

THE WORLD'S UGLIEST DOG CONTEST



To: Potential World's Ugliest Dog® Contest Contestants

From: Sonoma-Marín Agricultural Association Staff

Re: 2025 World's Ugliest Dog® Contest – Friday, August 8th, 2025

This year, the event will be held at the Sonoma County Fair, in Santa Rosa CA. The fair begins on Friday, August 1st, and runs through Sunday, August 10th.

A crowd-favorite event 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 \$5000 for first place, \$3000 for second-place and \$2000 for third-place.
- We will have a special "Spirit Award" which will be based in part on your dog's biography that you submit with your entry.
- 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 **Thursday, July 17th 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.

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 your method of entry, please send a high-quality digital (.jpg) photo of your dog.

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

We 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 entryoffice@sonoma-marinfair.org.

RULES AND JUDGING INFORMATION

HOW TO ENTER

1. Complete and sign the attached Entry Form

Mail (or scan and email) to the Sonoma-Marin Agricultural Association the following:

- Entry Form Biography High Quality Digital Picture of Dog Proof of Vaccinations

ENTRY FORM DUE DATES

Entry Forms due: **Thursday, July 17 2025, by 5:00 p.m.** (postmarks NOT accepted)

Judging date: **Friday, August 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** (Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa CA)

PRIZES

First Place: \$5000.00 & Trophy to the World's Ugliest Dog®

Second Place: \$3000.00 & Trophy

Third Place: \$2000.00 & 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.

RULES

1. All dogs must pass a vet check before being allowed onto the grounds. If the dog does not pass a 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. Animals 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-Marin 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, August 8, 2025 - at or before 3:45 p.m.
- **Mandatory Meeting:** Friday, August 8, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
- **Judging:** Friday, August 8th at 5:00 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

175 Fairgrounds Drive

Petaluma, CA 94952

Phone: 707-283-3247

Fax: 707-283-3250

entryoffice@sonomamarinair.org



World's Ugliest Dog® Contest

2025 ENTRY FORM

The Sonoma-Marin Agricultural Association is proud to announce the 2025 World's Ugliest Dog® Contest to be held on Friday, August 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., at the Sonoma County Fair!

Please join us in our search for the World's Ugliest Dog® of 2025!

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, and State, how you acquired your dog, a few personality traits, and how many years you have entered this contest.
- Entry Forms must be in our office by Thursday, July 17th at 5 p.m. (Postmarks NOT accepted)**

ENTRY FORM RELEASE AND WAIVER

In consideration of my dog's acceptance by the Fourth District Agricultural Association 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-Marin Agricultural Association), Sonoma County 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 whosoever, or whatsoever. We promise to abide by the rules and regulations pertaining to the World's Ugliest Dog® Contest. We hereby release all rights, titles, and interest in any photographs or video that may be taken by the management and/or designees.

The first-place winner agrees to appear with their dog for all media events required following the contest*.

**The first-place winner will be asked to fly to New York on Sunday, August 10th, for an appearance on NBC's Today Show on Monday morning. Any interviews following the Today Show are at the discretion and expense of the winner.*

**All dogs must have a health certificate (dated within 10 days of flying) and an 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 County 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-Marin Agricultural Association.*
- *All media appearances and interviews must include a reference to the Sonoma County Fair in Santa Rosa, 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 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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