

*HERNANDO COUNTY*  
*Office of Tourist Development*

**30305 Cortez Blvd. ~ Brooksville, FL. 34602**  
**352-754-4405**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**OCTOBER 2, 2007**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**OCTOBER 2, 2007 – BROOKSVILLE, FL.**

**SOUTHEAST REGION**  
**TOP-20 EVENT IN HERNANDO COUNTY**

Susan Rupe, Director of Tourism for Hernando County, is pleased to announce that one of Hernando County's outstanding annual events, the Florida Classic Clusters AKC All-Breed Dog Show, has been awarded "Top-20 Event" designation for the region by the Southeast Tourism Society.

In August, the Tourism Bureau submitted the nomination for the Florida Classic Clusters AKC All-Breed Dog Show to be considered as one of twenty quarterly-named top events in the southeastern United States. Six judges located throughout the southeast review the information and impact of the event on that area's tourism and economy. The "Top-20 Event" designation is for the first quarter of 2008, January through March events. The Dog Show will be highlighted in the STS quarterly magazine and on the STS website.

The Southeast Tourism Society is comprised of 12 member states, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The membership includes travel offices, attractions, hotels, motels, resorts, convention and visitors bureaus, airlines, bus companies, car rental agencies, newspapers and magazines, and other travel-related organizations. The STS first organized in 1983 as a small group of industry leaders in the Southeast. Dedicated to regional promotion through partnership between states, the group held the belief that this coordination would provide an unparalleled marketing alliance. Now, fifteen years later, the Southeast Tourism Society is recognized as one of the leaders in the tourism industry in uniting and promoting resources in the southeast region.

The Florida Classic Clusters is the largest American Kennel Club dog show in Florida, welcoming over 18,000 entries from all over the world to compete in individual breed shows, obedience and rally trials. The shows and judging typically draw approximately 5,000 dog show lovers and breed-fanciers a day.

In its 8<sup>th</sup> year, the 2008 Florida Classic Clusters AKC All-Breed Dog Show will expand to 10 days, running January 10 – 14 and January 16 – 20. The event takes place at Florida Classic Park, 5360 Lockhart Road, approximately one-half mile west of I-75 in Brooksville. For Hernando County tourism information, please use [www.go2hernando.com](http://www.go2hernando.com) or call 352-754-4405.

