

INDIANA PET, PUP AND TRAINER 2026 CONTESTANT GUIDE AND APPLICATION



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Purpose of Contest

The Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest serves three distinct purposes to the Indiana pet and trainer community:

1. Provide a fun and unique social and educational experience to the pet and trainer community as a whole. Historically, contests have been established to bring the community together. In that spirit this contest exists to allow new connections to be built and to educate the community on resources while providing an outlet to share common interests.
2. Select good representation of the Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer community to represent at events, contests and throughout our community during their title year.
3. Educate contestants and the public about the importance of events, such as the Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest, in building and supporting a stronger community identity with shared interests and ideals. This is done through open-to-the-public educational opportunities leading up to the contest, educational opportunities at the event itself and explicitly sharing contest goals and judging criteria during the contest in order to build enthusiasm around the titles and their potential for the community.

Titles Available

Indiana Pet – Represents any breed of animal role play.

Indiana Trainer – Represents Trainers and Handlers.

Indiana Puppy – 2025 marks the year that we depreciated the Puppy title in lieu of having Pet only. Of course, puppies are encouraged to run for the Indiana Pet title. In the event we have more than 2 non-puppy pet contestants and three or more puppies, we'll celebrate the interest in representing and split the Pet contestants into both Pet and Puppy titles.

Contestant Resources

Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest is in part an educational event, both for the general community and the contestants. It is not unreasonable to expect that many who enter this contest have never competed in a similar event before. Not only does it take courage to get up on stage and be judged by your peers, but the lack of knowledge and experience can make it difficult to contemplate submitting the application. Our contestants can provide a peek into our collective future, and we all have a stake in helping them succeed. Whether a contestant wins or never wins, their enthusiasm and our passion in their success are a powerful community driver. Without aspirations and gumption to follow through on them, our community would potentially be devoid of leadership to make events and gatherings happen.

Pre-Contest Training

Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest wants to take the community as well as potential contestants on a behind-the-scenes look at the hows and whys of the contest system. We also want to encourage and reassure potential contestants that we are here because of them and walk them through the contest process before they ever step on stage. Look at our Facebook page for event dates when we will be covering topics such as what our pet, pup and trainer contest circuits are, as well as in-depth discussions and demonstrations of how to prepare and what to expect for each component of the Indiana Pet, Pup

and Trainer Contest. These educational opportunities are open to the public – feel free to sit in, participate and learn with our contestants!

Den-Person

Like many other contests, we have a person (they get to pick their own preferred title!) assigned to chaperone our contestants before, during and after the contest weekend, and help take care of any last-minute issues. The Den Person is there to focus on the success of each contestant - assisting our contestants with (most!) anything contest related. Depending on your needs, this person will help make sure you're where you need to be when you need to be there all while looking and feeling your best. This person is also great at providing last minute advice and any other behind-the-scenes support to those competing. The den person will be introduced to the contestants after the application deadline has passed to help answer any questions and provide insight on preparing for the weekend and will support and walk the contestants through the weekend competition.

Contestant Prerequisites

To compete in the Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest, you must first meet the following criteria.

1. Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age on or before the first day of the contest.
2. Must have resided in the state of Indiana and for the six months leading up to the contest or have express permission from the producer because you don't have a state contest.
3. Agree to participate in all contest categories while conforming to all state and local regulations pertaining to nudity and obscenity in the venues.
4. Permit photography or other recordings of themselves for use in promotion of the Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest for both current and future events.
5. Own all gear worn during the contest.
6. If declared a winner, represent the Indiana Pet, Indiana Puppy or Indiana Trainer title for the title year following the contest and abide by the expectations outlined in this document.

Contest Components

Each contestant of the Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest will be judged in five different areas. Besides the judging criteria below, any component of the contest may have points deducted by the judges for tardiness, un-sportsmanlike or generally egregious behavior.

Weekend Social Image – 20% of Overall Score

Evaluation of the contestant from the time the contestant is introduced to the public Friday evening until the beginning of the on-stage contest Saturday evening. Judges will award points based on how each contestant behaves and interacts socially with the community and judges as a Pet, Puppy or Trainer. Friday night is considered a "bar night", so the contestant should show off casual bar-wear they might wear while representing at a bar at a community event.

Interviews – 30% of Overall Score

An opportunity for the judges to directly assess the aptitude, capabilities and potential of the contestant to fulfill the role of title holder. Each contestant will be presented to the judging panel for a public 15-minute interview. The head judge and, if necessary, the Producer will moderate the interview, ensuring each judge is given an opportunity to ask questions and intervening if any question is deemed

inappropriate. All contestants will be in the vicinity during the interview process so that they may be recalled for further questions if necessary.

Headspace Scene – 15% of Overall Score

This section of the contest is where the contestants demonstrate their headspace as a Pup, Pet or Trainer. Contestants are given 5 minutes to show the judges and audience how they personally experience and embrace the headspace of the title they are running for. During this section, contestants may enlist the help of up to two additional (non-judged) helpers to assist in creating the atmosphere that showcases their headspace. Music or backing sound track may be provided (mp3 preferred) to contest ahead of time to be played during the scene, and a microphone can be made available as well – alternatively, contestants may ask the DJ for a generic backing track to be played if desired. Props may be used with an expectation that it will take less than 1 minute for setup and teardown and that there is no room provided to store elaborate sets – the goal is to demonstrate the contestant’s headspace, not their decorating skills. Pup mats will be already set up in the scene area, so take care not to damage them as they will be under paw...

Speech – 20% of Overall Score

The speech is an opportunity for the contestant to share something they are passionate about with their community. Judges will award points based on speech content and delivery. The speech should last between ninety (90) and one hundred and twenty (120) seconds, running over will incur an automatic 10% penalty for points awarded in the category (ex. 70 points awarded will have 7 points deducted,) however the contestant will not be interrupted or stopped once the time has expired.

Questions From The Public – 15% of Overall Score

Possibly the most difficult component of the contest to prepare for – all contestants will be brought on stage and be asked questions from their community. Questions may be very serious – such as “What’s the first thing you’d introduce to a new pet to help them explore head space?” or funny and non-sensical such as “What’s your favorite Disney princess and why?” Contestants will be awarded points for engaging the MC and audience, comfort in answering questions and the ability to land on their verbal paws when presented a challenging or ridiculous question.

Contestant Basket – 0% (Not judged)

All contestants are expected to provide an “basket” of items to auction / raffle or otherwise utilize for fundraising during the event, OR a single high-retail-dollar item worth \$100 or more. Baskets (or high-dollar-item) should appeal to those in attendance and should shy away from including alcohol as the event is 18+. You do not have to spend any or lots of money on a basket - traditionally, baskets included items donated from friends / vendors or from your own collection. The basket may have a theme or simply be a lot of fun and useful items packaged together. The baskets are not judged – they will be sold off during the weekend to help cover winner(s) travel funds. Baskets SHOULD include an itemized list of items included and approximate retail value.

Judging Method

Each year, a panel of judges is selected by the Producer. All efforts will be made to make the panel as diverse as our community. The judges will have knowledge and experience that help make them qualified to subjectively judge the contestants. A head judge is assigned to lead the group and moderate the necessary segments. The head judge will also have the responsibility to ensure that the panel is following

guidelines spelled out by the contest, both explicitly and in the spirit of the contest and title. If necessary, the head judge will bring any concerns or request for clarification to the Producer. Every judge is not just assigning a score to a contestant, but also actively providing notes on what went well and what can be improved upon for next time. The notes judges provide to each contestant are candid feedback to help the contestant assess their performance, explain the scores received and provide feedback on what went well or could use improvement – they are a private communication between the contestant and individual judge and are understood to not be for public consumption.

Contestants are encouraged to get to know the judges and interact with them, however contestants shall be prohibited from having private meetings or engaging in any sexual activity or intimate play scenes with the judges prior to the announcement of the contest results. To help avoid accidental violation of this policy contestants and judges must display their ID badges at all times during the contest weekend.

Olympic Scoring will be used to determine final scores and placement of contestants. In Olympic Scoring, high and low scores for each contestant, in each category, is dropped with the remaining scores totaled for each contestant. The contestant with the highest point score will be declared the winner, and the second highest contestant declared runner-up. Additionally, total scores must be above 70% of available points in order for a winner or runner-up to be declared regardless of the number of contestants. In the event of a tie, the high and low scores will be added back into each category to determine the winner. In the very unlikely event there is still a tie, the tally masters shall oversee a judges' secret ballot to determine the winner.

Scoring will be tabulated by two tally masters (two members of the community who will individually tabulate the scores and confirm each other's work). These two have the somewhat tedious job of evaluating and requesting clarification on judges scoring sheets, adding up and determining the component and final scores while maintaining full confidentiality of the running totals. They also are responsible for typing up the judges notes for each contestant.

In the event the contest has eight (8) or more contestants competing for a single title, there will be an elimination of the lowest scoring contestants until only five (5) remain. The elimination will occur based solely on the Weekend Social Image, Interview and Headspace Scene scores (65% of scoring complete) and will occur before the on-stage portion of the contest. This is done to ensure that both the community and the judges are able to spend ample time with each of the remaining contestants during the most time-constrained portion of the contest.

Expectations of the Winner

The primary responsibility of the winner of the Indiana Pet, Pup or Trainer title is to build and maintain a positive and respectful image of the contest as well as the pet, pup and trainer community. There are a few specific minimum expectations listed below, but it's mostly up to the Winner to decide how they want to and are best able to represent - each Winner is unique in their goals and aspirations and are encouraged to exceed these minimum requirements based on their personal ability and enthusiasm. Failure or inability to fulfill the listed minimum requirements of the Winner can result in revocation of the title.

Community / Public Representation

It's important the contest and our community that our titleholders maintain a positive and respectful public image during their title year. Tarnishing the reputation of the contest or the title can lead to

revocation of the title. Instead of a list of exactly what to do or not to do, this statement is intentionally vague and basically boils down to don't make an ass of yourself, the contest or our community – having a controversial viewpoint or unusual passion is fine as long as it's with grace and respect for your title and our community. The winner always has the option to and is encouraged to consult with the producer or with others they trust before embarking on something they are unsure of.

Communication with Producers

The Winner will maintain an open dialog with the Producer regarding the Winner's goals and plan of action. This is important so that the Producer can promote the Winner and contest while being consistent with Winner's goals. The Producer and the Winner will work together to achieve Winner's goals.

Event Attendance

The Winner is expected to attend and represent at a minimum of five (5) pet / puppy / trainer related events during their title year:

- Be in attendance at a minimum of one (1) next-level pet, puppy and / or trainer contest (as a contestant or just representing Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer). For 2023 – this requirement may be much more flexible due to upheaval and uncertainty caused by the pandemic.
- Consider representing Indiana at the next level contest by competing – we have a wonderful community that would love to see us represented at the next level and is available to provide guidance and support!
- Attend four (4) additional pet/pup/trainer-centric events or community activities with a minimum of two (2) of those being local to Indiana such as Indy PAH events or participating in the Indiana Pride Parade.

The Winner will notify the Producer of planned event attendance with enough time that the Producer may also attend or provide assistance and determine compliance with the event attendance requirement.

Attending Successor Contest

Winner agrees to attend, provide a step-aside speech and assist in whatever manner deemed necessary by the Producer at the following years contest when their successor is determined.

Competition in Other Title Contests

The Winner needs the explicit permission of the Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest Producer (Producers) to compete in any other title contests during the period of time that the Winner represents the Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest – this is to prevent conflicts of interest in potentially representing more than one title at a time.

Resignation or Termination of Title

If the Winner is unable to fulfil their duties or their title is revoked, the Winner will return all title items to the Producer.

Making Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest Successful

Everyone associated with Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest is a volunteer. No one gets paid, but we are just as excited as the contestants about having a successful and enjoyable event. The Producer (Producers) provide overall guidance and final word on any contest issue, but without help from others

no contest would happen. It takes judges, tally masters, MC's, Den-Daddies, Judges Assistants, Contestants, other volunteers and support from the community for any successful contest to occur.

Weekend Schedule

Times and locations are subject to change. Contestants are required to participate in all activities with the exception of the community fair / educational sessions and Brunch (attendance at non-required portions are of course allowed / encouraged):

Thursday, September 11th

- 7 PM Gather with your den staff and other contestants (Location TBD) – drop off your basket
- 8-12 AM Opening ceremonies in the Hall of Champions with introduction of Contestants and Judges, mingle with the public.

Friday, September 12th

- 10 AM - 1 PM (or later as necessary) interviews, split into two days, depending on the number of contestants, break for lunch
- 11 AM – 5:30 PM Educational Sessions
- 8 PM – Contest: Headspace scenes or Fantasies, split into two nights, and speeches depending on the number of contestants.

Saturday, September 13th

- 10 AM – 1 PM (or later as necessary), interviews second half, depending on the number of contestants, break for lunch
- 11 AM – 5:30 PM Educational Sessions
- 8 PM Contest: Start headspace scenes or fantasies, split into two nights, and speeches depending on the number of contestants

Sunday, September 14th

- 10 AM – 1 PM Brunch

Entry Deadline

Applications must be received by the Producer by 12AM (Midnight Thursday night) Friday, August 28th 2025. Applications may be emailed to Info@IndianaPupAndTrainer.org. Don't worry about signing - the producer will print paper copies of the waver and indemnification for you and have you sign when you arrive Friday evening.

Application Checklist

- Head Shot photo – a digital photo including your shoulders to the top of your head without a hood or mask on. This photo will be provided to the judges along with your application. Please, email the photo to the address above with your application. This photo does not need to be professional or artistic – it's simply used as a behind-the-scenes "cheat sheet" so the judges can easily recognize you and not intended for public consumption – it will not be blown up to large scale or used for publicity, rather just used in thumb-nail size on paper provided to the judges.
- Contest Application – Feel free to use the PDF text feature to type your application and save it before printing or emailing to the address above. You don't need to sign this – it will be signed in witness Friday evening of the contest.
- Contest Fee Since this is our inaugural year your entry fee is the normal non-discounted registration.

- A copy of your driver's license or a current photo ID indicating your date of birth. (This remains confidential and is simply to validate age and identity.)
- Is your auction basket ready?

2026 Pet & Trainer Contestant Registration & Application

Human (Legal) Name:		Pet / Trainer (Stage) Name:	
Street Address:		Phone #:	
City/State:	Postal Code:	Email:	
Date of Birth:		Pronoun(s):	
Are you competing for Pet or Trainer?			
Pet Breed and or Type:		Do you Identity As Puppy?	
Have you ever been convicted of a felony or any criminal activity? If so, please explain:		Have you ever appeared in any pornographic photos, films or videos? If so, please explain:	
Body Modifications (piercings, tattoos, brandings, etc.):		List any clubs/organizations you are involved with (if applicable):	
How long have you been a pet or Trainer and what got you involved into this lifestyle?			

What makes you a pet, pup or Trainer?
What is your favorite piece of pet or Trainer paraphernalia?
What other fetishes / BDSM / leather lifestyles do you have an interest in?
Why do you want to become Indiana Pet / Pup / Trainer 2026?
Tell us something unique and surprising about yourself that others in the pet and trainer community may not know about:

Photographic & Image Release Waiver

I, the undersigned, hereby give Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest (the contest), it's photographers, legal representatives, agents or assigns, the right and permission to copyright, use, reuse, broadcast and/or publish any and all Photographic Pictures (including digital images and pictures) of me, which shall be taken during the contest, or as a result of my preparation for the contest, or as a result of my having Participated in the contest, Pictures, as herein, shall include Portraits or reproductions thereof, including audio and videotapes, made through any media. I further assign the right to use such pictures in conjunction with my stage name, and through any media outlets, for any purpose deemed appropriate by the Producer (Producers). I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the finished Pictures or the method of their eventual use, including any related audio, video or printed copy that may be used in conjunction therewith. I hereby release, discharge, and agree to save harmless Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest and the Producer(s), their photographers, legal representatives, agents or assigns, including those publishing and/or distributing the finished product, in whole or in part, from and against any liability or claim as a result of the use or publication of said pictures, including from any distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion or use in composite form, either intentionally or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking, processing or reproduction of the pictures, their publication or distribution. I have read the foregoing Release and Waiver before signing below. I warrant my full understanding of its contents, and that I am of legal age to give my consent in this state.

Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest Indemnification

I hereby certify that I have attained at least twenty one (21) years of age and that I, based upon mutual covenants and considerations (including granting me the privilege of attending and participating in the Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest Weekend) will not hold the Producer(s), nor the individual and collective owners, officers, agents and employees thereof liable for any injury to my person or property during the period of the Indiana Pet, Pup And Trainer Contest Weekend, and I further agree to indemnify and save harmless the producer(s), the individual and collective owners, officers, agents and employees thereof from any and all liability, injury or economic loss or other damage.

Compliance

By signing below, I agree to comply with all rules and regulations set forth by Indiana Pet, Pup and Trainer Contest.

I certify that all information provided on the accompanying forms are accurate.

I certify that I meet all qualifications specified in the Qualification Statement.

I understand that if I win the contest, I will be expected to fulfill the duties of the title as outlined in this guide.

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Witnessed by (Contest Representative): _____