



Illinois Puppy/Trainer Contest Application



Welcome to the Illinois Leather Alliance contests! We're very excited that you're considering competing in the Puppy/Trainer contest. We hope that the experience you have in competing for the Illinois title is fulfilling and exciting. It's our mission to provide you with the opportunity to be as successful as you want to be.

The Illinois Puppy/Trainer titles reflect the diversity, excitement and energy that comes from human puppy play and Puppy/Trainer interaction. Illinois Puppy/Trainer titleholders have the opportunity to teach, to learn, to share and to explore this exciting lifestyle.

Are you a puppy, living in the moment, loving a pat on the head, a squeaky chew toy to play with and SQUIRREL?! Does the thought of training and interacting with puppies fill your heart with joy? Do you feel the call to stand up and represent Illinois and be counted as a Puppy or Trainer? We hope so!

Our contest contest is a feeder contest into the Great Lakes regional Puppy/Trainer contest, which takes place in Indianapolis, Indiana during GLLA Weekend. If you wish to continue in the International Puppy/Trainer contest track, you will need to compete in GLPT. You can also choose to go to the International Puppy Contest, if you desire.

The following pages contain the official application for the Illinois Puppy/Trainer contest. Please take a look at the application, fill it out completely and send it back to us via email. If you cannot submit it via email, please contact us at info@illinoisleatheralliance.com and we will provide a mailing address to you.

For the March 17th/18th 2017 competition, **applications are due by March 3rd, 2017.**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@illinoisleatheralliance.com. Thank you for your interest and we can't wait to see you compete!

Sincerely,

Michael and Angie Shorten

Executive Producers, Illinois Leather Alliance



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Illinois Puppy/Trainer Contest Information

1. Each individual contestant must read and sign the “Contestant Qualifications” sheet. If you don’t meet the qualifications, you may not enter the contest.
2. Each individual contestant must read and sign the “What Is Expected Of the Winners” sheet. Should you win, this is your agreement of what you will do as an Illinois Puppy/Trainer titleholder. In return, we will provide you with a travel fund to go towards your expenses towards the next title you may wish to pursue. There is no guarantee that we will be able to raise enough funds to fully pay for all your travel expenses, but that is our goal and part of our mission. If you don’t wish to run for a following title, then we will happily provide you with a travel fund so that you can attend Great Lakes Leather Alliance Weekend.
3. Each individual contestant must fill out the Contestant Application/Agreement fully and sign it, as well as sign the “Photographic Release.” You will also provide a photocopy (or electronic scan) of your drivers license to prove your age.
4. Each individual contestant shall donate a gift basket for auction during the Illinois Leather contest event to raise funds for the Illinois titleholders travel fund. The basket should have items that say something about you personally (for example, if you are an artist, you might donate an artwork, if you’re into cigars, you might get some cigars and cutters, etc.)
5. Each individual contestant will provide a 100 word bio and a head shot picture (no more than 3” x 3”, 300dpi minimum) in electronic format upon acceptance of their application. This bio/picture will be used on the Illinois Leather Alliance website and any promotional materials/contest programs created for your contest year.
6. All Contestants must arrive in the contest location no later than 8 pm on Friday before the start of the event and appear in person and on time for all the scheduled events during the Illinois Leather contest weekend.



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7. Contestants will be scored by panel of judges in the categories and points outlined below:
- a) **Interview: (200 points available)** Each contestant will participate in an approximately 20 minute interview. Each judge should be allowed to ask whatever type of questions they deem necessary to learn what they need to know about each contestant. It is appropriate to be in pup or handler gear during the Interview, but full face masks/hoods must be removed at the start of the Interview.
 - b) **Speech: (150 points available)** The contestants will prepare beforehand and deliver a speech during the opening ceremonies of the event. This speech can be on any topic the contestant wishes. The judges will award points on both speech content as well as speech delivery. The speech should be between 90 seconds and two minutes in length.
 - c) **Lifestyle Image: (75 points available)** Judges will observe all contestants during the course of the event weekend. Judging officially begins Friday after the contestant introductions. Contestants should make an effort to meet each judge before the speech portion of the contest. From their observations, judges will award Lifestyle Image points based on their opinions of how each contestant behaves and interacts as a puppy or trainer.
 - d) **Show Presentation: (75 points available)** This portion will present to the judges how well the contestant works with a pup or trainer in a one on one situation. Points will be awarded on how well the contestant gives / receives instruction, comfort level in front of a crowd, and overall attentiveness to the other participant. Each contestant puppy will be paired with a trainer or trainer contestant of their choosing. Each trainer contestant will be paired with a puppy or a puppy contestant of their choosing. Each pair will be given a bag of items (ranging from chew toys to sex toys) selected by the judges before-hand, and perform a scene using the items. This will also allow the contestants to showcase their respective headspace and personality in their respective role as pup or trainer. As is the same with the Image category, judges will also look for believability in each contestant's approach to the lifestyle.

The time restrictions shall be strictly enforced for each of these categories. The time restrictions and allocation of points may be modified with prior notice to the contestants and judges.



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Scoring will be done on an aggregate basis. The contestant whose aggregate score is highest will be declared as the winner. The contestant whose score is second highest will be declared as the runner-up. In the event of a tie in aggregate scores, the highest score in a specific category, such as Interview, will determine the winner. The judges will determine which category to use as the tie breaker. Contestants must score 70% or better of the overall points to win, whether or not they are competing on their own or against others.

8. All contestants are prohibited from having private meetings or engaging in sexual activity or leather scene play with the judges prior to the announcement of the results. Any behavior that might create even the appearance of bias will be brought to the attention of the head judge, who will decide if the disqualification of the judge and/or contestant is warranted. To avoid accidental violation of this policy, contestants and judges will be introduced to each other prior to the contest event beginning.
9. Winners will receive a patch and medallion denoting their title and year, an equal portion of the travel fund to be paid after Great Lakes Leather Alliance Weekend (divided up by the number of current titleholders in the same title class) and any donated sponsorship gifts for the winners. Winners get to wear a sash for their title for their title year, but must return the sash to the Producers at the end of their year.



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Illinois Puppy/Trainer Contestant Qualifications

Each contestant in the *Illinois Puppy/Trainer* contests:

1. must be at least twenty-one years old;
2. must identify as a puppy or Trainer/Handler;
3. may be of any gender or sexual orientation;
4. must be a resident of the state of Illinois;
5. must not hold a current leather title;
6. must agree to appear onstage wearing appropriate gear and participate in all judging categories while conforming to all State and local regulations pertaining to nudity and obscenity laws. For the purpose of this contest, genital area must be covered at all times while in public and a one inch (1") strip of material must cover the anus at all times while in public, and on female pups nipples must also be covered while in public unless in areas where nudity is permitted.
7. must own all gear worn onstage during the contest.
8. must agree to represent their title, if they win, throughout their title year and refrain from competing in any other leather title contest, except Great Lakes Puppy/Trainer or International Puppy Contest, until the conclusion of their title year;
9. must agree to return to the Illinois Leather Contest event next year, if they win, to step aside from their title;
10. must sign the photographic release; and
11. read and agree to the terms of the statement of "What is Expected of the Winners."

PRINTED NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



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Illinois Puppy/Trainer - What Is Expected of the Winners

- The foremost duty of the Winners is to promote the goals of the Illinois Puppy/Trainer titles, the Illinois Leather Alliance and its local sponsors in a positive light throughout the year.
- One of the foremost expectations that we have of our Winners is that during their title year, they will conduct themselves as positive role models. Flagrant violation of this expectation may result in forfeiture of their title.
- The Winners may not compete in any other “leather” or “fantasy” contests during their Illinois title year, except for the regional Great Lakes Puppy/Trainer or International Puppy Contest title. We strongly encourage our Puppy/Trainer titleholders to consider competing regionally or Internationally, but it is not a requirement.
- The Winners are expected to march in the Chicago Pride Parade (end of June) with the Chicago Leather Pride float - usually organized by Touché.
- The Winners are expected to participate in at least two puppy-related events in the state of Illinois - some suggestions are: volunteering at International Mr. Leather and being a part of the puppy mosh pit, volunteering for a local Puppy or leather club’s run, fundraiser or bar night, organizing or presenting on pup/trainer topics at a kink/BDSM/leather educational event.
- The Winners are expected to participate in at least one fundraising event to benefit the Illinois Leather titleholders’ travel fund.
- In addition to participating in an Illinois Leather titleholders’ travel fundraising events, the Winners are encouraged to help with fundraising for other worthy causes.
- The Winners are encouraged to attend as many other state, regional or major leather/kink/fetish events and contests as they may see fit.
- If funds are available for travel expenses, Winners will need to submit receipts for expenses to be reimbursed. There is no guarantee that funds will be available.

PRINTED NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____



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Illinois Puppy/Trainer - Photographic Release

I, the undersigned, hereby grant to Illinois Leather Alliance (“ILA”) and its licensees, agents, successors and assigns, the exclusive right and permission to own, print, reprint, broadcast, reproduce, and publish any and all photographs, negatives, video and audio recordings, and other electronic media and mechanical images of me, which are taken during any ILA related contest, rehearsal, photographic modeling session, reception or other related event. All photographs and images of me during such events shall be the property of ILA, who shall have the exclusive right to use the photographs and images for any purpose whatsoever in any media or context.

I agree to participate, if asked to do so, in a photographic modeling session arranged by Illinois Leather Alliance during the Illinois Leather contest weekend at a location within the United States. I understand that the photographs may be used exclusively by ILA in its advertisements, website and promotional activities, and for no other purpose unless I grant written permission. I understand that nudity is not required but is optional. I shall receive no compensation for modeling other than the prizes that are awarded to me, if any, as a contest winner.

I hereby release, discharge and agree to hold harmless ILA, its officers and agents, photographers, licensees, agents, successors and assigns, including all publishers, distributors and webmasters who may publish, distribute, broadcast, or otherwise use photographs and images of me, from any liability or claim arising from the publication, distribution, broadcast, or other use of any photographs and images of me, including 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 photographs and images of me, their publication, distribution or broadcast.

I certify that I am twenty one years of age or older, and have read this Release before signing it. I have attached a photocopy of my driver’s license or passport, which shall be used for identification purposes only and shall not be published.

PRINTED NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____



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Illinois Puppy/Trainer - Contestant Registration Form

1. Read entire Contestant Qualifications Statement, sign the form.
2. Read "What Is Expected of Winners", sign the form.
3. Complete and sign the Photographic Release.
4. Complete and sign this Registration Form.
5. Attach a photocopy of your driver's license or passport showing your age.
6. Return all signed forms (or scans of signed forms) to contest@illinoisleatheralliance.com.
7. Remember to submit your bio (max. 100 words) and HEAD SHOT picture for the program (max. 3" x 3", 300 dpi, jpg or tif).
8. For the March 17th/18th 2017 competition, **applications are due by March 3rd, 2017.**

Do you identify as (choose one): **Puppy / Trainer (Handler)**

Legal Name: _____

Scene Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email(s): _____

Club or group affiliations: _____

Special Medical or Other Needs: _____

Age: _____ Birth date: _____

Have you been arrested, indicted or convicted of a crime? If so, please share the nature of the conviction:

Sponsor (not required): _____



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Time involved in Pup/Trainer community: _____

BDSM/Kink events attended in the past year: _____

Other titles held and dates: _____

Community Activities and Involvement:

Briefly describe some of your favorite aspects/kinks regarding pup/trainer play:

Briefly describe yourself in your role as a pup/trainer:

Why have you decided to run for the Illinois Puppy/Trainer title? (Attach additional pages if needed)

If you win the Illinois Puppy/Trainer title, what would be your goal(s) for your title year? (Attach additional pages if needed.)



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Any additional information you would like the judges to know? (Attach additional pages if needed.)

I, the undersigned, agree to comply with all the rules and regulations set by Illinois Leather Alliance, my local sponsors, and the management of the facilities where the events are held.

I certify that all information I have provided on this form is accurate.

I certify that I am 21 years of age or older and meet all of the qualifications specified in the attached CONTESTANT QUALIFICATIONS statement.

I agree to comply with all of the requirements described in the attached statement of WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE WINNERS.

PRINTED NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____