

Contestant Guide



Georgia

Pup, Pet, & Handler Contest 2025

Purpose of Contest

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

- Provide a fun and unique social and educational experience to the Pup, Pet, 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.
- Select good representation of the Georgia Pup, Pet, and Handler community to represent at events, contests and throughout our community during their title year.
- Educate contestants and the public about the importance of events, such as the Georgia Pup, Pet, 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, Pet, 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.

Entry & Deadline

Visit www.pupplayproductions.com for the Application PDF. The questions in the application are not gotcha or necessarily disqualifying questions. They are primarily for the Judges can get to know contestants and prepare questions and for our use in protecting our rights/interests, their rights and the rights of other parties they may have agreement with.

Applications should be received by the Producer by 12AM (Midnight Friday night) Saturday, 02 August 2025. Applications may be emailed to pupplayevents@gmail.com.

**Feel free to ask questions of any past Title Holder
or the Producer at pupplayevents@gmail.com**

My Application Submitted on/at: _____

My Headspace/Fantasy Scene Submitted on: _____

Raffle Basket prepared on: _____

My Den Person: _____

Phone/Texting: _____

Email: _____

NOTES

Contest Schedule

Contestants are required to participate in all contest activities.. The Contest will run concurrently with the Dog Days of Summer which has additional activities. Times and locations are subject to change.

Application Checklist

- Head Shot photo – a digital photo including your shoulders to the top of your head without a hood or mask on. You may include a second photo hooded. 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, Pet, 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.)

Pre-Contest Training

Georgia Pup, Pet, 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. Potential contestants should follow our Facebook page, Georgia Pup and Handler Contest, for event dates. We will have in-depth discussions and demonstrations of how to prepare and what to expect for each component of the Contest. These educational opportunities are open to the public – feel free to sit in, participate and learn with our contestants!

Contestant Prerequisites

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

- Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age on or before the first day of the contest.
- Must have resided in the state of Georgia and for the six months leading up to the contest.
- Agree to participate in all contest categories while conforming to all state and local regulations pertaining to nudity and obscenity in the venues.
- Permit photography or other recordings of themselves for use in promotion of the Georgia Pup, Pet, and Handler Contest for both current and future events.
- Own all gear worn during the contest.
- Have at least one gift basket, minimum value \$75.00, to be auctioned off to benefit the title holder travel fund.
- If declared a winner, represent the Georgia Pup, Pet or Georgia Handler title for the title year expectations in this document.



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.

Contest Components

Each contestant of the Georgia Pup, Pet, 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, Pet 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.

Title Holder Responsibilities (cont'd)

3. 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.
4. Attend Georgia Pup, Pet, and Handler Contest or its successor at end of title year and present a step-down speech recounting your experience and achievements from throughout your title year.
5. Provide one (1) auction basket for travel fund auction at step-down.
6. 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, Pet, and Handler Contest Producer to compete in any other title contests during the period of time that the Winner represents the Georgia Pup, Pet, 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, Pet, and Handler Contest Successful

Everyone associated with Georgia Pup, Pet, 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 provides 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 Persons, Judges Assistants, Contestants, other volunteers and support from the community for any successful contest to occur.

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.

Expectations of the Winner

The primary responsibility of the winner of the Georgia Pup, Pet or Handler title is to build and maintain a positive and respectful image of the contest as well as the Pup, Pet, 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.

Title Holder Responsibilities

The Winner is expected:

1. to attend and represent at a minimum of five (5) Pup, Pet / handler related events throughout their title year:
 - Attend Pride Events at least or more major Georgia cities: Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, Savannah, for example, joining with the local Pet Player Community in their Pride activities.
 - Attend four (4) additional Pup, Pet/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.
 - 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!
2. Conduct one (1) fundraiser for Pup, Pet Play Productions, Inc.

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.

Headspace/Fantasy Scene – 15% of Overall Score

This section of the contest is where the contestants demonstrate their headspace as a Pup, Pet 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. Mats will be available in the scene area. Contestants must submit an outline of their scene to pupplayevents@gmail.com no later than 7 August 2025. (Pet Play Productions reserves the right to work with contestants to ensure scenes are safe for contestants and the audience, and that their scene remains as true to the contestant's initial vision as possible.)

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, 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. 5

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.

Community / Public Representation

It's important the contest and our community that our titleholders maintain a positive and respectful public image. Tarnishing the reputation of the contest or the title at any time 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.