

ETRC PUPPY OF THE YEAR RULES

(Final Rules effective for the 2025 Award Year and Onward)

1. The puppy which accumulates the most points per the rules below in ETRC club trials, puppy stakes at ETRC's AKC Hunt Tests, or AKC Member or licensed Retriever Hunt tests or Field Trial Derby Stakes throughout the year will be the winner of the annual Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year award and trophy. Puppies between 10 weeks and one year of age are eligible to compete. The annual award and trophy will be presented at the February ETRC annual awards banquet. The recipient of the Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year award will keep the trophy for one year and is responsible for its care. An engraved personal plaque is awarded to the puppy and the owner.
2. Age Classifications: Junior Puppy: ten weeks through six months (27 weeks of age); Senior Puppy - seven months to one year (28 weeks to first birthday).
3. Points.
 - a. Points will be earned only in one of the events outlined in Section 1. Points will only count towards this award if the puppy was less than 1 year of age at the time the points were earned.
 - b. Puppies are eligible to run in their current age classification. A Senior puppy may not compete in the Junior Puppy class. Junior puppies may compete in the higher stake Senior Puppy class for a JAM ribbon only, no placement or points will be awarded.
4. Calculation of Points:
 - a. Points will be awarded for placements in ETRC Club Trial puppy stakes and ETRC Hunt Test puppy stakes as follows:
 - i. If 5 or more puppies are entered, 3 points will be awarded for 1st place, 2 points for 2nd place, and 1 point for puppies placing 3rd or 4th or receiving JAM ribbons.
 - ii. If 4 puppies are entered, 2 points will be awarded for 1st place, 1 point for puppies placing 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or receiving JAM ribbons.
 - iii. If 3 or fewer puppies are entered, all placements and JAMS will receive 1 point each.
 - b. Additional Points:
 - i. A puppy will receive 1 point for any Junior Hunter stake, 2 points for a Senior Hunter stake, or 3 points for a Master Hunter stake passed at an ETRC Club Trial before the puppy's first birthday. No points will be awarded for Singles Classic or Advanced Junior stakes.
 - ii. A puppy will receive 1 point for any AKC-licensed Hunt Test Junior Hunter Stake (2 points for Senior, 3 points for Master) passed before the puppy's first birthday. Points earned at a Specialty AKC Hunt Test where only one breed is allowed to compete may be included in the points calculations, but only up to a maximum of two completions.
 - iii. A puppy will receive 3 points for any AKC member or licensed Retriever Field Trial Derby Stake for a placement or JAM.
 - iv. A puppy will receive 1 point for any placement or JAM in an ETRC Club Trial Singles Classic stake.
5. Only puppies owned by ETRC members in good standing are eligible to compete for the Puppy of the Year award. However, points gained while the puppy is handled by someone other than the owner will count

towards the award. No points earned before the owner is a member of the East Tennessee Retriever Club will count towards this award.

6. In the event of a tie, the tied dog who competed in the most ETRC Club Trials during the awards year will be declared the winner. If this tie breaker still results in a tie, all tied dogs will receive recognition.
7. The eligibility year for the Puppy of the Year Award begins January 1 and runs through December 31 of the award year.
8. It will be the responsibility of the owner to provide information on ETRC club and AKC passes to the ETRC club member who is responsible for tabulating points, by the date specified in the December newsletter. If there is a discrepancy in the points submitted for ETRC events and ETRC records, the records of the ETRC are final. Any discrepancies in AKC points submitted will be compared to AKC's Performance records with AKC tabulations being final.
9. These rules and regulations are to be published in the club newsletter preceding the club's annual February meeting. A copy will be posted on the ETRC website. Any changes to the rules will be published in the club newsletter and posted on the website. Winners will be announced in the March Newsletter and posted on the ETRC Website.
10. Judges are strongly encouraged to set up different marking tests for the Junior and Senior puppy tests. A water mark should be included in the Senior puppy stake. Lack of suitable grounds, cold weather, and time may prohibit this suggestion but all efforts should be made to adhere to it.

Approvals: Approved except for specific language changes at Board meeting, 4/4/25. Language change approvals:

1. Nate Lamping 4/5/25
2. Alan Bruhin 4/5/25
3. Luke McCoy 4/6/25
4. Kyle Griffin 4/6/25
5. Bob Smith 4/7/25
6. Mike Smith 4/7/25
7. Jim Pearce 4/8/25
8. Karen Edwards 4/8/25