

Trophy Helpful Hints

The basic rule of trophies is that the purchase of the items should be a zero line item on the show or club budget. In other words, collect donations to cover trophy expenses. If your club has large donors/sponsors, you may have the flexibility for more expensive trophies. If not, your club might want to try to find the best deals you can. This is a task newer members can do with the direction of an experienced member, which allows them to contribute to the club and show. It just takes someone who is creative and fiscally responsible.

Trophy sponsorship/donations can be obtained person-to-person. However, frequently clubs are now promoting and collecting sponsorship on social media, usually with great and quick success.

Below are ideas or different approaches to trophy themes.

One of the easiest and cost-effective ways to create a trophy theme is when the show is scheduled near a holiday. The trophies can have the same holiday theme but consider **buying them the year before when they are on sale**. In other words, if your show is in December, get Christmas/New Year's items the year before when they are on sale after the holidays. Other themes could be based on Easter or Halloween, or built upon more general terms, like spring or fall, which could evolve into a gardening or pumpkin themes.

Some of the most desirable trophies are handmade items, such as pottery, glass, etc. that have **very good likenesses** of cockers on them.

Another approach is "things we use," such as brushes, blow driers, bowls, buckets, toys, gift certificates to the most popular dog show vendors, even electric cords and bungees.

A popular trophy theme is based on cash prizes or gift cards. Everyone loves money!

Trophies Needed for a Cocker Specialty Show

Best of Bred
Best Opposite Sex to Best of Bred
Best Bred by Exhibitor
Best Owner Handler
Best Junior
Best Veteran (optional)

One each of the following, for each variety (Black, ASCOB, Parti)

Best of Variety (3 total)
3 Best Opposite Sex to Best of Variety (3 total)
Best of Winners (optional – 3 total)
Winners Dog (3 total)
Winners Bitch (3 total)