

National Lassie Information Handbook

The **National Lassie Information Handbook** has been prepared as a guide for answering questions regarding the National Shorthorn Lassie Queen Contest, the Shorthorn Lassie Foundation, National Lassie of the Year nominations, and other materials. The formal application for the National Lassie Queen Contest is available from the ASA website or the National Shorthorn Lassie Queen Chairman. Information about the Shorthorn breed is available from the American Shorthorn Association, 8288 Hascall St., Omaha, Nebraska 68124.
Website: <http://www.shorthorn.org>

Revised October , 2006
National Shorthorn Lassie Board

The board of directors of the National Shorthorn Lassies recommends that State Shorthorn Lassies and Lassie Queens read the *Shorthorn Country*, the official magazine of the American Shorthorn Association and the National Shorthorn Lassies. If you do not currently subscribe to the *Shorthorn Country*, information may be obtained from the American Shorthorn Association, 8288 Hascall Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124.

National Shorthorn Lassie Queen Contest Rules

Procedure:

To be a National Lassie Queen contestant, you must be a paid member of the National Shorthorn Lassies prior to application. Please read National Shorthorn Lassie Application carefully.

- Each state shall be entitled to present one girl applicant for the National Shorthorn Lassie Queen.
- Each state shall be responsible for the registration fee of \$175.
- Each state or association or parents shall be responsible for the travel expenses and motel expenses incurred by the candidate for this contest.
- Each state shall be responsible for the quality of the candidate.
- As of January 1, 1999 the National Shorthorn Lassie Queen Contest will be held annually at the National Junior Shorthorn Show and Youth Conference.
- The Queen will be crowned on Saturday, prior to the selection of the Grand Champion Female.
- States and or parents will be responsible for the contestant during the National Junior Shorthorn Youth Conference and Show. The contestants are expected to be responsible young adults and adhere to the Queen schedule without fail. Failure to show for required activities may disqualify the contestant.
- The contestant will be required to attend the National Junior Shorthorn Youth Conference and Show for the duration of the conference and show (generally Tuesday, 8 a.m. through Saturday at the conclusion of the show).
- The contestant must follow the guidelines presented in the application form by the prescribed deadlines.
- The contestant will be allowed to participate in any and all events that occur in conjunction with the National Junior Shorthorn Youth Conference and Show. Every attempt will be made to coordinate Queen Contestant activities and Youth Conference activities. If a choice has to be made, the contestants will be required to abide by the Queen Contestant Activity Schedule.
- The contestant shall be required to follow all instructions prior to the contest and during the contest to the letter or face disqualification.
- Nomination applications must be sent to the National Queen Chairman by April 1st.
- Contest schedules will be mailed to the contestants approximately one month prior to the National Contest.

Eligibility:

- Any unmarried girl, age 16-21 (by January 1 of the current year) may be nominated by their State Shorthorn Association, State Lassie Association, or by a group of Shorthorn breeders within a state without benefit of an Association. To retain the title of National Lassie Queen, the winner must remain single and of high moral ethics during her reign of one year.
- Contestants with a manifested interest in Shorthorn projects and a level of participation in Shorthorn organizations at the time of the application may apply.
- Contestants are required to be members of the National Lassie Association at the time of application. Your dues must be paid prior to application.

- The complete Lassie Queen Costume should be worn at all Shorthorn activities when a girl is fulfilling her reign as queen. The board of directors of the National Shorthorn Lassies requests that a Queen not pass out ribbons or stand for photos, etc. unless in full costume.
- While attending a Shorthorn function during the queen's reign, or traveling to or from the event, the queen may not consume alcohol or use tobacco whether in costume or not.
- It is the Queen's parent's responsibility to provide a chaperone for the Queen when traveling to and from Shorthorn events. This is requested in the best interest of the National Shorthorn Lassie Queen Program promoting a healthful image of today's youth and in the best interest of the candidate.

General Information:

The National Shorthorn Lassie Queen may reign at all National events, National meetings and National shows. All state queens are invited to attend as many National / PACE events as possible. State queen's need to coordinate with the National Queen to reach as many shows as possible under the current guidelines. State queens may wear their crown when attending events with the National Queen. However, the State Queen's crown may not be larger than the National Queen's crown.

The National Shorthorn Lassie Queen will be called upon to give her end of the year report and a detailed account of expenses at the annual meeting of the National Shorthorn Lassies, held at the National Junior Shorthorn Show and Youth Conference; and to make numerous speeches throughout the year. She will need to submit timely written reports of her travels to the **Shorthorn Country** and to the Board of Directors of the National Shorthorn Lassies.

The National Shorthorn Lassie Queen is allowed \$1,000.00 travel money for her reign. The following three shows are **required attendance**: North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, the National Western Livestock Show in Denver, Colorado and the National Junior Shorthorn Show and Youth Conference. (The exception to these three shows would occur when the National Shorthorn Show is held at a location different from Louisville or Denver. At that time, the National Show would be substituted for the National Western Livestock Show in Denver.) Any additional shows are optional (PACE shows included). Travel expenses for the above mentioned shows are appropriate to turn in towards the allocated expense money. It is highly recommended that the National Queen assist in coordinating with other state queens to attend regional PACE shows to promote the breed and provide Lassie Royalty for the show. **Any additional expenses in excess of the \$1000 are the responsibility of the National Queen and / or her parents.**

***** I The Alternate National Shorthorn Lassie Queen if selected receives \$500.00 travel money for her reign. Any additional expenses are the responsibility of her parents.**

I ***An alternate queen will be named annually in the event the National Queen cannot fulfill her duties. However, it will remain a decision of the Lassie Board whether the Alternate Queen will be funded based on the annual budget.

Information Sheets:

Nomination applications are due by April 1stth for the National contest. The application should be sent to the National Queen Chairman by this date. Information sheets will be mailed to the contestants. The information must be typed as the judges will review these documents. Any questions pertaining to the contest should be directed to the National Queen Chairman or a member of the National Lassie Board of Directors.

Contestants will need two, 5 inch x 7 inch glossy picture (black and white or color) in full costume. The picture must accompany the nomination form and will not be returned to the contestant. Respective queen contestant names should be clearly printed on the back of the photo.

All information necessary for a candidate to apply is found in this handbook. All information may be requested on disk (in Microsoft Word format) if desired.

Contest schedules will be mailed about one month before the contest to each queen.

The National Lassie Queen Costume

The National Shorthorn Lassie Queen and National Alternate Shorthorn Lassie Queen shall have an official costume.

The costume will be checked out to the National Queen by the National Queen Chairman. At the end of her reign, all components of the costume must be accounted for. The costume should be kept in the same condition as was received. The costumes should be dry cleaned as needed and prior to the National Contest. Any parts that must be replaced should be done so prior to the national competition. Parts for the costume will not be available at the National competition. Costume parts may be obtained from the national seamstress.

Contestants should have an official costume for the National contest:

- 1 stole and badge
- 1 kilt (skirt) with attached purse and metal pin
- 1 black velveteen jacket
- Black boots (plain to calf), personal property of each contestant
- 2 white tailored blouses, personal property of each contestant
- Black hose, personal property of each contestant
- State crown
- State banner

The kilt will be worn slightly above the knee. When altering a costume, please do not cut off excess material. Discretion should be used in makeup and accessories.

The Contest:

Travel and accommodations to the National Contest are the responsibility of the contestant and her parents. The contestants may make reservations at the headquarters of the Junior National Show at the contestant's or sponsoring state's expense. Information may be obtained from the **Shorthorn Country** or will be provided in your application. An agenda will be provided to you for required appearances.

Each contestant will bring a scrapbook consisting of personal information, family, school, church, community activities, Shorthorn activities, and Shorthorn Shows. The scrapbook should tell a story about your involvement in the Shorthorn and Beef Industry. Be sure to include any information about your reign as your State Queen. These scrapbooks will be on display for the duration of the show. They may be entered into the Arts & Etc. Contest held during the Conference. **This is not an option.** The National Lassie Board members reserve the right to disqualify any girl for inappropriate behavior.

Queen selection: The National Shorthorn Lassie Queen and Alternate National Shorthorn Lassie Queen will be selected by a variety of judges consisting of representatives from the American Shorthorn Association, the National Shorthorn Lassies, Shorthorn breeders, and farm related industries.

The judges will use the guidelines as set forth in the application. The interview judges will tally all the votes from sealed envelopes and select the queen and alternate queen. The judges' decision is final.

Miss Congeniality is a highly respected honor and is voted on by the queen contestants by secret ballot.

Guideline set forth for evaluation of all contestants:

1. Each candidate will submit the appropriate application forms. These forms will be mailed to three judges who will rank the contestants 1, 2, 3, etc. based on the application score sheet. They will return their results to the Queen Chairman in a sealed envelop.
2. Each candidate will participate in the Youth Conference Speech Contest. The judges will be given separate ballots to rank the Queen Contestants. These ballots will be placed in a sealed envelop and given to the Queen Chairman. It would be possible to win the Youth Conference Speech Contest in addition to being ranked as a Queen Contestant.
3. Each candidate will be interviewed by the National Junior Shorthorn Youth Conference state delegates at a regular meeting. The Delegates will rank the contestants. An independent committee will be asked to tabulate the results. The resulted will be given to the Queen Chairman in a sealed envelop.
4. Each candidate will be interviewed by a panel of judges during the week of the National Junior Shorthorn Show and Youth Conference. These judges will rank the candidates based on the Personal Interview Judging categories.

In each of the first three areas, the individual rankings will be given to the National Lassie Queen Chairman in a **sealed envelope**. The Queen Chairman will then instruct the interview judges to rank the contestants after the interviews. The Queen Chairman will then give the sealed envelopes to the interview judges and instruct them to tabulate the scores accumulated from the four areas to determine the winner. In the event of a tie, it will be the responsibility of the Interview Judges to determine the winner. The Interview Judges will place the name of the National Queen and Alternate on two prepared papers and seal the results in an envelope to be opened by the Queen Chairman at the time of the crowning. Very simply the candidate with the lowest score wins.

At no time will any member of the National Lassie Board be aware of the status of any of the candidates.

History of the Lassies

The National Shorthorn Lassies, a women's auxiliary of the American Shorthorn Association, was officially organized in 1956 at the Chicago International Livestock Show in the Harvest Room of the Stock Yards Inn.

W. Henry Dilatush, Memphis, Tennessee, was the "father" of the Lassie movement. As a member of the board of directors of the American Shorthorn Association, he presented a resolution at the 1955 annual meeting of the A.S.A. directors recommending the formation of a women's auxiliary. He suggested the name Shorthorn Lassies.

Mr. Dilatush persuaded Mrs. Henry Baum, West Lebanon, Indiana, to assume the responsibility of organization. Dilatush gave the Lassies a \$100 check to help with original organization, and through letters, he persuaded others to give financial help.

The 1956 International also marked the original appearance of Lassie Queens at Chicago. Twelve young ladies were present. Ann Bullock, Missouri, was the first National Lassie Queen that year.

Mrs. Henry Baum was the first National Shorthorn Lassie President.

The purpose of the Shorthorn Lassies is to help promote Shorthorn and Polled Shorthorn cattle.

The Lassie Queen Costume

Shorthorn Lassie Queens are repeatedly asked, "Just what is the meaning of your costume?"

Since Shorthorn beef cattle originated in the British Isles and many of our valuable beef improvements were made through cattle imported directly from Scotland, the National Scottish costume was selected.

It is interesting to note that the Lassie Queen's tartan is known as the Royal Stuart. The royal tartan, as adopted by the House of Stuart, is the official tartan for Britain's Royal Family. There are many common misconceptions about the National Scottish dress.

One should understand:

- The KILT is officially described as a type of short pleated petticoat worn in the Highlands of Scotland.
- The TARTAN is the cloth itself. Usually woolen, it is either checkered or cross-barred with narrow bands of various colors. It is also worn in the Scottish Highlands.
- The PLAID is actually a garment worn like a shawl wrapped around the body and fastened at the left shoulder. It is worn by both sexes in Scotland in place of a cloak.

