

Louisville Dog to Compete at National AKC Agility Invitational

November 16, 2007 (Louisville, Ky.) Running, hurdling and jumping through hoops. Ten-year-old Kennedy hailing from Louisville, Ky. will compete on such a course at the prestigious American Kennel Club Agility Invitational on December 1 and 2, 2007. One of the top-ranked agility dogs in the nation, the purebred Canaan Dog was adopted from and trained at the Kentucky Humane Society (KHS).

Kennedy began showing talent for this popular canine sport in his youth, loving to spin, dance and follow his owner, Lisa Domeck, around the house. When he was five years old, Domeck registered Kennedy for an agility class through the KHS Behavior Training program, where he learned to navigate challenging obstacle courses with jumps, tunnels, hoops and more. After two years of classes and training at KHS, Domeck decided to enter "Team Kennedy" in their first agility trial. The rest is history.

"The confidence you build in your dog [through agility], you also build in yourself," said Domeck, who also acts as a volunteer agility instructor for KHS and helps build the course equipment. "KHS has one of the best agility facilities in the area, and we're proud to represent KHS and Louisville at the competition."

Nationally ranked the #5 Canaan Dog in agility, Kennedy will travel with Domeck to the two-day agility competition hosted in Long Beach, Calif. Only the top five dogs from each AKC registered breed have been invited to participate. At the invitational, Kennedy and 379 other canine competitors will vie for the top title. Each dog and his trainer will run a timed agility course, which will include tunnels, weave poles, jumps and seesaws.

The KHS Behavior Training program, established in 2000, helps strengthen the bond between pets and owners through education and positive reinforcement. A variety of classes are offered for all ages and ability levels with locations all over town. For more information on KHS and behavior training, visit www.kyhumane.org or call (502) 366-3355.

The AKC Agility Invitational will air February 10, 2008, at 8 p.m. on Animal Planet.