

# media release



Saturday 15 August 2009

## IT'S A DOGS LIFE: Ekka 2009 prepares for BEST IN SHOW

For the past nine days close to 3,000 canine entrants, across 192 Breeds, have been prancing and dancing across the Dog Pavilion arena, all vying for blue ribbon.

Today at 3pm the competition will come to a head as breeders from across the country hold their breath in anticipation of the announcement they have all been waiting for, the announcement that leads to the crowning of the Best in Show.

RNA Councillor in Charge of Canine Competition Lionel Blumel said the title of the *Best in Show* carries with it enormous prestige for the winning owner, with the achievement not only recognised in canine circles throughout Australia, but before all the Ekka patrons who visit the Dog Pavilion.

"*Best in Show* is a highly anticipated award, showcasing the very best of the Canine Breeds across three categories, the highest accolade being **Best in Show** for the outright winner," Cr Blumel said.

"We also have **Best Puppy** for dogs aged six to 12 months, and the brand new class **Best Baby Puppy** for canines aged three to six months.

"Our two new competition categories, the **Best Baby Puppy** and **Dances with Dogs**, have been incredibly well-received by visitors to this year's Ekka and further illustrates the quality of canine breeding within Queensland.

"The combination of new competition categories and a higher number of entries with 2,944 dogs competing means this year's *Best in Show* will be a hotly contested award," he said.

The competition will be judged by renowned international judges Phillip John from India and Brenda Banbury from the United Kingdom.

### Fast Dog Facts

- *Best in Show* means the winning dog has beaten every other dog at Show. It carries enormous prestige as the Show is judged in front of peers and the thousands of people who pass through the pavilion. It also means that the owners can charge a premium for their litters.
- The Royal Queensland Dog Show is regarded as the pinnacle in the annual Queensland Show calendar
- Swedish Vallhund is a new breed of dog featured at the Show this year. There are only 2 of them in Australia and both will be back at Ekka on Saturday.

**Media contacts: Andrea Sackson, 0414 672 318**

**Lionel Blumel, RNA Councillor in charge of Dogs: 0419 798 779**

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