

## American Humane HERO DOG AWARDS®

### Official Contest Entry and Release Form

This Contest Entry and Release Form (“**Release**”) **MUST** be completed and signed to enter. A separate copy of this Release must accompany each photograph (“Photo” or “Photograph”) of the dog (**DOG ONLY**) taken in the last twelve (12) months. By submitting this Release, you acknowledge that you have read, or have had read to you, understand and agree to comply with all terms and conditions contained in the **2021 American Humane HERO DOG AWARDS® Contest Official Rules** (the “Official Rules”). All Photographs and Release forms must be (1) submitted online at [www.herodogawards.org](http://www.herodogawards.org) (or such other website designated by Sponsor) OR (2) sent by Mail to the address at the bottom of this Form. Photographs **will not** be acknowledged or returned to Entrants. Mailed Entries must be postmarked on or before March 2, 2021 and received by no later than March 9, 2021. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings set forth in the Official Rules.

Sponsor has the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any Entry for current or past behavior that is not in the spirit of the competition, and to disqualify Entrant’s dog that does not have satisfactory credentials and/or whose narrative story cannot be verified in Sponsor’s sole opinion. Each Entrant’s dog must be living at the time of entry and be located within the United States. Nominated dogs must not currently be used in connection with a for-profit business owned or operated by the Entrant, owner, or handler of the dog, unless approved by Sponsor in its sole discretion. By submitting an Entry, Entrant represents, warrants and covenants that he/she is the owner of the dog, or authorized agent of the owner of the dog, in the applicable Photo, that he/she owns or otherwise controls all rights in his/her Entry materials and any other materials provided by Entrant. Please note that the winning dogs must travel according to the airline’s rules and regulations and are not guaranteed to travel in the cabin with the owner/handler.

**Entry Categories: (check one Category box) and provide a photocopy of credentials, e.g. copy of identification badge from the certifying/registering law enforcement/arson, service dog, therapy dog, military, guide/hearing, or search and rescue agency with Entry where applicable. Sponsor reserves the right to require additional verification upon request. Entrants must notify Sponsor of any change in their certification/registration status.**

Entrants are encouraged to select the Category carefully – the Category designation cannot be changed after Entry is submitted without Sponsor’s consent.

**Law Enforcement and Detection Dogs** Law enforcement dogs’ ability to help protect their human handlers, thwart lawbreakers, and find evidence makes them true partners to first responders, and these four-footed heroes are often considered law enforcement officers in their communities. Dogs have ultra-sensitive hearing, keen noses, and can accurately detect a variety of targets. Detection dogs are used to detect illicit substances, drugs, fire accelerants, firearms, or explosives that may be carried on a person in their effects or may be located at a crime scene. Dogs have also been shown to identify flora and fauna and a multitude of diseases in humans, including new training programs for infectious diseases like COVID-19. This Category seeks to bring well-deserved recognition to the heroes who do so much to protect our nation and keep us safe.

**If applicable, Entrants must submit photocopy of the law enforcement dog’s past or present certification/identification to act as such from an accredited organization. Additional paperwork may be requested as proof of scent detection work.**

**Service Dogs** Service Dogs are trained to perform specific tasks for people with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) other than vision or hearing impairment (see guide/hearing dog). They can be trained to work with people who use wheelchairs, have balance issues, have various types of autism, need seizure alert or response, need to be alerted to other medical issues like low blood sugar, or have psychiatric disabilities. These specially trained dogs can help by retrieving objects that are out of their person’s reach, opening and closing doors, turning light switches off and on, barking to indicate

that help is needed, finding another person and leading the person to the handler, assisting ambulatory persons to walk by providing balance and counterbalance, and many other individual tasks as needed by a person with a disability.

**Entrants must submit photocopy of the service dog's past or present certification/identification to act as such from an accredited organization, if applicable. Entrants must notify the sponsor if the service dog has been trained by the handler per ADA and provide a list of specific tasks the dog has been trained to perform. Emotional support animals (ESA) do not qualify under this category and Sponsor has the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify entries deemed to be an ESA by Sponsor.**

**Please specify the specific task(s) that the Service Dog performs:**

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**Therapy Dogs** Credentialed Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) Dogs are part of a therapeutic plan to aid with physical, social, emotional and cognitive challenges for persons other than the dog's owner/handler. AAT has been shown to help enhance the lives of people in need such as children who have experienced abuse or neglect, patients undergoing chemotherapy or other difficult medical treatments, and military veterans and their families who are struggling to cope with the effects of wartime military service. Studies have found that AAT lowers blood pressure, reduces stress and enhances a patient's ability to achieve physical and psychological wellness.

**Entrants must submit photocopy of the therapy dog's past or present certification/identification to act as such from an accredited organization. Emotional support animals (ESA) do not qualify under this category and Sponsor has the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify entries deemed to be an ESA by Sponsor.**

**Military Dogs** Military working dogs first entered the service in 1942 to serve in the Army's K-9 Corps. Today, these dogs are still playing an active role in searching for explosives and seizing enemies. Military working dogs have been used by the U.S. armed forces since World War I. In World War II, 436 scout dogs walked combat patrols overseas, often detecting the enemy at 1,000 yards, long before the enemy became aware of them. Dogs continued to serve with distinction in other conflicts, such as Korea, where the Army used about 1,500 dogs, primarily for guard duty. During the Vietnam War, nearly 4,000 dogs were employed and, officially, 281 were killed in action. Today's conflicts include dogs at every level, still serving our country, helping to protect our troops.

**Entrants must submit photocopy of the military dog's past or present certification/identification to act as either a Military Working Dog (MWD) or Contract Working Dog (CWD) from an accredited organization.**

**Guide/Hearing Dogs** Guide and Hearing Dogs are literally the "eyes and ears" for millions of differently abled Americans. In a Guide Dog team, the dog has been specially trained to assist a person who is blind, leading, obeying commands, avoiding distractions and obstacles, and, importantly, disobeying a command if it would put the team in danger. The person is responsible for directing the dog by keeping a mental map, being the leader of the team and providing care and praise. Hearing Dogs assist the deaf and those who are hard of hearing by alerting them to a variety of helpful – or harmful – sounds. These hero dogs help their human counterparts to be aware of such everyday sounds as a knock at the door or doorbell, the ringing of an alarm clock, oven buzzer, or telephone, or the cry of a baby. They also alert their companions to life-threatening (and lifesaving) sounds they might not otherwise notice, such as the blaring of a fire truck's horn as they step into a street, or the shrieks of a smoke alarm in the middle of the night. These heroes not only improve the lives of the people with whom they work, but save them.

**Entrants must submit photocopy of the guide/hearing dog's past or present certification/identification to act as such from an accredited organization.**

**Search and Rescue Dogs** Children lost in the wilderness, elderly people who have wandered away from home or the hospital, hikers lost in the woods, victims of drowning accidents, victims of avalanche, earthquake, flood, explosion, fire, train wrecks, plane crashes, tornadoes and other disasters - dog teams have a very special role in the world of search and rescue. The dogs' ultra-sensitive hearing, night vision, endurance and keen sense of smell have continually proven to be invaluable in the effort to locate missing persons and to return them home safe to their families and friends.

**Entrants must submit photocopy of the search and rescue dog's past or present certification/identification to act as such from an accredited organization.**

**Shelter Dogs** With millions of homeless dogs in shelters and on the streets in the United States, many of the most incredible stories come from the heartfelt second chance stories of shelter and rescue dogs who are given a new "leash" on life. The Shelter Dog category shines a spotlight on ordinary dogs who do extraordinary things – the often-overlooked shelter or rescue dog who goes on to become a loved family pet. A shelter or rescue dog can be nominated for overcoming difficult odds, having a remarkable rescue story, or for simply brightening the lives of the those who gave them their second chance. Dogs eligible for the Shelter category can be adopted from a rescue organization or shelter, rescued from the streets or homelessness, or saved from unfavorable situations.

**Please include a copy of your dog's adoption forms if available. Additional paperwork may be requested as proof of rescue and/or adoption.**

**PLEASE PRINT NEATLY**

Dog's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Age (approximate if not known): \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR DOG'S CREDENTIALS/IDENTIFICATION, IF APPLICABLE\*, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE**

Credentialing Organization, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Credentialing: \_\_\_\_\_ Still active? \_\_\_\_\_ (yes or no)

Is your dog used in connection with a for-profit business or services? \_\_\_\_\_ (yes or no; if yes, must discuss with Sponsor before nomination will be accepted)

Entrant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrant over 18 years of age? \_\_\_\_\_ (yes or no)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INCLUDE A PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR DOG (DOG ONLY) TAKEN WITHIN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.**

If submitted online, Photo must be submitted in .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .pdf or .png format and cannot exceed 10 MB in size. If submitted by Mail, Photograph must be either a commercially developed print, or a digital photograph produced at a minimum of 300 dots per inch ("dpi") on quality photo paper, and must be no smaller than 4"x6" and no larger than 8"x10" in size. Image modifications such as borders, frames, composite images, multiple exposures, watermarks, signature or copyright notices, addition or replacement of elements, and artistic filters are not permitted. Cropping, rotating, resizing, red-eye removal, and the use of autofix enhancements and tools to correct contrast, brightness, intensity, tone, hue, saturation, lightness, value, color, balance and tint are permitted. Studio photos are ineligible unless approval and/or release from photographer is submitted to Sponsor. Sponsor reserves the right to edit or redact badges, insignia or logos and/or require dogs to appear with collars and/or tags. Sponsor reserves the right to edit, crop, resize or compress Photographs at their discretion. All Photographs must be approved by Sponsor, in Sponsor's sole discretion. Photographs depicting or implying any form of inhumane treatment may be disqualified at the Sponsor's discretion. Photograph(s) must be the original work of the Entrant or otherwise the Entrant must have the permission of the photographer; must not feature any third parties or third party materials, must have been taken in the last twelve (12) months, may not have been published previously; must not infringe upon the copyrights, trademarks, rights of privacy, publicity or other intellectual property or other rights of any person or entity; and must be suitable for publication.

Photographer's Name (if different than Entrant): \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer over 18 years of age? \_\_\_\_\_ (yes or no)

Title/ Subject of Photograph: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Official Narrative Description:**

In fifteen hundred (1500) characters or less (if submitted online) or 250 words or less (if submitted via mail), in your own words please tell the Sponsor about the dog (with specific emphasis on how the dog represents the Category for which the dog is nominated), any relevant details about the Photograph, and explain why the dog pictured deserves the title of American Hero Dog. Narrative descriptions must be at least one-hundred twenty (120) characters or twenty (20) words to be considered for Nomination. Voting is based on the story you provide, in its original format as submitted, without corrections to grammar or spelling.

For submissions by Entrants who are most comfortable with American Sign Language (ASL) or otherwise not a written language, Entries may be submitted via video in sign language and Sponsor will provide an interpreter to verbalize the Entrant's words for their Entry, and upon request, Sponsor will compose the entry in written English. For assistance submitting via video or other accommodations, please contact [info@herodogawards.org](mailto:info@herodogawards.org).

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I understand and agree that submission of this Release Form with Photograph grants Sponsor and its affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, sales representatives, agents, advertising, marketing and promotion agencies, merchandising partners, consultants, contractors, and each of their respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents and representatives, and each of these companies' and individuals' respective successors, representatives, and assigns and anyone authorized by any of them, the right to use of my Entry materials (including but not limited to my name, city, state, narrative and Photograph) and any other materials I provide (or otherwise connected with the story of my Entry) and any derivations of the foregoing, and grants Sponsor and its agents the rights to publish, use, adapt, edit, modify and/or create derivative works of the elements of such Entry materials in any way, for programming, advertising, trade, commerce, publicity, promotional and other purposes in any and all media, now or hereafter known, worldwide and on the Internet, and in perpetuity, without compensation (unless prohibited by law) or additional consents from me or any third party and without prior notice, approval or inspection, whether or not such Entry is a Semi-Finalist, Category winner or the American Hero Dog winner.

I further understand and agree that in the event my Contest Entry is declared a Category winner or the American Hero Dog winner, I will execute and deliver an Affidavit of Eligibility and Release of Liability/Publicity (publicity portion where legal) as required by the Official Rules of the Contest.

I understand and agree that certain personal information may be provided as a part of the Contest Entry materials, and I confirm that I approve the use, publication and distribution of this personal information in accordance with the Official Rules of the Contest. I am over eighteen (18) years of age and a legal resident of one (1) of the fifty (50) United States or the District of Columbia.

**Entrant's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Photographer's signature** (if different than Entrant): \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about the **American Humane HERO DOG AWARDS® Contest**? (check all that apply)

- Animal shelter/organization: \_\_\_\_\_
- Friend/Co-worker
- [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org) website
- Internet search
- American Humane email
- American Humane Facebook
- American Humane Twitter
- American Humane Instagram
- Magazine or Newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional:  **Yes**, I would like to donate to American Humane.

My check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed; or charge my credit card number:

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional:  **Yes**, I would like to receive American Humane authorized communications and I consent to American Humane's privacy policy: <http://www.americanhumane.org/about-us/privacy-policy.html>

Mail This Contest Entry and Release Form to:

American Humane  
Attn: Entry  
American Humane HERO DOG AWARDS Contest  
1400 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 360, Washington, DC 20036

**Entries submitted by mail must be postmarked on or before March 2, 2021 and received by American Humane no later than March 9, 2021 to be eligible.**