

# **Georgia Pup and Handler 2023**

## **Contestant Guide and Application**



## **Georgia Pup & Handler Contest**

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## Purpose of Contest

The Georgia Pup and Handler Contest serves three distinct purposes to the Georgia Pup and Handler community:

1. Provide a fun and unique social and educational experience to the Pup and Handler 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 Georgia Pup and Handler 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 Georgia Pup and Handler 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.

## Contestant Resources

Georgia Pup and Handler 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

Georgia Pup and Handler 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 Pup and Handler contest circuits are, as well as in-depth discussions and demonstrations of how to prepare and what to expect for each component of the Georgia Pup and Handler 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 will be there to assist 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.

## Contestant Prerequisites

To compete in the Georgia Pup and Handler 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 Georgia and for the six months leading up to the 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 Georgia Pup and Handler Contest for both current and future events.
5. Own all gear worn during the contest.
6. Have a basket, minimum value \$75.00, to be auctioned off to benefit the title holder travel fund.
7. If declared a winner, represent the Georgia Puppy or Georgia Handler title for the title year (26 August 2023-20 April 2024) following the contest and abide by the expectations in this document.

## Contest Components

Each contestant of the Georgia Pup and Handler 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 their opinions of how each contestant behaves and interacts socially with the community and judges as a Pup or Handler.

### 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 or Handler. 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.

### 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 Pup 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.

### 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 play scene 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 unlikely 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 and Interview scores (50% 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.

## Single Title Entry

If a title has only one (1) contestant, they must score a minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of the total number of available points, or the title will not be awarded.

## Expectations of the Winner

The primary responsibility of the winner of the Georgia Pup or Handler title is to build and maintain a positive and respectful image of the contest as well as the Pup and Handler 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) pup / handler related events during their title year:

- Be in attendance at a minimum of one (1) next-level pup and / or handler contest (as a contestant or just representing Georgia Pup and Handler).

- Consider representing Georgia 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 pup/handler-centric events or community activities with a minimum of two (2) of those being local to Georgia such as Georgia PAH events or participating in Georgia Pride activities.

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 express permission of the Georgia Pup and Handler Contest Producer(s) to compete in any other title contests during the period of time that the Winner represents the Georgia Pup and Handler 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 Georgia Pup and Handler Contest Successful

Everyone associated with Georgia Pup and Handler 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.

## Contest Schedule

Dog Days of Summer will run concurrently with the Contest and have additional activities. Times and locations are subject to change. Contestants are required to participate in all contest activities. See Attachment 1.

## Entry Deadline

Applications should be received by the Producer by 12AM (Midnight Friday night) Saturday 12 August 2023. Applications may be emailed to [pupplayevents@gmail.com](mailto:pupplayevents@gmail.com). Don't worry about signing - the producer will print paper copies of the waiver 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.
- Contest Fee – The application fee is \$30. This helps offset contest costs and entices contestants to put their money where their mouth is (i.e., actually show up and compete). This fee is non-refundable.
- Photographic & Image Release Waiver, Georgia Pup and Handler Contest Indemnification – printed, signed in witness of the producer or representative and handed over before the start of the contest.
- 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.)



## 2023 Contestant Registration & Application

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

**What makes you a pup or Handler?**

**What is your favorite piece of pup or Handler paraphernalia?**

**What other fetishes / BDSM / leather lifestyles do you have an interest in?**

**Why do you want to become Georgia Pup / Handler 2023?**

**Tell us something unique and surprising about yourself that others in the pup and handler community may not know about:**

### Photographic & Image Release Waiver

I, the undersigned, hereby give Georgia Pup and Handler Contest (the contest), its 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 Georgia Pup and Handler 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.

### Georgia Pup and Handler 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 Georgia Pup and Handler 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 Georgia Pup and Handle 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 Georgia Pup and Handler 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): \_\_\_\_\_



## Attachment 1

# Dog Days of Summer 2023 GA Pup and Handler Contest Tentative Schedule

### Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>

- 4 PM Check-in Opens
- 6 PM Judge's Meeting: Café Deck Event Space
- 7 PM Competitor's Meeting: Café Deck Event Space
- 8 PM Meet & Greet: Capri Lounge  
Introduce Contestants and Judges, Staff and Distinguished Guests
- 10 PM Edge Night Club  
Bar Attire

### Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

- 9-12 AM Paddling Pups: Advanced sign-up required
- 11 AM Downtown Walkies and River History Tour
- 1 PM Puppies n Pie.....(and cake): Lunch at The Boll Weevil  
<https://www.thebollweevil.com/>  
at individual's additional expense
- 5-6 PM Mosh
- 9 PM Bon Fire and Bourbon: Parliament Fire Pit
- 11 PM Edge Night Club  
Bar Attire

Pig Pen Opens: Parliament Resort  
Attire: Underwear, Fetish Gear, Leather Wear, or Less

### Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>

- 9 AM- 11 AM Hair of the Dog: Bloody Mary's, Mimosa's & Coffee: Pool Side Café Deck
- 10 AM-4 PM Tails 'n Tunes: Dog Days Pool Party and Games: Parliament Pool

- 11AM Contestant Interviews; open to all attendees: Capri Lounge
- 1 PM Hot Diggity Dog: Poolside Cookout: Pool Side Café Deck
- 3 PM It's Arrrrrfing Hot Cocktails: Pool Side Café Deck
- 5 PM Georgia Pup and Handler Contest & Dinner: Edge Night Club
- 10 PM Howling Hallelujah After Party (Winner's announced): Edge Night Club
- 11 PM Pig Pen Opens: Parliament Resort  
Attire: Underwear, Fetish Gear, Leather Wear, or Less

**Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**

- 9 AM- 11 AM Hair of the Dog: Bloody Mary's, Mimosa's & Coffee: Pool Side Café Deck
- Noon Check-out or stay 'til 4pm and party with the locals  
[with late checkout out (requires forfeiture of \$10 key deposit  
No other fees apply. Must notify the front desk in advance]
- 1 PM Bangin' Brunch (no, no. not that kind of banigng!) at Bodega Ultima  
<https://www.bodegaultima.com/>  
at individual's additional expense

Red text indicates mandatory participation by GAPAH Contest Participants