



To: Potential World's Ugliest Dog® Contest Contestants
From: Sonoma-Marin Fair Staff
Re: 2023 World's Ugliest Dog® Contest – Friday, June 23rd

We are excited to announce the dates of the World's Ugliest Dog Contest! This year, the 2023 Sonoma-Marin Fair begins on Wednesday, June 21st, and runs through Sunday, June 25th.

Of course, one of our crowd-favorite events is the "World's Ugliest Dog® Contest." We are looking forward to another wonderful pageant of pups, and want to remind you of important points about this contest:

- All dogs will be entered into one large class, rather than being separated by pedigree or mutt.
- We will have the Grand Prize of \$1,500 for first place, as well as second-place and third-place trophies and cash awards.
- We will have a special "Spirit Award" which will be based in part on your dog's biography that you submit with your entry.
- We will have the "People's Choice" award, selected by visitors to our website who vote for their favorite pooch.
- We are charging a nominal entry fee of \$10.00 per dog after May 19, 2023. Entries before May 19, 2023, will be free. You receive full admission to the fair, and each dog will receive a special gift for being a contestant!
- We have a closing date of Wednesday, June 21st for **all** entries. This means your paperwork needs to be **in** the office by that date. This will allow staff to better prepare the programming for the contest.
- We will not be taking "on the spot" entries on the day of the contest. All entries must be processed and the line-up determined, ahead of time.

Included is your Rules and Regulations Sheet, as well as an Entry Form. Please fill it out and return it to our office along with a picture of your dog, proof of rabies vaccination, and biography. If you prefer, you can send your entry paperwork via email to: entryoffice@sonoma-marinfair.org. Regardless of entry method, please send a high-quality digital (.jpg) photo of your dog to include on our website for the "People's Choice" award voting.

We will be sending updates to all participants with details of the contest as we get closer to the fair's opening.

I look forward to receiving your entry! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 707-283-3247 or at entryoffice@sonoma-marinfair.org.

2023 World's Ugliest Dog® Contest

RULES AND JUDGING INFORMATION

HOW TO ENTER

1. Complete and sign the attached Entry Form
Mail (or scan and email) to the Sonoma-Marín Fairgrounds the following:

Entry Form Biography High Quality Digital Picture of Dog Proof of Vaccinations Entry fee(s) (after 5/19)

ENTRY FORM DUE DATES

Entry Forms due by Wednesday, June 21, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. (postmarks NOT accepted)

\$10 entry fee per dog (after 5/19). Sorry, no late or post-entries are allowed.

Judging date: Friday, June 23, 2023 6:00 p.m. Kiwanis Stage, Sonoma-Marín Fairgrounds

PRIZES

First Place: \$1,500 & Trophy to the World's Ugliest Dog®

Second Place: \$1000.00 & Trophy

Third Place: \$500.00 & Trophy

Special Awards: "Spirit Award" (determined by dog's biography and selected by award sponsor): The World's Ugliest Dog® Spirit Award will honor a dog and owner who have overcome obstacles and/or are providing service to the community based on the dog's biography. Examples of this are: raising awareness for dog rescue and adoption, visiting nursing homes or hospitals, participating in reading time at the library, etc.

"People's Choice Award" (determined by public vote, received online): The public will have the opportunity to view the dogs' photos and biographies on our website and vote for their favorite. The winner will be announced on stage at the contest.

RULES

1. All dogs must pass vet check before being allowed onto the grounds. If the dog does not pass vet check, the handler will be asked to remove the dog from the property.
2. No animal that shows evidence of any active, communicable disease shall be admitted or allowed to remain on the grounds.
3. No animal from any premises under quarantine for disease shall be admitted or allowed to remain on the grounds.
4. Contestants/owners/handlers must bring their own pooper-scooper and water dish.
5. Contestants and owners/handlers are not allowed to wear any clothing or accessories to promote any organization or business.
6. Any inhumane or other inappropriate action to animals by the contestant may result in disqualification, forfeiture of awards, and removal of the contestant and dog from the fairgrounds.
7. Animal must not have been intentionally altered to enhance appearance for the purpose of this contest.
8. Animal health decisions will be made in the best interest of the animal and other animals at the fair.
9. Management reserves the right to require health inspections and/or diagnostic tests before, during, or after animals are admitted to the fairgrounds and to implement disease control procedures as deemed necessary.
10. Determinations made by the official veterinarian and/or judges shall be final and cannot be protested. No refunds will be made.
11. Contestants must comply with all state and federal animal health regulations and Sonoma-Marín Fair's health requirements.
12. Dogs must be under the control of the handler at all times. Aggressive or uncontrollable dogs may be removed from the competition and the fairgrounds at management's discretion.
13. All contestants/owners/handlers must show proof of current vaccinations for their dog when entry form is submitted.
14. The Judges' decisions are FINAL.
15. First place winner agrees to appear with their dog for all media events required immediately following contest, including post contest interviews the evening immediately following the contest, and in New York on the first Monday following the contest. *(Travel costs for 1 owner and dog will be covered.)*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Arrival Time:** Friday, June 23, 2023 - at or before 4:00 p.m.
- **Mandatory Meeting:** Friday, June 23, 2023
4:00 p.m. at Kiwanis Park Stage
- **Judging:** Friday, June 23rd at 6:00 p.m.
American System of Judging
- **Admission into Fair:** Contestants with dogs will be admitted free to the Fair. (All other family members and friends must pay admission)

World's Ugliest Dog® Contest

Sonoma-Marín Fair

175 Fairgrounds Drive

Petaluma, CA 94952

Phone: 707-283-3247

Fax: 707-283-3250

entryoffice@sonomamarinfair.org





World's Ugliest Dog[®] Contest

2023 ENTRY FORM

The Sonoma-Marín Fairgrounds is proud to announce the 2023 World's Ugliest Dog[®] Contest to be held on Friday, June 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. on the Kiwanis Stage. Please join us in our search for the World's Ugliest Dog[®] of 2023!

OWNER'S NAME (must be individual's name): _____

DOG'S NAME: _____ BREED: _____ COLOR: _____

DOG'S AGE: _____ DOG'S SIZE: Small Medium Large

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ Zip: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Which local newspaper and television stations should we send our news release to (optional)?

Does your dog have a Facebook page? Yes No Name of Page: _____

CLASS: WORLD'S UGLIEST DOG[®] (All dogs are entered in one class)

- Application must include dog's proof of vaccination (up-to-date rabies mandatory)
- Application must include dog's photo (high quality, digital, .jpg format)
- Application must include a biography for the World's Ugliest Dog[®] Online Voting Gallery.
 - The Spirit Award is based on your dog's community service efforts. Please describe how your dog helps others (2-legged and 4-legged) in their community. Include why you and your dog selected this way of giving back to the community, the number of years that you have been doing this service, the number of "others" served, etc.
**A dog cannot win this award in 2 consecutive years.*
 - Please include the following in your dog's BRIEF biography: Name, Age, Breed, Hometown & State, how you acquired your dog, a few personality traits, and how many years you have entered this contest.
- Applications submitted after May 19, 2023, must include a \$10 entry fee. All entries submitted before May 19th are FREE. *Entry Forms must be in our office by June 22nd at 5 p.m. (Postmarks NOT accepted)*

ENTRY FORM RELEASE AND WAIVER

In consideration of my dog's acceptance by the Sonoma-Marín Fair as a contestant in the World's Ugliest Dog® Contest, it is agreed and understood that neither the State of California, the Fourth District Agricultural Association (Sonoma-Marín Fair), its officers, agents, and employees shall be held legally liable or responsible for any loss, injury, or damage which may occur or arise either to myself, my family members, or my dog by reason of the negligence, misconduct, or conduct of any person or entity whatsoever, or whatsoever. We promise to abide by the rules and regulations pertaining to the World's Ugliest Dog® Contest. We hereby release all rights, title and interest in any photographs or video that may be taken by the management and/or designees.

First place winner agrees to appear with their dog for all media events required immediately following contest*.

**Directly following the contest, the winners will be interviewed by various members of the media and professional photographs will be taken.*

**The first-place winner will be asked to fly to New York on Sunday, June 26th for an appearance on NBC's Today Show on Monday morning. Any interviews following the Today Show are at the discretion of the winner.*

**All dogs must have a health certificate (dated within 10 days of flying) and appropriately sized carrier. Dogs over 20 pounds are subject to special travel requirements. For more information, please check out American Airlines Checklist that details transporting your pet. https://www.aacargo.com/downloads/pet_checklist.pdf*

- *Awards are **FINAL**. Should the first-place winner be unavailable for interviews and/or appearances, the second and third-place winners may be contacted by media or sponsors and may serve as ambassadors for the World's Ugliest Dog® Contest. The Sonoma-Marín Fair will **NOT** re-award the first-place spot to the second-place winner in the event of the unavailability of the first-place winner.*
- *Images are property of the Sonoma-Marín Fair.*
- *All media appearances and interviews must include a reference to the Sonoma-Marín Fair in Petaluma, CA as the host and organizer of the contest.*
- *All appearances and interviews should reflect favorably on the contest, and highlight its role in advocating adoption and animal welfare.*

The below signed states herewith, that I fully understand the rules of the Sonoma-Marín Fair's World's Ugliest Dog® Contest and agree to be governed by them.

Signature of Owner

Date

Printed Name

If under 18, Signature of Parent or Guardian

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Petaluma, CA 94952

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