

Show Site Physical Address Needed for GPS

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Technology has changed. Fifteen years ago, around the time when I first started showing Australian Terriers, my travel companions and I used the directions printed in the Judging Program to find the show sites. Or, I should say, we used the directions to find the show site after we had used a map to get us close. The routes from the hotel to the shows in New Jersey and Pennsylvania (for example) were always loosely interpreted. I don't think we ever took the same route twice to some of these shows and got lost more than once! It probably didn't help that I used an unreliable computer program to create my map, and it would seem to always leave out one or more important streets in the directions that were created. So you can imagine my excitement the first time I was able to use a new prototype Global Positioning System (GPS) to guide us to the show sites with step by step instructions along the way. OK, so it wasn't all fun and games. The GPS wanted to take us along what it believed to be the most DIRECT route and refused to give up, no matter what. I remember it constantly barking "recalculating, take the next right at..." when we chose to take the New Jersey Turnpike, for example, after it had decided that I95 was the best route. Also, sometimes the direct route meant traveling through neighborhoods and on dirt roads, a real adventure. But at least all the roads were there (even if they were called a different name than what was on the street sign!). Now, with the availability of interactive maps in our smart phones, we are all able to choose the route BEFORE we leave for our destination (thus avoiding the side-street direct route), travel along that route with turn by turn instructions, and even change the route on the fly to avoid heavy traffic. This is a major improvement! What, however, still needs to be improved is the description of the final destination of the show sites. Most location descriptions of the show site, listed on the front of the premium and judges schedule have not changed since I have been showing. You can find them listed as on "... Campus" or at "the corner of Rt X and Rt Y". This usually necessitates trying to figure out what the "real" address is. It would be nice to have a "street" and "number" address that can be found when it is plugged into our Smartphone Maps App. I even found on one premium an address that was listed in a town that was not recognized by the Maps App. Most places now have physical addresses used by emergency services. If the host club would use a verified physical address on the premium it would make our travels that much easier.

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