



THE BULL TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

## **COUNTRY COMPETITION**

*(Hosted by the Netherlands Bull Terrier Club)*

HANDBOOK

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## INTRODUCTION

**T**he 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 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 lack of quality applicants, or the inability to create a full team contingent.



## THE TEAM USA COMMITTEE

**T**he 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 and timeline processes for participation on the team.

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

**Fundraising Coordinator** - responsible for all fundraising activities for the year's competition. Allocation of raised funds, as determined by the BTCA Board, will be distributed to team members exhibiting dogs once receipts have been turned in to the BTCA treasurer.

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



## COUNTRY COMPETITION FORMAT

**E**ach 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 or bred 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
- Shown in the Country Competition



## THE SELECTION PROCESS: THE SELECTORS

**A**ny Bull Terrier whelped in the United States out of a dam that was registered by the AKC at the time of whelping and that is owned or co-owned by a BTCA member in good standing, is eligible for consideration to be selected for the team

It should be recognized that, if selected, the owner/handler will be required to commit to attending the Country Competition, barring any unforeseen circumstance, by the August 25 deadline as reflected on page 8 of the Handbook.

The Selectors for the Country Competition will serve a one-year term and must be BTCA approved ROM judges as determined by the BTCA.

ROM judges who are interested in participating as Selectors must self-nominate to the designated Chair of the Team USA Committee of the BTCA by September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, prior to the year they wish to be considered as a Selector.

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, 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 approve and announce the Selectors prior to January 1 of each year. The Board will also determine the Chair of the Selection Committee.



## THE SELECTION PROCESS: THE DECISIONS

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

The Selectors will submit, to both the Chair of Team USA and the President of the BTCA, a list of the identified recommendations, by August 5.

The Board of Directors of the BTCA will begin the review of the identified recommendations for Team USA, submitted by the Selection Committee, by August 10.

The Board of Directors of the BTCA will finalize approval of the Team by August 15 and will notify both the Chair of Team USA and Selectors of said approval.

The Administrator of the Team USA Committee will then send out letters of notification/invitation to the eight Selectees by August 17.

The Selectees will be required to commit to participation on Team USA by August 25 by returning the written contract agreement.

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, prior to September 1.





## LOGISTICS: PEOPLE AND TRAVEL; DOGS & REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

**B**efore BTCA members an invitation to participate as a member of 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). The microchip **MUST** be administered **BEFORE** the rabies shot. i.e. If rabies is done on 1/21/17 and does not expire until 1/21/20 but you had the microchip implanted on 2/23/17 airline personnel could reject your dog. This actually happened the first year of travel to Holland;
- 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.
- Ensure your veterinarian provides a temperature variance sheet filled out and signed. Most will use 36 – 85 degrees as some airlines apply restrictions that state that if at any time the temperature is below 45 or above 75 dogs are not allowed to fly. The temperature variance document will override this.
- Some airlines do not accept metal Impact crates. Check with the airline to verify. KLM does not accept them. Keep in mind your dog's ears must not touch the top of the crate when standing or it will not be accepted.

### 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](http://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](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pettravel)
- When booking list your dog as an English Terrier. MANY airlines ban any “bull” breeds. Ask your vet if they will list your dog as an English Terrier of the USDA paper work. 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. KLM (non-Delta) flies non-stop from the west coast (SFO). If you are flying from the west coast and unable to find a non-stop flight, 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.

Recheck your dog's booking at least 2 or 3 times to confirm that the reservation is there.



Arrive at the airport AT LEAST three (3) hours before your flight in the event there are any issues with paperwork needed for the airline. KLM takes a maximum of 6 dogs on a flight and it is on a first come first serve basis. *(A previous team member found out upon arrival that her dog had been removed as it was #7 on KLM. Since it was the airline's mistake, they broke their rule, BUT it was a close one and stressful!).* It just makes sense to make sure all the bases are covered.

**Check with your airline for crate requirements**, as what is permissible may vary for each airline.

You can take your dog (in their crate) with you on the shuttles at airport parking areas in the USA. Once checked in you will be allowed to stay with your dog until they are taken on the flight.

You must have 2 metal bowls attached to the crate; one for food and another for water. A small amount of food can be taped to the top of the crate in a Ziploc bag just in case they exceed the time limits between feedings. For the water bowl fill  $\frac{3}{4}$  full and freeze prior to leaving for the airport.

Bring a crate dolly "wheels", as the dogs are not allowed to be out of their crates. You can check the wheels as excess baggage and you will be allowed to use them right up until they take the dog away for boarding. The excess baggage fee can be included as part of your reimbursement funds.

Use a buddy system is travelling with another Team member. Someone can go and find out where you need to go/be while the other can stay with the dog(s) so you're not having to take the dogs all over the airport with you. Less stress for everyone involved.

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.

When you arrive in Amsterdam your dog will be in the oversize baggage area, a small room area in the middle of the back-wall area of baggage claim. Go there first, prior to picking up your own luggage, as the dogs are left unattended once placed there.

## Hotel Accommodations

Holiday Inn Leiden is the host hotel and the show site. The BTCA can no longer reserve rooms for team members and it will be up to each team member to procure their own room. Once the Team is announced, team members will be advised if anyone has booked extra rooms so that if possible, they may procure one of the "extra" rooms. The NBTC announces when hotel rooms are available for booking, and a form is available on their website. If you believe you might like to have a dog on Team USA, make your reservation quickly after the 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.

When you get to Leiden the taxis for dogs are specific so make sure they accept dogs. The hotel has a company they recommend, and you can book a taxi prior to arrival at the hotel and confirm once you arrive. It is tight with the dogs and people. Some can take 2 dogs but not easily due to the size of crates.

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.

### **Traveling 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.
- Bring nail clippers or something to cut off the zip ties the airline attaches all over the crate doors. The ties are to ensure your dog does not accidentally get out.

### 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 and SPONSORSHIP

**T**o help defray the costs of the transport of the team 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.

**FUNDRAISING:** Reimbursement for **approved dog related expenses up to \$1,000 US dollars**, must be submitted with receipts by December 15<sup>th</sup> of the year that the dog was exhibited.

These fundraised monies have no restriction regarding showing in the championship show the day before the Country Competition.

Fundraising events may include: Raffles, auctions, apparel sales, etc.

**SPONSORSHIP:** The maximum amount of sponsorship monies allotted to each eligible Team USA exhibitor shall not exceed \$2,000 US dollars. An additional \$500 allowed if needed for special circumstances. (see below suggestions). The final amount of monies, up to \$2,000, will be determined once the final sponsorship monies have been received.

Eligible exhibitors who receive sponsorship monies that exceed \$600 US dollars will be issued a 1099 form, as required by the Internal Revenue Service. . If sponsorship approved receipts are turned in you will not receive a 1099. Receipts must be submitted for reimbursement by December 15th of the year that the dog was exhibited.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

RESERVE – expensive flight - Flight cancelled – Weather delay - Necessary adjustment on plane ticket.

The sponsorship money may be limited for the distribution to Team USA members as requested by the donor regarding showing in the championship show the day before the country competition.

Additional sponsorship monies received after distributions are made to eligible exhibitors will be discussed and communicated by the Committee.

Sponsors may advertise on Team USA apparel based on a tiered system listed on the sponsorship form provided by the Team USA committee.







## CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of Team USA, whether an exhibitor or in a support role, it is important that we support one another and are united in our efforts to exhibit Bull Terriers that are representing the United States of America. If you have a conflict with another member, please consider discussing your concerns directly and privately with the person.

It is expected that every exhibitor of Team USA and/or member of the BTCA, shall behave in a manner that is respectful and is a reflection of the Bull Terrier Club of America members as a whole.

Members and/or parties of the Team shall not make disparaging remarks towards fellow exhibitors, committee members or BTCA members or Board.

Team USA members shall not make a profit on any of the benefits received as part of the team.

