimum to groom with. A makeup bag in your luggage will be enough. Also bring a blanket or sheet to cover the floor or bed with.
- Extra blankets or bedding, along with baby wipes are a good idea in case your dog soils its crate. The hotel will provide you with a 3 x 4 sheet of paper to place under your crate in the hotel room. Also, please note the hotel allows no more than 2 dogs per room.

What to do while there

The Country Competition is on Sunday and will take all day. On Saturday, the Championship show is held. This will be the largest Bull Terrier show you will ever see! The show will take all day to run, and bitches are shown on one side of the exhibition hall and dogs on the other. These run congruently as the entry is that large! Some classes alone may have 20-25 entries!

Saturday night the NBTC hosts a banquet and dance which is always well attended and fun! Tickets may be ordered on the NBTC website.

Leiden is a university town, and the location of the oldest university in Europe! The town itself is very quaint and offers a lot to see and do. Make sure you take some time to visit the town. They have several excellent restaurants and a very nice shopping area with many top (chain) and local stores. To make reservations for dinner in town, the front desk staff at the hotel will be happy to do that for you and book you a taxi in advance.

Make sure you take time to visit the city of Amsterdam. There is so much to see and do; the Van Gogh Museum, Ann Frank House, canal tours, the famous Red Light District and much more! You may want to look at pre-booking your tickets for tourist attractions or tours as due to popularity, lines/waits may be very long for sites such as the Ann Frank House. Getting to Amsterdam is very easy and the train is your best and cheapest option. Take a taxi from the hotel to Leiden train station and purchase your tickets there. The trip is approximately 30 minutes and a direct route to the Amsterdam Central Station.

FUNDRAISING

To help defray the costs of the transport of the dogs and may include fundraising and sponsorship. More information will be available as the Fundraising Committee develops the fundraising program annually.

The monies raised for Team USA are designated funds for Team USA use. These funds will be held in an account by the BTCA, with separate Team USA accounting.

APPENDIX - The Application

APPLICATION FORM FOR THE COUNTRY COMPETITION

THE NETHERLANDS – NOVEMBER 2017

TEAM USA

REGISTERED NAME OF DOG :							
AKC REGISTRATION NUMBER OF DOG:							
SEX:	DOG <input type="checkbox"/> BITCH <input type="checkbox"/>						
SIRE:							
DAM:							
DATE OF BIRTH:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">_____ /</td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">_____ /</td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">MONTH</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">DAY</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">YEAR</td> </tr> </table>	_____ /	_____ /	_____	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
_____ /	_____ /	_____					
MONTH	DAY	YEAR					
PLACE OF BIRTH:	USA <input type="checkbox"/> (MANDATORY)						
OWNER(S):							
BREEDER(S):							
CONTACT INFO:	PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____						

APPENDIX - The Application (page 2)

LIST THREE ROM SHOWS THIS DOG WAS EXHIBITED IN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS:	DATE OF SHOW	NAME OF SHOW	JUDGE	WIN (Optional)

**** With your completed application form, you must include all of the following:**

These photos and video must have been taken within 60 days of the deadline application date. (Cannot be older than March 15, 2017.)

1. Photos of your dog: (preferably in JPEG format)
 - Left side of dog
 - Right side of dog
 - Front view of dog
 - Rear view of dog
 - Bite (incisors and canines)
2. A short video of your dog
 - Moving up and back (to display front and rear movement)
 - Moving in a triangular fashion (to display side movement)

When photographing your dog and videotaping its movement, please pay attention to the photographer being at the same level as the dog (not above), as well as the lighting, and picture quality.

Please submit your application to Ann Radford (Team USA Committee, Administrator) by May 15th, 2017 via: mayhembts@rogers.com