

The following message from the ESSFTA Show Chairperson relates to the cancellation of the 2020 National:

Dear Members and Exhibitors,

The safety of our judges, stewards and exhibitors remain our top priority. With this in mind, the National Specialty Committee has made the VERY difficult decision to cancel this year's National Specialty.

The biggest problem I see is that we cannot be guaranteed that Purina will open on September 1. Our entries close September 2. If we wait until September 1 and Purina does not reopen, we have a number of ramifications to both exhibitors and the Club.

Most RV reservations with RV dealers need to be cancelled 8 weeks out or the renters will lose their \$500 deposit. If we wait until September 1, and if Purina does not open, we will be too late to cancel a lot of other things as well – Awards banquet, lunch orders, welcome party, Top 20 dinner, etc. Most, if not all, of these items come with a financial penalty if we do not cancel far enough in advance. Exhibitors will lose on entry fees. Plane reservations come into consideration as well.

I would like to encourage you to please consider purchasing merchandise. We have a limited number of items that have been ordered and have in stock and we need to sell them to at least make back what money we have extended on the same. Just think - they will be Collectors' Items!!!

I would also like to ask people who have donated trophies or ribbons, or made financial donations to the welcome bags or Juniors activities to consider having their donations moved to 2021, instead of receiving a refund.

People who have paid for Awards dinner tickets, Breeders' Showcase, CGC/ CGCA, Catalog Ads, Grooming Reservations, RV Reservations, Reserved Catalogs, Sweeps Spectacular Entries, Top 20 Tickets, Vendor Booths, etc., will receive a refund.

If you are due a refund, please be very patient. You will receive your refund. It may take 3-4 weeks, but you will receive it.

Looking forward to a terrific 2021 in Frankenmuth, Michigan!!! This is going to be an awesome National. I have heard nothing but great things about the venue! We are now shifting gears and focusing on making 2021 National even better than ever.

Again, we are sorry we have to do this.

Stay safe.

Sue Ellen Healy

National Specialty Chair