

# Rules Applying to Dog Shows

**Amended to June 8, 2021**

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NOTE: This rulebook contains the following inserts:

Effective March 29, 2022

\*Tan Insert

\*Blue Insert

\*Green Insert

\*Pink Insert

\*Yellow Insert

Effective July 6, 2022

\*Lilac Insert



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®



## **Revisions to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows***

**Effective March 29, 2022**

**This insert is issued as a supplement to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* amended to June 8, 2021 and approved by the AKC Delegates December 17, 2021.**

Replace the existing Chapter 3, Section 2 with the following:

**SECTION 2.** No class shall be provided for any dog under six months of age except at sanction events when approved by The American Kennel Club.

For all classes, the age of a dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of a show. For example, a dog whelped on January 1st is six months of age on July 1st of the same year, 12 months of age on January 1st and 18 months of age on July 1st of the following year.

In a single show with multiple days of judging, the first day of a show is considered to be the first day on which there is regular conformation judging in accordance with Section 3 of this chapter. (Sweepstakes and Futurities are not considered regular conformation classes).

## **Revisions to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows***

**Effective March 29, 2022**

**This insert is issued as a supplement to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* amended to June 8, 2021 and approved by the AKC Delegates December 17, 2021.**

Replace the existing Chapter 3, Section 4 with the following:

**SECTION 4.** The Puppy Class shall be for dogs that are six months of age and over, but under twelve months, that are not champions. Clubs may further divide the puppy class into two age groups consisting of six months of age and under nine months, and nine months of age and under twelve months.

**Revisions to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows***

**Effective March 29, 2022**

**This insert is issued as a supplement to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* amended to June 8, 2021 and approved by the AKC Delegates December 17, 2021.**

Replace the existing Chapter 3, Section 5 with the following:

**SECTION 5.** The Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class shall be for dogs that are twelve months of age and over, but under eighteen months, that are not champions. Clubs may further divide the Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class into two age groups consisting of twelve months of age but under fifteen months, and fifteen months of age but under eighteen months.

## **Revisions to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows***

**Effective March 29, 2022**

**This insert is issued as a supplement to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* amended to June 8, 2021 and approved by the AKC Delegates December 17, 2021.**

Replace the existing Chapter 3, Section 8 with the following:

**SECTION 8.** The Bred-by-Exhibitor Class shall be for dogs that are:

- Six months of age or older as of the first day of the show;
- Not Champions on the date of closing of entries for the show;
- Individually registered with The American Kennel Club as of the date of the show;
- Owned or co-owned by any of the breeders of record as of the date of the show.

Clubs may further divide the Bred-by-Exhibitor class into two age groups consisting of Puppy, for dogs that are six months of age but under twelve months, and Adult, for dogs that are twelve months of age and older.

The person handling the dog in this class must be a breeder of record and an owner of record of this dog.

In any subsequent classes for which a dog from the Bred-by-Exhibitor class or divisions of it becomes eligible, there are no restrictions as to who may handle.

**Pink Insert**

**Issued December 20, 2021**

**RREGS3 (7/21)**

## **Revisions to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows***

**Effective March 29, 2022**

**This insert is issued as a supplement to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* amended to June 8, 2021 and approved by the AKC Delegates December 17, 2021.**

Replace the existing Chapter 3, Section 11 with the following:

**SECTION 11.** The Winners Class shall be divided by sex and each division shall be open only to undefeated dogs of the same sex which have won first prizes in the following classes and all divisions of: Puppy, Twelve-to-Eighteen Month, Novice, Amateur-Owner-Handler, Bred-by-Exhibitor, American bred or Open Classes. There shall be no entry fee for competition in the Winners Class.

After the Winners prize has been awarded in one of the sex divisions, the second prize winning dog, if undefeated except by the dog awarded Winners, shall compete with the other eligible dogs for Reserve Winners. No eligible dog may be withheld from competition.

Winners Class shall be allowed only at shows where American-bred and Open Classes shall be offered. All other regular classes are at the option of the Club. A member club holding a show with restricted entries may include Winners Classes, provided the necessary regular classes are included in the classification.

**Yellow Insert  
Issued December 20, 2021  
RREGS3 (7/21)**

## Revisions to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*

Effective July 6, 2022

**This insert is issued as a supplement to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* amended to June 8, 2021 and approved by the AKC Delegates June 14, 2022.**

Replace the existing Chapter 11, Section 6 with the following:

**SECTION 6.** No entry may be changed or canceled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received in writing by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in the premium list to receive entries, prior to the closing date and hour for entries, except that prior to the judging:

- a correction may be made in the sex of a dog,
- a dog may be transferred within the divisions of the Puppy Class, the Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class, the Bred-by-Exhibitor Class, or the Veterans Class,
- a dog may be transferred between the Puppy and Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Classes or appropriate divisions thereof.

A dog determined to be ineligible, by its owner/agent, for the class in which it has been entered may be transferred to an eligible Open Class at a show prior to the judging of any regular conformation class within the sex of that breed or variety, and that dogs which according to their owners' records have completed the requirements for a championship after the closing of entries for a show but whose championships are unconfirmed, may be transferred from one of the regular classes to the Best of Breed or Variety competition, provided this transfer is made by the Superintendent or Show Secretary at least one half-hour prior to the scheduled start of any regular conformation judging at the show; at a single show with multiple days of judging, the transfer must be made at least one half-hour prior to the start of judging on the first day of the show (as defined in Chapter 3 Section 4)

No dog may otherwise be transferred to another class. Owners are responsible for errors in the entry forms, regardless of who may make such errors. However, superintendents and show secretaries that validate entries with AKC records may correct the dog information to match the AKC registration data for the dog as specifically authorized by the American Kennel Club.

**Lilac Insert**

**Issued June 15, 2022**

**RREGS3 (7/21)**



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## FOREWORD

The American Kennel Club was formed principally for the protection and advancement of pure-bred dogs.

The State of New York by Special Act of its legislature incorporated The American Kennel Club and granted it a charter in Section 2 of which the objects of the corporation are described to be “to adopt and enforce uniform rules regulating and governing dog shows, field trials and companion events, to regulate the conduct of persons interested in exhibiting, running, breeding, registering, purchasing and selling dogs, to detect, prevent, and punish frauds in connection therewith, to protect the interests of its members, to maintain and publish an official stud book and an official kennel gazette, and generally to do everything to advance the study, breeding, exhibiting, running and maintenance of the purity of thoroughbred dogs.”

Section 2 of this charter further states that “for these purposes it,” The American Kennel Club, “shall have power to adopt a constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations, and enforce the same by fines and penalties, which it shall have the right to collect and enforce by suit, or by suspension or expulsion from membership, or by a suspension or denial of any or all of the privileges of said corporation.”

Competition in conformation, performance and companion events can best demonstrate the progress that has been made in breeding for type, quality, and/or for practical use, stamina and obedience. The American Kennel Club has therefore adopted bylaws, rules and regulations by which to govern and administrate these events; the clubs that wish to hold them; and the individuals who exhibit, compete or take part in them. This book contains such bylaws, rules and regulations as affect the above.

# CHAPTER 1

## DOG SHOWS DEFINED

**SECTION 1.** A member show is a show at which championship points may be awarded, given by a club or association which is a member of The American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 2.** A licensed show is a show at which championship points may be awarded, given by a club or association which is not a member of The American Kennel Club but which has been specially licensed by The American Kennel Club to give the specific show designated in the license.

**SECTION 3.** A member or licensed all-breed club may apply to The American Kennel Club for approval to hold a show at which championship points may be awarded with entries restricted to dogs that are champions on the records of The American Kennel Club and dogs that have been credited with one or more championship points, provided the club submitting such an application has held at least one show annually for at least 15 years immediately prior to the year in which application for a show so restricted is made, and further provided that there shall not have been less than 1,200 dogs entered in its show (or in one of its shows if the club holds more than one show a year) in the year preceding the year in which application is made for its first show with entries so restricted.

When an application for this type of restricted entry show has been approved by The American Kennel Club, the only dogs eligible for entry shall be those dogs that have been recorded as champions and dogs that have been credited with one or more championship points as a result of competition at shows held not less than 60 days prior to the first day of the show at which entries will be so restricted.

However, a club making application to hold a show restricted to entries of dogs as specified above, may further restrict entries by excluding all puppies or all puppies six months and under nine months and/or by excluding dogs that have not been credited with at least one major championship point rating, provided the extent of these further restrictions is specified on the application.

Any club whose application has been approved to hold a show with restricted entries as described in this section shall indicate the extent of the restrictions in its premium list.

**SECTION 4.** A member or licensed show with a limited entry, at which championship points may be

awarded may be given by a club or association in the event said club or association considers it necessary to LIMIT the NUMBER OF DOGS or TOTAL ENTRY at its show due to the limitations of space. The total number of dogs or entries to be accepted together with the reason therefore, must be indicated on the cover or title page of the PREMIUM LIST. A specified closing date, in accordance with Chapter 6, Section 9, must be indicated in the premium list together with a statement that entries will close on said date or when the limit has been reached, if prior thereto. No entries can be accepted, canceled or substituted after the entry is closed.

**SECTION 5.** A Group show is one restricted to the breeds and varieties of any one Group as listed in Chapter 3, at which championship points may be awarded. All references to all-breed shows and all-breed clubs shall also be applicable to Group shows and Group clubs, respectively.

**SECTION 6.** A specialty show is a show given by a club or association formed for the improvement of any one breed of pure-bred dogs, at which championship points may be awarded to said breed.

**SECTION 7.** A sanctioned match is an informal meeting at which pure-bred dogs may compete but not for championship points, held by a club or association whether or not a member of The American Kennel Club by obtaining the sanction of The American Kennel Club.

# **CHAPTER 2**

## **MAKING APPLICATION TO HOLD A DOG SHOW**

**SECTION 1.** Each member club or association is entitled to hold one show and one field trial a year without payment of a fee to The American Kennel Club but must pay a fee of fifteen (\$15.00) dollars for each other show and/or field trial which it may hold during the same calendar year.

**SECTION 2.** Each club or association which has held a show or shows in any one year shall have first right to claim the corresponding dates for its show or shows to be held in the next succeeding year.

**SECTION 3.** Each club or association which shall hold a show in its territory at least once in every two consecutive calendar years shall have the sole show privilege in the city, town or district of its assigned territory. A club may be approved to hold a show in another club's territory if the written consent is obtained from the club assigned to that territory.

If the club in whose territory the show is to be held does not respond to the written request or unreasonably withholds such written consent, the other club may appeal to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club after one month from the time consent was requested. The parties shall present their contentions, in writing, to a committee appointed by said Board, or appointed by the President of The American Kennel Club if between Board meetings, or in the President's absence, appointed by the Executive Secretary. Said committee may, in its discretion, issue an approval to the other club to hold such show within the assigned club's territory.

**SECTION 4.** A member club or association must apply to The American Kennel Club on a regular official form, which will be supplied on request, over the signature of one of its officers, for permission to hold a show, stating in the application the day or days upon which, and the exact location where it desires to hold such show. This official form must be sent in time to reach The American Kennel Club at least EIGHTEEN weeks before the closing date for entries of the show. This application will be referred to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club which will consider the same and notify the member club or association of its approval or disapproval of the dates and place selected.

**SECTION 5.** The use of a club's name for show purposes cannot be transferred.

**SECTION 6.** A non-member club or association must apply to The American Kennel Club on a regular official form, which will be supplied on request, over the signature of one of its officers, for permission to hold a show, stating in the application the day or days upon which, and the exact location where it desires to hold such show. This official form must be sent in time to reach The American Kennel Club at least EIGHTEEN weeks before the closing date for entries of the show. The American Kennel Club is to be supplied with such information with regard to Constitution, Bylaws, names of the officers and members, and the financial responsibility of the applying non-member club or association as The American Kennel Club may request. A non-member club shall pay a license fee for the privilege of holding such show under American Kennel Club® rules, the amount of which fee shall be fixed and determined by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The application will be referred to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club, which will consider the same and notify the nonmember club or association of its approval or disapproval of the dates and place selected. If the Board of Directors shall disapprove the application, the license fee will be returned to said non-member club or association.

**SECTION 7.** A member specialty club may hold a show confined to the breed which it sponsors and such show shall carry a championship rating according to the schedule of points of the breed for which the show is given.

**SECTION 8.** A non-member specialty club may be licensed to hold a show, if the consent in writing that it may be given first shall be obtained from the member specialty club formed for the improvement of the breed sought to be shown which first was admitted to be a member of The American Kennel Club, which member club is commonly known as the Parent Club.

If a Parent Club unreasonably shall withhold its consent in writing to the holding of such show, the nonmember specialty club may appeal to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club at any time after one month from the time when said consent was requested. A committee of said Board appointed by said Board or between sittings of said Board appointed by the President of The American Kennel Club, or, in his absence, by the Executive Vice-President of The American Kennel Club shall hear the parties who may present their respective contentions, either orally or in writing, and in its discretion may issue a license to the non-member specialty club to hold such show.

**SECTION 9.** Where a specialty club wishes to consider as its Specialty Show the breed classes at an all-breed show, written application must be made to The American Kennel Club and a fee of fifteen (\$15.00) dollars sent with application. Consent of the parent member specialty club must be secured by the non-member specialty club and forwarded to The American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 10.** A specialty club that wishes to hold a futurity or sweepstake, either in conjunction with a show or as a separate event, must apply to The American Kennel Club for permission to hold the event.

**SECTION 11.** The Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club may, in its discretion grant permission to clubs to hold sanctioned matches, which sanctioned matches shall be governed by such rules and regulations as from time to time shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 12.** American Kennel Club sanction must be obtained by any club that holds American Kennel Club events, for any type of match for which it solicits or accepts entries from non-members.

**SECTION 13.** The Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club will not approve applications for shows where dates conflict, unless it be shown that the granting of such applications will not work to the detriment of either show.

**SECTION 14.** All clubs holding shows under American Kennel Club rules must have available at each event, a copy of the latest edition of *The Complete Dog Book* or a current set of the applicable breed standards, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, *Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline*, *the Dealing with Misconduct* booklet, and *Show /Trial Manual*. The *Obedience Regulations and Guidelines for Obedience Judges*, and/or *Regulations, Judging Guidelines and Guidelines for Juniors*, must be available when applicable.

**SECTION 15.** Any club holding a show for charity if requested must submit to The American Kennel Club within ninety days of date of show, a complete financial statement and receipt from the organization for which the show was held.

**SECTION 16.** The duration of a dog show will not exceed two days, unless permission be granted by The American Kennel Club for a longer period.



# CHAPTER 3

## DOG SHOW

### CLASSIFICATIONS

**SECTION 1.** The following breeds and/or varieties of breeds, divided by groups, shall be all the breeds and/or varieties of breeds for which regular classes of The American Kennel Club may be provided at any show held under American Kennel Club rules. The Board of Directors may either add to, transfer from one group to another, or delete from said list of breeds and/or varieties of breeds, whenever in its opinion registrations of such breed and/or variety of breed in the Stud Book justify such action.

#### GROUP 1—SPORTING DOGS

BARBETS  
BRITTANYS  
LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLO  
NEDERLANDSE KOOIKERHONDJE  
POINTERS  
POINTERS (GERMAN SHORTHAIRED)  
POINTERS (GERMAN WIREHAISED)  
RETRIEVERS (CHESAPEAKE BAY)  
RETRIEVERS (CURLY-COATED)  
RETRIEVERS (FLAT-COATED)  
RETRIEVERS (GOLDEN)  
RETRIEVERS (LABRADOR)  
RETRIEVERS (NOVA SCOTIA DUCK TOLLING)  
SETTERS (ENGLISH)  
SETTERS (GORDON)  
SETTERS (IRISH)  
SETTERS (IRISH RED & WHITE)  
SPANIELS (AMERICAN WATER)  
SPANIELS (BOYKIN)  
SPANIELS (CLUMBER)  
SPANIELS (COCKER)  
    Three varieties:  
        Solid Color Black, Including Black and Tan  
        Any Solid Color Other Than Black  
        Parti-color  
SPANIELS (ENGLISH COCKER)  
SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER)  
SPANIELS (FIELD)  
SPANIELS (IRISH WATER)  
SPANIELS (SUSSEX)  
SPANIELS (WELSH SPRINGER)  
SPINONE ITALIANO  
VIZSLAS  
WEIMARANERS  
WIREHAISED POINTING GRIFFONS  
WIREHAISED VIZSLAS

## GROUP 2—HOUNDS

AFGHAN HOUNDS  
AMERICAN ENGLISH COONHOUNDS  
AMERICAN FOXHOUNDS  
AZAWAKH  
BASENJIS  
BASSET HOUNDS  
BEAGLES  
    Two varieties:  
        Not exceeding 13 inches in height  
        Over 13 inches but not exceeding  
        15 inches in height  
BLACK AND TAN COONHOUNDS  
BLOODHOUNDS  
BLUETICK COONHOUND  
BORZOIS  
CIRNECO DELL'ETNA  
DACHSHUNDS  
    Three varieties:  
        Longhaired  
        Smooth  
        Wirehaired  
ENGLISH FOXHOUNDS  
GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉENS  
GREYHOUND  
HARRIERS  
IBIZAN HOUNDS  
IRISH WOLFHOUNDS  
NORWEGIAN ELKHOUNDS  
OTTERHOUNDS  
PETITS BASSETS GRIFFONS VENDÉENS  
PHARAOH HOUNDS  
PLOTT HOUNDS  
PORTUGUESE PODENGO PEQUENO  
REDBONE COONHOUND  
RHODESIAN RIDGEBACKS  
SALUKIS  
SCOTTISH DEERHOUNDS  
SLOUGHIS  
TREEING WALKER COONHOUND  
WHIPPETS

## GROUP 3—WORKING DOGS

AKITAS  
ALASKAN MALAMUTES  
ANATOLIAN SHEPHERDS  
BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS  
BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER  
BOERBOELS  
BOXERS  
BULLMASTIFFS  
CANE CORSO

CHINOOK  
DOBERMAN PINSCHERS  
DOGO ARGENTINO  
DOGUE de BORDEAUX  
GERMAN PINSCHERS  
GIANT SCHNAUZERS  
GREAT DANES  
GREAT PYRENEES  
GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOGS  
KOMONDOROK  
KUVASZOK  
LEONBERGER  
MASTIFFS  
NEAPOLITAN MASTIFFS  
NEWFOUNDLANDS  
PORTUGUESE WATER DOGS  
ROTTWEILERS  
ST. BERNARDS  
SAMOYEDS  
SIBERIAN HUSKIES  
STANDARD SCHNAUZERS  
TIBETAN MASTIFFS

#### **GROUP 4—TERRIERS**

AIREDALE TERRIERS  
AMERICAN HAIRLESS TERRIERS  
AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIERS  
AUSTRALIAN TERRIERS  
BEDLINGTON TERRIERS  
BORDER TERRIERS  
BULL TERRIERS  
    Two varieties:  
        Colored  
        White  
CAIRN TERRIERS  
CESKY TERRIER  
DANDIE DINMONT TERRIERS  
FOX TERRIERS (SMOOTH)  
FOX TERRIERS (WIRE)  
GLEN OF IMAAL TERRIER  
IRISH TERRIERS  
KERRY BLUE TERRIERS  
LAKELAND TERRIERS  
MANCHESTER TERRIERS  
    Two varieties:  
        Standard, over 12 pounds and not  
        exceeding 22 pounds  
        Toy (in Toy Group)  
MINIATURE BULL TERRIERS  
MINIATURE SCHNAUZERS  
NORFOLK TERRIERS  
NORWICH TERRIERS  
PARSON RUSSELL TERRIERS  
RAT TERRIERS

RUSSELL TERRIERS  
SCOTTISH TERRIERS  
SEALYHAM TERRIERS  
SKYE TERRIERS  
SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIERS  
STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIERS  
WELSH TERRIERS  
WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIERS

**GROUP 5—TOYS**

AFFENPINSCHERS  
BIEWER TERRIERS  
BRUSSELS GRIFFONS  
CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIELS  
CHIHUAHUAS

Two varieties:

Long Coat  
Smooth Coat

CHINESE CRESTEDS  
ENGLISH TOY SPANIELS

Two varieties:

Blenheim and Prince Charles  
King Charles and Ruby

HAVANESE  
ITALIAN GREYHOUNDS  
JAPANESE CHIN  
MALTESE  
MANCHESTER TERRIERS

Two varieties:

Standard (in Terrier Group)  
Toy, not exceeding 12 pounds

MINIATURE PINSCHERS  
PAPILLONS  
PEKINGESES  
POMERANIANS  
POODLES

Three varieties:

Miniature (in Non-Sporting Group)  
Standard (in Non-Sporting Group)  
Toy, not exceeding 10 inches

PUGS  
RUSSIAN TOY (effective 12/29/2021)  
SHIH TZUS  
SILKY TERRIERS  
TOY FOX TERRIERS  
YORKSHIRE TERRIERS

**GROUP 6—NON-SPORTING DOGS**

AMERICAN ESKIMO DOGS  
BICHONS FRISES  
BOSTON TERRIERS  
BULLDOGS  
CHINESE SHAR-PEI  
CHOW CHOWS  
COTON de TULEAR

DALMATIANS  
FINNISH SPITZ  
FRENCH BULLDOGS  
KEESHONDEN  
LHASA APSOS  
LÖWCHEN  
NORWEGIAN LUNDEHUND  
POODLES

Three varieties:

Miniature, over 10 inches and not  
exceeding 15 inches  
Standard, over 15 inches  
Toy (in Toy Group)

SCHIPPERKES  
SHIBA INU  
TIBETAN SPANIELS  
TIBETAN TERRIERS  
XOLOITZCUINTLI

### **GROUP 7—HERDING DOGS**

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOGS  
AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERDS  
BEARDED COLLIES  
BEAUCERON  
BELGIAN LAEKENOIS  
BELGIAN MALINOIS  
BELGIAN SHEEPDOGS  
BELGIAN TERVUREN  
BERGAMASCOS  
BERGER PICARD  
BORDER COLLIES  
BOUVIERS DES FLANDRES  
BRIARDS  
CANAAN DOGS  
CARDIGAN WELSH CORGIS  
COLLIES  
Two varieties:  
Rough  
Smooth  
ENTLEBUCHER MOUNTAIN DOG  
FINNISH LAPPHUND  
GERMAN SHEPHERD DOGS  
ICELANDIC SHEEPDOG  
MINIATURE AMERICAN SHEPHERD  
MUDI (effective 12/29/2021)  
NORWEGIAN BUHUND  
OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOGS  
PEMBROKE WELSH CORGIS  
POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG  
PULIK  
PUMI  
PYRENEAN SHEPHERD  
SHETLAND SHEEPDOGS  
SPANISH WATER DOGS  
SWEDISH VALLHUND

**SECTION 2.** No class shall be provided for any dog under six months of age except at sanctioned events when approved by The American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 3.** The regular classes of The American Kennel Club shall be as follows:

- Puppy
- Twelve-to-Eighteen Month
- Novice
- Amateur-Owner-Handler
- Bred-by-Exhibitor
- American-bred
- Open
- Winners

These classes shall be divided by sex.

**SECTION 4.** The Puppy Class shall be for dogs that are six months of age and over, but under twelve months, that are not champions. Clubs may further divide the puppy class into two age groups consisting of six months of age and under nine months, and nine months of age but under twelve months. The age of a dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of a show. For example, a dog whelped on January 1st is eligible to compete in a puppy class at a show the first day of which is July 1st of the same year and may continue to compete in puppy classes at shows up to and including a show the first day of which is the 31st day of December of the same year, but is not eligible to compete in a puppy class at a show the first day of which is January 1st of the following year.

In a single show with multiple days of judging, the first day of a show is considered to be the first day on which there is regular conformation judging in accordance with Section 3 of this chapter. (Sweepstakes and Futurities are not considered regular conformation classes.)

**SECTION 5.** The Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class shall be for dogs that are twelve months of age and over, but under eighteen months, that are not champions. Clubs may further divide the Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class into two age groups consisting of twelve months of age and under fifteen months, and fifteen months of age but under eighteen months. The age of a dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of a show. For example, a dog whelped on January 1st is eligible to compete in the class at a show the first day of which is January 1st of the following year and may continue to compete in this class at shows up to and including a show the first day of which is the 30th day of June of that year, but is not eligible to compete in this class at a show the first day of which is July 1st of that year.

In a single show with multiple days of judging, the first day of a show is considered to be the first day on which there is regular conformation judging in accordance with Section 3 of this chapter. (Sweepstakes and Futurities are not considered regular conformation classes.)

**SECTION 6.** The Novice Class shall be for dogs six months of age and over, which have not, prior to the date of closing of entries, won three first prizes in the Novice Class, a first prize in Amateur-Owner-Handler, Bred-by-Exhibitor, American-bred, or Open Classes, nor one or more points toward their championships.

**SECTION 7.** The Amateur-Owner-Handler class shall be for dogs that are at least six months of age that are not champions. Dogs must be handled in the class by the registered owner of the dog. This class is restricted to exhibitors who have not, at any point in time, been a professional dog handler, AKC approved conformation judge, or employed as an assistant to a professional handler. Additionally, members of the immediate family or household of a current professional handler are ineligible for this class (as defined in Chapter 11, Section 13).

Professional handlers are defined as any person who belongs or has belonged to a professional handlers' organization, distributed rate cards, or otherwise advertised or represented themselves as handling dogs for pay.

**SECTION 8.** The Bred-by-Exhibitor Class shall be for dogs that are:

- Six months of age or older as of the first day of the show;
- Not Champions on the date of closing of entries for the show;
- Individually registered with The American Kennel Club as of the date of the show;
- Owned or co-owned by any of the breeders of record as of the date of the show.

The person handling the dog in this class must be a breeder of record and an owner of record of this dog.

In any subsequent classes for which a dog from the Bred-by-Exhibitor class becomes eligible, there are no restrictions as to who may handle.

**SECTION 9.** The American-bred Class shall be for all dogs (except champions) six months of age and over, whelped in the United States of America, by reason of a mating which took place in the United States of America.

**SECTION 10.** The Open Class shall be for any dog six months of age or over.

**SECTION 11.** The Winners Class shall be divided by sex and each division shall be open only to undefeated dogs of the same sex which have won first prizes in either the Puppy, Twelve-to-Fifteen Month, Fifteen-to-Eighteen Month, Twelve-to-Eighteen Month, Novice, Amateur-Owner-Handler, Bred-by-Exhibitor, American-bred or Open Classes. There shall be no entry fee for competition in the Winners Class.

After the Winners prize has been awarded in one of the sex divisions, the second prize winning dog, if undefeated except by the dog awarded Winners, shall compete with the other eligible dogs for Reserve Winners. No eligible dog may be withheld from competition.

Winners Class shall be allowed only at shows where American-bred and Open Classes shall be given. A member club holding a show with restricted entries may include Winners Classes, provided the necessary regular classes are included in the classification.

**SECTION 12.** Event committees may provide such other classes of recognized breeds or recognized varieties of breeds as they may choose, provided they do not conflict with the conditions of the above mentioned classes and are judged before Best of Breed competition. Such additional classes shall be divided by sex.

No class may be given in which more than one breed or recognized variety of breed may be entered, except as provided in these rules and regulations.

**SECTION 13.** A Club that provides Winners Classes shall also provide Competition for Best of Breed or for Best of Variety in those breeds for which varieties are provided in this chapter. The awards in this competition shall be Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed.

The following categories of dogs may be entered in this competition:

Dogs that are Champions of Record.

Dogs which according to their owners' records have completed the requirements for a championship but whose championships are unconfirmed. The showing of dogs whose championships are unconfirmed is limited to a period of 90 days from the date of show where a dog completed the requirements for a championship according to the owners' records.

Grand Championship points may also be awarded to Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed, Select Dog and Select Bitch.

In addition, the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch together with any undefeated dogs that have competed at the show only in additional non-regular classes shall compete for Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed.

Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, and non-regular class winners that are not conformation Champions, are not eligible for Grand Championship points.

If the Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is awarded Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed, it shall be automatically awarded Best of Winners; otherwise, the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch shall be judged together for Best of Winners following the judging



of Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed. If the Winners Dog or Winners Bitch was defeated in a non-regular class, it must compete for Best of Winners, but may not be considered for Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex. The dog awarded the Best of Winners shall be credited with the number of points calculated for Winners Dog or Winners Bitch, whichever is greater. In the event that Winners is awarded in only one sex, or only one Winners is present in the ring at the time of awards, there shall be no Best of Winners award.

After Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed and Best of Winners have been awarded, the judge shall select Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed.

Eligible for this award are:

Dogs of opposite sex to Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed that have been entered for Best of Breed competition. The dog awarded Winners of the opposite sex to the Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed.

Any undefeated dogs of the opposite sex to Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed which have competed at the show only in additional non-regular classes.

A dog that has been defeated in any regular class or non-regular class for single dog entries in its breed or variety at the show is ineligible to compete for Best of Breed or Variety.

A dog that has been defeated by a dog of its own sex in any regular or non-regular class for single dog entries in its breed or variety at the show is ineligible to compete for Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed or Variety.

After Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed has been awarded, the judge may choose Select Dog and Select Bitch.

**SECTION 14.** At specialty shows for breeds in which there are varieties as specified in Chapter 3, Section 1, and which are held apart from all-breed shows, Best of Breed shall be judged following the judging of Best of each variety and best of opposite sex to best of each variety. Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed shall also be judged. Dogs eligible for Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed competition will be found among the bests of variety or the bests of opposite sex to bests of variety, according to the sex of the dog placed Best of Breed. Grand Championship points will not be awarded beyond variety competition.

At an all-breed show (even if a specialty club shall designate classes as its specialty show), the judge of a breed in which there are show varieties shall make no placing beyond Best of Variety, Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Variety, Select Dog, and Select Bitch.

**SECTION 15.** A club or association holding a show may give seven group classes not divided by sex, such groups to be arranged in same order and to comprise the same breeds and recognized varieties of breeds as herein before set forth in Chapter 3, Section 1. All dogs designated by their respective breed judges Best of Breed at the show at which these group classes shall be given shall be eligible to compete in the group classes to which they belong according to this grouping, and all dogs designated Best of Variety in those breeds with more than one recognized variety, shall be eligible to compete in the group classes to which they belong according to this grouping. All entries for these group classes shall be made after judging of the regular classes of The American Kennel Club has been finished and no entry fee shall be charged. In the event that the owner of a dog designated Best of Breed or Best of Variety shall not exhibit the dog in the group class to which it is eligible, no other dog of the same breed or variety of breed shall be allowed to compete.

**SECTION 16.** A Club giving group classes must also give Best in Show, the winner to be entitled "Best in Show." No entry fee shall be charged and all the group winners must compete. The club or association giving group classes must also give Reserve Best in Show, the winner to be chosen by the Best in Show judge from among those group winners in the ring, the winner to be entitled "Reserve Best in Show." No entry fee shall be charged but the remaining group winners must compete.

**SECTION 17.** A club or association holding a show, if it gives brace classes in the several breeds and recognized varieties of breeds, may also give seven brace group classes, not divided by sex; such groups to be arranged in the same order and to comprise the same breeds and recognized varieties of breeds as herein before set forth in Chapter 3, Section 1. All braces of dogs designated by their respective breed judges as Best of Breed or Best of Variety as the case may be at shows at which these brace group classes shall be given, shall be eligible to compete in the brace group classes to which they belong according to this grouping. All entries for these brace group classes shall be made after the judging of the regular classes of The American Kennel Club has been finished and no entry fee shall be charged. In the event that the owner of a brace of dogs designated Best of Breed or Best of Variety shall not exhibit the brace of dogs in the group class to which it is eligible, no other brace of dogs of the same breed or variety of breed shall be allowed to compete.

A brace is defined as two dogs of the same recognized breed or variety that are similar in appearance, performing

in unison, and presented by a maximum of two handlers. Both dogs competing in brace competition must have at least one common owner.

**SECTION 18.** If a club or association holding a show shall give these seven group classes, it must also give a “Best Brace in Show” in which the seven braces of dogs winning the first prizes in the seven group classes must compete, but for which no entry fee shall be charged. The winner shall be entitled “The Best Brace in Show.”

**SECTION 19.** A club or association holding a show, if it gives team classes in the several breeds and recognized varieties of breeds, may also give seven team group classes not divided by sex, such groups to be arranged in the same order and to comprise the same breeds and recognized varieties of breeds as herein before set forth in Chapter 3, Section 1. All teams of dogs designated by their respective breed judges as Best of Breed or Best of Variety as the case may be at shows at which these team group classes shall be given, shall be eligible to compete in the team group classes to which they belong according to this grouping. All entries for these team group classes shall be made after the judging of the regular classes of The American Kennel Club has been finished and no entry fee shall be charged. In the event that the owner of a team of dogs designated Best of Breed or Best of Variety shall not exhibit the team of dogs in the group class to which it is eligible, no other team of dogs of the same breed or variety of breed shall be allowed to compete.

A team is defined as four dogs of the same recognized breed or variety that are similar in appearance, performing in unison, and presented by a maximum of four handlers. All dogs competing in team competition must have at least one common owner.

**SECTION 20.** If a club or association holding a show shall give these seven group classes, it must also give a “Best Team in Show” in which the seven teams of dogs winning the first prizes in the seven group classes must compete, but for which no entry fee shall be charged. The winner shall be entitled “The Best Team in Show.”

**SECTION 21.** A club or association holding a show may offer Junior Showmanship competition if it so chooses.

The classes and procedure shall conform to The American Kennel Club regulations governing Junior Showmanship as adopted by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 22.** The Miscellaneous Class shall be for purebred dogs of such breeds as may be designated by the AKC® Board of Directors. No dog shall be eligible to exhibit in the Miscellaneous Class unless the owner

has been granted an AKC registration number or is individually registered with an acceptable foreign or domestic registration organization in accordance with the AKC FSS Program. Dogs not individually registered with the American Kennel Club may be shown in accordance with Chapter 11, Section 1 of this book.

The regular Miscellaneous Classes for each breed shall be Puppy, Bred-by Exhibitor and Open, with the same eligibility requirements in Sections 4, 8 and 10 of the Chapter respectively. These classes shall be divided by sex. All class winners within a breed shall compete for Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed.

Each of the Miscellaneous Class Best of Breed winners shall be eligible to compete for Best in Miscellaneous Class. All entries for Best in Miscellaneous Class shall be made after judging of the individual Miscellaneous breed classes and no entry fee shall be charged. In the event that the owner of a dog designated Best of Breed shall not exhibit the dog in the Best of Miscellaneous Class Competition, no other dog of the same breed shall be allowed to compete. There shall be no further competition for dogs entered in the Miscellaneous Class.

*Winners of the Best of Breed in each of the individual Miscellaneous breeds will be awarded points towards the Certificate of Merit (CM) title based on the total number of dogs competing. Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed in each of the individual Miscellaneous breeds will be awarded points towards the Certificate of Merit (CM) title based on the total number of dogs of its sex in competition. The winner of the Best in Miscellaneous Class will be awarded points towards a Certificate of Merit based upon the total number of dogs that competed in all of the Miscellaneous Class breeds.*

*Upon completion of the CM title a dog may continue to compete in the Miscellaneous Class so long as they are of an eligible breed.*

*The CM suffix title is an introductory title to AKC conformation events and will be superseded by the CH title when earned. The Certificate of Merit requires 15 points awarded in accordance with the following point structure:*

<i>Dogs Competing</i>	<i>Points</i>
2	1
4	2
8	3
12	4
16	5

*The CM title initials will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the quantity of times the dog has met the requirements of the CM title as defined above, e.g., 30 CM points = CM2.*

The ribbon shall conform to Chapter 5, Section 2 of these rules and shall be the following colors:

- First Prize - Rose
- Second Prize - Brown
- Third Prize - Light Green
- Fourth Prize - Gray
- Best of Breed - Orange
- Best of Opposite - Lavender
- Best in Miscellaneous - Pink and Green

*At present, the Miscellaneous Class is open to the following breeds:*

Bracco Italiano  
Danish-Swedish Farndog  
Dutch Shepherd  
Lancashire Heeler  
Mudi (move to Herding Group as of 12/29/2021)  
Norrbottenspets  
Peruvian Inca Orchid  
Portuguese Podengo  
Russian Toy (move to Toy Group as of 12/29/2021)  
Teddy Roosevelt Terrier

**SECTION 23.** A registered dog that is six months of age or over and of a breed for which a classification is offered in the premium list may be entered in a show for Exhibition Only at the regular entry fee provided the dog has been awarded first prize in one of the regular classes at a licensed or member show held prior to the closing of entries of the show in which the Exhibition Only entry is made, and provided further that the premium list has not specified that entries for Exhibition Only will not be accepted. The name and date of the show at which the dog was awarded the first prize must be stated on the entry form.

A dog entered for Exhibition Only shall not be shown in any class or competition at that show.

# **CHAPTER 4**

## **APPROVAL OF JUDGES' PANELS AND PREMIUM LISTS**

**SECTION 1.** After a club or association has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a show, it must send for approval by and in time to reach The American Kennel Club at least EIGHTEEN weeks before the closing date for entries of the show, a list of the names and addresses of the judges whom it has selected to judge its show, giving in each instance the particular breed or breeds of dogs and group class if any, which it is desired that each judge shall pass upon, and the name and address of the judge selected to pass upon Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show. No judge's name shall be submitted to pass upon any assignment unless the judge has agreed in writing to accept that assignment.

The show-giving club must not advertise or publish the name or names of any of the judges which it has selected until the complete list has been approved by The American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 2.** Premium lists and entry forms must be published and available to prospective exhibitors at least FIVE WEEKS prior to the closing date for entries of the show. Two copies of the premium list must be sent to The American Kennel Club at time of distribution.

**SECTION 3.** Premium lists and entry forms, in order to ensure uniformity, must conform to The American Kennel Club official size of from 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches to 6 x 9 inches and the entry form must conform in every respect with the official form.

# CHAPTER 5

## RIBBONS, PRIZES AND TROPHIES

**SECTION 1.** All clubs or associations holding dog shows under the rules of The American Kennel Club, except sanctioned matches, shall use the following colors for their prize ribbons or rosettes, in the regular classes of The American Kennel Club and the regular group classes:

First prize—Blue.

Second prize—Red.

Third prize—Yellow.

Fourth prize—White.

Winners—Purple.

Reserve Winners—Purple and White.

Best of Winners—Blue and White.

Special prize—Dark Green.

Best of Breed and Best of Variety of Breed—  
Purple and Gold.

Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed and Best of  
Opposite Sex to Best of Variety of Breed—  
Red and White.

Select—Light Blue and White

Best in Show – Red, white, and blue is the traditional  
color combination but any color or combination of  
colors is permitted.

Reserve Best in Show – any unassigned color or  
combination of colors.

and shall use the following colors for their prize ribbons  
in all additional classes:

First prize—Rose.

Second prize—Brown.

Third prize—Light Green.

Fourth prize—Gray.

**SECTION 2.** Each ribbon or rosette, except those used at sanctioned matches, shall be at least 2 inches wide, and approximately 8 inches long; and bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the name of the prize, and the name of the show-giving club with numerals of year, date of show, and name of city or town where show is given. However, ribbons or rosettes used for regular and non-regular class placements are not required to bear the date of the show and location of the show on the face, at the option of the club.

**SECTION 3.** If ribbons are offered at sanctioned matches, sweepstakes or futurity, they shall be of the following colors, but may be of any design or size:

First prize—Rose  
Second prize—Brown  
Third prize—Light Green  
Fourth prize—Gray  
Special prize—Green with pink edges  
Best of Breed—Orange  
Best of Variety—Orange & White  
Best in Match, Sweepstakes or Futurity —  
Pink and Green  
Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Match, Sweepstakes  
or Futurity—Lavender  
Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Variety in  
Sweepstakes or Futurity—Lavender & White

**SECTION 4.** If money prizes are offered in a premium list of a show, a fixed amount for each prize must be stated. All other prizes offered in a premium list of a show must be accurately described or their monetary value must be stated. Alcoholic beverages will not be acceptable as prizes.

**SECTION 5.** A show-giving club shall not accept the donation of a prize for a competition not provided for at its show.

**SECTION 6.** All prizes offered in a premium list of a show must be offered to be awarded in a regular procedure of judging and in accordance with Sections 7 through 12 of this Chapter to the owner and/or breeder of the dog, but any prizes or trophies not listed in the premium list may be awarded with the permission of the Event Committee and the reason for the exception included in the show report.

**SECTION 7.** Prizes may be offered in accordance with Sections 7 through 12 of this Chapter at a show for the following placing:

First, Second, Third, Fourth in the Puppy, Twelve-to-Eighteen Month, Novice, Amateur-Owner-Handler, Bred-by-Exhibitor, American-bred or Open classes, or in any division of these designated in the Classification.

First, Second, Third, Fourth in any additional class which the show-giving club may offer in accord with the provisions of Chapter 3, Section 12, and in the Miscellaneous class (at all-breed shows only).

Winners, Reserve Winners, Best of Winners, Select, Best of Breed or Variety, Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed or Variety.

At all-breed shows only: First, Second, Third, Fourth in a Group Class and for Best in Show, Reserve Best in Show, Best Brace in Show and Best Team in Show.



**SECTION 8.** At any specialty show, prizes may also be offered in accordance with Sections 7 through 12 of this Chapter for: Best in Puppy Classes, Best in Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Classes, Best in Novice Classes, Best in Amateur-Owner-Handler, Best in Bred-by-Exhibitor Classes, Best in American-bred Classes, Best in Open Classes, Best in any additional classes which the show-giving club may offer in accord with the provisions of Chapter 3, Section 12, in which the sexes are divided.

(In breeds in which there are varieties, a prize may be offered for Best in any of the above classes within the variety.)

In shows held by breed Specialty clubs, awards for Best in Puppy, Twelve-to-Eighteen Month, Novice, Amateur-Owner-Handler, Bred-by-Exhibitor, American-bred, and Open Classes, Best in any additional classes which the show-giving club may offer in accord with the provisions of Chapter 3, Section 12, in which the sexes are divided, may also be awarded on a three-time win basis provided permanent possession goes to the owner and/or breeder winning the award three times, not necessarily with the same dog, provided such prizes are offered by the show-giving specialty club itself or through it for competition at its shows.

**SECTION 9.** At all-breed shows, prizes may be offered on a three-time win basis for the following awards, provided permanent possession goes to the owner and/or breeder winning the award three times, not necessarily with the same dog, and further provided such prizes are offered by the show-giving club itself or through it for competition at its shows only: Best in Show, Reserve Best in Show, and Best in any one group class.

**SECTION 10.** At specialty shows, prizes may be offered on a three-time win basis for the following awards, provided permanent possession goes to the owner and/or breeder winning the award three times, not necessarily with the same dog, and further provided such prizes are offered by the specialty club itself, or through it, for competition at its specialty shows only:

Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed (where a specialty club considers the classes at an all-breed show as its specialty show, there can be no award for Best of Breed in those breeds in which there are varieties), Best of Variety of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Variety, Best of Winners, Winners Dog and Winners Bitch, and First in any regular or non-regular class.

**SECTION 11.** Perpetual prizes and such three-time win prizes as have been in competition prior to

September 9, 1952, and which would not be allowed under the terms of the sections in this Chapter will continue to be permitted to be offered under the terms of their original provisions until won outright or otherwise retired. Should premium list copy submitted to the AKC for approval contain such non-allowable prizes, a certification by the Club Secretary stating that the prizes have been in competition prior to September 9, 1952, must be included.

**SECTION 12.** Regular Specials are prizes offered by show-giving member or non-member specialty clubs for outright and automatic award at any show where the terms have been published in full in the premium list and catalog of the show. No prize may be offered for an award higher than Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed. It shall be the obligation of specialty clubs offering such regular specials to notify superintendents, show secretaries and show-giving clubs that said prizes may be offered provided the terms are set forth in full in the premium list and catalog of the show. The specialty club will be solely responsible for the distribution of such prizes within 60 days after the completion of a show when it has been determined that all the terms of the awards have been met. No show-giving club is obligated to accept an offering of regular specials.

# CHAPTER 6

## PREMIUM LISTS AND CLOSING OF ENTRIES

**SECTION 1.** The awards at a dog show, or the scores made at an obedience trial, will be officially recorded by The American Kennel Club only if the certification of the Secretary of The American Kennel Club is published on the first, second or third page of the premium list stating that permission has been granted by The American Kennel Club for the dog show or obedience trial to be held under American Kennel Club rules and regulations.

If the show shall be given by a club or association not a member of The American Kennel Club the words "Licensed Show" must be plainly printed on the title page of the premium list.

**SECTION 2.** The premium list shall contain the following:

- a list of the officers of the show-giving club and the club address
- a list of the members of the Event Committee (there must be at least five) together with the designation of "Chair" and the Chair's address (and "Obedience Trial Chair" if an obedience trial is being held by a club in connection with its dog show)
- the name(s) of the veterinarian(s) or name of local Veterinary Clinic and whether the veterinarian(s) will be in attendance throughout the show hours or "on call,"
- the names of the judges with the city and state of their residence and their assignments
- the name and address of the superintendent or show secretary who has been approved by The American Kennel Club
- the entry fee(s)
- whether the show is benched or unbenched
- the exact location of the show
- the date or dates on which it is to be held
- the times of opening and closing of the show

Notification must be printed in the Premium List only if the club is not offering the three-point major to the Reserve Winners at the National Specialty.

**SECTION 2A.** A show-giving club may, at its option, use a condensed form of premium list which shall be identical with the content and format of a regular premium list, and comply with all the pertinent rules except that the listing of breed prizes and trophies offered is omitted as well as the listing of all prizes and trophies offered for an obedience trial if held by the show-giving club with its show. Such prizes and trophies as are offered for Best in Show, Reserve Best in Show, and group

placements are to be included in a condensed premium list as well as any schedule of class cash prizes that a club proposes to offer.

The conditions of all prizes and trophies offered must conform to the provisions of Chapter 5 of these rules and Chapter 1, Sections 19, 20, 21 and 30 of the Obedience Regulations. A club using a condensed form of premium list is obligated to prepare lists of the breed and obedience prizes and trophies for distribution to prospective entrants and exhibitors on request. Such lists can be printed, multilithed, multigraphed, mimeographed or typed (and photostated) on paper of any suitable size with both sides of the paper being used if the club wishes. In each condensed form of premium list there must be the notation: "A list of breed and obedience prizes and trophies offered can be obtained by writing to (name and address of club secretary and/or superintendent and address)."

A club which chooses to use a condensed form of premium list may also prepare for printing a regular premium list for other than mail distribution. The regular premium list can then be used to fill requests for a listing of breed and obedience prizes and trophies offered and no separate list of breed and obedience prizes and trophies need be prepared.

An obedience trial-giving club may, at its option, use a condensed form of premium list which shall be identical with the content and format of a regular premium list, and comply with all the pertinent rules and regulations except that the listing of prizes and trophies offered is omitted. When a condensed form of premium list is used, the same procedure is to be followed with respect to the prize and trophy list as is required of show-giving clubs and as is set forth in this section.

**SECTION 3.** Except at specialty club shows, the general classification of recognized breeds divided into seven groups and in the same order as set forth in Chapter 2, of the *Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline*, with the varieties of distinct breeds as described in Chapter 3, Section 1 of this book added thereto, in their proper groups and alphabetical position, shall be published in the premium list.

**SECTION 4.** If an all-breed club or association permits a specialty club to consider the classes at its show as its specialty show, the winner of Best of Breed of Variety may compete in the group classes of the all-breed show.

**SECTION 5.** If more than one judge has been approved to judge a specialty show held apart from an all-breed show, the premium list must designate the particular assignments of each judge as approved by The

American Kennel Club, except when the specialty club has requested and received approval for the drawing of assignments at the show, in which case a statement to this effect shall appear in the premium list in place of designated assignments.

**SECTION 6.** A show-giving club shall assume the responsibility of collecting all recording and event service fees for The American Kennel Club, which fact shall be stated in the premium list.

**SECTION 7.** Event committees may make such regulations or additional rules for the government of their shows as shall be considered necessary, provided such regulations or additional rules do not conflict with any rule of The American Kennel Club, and provided they do not discriminate between breeds or between dogs entered in show classes and those entered in obedience classes in the required hour of arrival and the hour of removal. If permission is granted to a club other than the show-giving club for the holding of an obedience trial in connection with a dog show, the obedience club so authorized must comply with the show-giving club's rules adopted hereunder.

Such regulations or additional rules shall be printed in the premium list and violations thereof shall be considered the same as violations of the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 8.** No prizes may be accepted or offered by a show-giving club unless they are published in the premium list of the show or in the separate list of prizes if the condensed form of premium list is used; nor may any be withdrawn or the conditions thereof changed after they have been published in the premium list or in the separate list of prizes.

If the donor of a prize that has been published in the premium list of a show or in the separate list of prizes shall fail to furnish the prize, the show-giving club shall promptly supply a prize of the same description and of no less value.

The show-giving club shall be responsible for all errors made in publishing offers of prizes and shall, in the event of error, award prizes of equal value; except that if an error has been made in the premium list or in the separate list of prizes in publishing the conditions of a specialty club's Regular Specials (as described in Chapter 5, Section 12) prizes shall be awarded according to the current terms of the specialty club's Regular Specials. All prizes offered in a premium list of a show must be offered to be awarded in a regular procedure of judging in accordance with Chapter 5, Section 7 through 12 to the owner and/or breeder of the dog, but any prizes or

trophies not listed in the premium list may be awarded with the permission of the Event Committee and the reason for the exception included in the show report.

**SECTION 9.** Every premium list shall specify the date and time at which entries for a show shall close. The premium list shall also specify the name and address of the Superintendent or Show Secretary who is to receive the entries. For all shows other than specialty shows, the specified closing date and time must be no later than as outlined in the following schedule: For a show which opens on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, entries accepted not later than noon on the third Wednesday prior to the show.

For a show which opens on Tuesday, entries accepted not later than noon on the third Thursday prior to the show.

For a show which opens on Wednesday, entries accepted not later than noon the third Friday prior to the show.

For a show which opens on Thursday, entries accepted not later than noon on the third Wednesday prior to the show.

Clubs in a cluster of no more than five consecutive days have the option of closing no later than noon on the third Wednesday prior to the last show in the cluster.

Whenever the closing day noted above falls on a postal holiday, entries received in any form up to 24 hours from the published closing date and time may be accepted.

# CHAPTER 7

## JUDGES

**SECTION 1.** Any reputable person who is in good standing with The American Kennel Club may apply for approval to judge any AKC recognized breed or breeds of purebred dogs, which in his or her opinion he or she is qualified by training and experience to pass upon, with the following exceptions:

Persons connected with any publication in the capacity of solicitor for kennel advertisements, persons connected with dog food, dog remedy or kennel supply companies in the capacity of solicitor or salesman, persons who buy, sell and in any way trade in or traffic in dogs as a means of livelihood in whole or in part, professional show superintendents and their employees, and persons who show dogs for others will not be approved if still engaged in such activities.

No Judge may accept an assignment nor officiate at any event where a member of his or her household is involved to the extent that there might exist an actual conflict of interest or the reasonable appearance of a conflict of interest.

*Eligibility is expanded upon in the Occupational Eligibility Addendum and in the Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges.*

**SECTION 2.** The application for approval to judge must be made on a form which will be supplied by The American Kennel Club upon request and when received by said club will be placed before the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club who shall determine in each instance whether an approval shall be issued.

**SECTION 3.** The American Kennel Club will not approve as judge for any given show the superintendent, show secretary, or show veterinarians, or club officials of said show acting in any one of these three capacities, and such persons cannot officiate or judge at such show under any circumstances.

**SECTION 4.** Only those persons whose names are on The American Kennel Club's list of eligible judges may, in the discretion of The American Kennel Club, be approved to judge at any member or licensed show, except that if it becomes necessary to replace an advertised judge after the opening of the show and no person on the eligible judges list is available to take his place, the Event Committee may select as a substitute for the advertised judge a person whose name is not on the eligible judges list provided such person is

not currently suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club, is not currently suspended as a judge and is not ineligible to judge under the provisions of Sections 1 and 3 of this Chapter.

**SECTION 5.** The American Kennel Club may in its discretion approve as a judge of any sanctioned match, futurity or sweepstake a person who is not currently suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club or whose judging privileges are not currently suspended.

**SECTION 6.** Event committees or superintendents shall, in every instance, notify appointed judges of the breeds and group classes upon which they are to pass, and such notifications shall be given before the publication of the premium lists.

**SECTION 7.** Event committees or superintendents shall not add to or subtract from the number of breeds or variety groups which a selected judge has agreed to pass upon without first notifying said judge of and obtaining his consent to the contemplated change in his assigned breeds or variety groups, and the judge when so notified may refuse to judge any breeds or variety groups added to his original assignment.

**SECTION 8.** An Event committee which shall be informed at any time prior to TEN DAYS before the opening day of its show that an advertised judge will not fulfill his or her engagement to judge shall substitute a judge in his or her place, which substitute judge must be approved by The American Kennel Club, and shall give notice of the name of the substitute judge to all those who have entered dogs in the classes allotted to be judged by the advertised judge. All those who have entered dogs to be shown under the advertised judge shall be permitted to withdraw their entries no later than one half-hour prior to the scheduled start of any regular conformation judging at the show, and the entry fees paid for entering such dogs shall be refunded.

Since an entry can be made only under a breed judge, changes in Group or Best in Show assignments do not entitle an exhibitor to a refund.

**SECTION 9.** Should an Event committee be informed at any time within ten days before the opening of its show, or after its show has opened, that an advertised judge will not fulfill his or her engagement to judge, it shall substitute a qualified judge in his or her place and shall obtain approval of the change from The American Kennel Club if time allows. No Notice need be sent to those exhibitors who have entered dogs under the advertised judge.



The Event Committee will be responsible for having a notice posted in a prominent place within the show precincts as soon after the show opens as is practical informing exhibitors of the change in judges. An exhibitor who has entered a dog under an advertised judge who is being replaced may withdraw such entry and shall have the entry fee refunded, provided notice of such withdrawal is given to the Superintendent or Show Secretary prior to the start of the judging of the breed which is to be passed upon by a substitute judge.

**SECTION 10.** In case an advertised judge shall have judged part of the classes of a breed and then finds it impossible to finish, a substitute judge shall be selected by the Event committee, and in that event the awards made by the regular judge shall stand, and his or her substitute shall judge only the remaining entries in the breed. No dogs entered under the regularly selected judge shall be withheld from competition.

**SECTION 11.** A substitute judge shall finish the judging of the breed class or group he or she is adjudicating upon if he or she has begun to judge before the advertised judge arrives at the show.

**SECTION 12.** Any club or association that holds a dog show must prepare, after the entries have closed and not before, a judging program showing the time scheduled for the judging of each breed and each variety for which entries have been accepted. If a substitute or additional judge has been approved Chapter 7, Section 8 or Chapter 7, Section 13, as appropriate, will be quoted listing the changes. The judging program shall indicate the number of dogs entered and state the time for the start of group judging, if any. The program shall be based on the judging of about 25 dogs per hour by each judge. Each judge's breed and variety assignments shall be divided into periods of about one hour, except in those cases where the entry in a breed or variety exceeds 30. The final segment of a ring schedule may be expanded but may not exceed 50 dogs unless the entry is in a single breed or variety. The total number of dogs assigned each judge will be indicated. Forty-five minutes to one hour must be allowed for rest or meals if a judge's assignment exceeds five hours. A copy of the program and identification slip for each dog entered shall be mailed, published or made available to the owner no later than one week before the date of the event. Two copies of the program shall be sent to the Show Plans Department at the same time they are published or made available to exhibitors.

Printed documents may be utilized at the exhibitor's request.

The judging program shall be published in the catalog. No judging shall occur at any show prior to the time specified in the judging program.

*In case of emergency, the contact phone number of a club official at the show, with or without that official's name, is to be listed in the Judging Program.*

**SECTION 13.** The maximum number of conformation entries assigned in the breed judging to any judge, in one day, shall never exceed 175 except that a judge of a specialty show may be assigned a maximum of 200 entries. If the specialty is held as part of an all-breed show, the increased limit will only apply if the judge is not assigned any other breed, a Group or Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.

If a show-giving club so elects, it may place a limit of its own choosing lower than any of the limits provided for in the rule notifying The American Kennel Club of its intention at the time the judging panel is submitted for approval. This limit will then govern the need for additional judges if, when the entries for the show have closed, any judge on the panel has drawn more dogs than the limit set by the club.

When the entries have closed, if the entry under any judge exceeds the above limits, the Event Committee must select some other judge or judges to whom sufficient breeds can be assigned, to bring the total assignment of every judge within and as close as possible to the limit without removing provisional breeds listed in the judge's contract without the judge's agreement. The removal of any breeds is to be discussed with the assigned judge. If a judge is assigned four or fewer breeds, the assignment shall be reduced first by reassigning to other judge sufficient classes from one breed to eliminate the overload, with any non-regular classes in that breed being the first removed. The same procedure shall then be followed for as many breeds as necessary until the overload is eliminated. This will apply whether or not the breed in question involves varieties.

Notice must be sent to the owner of each dog affected by such a change in judges at least five days before the opening of the show, and the owner has the right to withdraw his entry and have his entry fee refunded provided notification of his withdrawal is received no later than one half-hour prior to the start of any regular conformation judging at the show, by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in the premium list to receive entries.

**SECTION 14.** A judge shall not exhibit his dogs or take any dog belonging to another person into the ring at any show at which he is officiating, nor shall he pass judgment in his official capacity upon any dog which he or any member of his immediate household or immediate family (as defined in Chapter 11, Section 13) has handled in the ring more than twice during the preceding twelve months.

**SECTION 15.** A judge's decision shall be final in all cases affecting the merits of the dogs. Full discretionary power is given to the judge to withhold any, or all, prizes for want of merit. After a class has once been judged in accordance with these rules and regulations, it shall not be rejudged. A class is considered judged when the judge has marked his book which must be done before the following class is examined. If any errors have been made by the judge in marking the awards as made, he may correct the same but must initial any such corrections.

**SECTION 16.** A judge may order any person or dog from the ring, for the purpose of facilitating the judging. Judges are required to exclude from the rings in which they are judging all persons except the steward or stewards and the show attendants assigned to the ring and those actually engaged in exhibiting.

When a judge finds it necessary to excuse a person or dog from the ring under the provisions of this section, that judge shall mark the judge's book "excused" and briefly describe the reason for this action.

When a judge finds it necessary to order an exhibitor from the ring for cause, that judge shall mark the judge's book "ordered from the ring" and briefly describe the reason for this action. This exhibitor's dog is to be considered "excused."

**SECTION 17.** A judge shall be supplied with a book called the judge's book in which he shall mark all awards and all absent dogs. The original judges' books at shows shall be in the custody of the judge, steward, superintendent, or superintendent's assistant. None other shall be allowed access to them. At the conclusion of the judging, the book must be signed by the judge and any changes which may have been made therein initialed by him.

**SECTION 18.** A judge's decision, as marked in the judge's book, cannot be changed by him after filing, but an error appearing in the judge's book may be corrected by The American Kennel Club after consultation with the judge.

**SECTION 19.** Only one judge shall officiate in each Group Class and only one judge shall select the Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show. A judge will not be approved to judge the breed, the Variety Group of which the breed is a part, and Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show at the same show, except in hardship cases.

**SECTION 20.** If a judge disqualifies a dog at any show, he shall make a note in the judge's book giving his reasons for such disqualification. In computing the championship points for a breed, said dog shall not be considered as having been present at the show.

# **CHAPTER 8 SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT, SHOW SECRETARY AND VETERINARIANS**

Prior to receiving permission to hold a dog show, obedience trial or tracking test, the club must submit the name, complete address, and daytime telephone number of the Superintendent or Show Secretary and Veterinarian contracted by the club to service the event.

# **CHAPTER 9 SUPERINTENDENTS AND SHOW SECRETARIES**

**SECTION 1.** The Superintendent of a dog show held under the rules of The American Kennel Club must hold a license from The American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 2.** Any qualified person may make application to The American Kennel Club for approval to act as Show Secretary of a dog show.

There is no limit on the number of Specialty Shows for which an individual may be approved Show Secretary. An individual shall be approved as Show Secretary for the show or shows of only one group or one all-breed club and any group or all-breed show held on the same day and site of the club in a calendar year. An individual must hold a license from The American Kennel Club as Superintendent in order to be approved as Superintendent for more than one group or one all-breed club and events held the same day and site with the club in a calendar year.

**SECTION 3.** Event Committees will be responsible for making complete arrangements with each one of the veterinarians selected to service the show. In the event that a recognized Veterinary Association is to furnish the veterinarians, the complete arrangements shall be made with Secretary of the Association.

**SECTION 4.** As part of their duties, the Superintendents and Show Secretaries shall have on hand at every show the various official American Kennel Club forms related to that event.

**SECTION 5.** Superintendents and Show Secretaries shall be prepared, at any show with a show veterinarian in attendance, to furnish the forms to be used by an exhibitor or handler who seeks a health examination of a dog. Upon the filing of the completed form, it shall be the superintendent's and show secretary's duty to see that the owner or agent of the dog takes his dog to the "Veterinarian Headquarters" for the examination.

**SECTION 6.** At Benched shows and at Unbenched shows if the club elects to have a veterinarian in attendance, Superintendents and Show Secretaries will be responsible for providing a suitable space which will serve as the Headquarters of the Show Veterinarians. At an indoor show the space will be marked off in some adequate way and a sign "Veterinarian Headquarters"

must be prominently displayed. At an outdoor show, the Headquarters must be arranged so that the veterinarians are afforded protection from the weather.

At unbenched shows, with a veterinarian “on call,” the Superintendent’s or Show Secretary’s Office shall serve as “Veterinarian Headquarters.”

**SECTION 7.** At benched shows and unbenched shows if the club elects to have a veterinarian in attendance, Superintendents and Show Secretaries are required, with their report of a show, to list the names of all veterinarians who served at a show and give the hours that each veterinarian was present.

**SECTION 8.** Superintendents and Show Secretaries shall have the sole authority to enforce the rules having to do with the benching of dogs.

**SECTION 9.** Superintendents and Show Secretaries shall have the sole authority to excuse a dog from being shown on the recommendation of the veterinarian under Chapter 10, Section 5 (b) and to release dogs from a show prior to the published time for the releasing of dogs, except in the event that a dog has been dismissed from a show by a veterinarian under Chapter 10, Section 5 (b).

**SECTION 10.** Event committees and superintendents of dog shows shall be held responsible for the enforcement of all rules and regulations relating to shows and must provide themselves with a copy of The American Kennel Club rules and regulations for reference.

**SECTION 11.** The Event or Obedience Trial Committee will be held accountable for the maintenance of clean and orderly conditions throughout the precincts of the show during all hours when dogs are permitted to be present.

**SECTION 12.** Any reputable person or superintending organization in good standing with The American Kennel Club may apply for a license to act as Superintendent of a dog show. This application must be made on a form which will be supplied by The American Kennel Club upon request. When the application is received, the Board of Directors shall determine whether the applicant is reasonably qualified by training and experience to act as Superintendent of a dog show and whether a license shall be issued to said applicant.

The fee for being granted a yearly license to be a Superintendent and the fee for renewal of said license each year shall be determined by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The fee for being granted

a license to superintend one show and/or one field trial only shall be determined in like manner.

No yearly license will be issued to any person or superintending organization until having superintended at least three dog shows.

No annual superintendent shall be granted approval to be a judge.

A Superintendent, an individual licensed to superintend events as an employee of the Superintendent, any other employee of the Superintendent, any individual with an ownership interest in a superintending organization, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing, shall not exhibit or act as agent or handler at any show held thirty days before or after a show which the Superintendent has been approved to service by The American Kennel Club.

For the purpose of this section, the employees of a Superintendent would include only those individuals who represent the Superintendent or superintending organization at dog shows.

Dogs owned wholly or in part by a Superintendent, an individual licensed to superintend events as an employee of the Superintendent, any other employee of the superintendent, any individual with an ownership interest in a superintending organization, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing, shall be ineligible to be entered at any show held thirty days before or after a show which the Superintendent has been approved to manage by The American Kennel Club.

Any person acting in the capacity of Superintendent (or Show Secretary where there is no Superintendent) must abide by the eligibility requirements described in Chapter 11, Section 12 of these *Rules*.



# CHAPTER 10 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SHOW VETERINARIANS

**SECTION 1.** Any veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the jurisdiction where treatment is provided and who is in good standing with the American Kennel Club may act as veterinarian of a dog show.

**SECTION 2.** Every club that holds a licensed or member show must provide one or more qualified veterinarians in attendance or contact information for one or more qualified veterinarians “on call.”

“On call” veterinarian must be available to treat any dog that becomes ill or injured at the dog show during show hours. It will be the responsibility of the owner or owner’s agent to transport the dog to the veterinarian and for any cost associated with the dog’s illness or injury. “On call” veterinarians are not required to be present at the event.

**SECTION 3.** At Benched shows at least one of these veterinarians must be in attendance during the entire show hours.

**SECTION 4.** Clubs that use “on call” veterinarians are required to:

(a) Assure that services are available during the show hours and discuss the duties of the “on call” veterinarian prior to the event judging schedule;

(b) Provide exhibitors with contact information and detailed directions to the facility in the judging schedule and at the event.

**SECTION 5.** The duties of the veterinarians shall be to:

(a) Render treatment to dogs in the cases of sickness or injury occurring at the event. The associated expense shall be the responsibility of the owner or agent.

(b) Examine dogs at the request of the Event Committee and require removal from competition and the show premises of any dog deemed to endanger the health of said dog or the health of other dogs at the event. If any expenses are incurred in the examination of the dog it shall be the responsibility of the Event giving club.

(c) Provide written reports of such decisions to the Event Committee and superintendent;

(d) Provide written advisory opinions to an Event Committee when requested.

Show veterinarians are not to be called to treat dogs with non-emergency conditions or with no apparent contagious symptoms. Show veterinarians may request payment from the dog's owner or agent for services rendered.

**SECTION 6.** Veterinarians in attendance will be provided a private area to examine and provide emergency care. Clubs will establish a plan for the Event Committee to communicate the need for the veterinarian's assistance.

**SECTION 7.** At benched shows, and unbenched shows if the club elects to have a veterinarian in attendance, veterinarians will be expected to make full use of the area provided for them as a Headquarters. Where practical, at least one veterinarian should be in attendance at the Headquarters during the entire time that the show is in progress.

**SECTION 8.** The official Veterinarian shall abide by the eligibility requirements described in Chapter 11, Section 12 of these *Rules*.

# CHAPTER 11

## DOG SHOW ENTRIES, CONDITIONS OF DOGS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY

**SECTION 1.** No dog shall be exhibited in a licensed or member dog show, unless it is either individually registered with the American Kennel Club, or individually registered with a foreign registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration. A dog with an AKC limited Registration shall be ineligible to be exhibited in a breed competition in a licensed or member dog show.

An unregistered dog with an acceptable foreign registration that is individually registered with a foreign registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration may, without special AKC approval, be exhibited in licensed or member dog shows that are held not later than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member dog show in which the dog was exhibited, but only provided that the individual foreign registration and name of the country of birth, are shown on the entry form; and provided further that the same name (which in the case of a foreign-registered dog must be the name on the foreign registrations) is used for the dog each time.

Foreign dogs not individually registered with The American Kennel Club when first exhibited in a licensed or member dog show shall not be eligible to be exhibited in any licensed or member dog show that is held more than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member dog show in which it was exhibited, unless the dog's individual AKC registration number is shown on the entry form, or unless the owner has received from The American Kennel Club an extension notice in writing authorizing further entries of the dog for a specified time with its individual foreign registration number. No such extension will be granted unless the owner can clearly demonstrate, in a letter addressed to the Show Records Department of The American Kennel Club requesting such extension, that the delay in registration is due to circumstances for which he is not responsible.

Such extension notice will be void upon registration of the dog or upon expiration of the period for which the extension has been granted if that occurs earlier, but upon application further extensions may be granted.

Additionally, any unregistered dog with an acceptable foreign registration must be eligible for the individual class in which it is entered as outlined in Chapter 3 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*.

**SECTION 2.** At every show held under the rules of The American Kennel Club, a recording fee not to exceed 50 cents may be required for every dog entered. This recording fee is to help defray expenses involved in keeping the show records, and applies to all dogs entered. If a dog is entered in more than one class at a show, the recording fee applies only to first entry. The Board of Directors shall determine, from time to time, whether a recording fee shall be required, and the amount of it.

*The American Kennel Club will collect a \$3.00 Event Service Fee for the first entry of a dog and a \$3.00 service fee for each additional entry of the same dog in the regular and non-regular recordable single entry classes, in all AKC licensed and member club events. (There is no recording fee or event service fee for sweepstakes, futurities, brace/team, multi-dog classes, or special attractions.) The current 50 cent recording will continue to be collected. The event-giving club shall assume the responsibility of collecting all Event Service Fees for the American Kennel Club. That fact shall be stated in the premium list. These event service and recording fees shall be forwarded to the American Kennel Club along with all other required event results within seven (7) days of the close of the event.*

**SECTION 3.** Every dog must be entered in the name of the person who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed. The right to exhibit a dog cannot be transferred. A registered dog which has been acquired by some person other than the owner as recorded with The American Kennel Club must be entered in the name of its new owner at any show for which entries close after the date upon which the dog was acquired, and application for transfer of ownership must be sent to The American Kennel Club by the new owner within seven days after the last day of the show. The new owner should state on the entry form that transfer application has been mailed to The American Kennel Club or will be mailed shortly. If there is any unavoidable delay in obtaining the completed application required to record the transfer, The American Kennel Club may grant a reasonable extension of time, provided the new owner notifies the Show Records Department of The American Kennel Club by mail within seven days after the show, of the reason for the delay. If an entry is made by a duly authorized agent of the owner, the name of the actual owner must be shown on the entry form. If a dog is owned by an association, the name of the association and a list of its officers must be shown on the entry form.

**SECTION 4.** To be acceptable, an entry must:

- Be submitted with required entry fee
- Be on an Official American Kennel Club entry form
- Be signed by the owner or his duly authorized agent
- Include the name and date of the show giving club
- Include all of the following information on the dog:
  - Breed
  - Variety, if any
  - Sex
  - Name of class or classes entered (Classes must be entered in accordance with Chapter 3)
  - Full/Registered Name of Dog
  - Date of Birth
  - Place of Birth
  - Name of Sire
  - Name of Dam
  - One of the following:
    - AKC registration number
    - *Or* PAL number
    - *Or* foreign registration number and country for an unregistered imported dog
    - *Or* identification number issued by AKC
  - Name of Breeder(s)
  - Name of Owner(s)/co-owner(s)
  - Name of Owner(s) agent, if any
  - Address of Owner

No entry may be accepted unless the Superintendent or Show Secretary, named in the premium list to receive entries, receives such entry:

- prior to the closing date and hour as published in the premium list
- and in the case of a limited entry, prior to the time the limit is reached.

All the requirements of the foregoing paragraph and all other specific requirements printed in the premium list must be met before an entry can be considered acceptable. Failure to meet these requirements may result in the loss of all awards earned at the event.

**SECTION 5.** No entry shall be made and no entry shall be accepted by a Superintendent or Show Secretary which specifies any condition as to its acceptance.

**SECTION 6.** No entry may be changed or canceled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received in writing by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in the premium list to receive entries, prior to the closing date and hour for entries, except that a correction may be made in the sex of a dog, or a dog may be transferred from one division of the Puppy Class to another or between the Puppy and Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class at a show prior to the judging. A

dog determined to be ineligible, by its owner/agent, for the class in which it has been entered may be transferred to an eligible Open Class at a show prior to the judging of any regular conformation class within the sex of that breed or variety, and that dogs which according to their owners' records have completed the requirements for a championship after the closing of entries for a show but whose championships are unconfirmed, may be transferred from one of the regular classes to the Best of Breed or Variety competition, provided this transfer is made by the Superintendent or Show Secretary at least one half-hour prior to the scheduled start of any regular conformation judging at the show. No dog may otherwise be transferred to another class. Owners are responsible for errors in the entry forms, regardless of who may make such errors. However, superintendents and show secretaries that validate entries with AKC records may correct the dog information to match the AKC registration data for the dog as specifically authorized by the American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 7.** No entry shall be made under a kennel name unless that name has been registered with The American Kennel Club. All entries made under a kennel name must be signed with the kennel name followed by the word "registered." An "exhibitor" or "entrant" is the individual or, if a partnership, all the members of the partnership exhibiting or entering in a dog show. In the case of such an entry by a partnership every member of the partnership shall be in good standing with The American Kennel Club before the entry will be accepted; and in case of any infraction of these rules, all the partners shall be held equally responsible.

**SECTION 8.** A dog which is blind, deaf, castrated, spayed, or which has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed, or a male which does not have two normal testicles normally located in the scrotum, may not compete at any show and will be disqualified except that a castrated male may be entered as Stud Dog in the Stud Dog Class and a spayed bitch may be entered as Brood Bitch in the Brood Bitch Class. A dog will not be considered to have been changed by artificial means because of removal of dewclaws or docking of tail if it is of a breed in which such removal or docking is a regularly approved practice which is not contrary to the standard. Neutered dogs and spayed bitches would be allowed to compete in Veterans Classes only at independent specialties and/or those all-breed shows which do not offer any competitive classes beyond Best of Breed.

When a judge finds any of these conditions in any dog he is judging, he shall disqualify the dog marking his

book "Disqualified" and stating the reason. He shall not obtain the opinion of the show veterinarian.

When a dog has been disqualified at a show as being blind, deaf, castrated, spayed or changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed, any awards taken by such dog at that show shall be canceled by The American Kennel Club and the dog may not again compete unless and until, following application by the owner to The American Kennel Club, that owner has received official notification from The American Kennel Club that the dog's show eligibility has been reinstated.

When a dog has been disqualified under the standard for its breed, or when a male has been disqualified as not having two normal testicles normally located in the scrotum on three separate occasions, by three different judges, such dog may not again be shown. When a dog has been so disqualified at a show, any awards taken by the dog at that show shall be canceled by The American Kennel Club.

When the judge of a sweepstakes or futurity finds that a dog is ineligible to compete under this section, the dog should be excused, but not disqualified. A dog may only be disqualified in a sweepstakes or futurity under the provisions of Chapter 11, Section 8-A.

A dog is considered changed in appearance by artificial means if it has been subjected to any type of procedure, substance or drugs that have the effect of obscuring, disguising or eliminating any congenital or hereditary abnormality or any undesirable characteristic, or that does anything to improve a dog's natural appearance, temperament, bite or gait.

Even procedures, substances and drugs which are absolutely necessary to the health and comfort of a dog shall disqualify that dog from competition if the former had the incidental effect of changing or even improving the dog's appearance, temperament, bite or gait.

There may be cases in which a veterinarian has prescribed some drug as being necessary for the health of a dog. In such cases, the veterinarian's advice should be followed, but the dog should be withheld from competition in dog shows until all possible effects of the drug have worn off.

*Procedures that would in and of themselves be considered a change in appearance by artificial means and make a dog ineligible for shows include, but are not limited to:*

- 1. The correction of entropion, ectropion, trichiasis or distichiasis.*
- 2. Trimming, removing or tattooing of the third eyelid (nictitating membrane)*
- 3. The insertion of an eye prosthesis*

4. *Correction of harelip, cleft palate, stenotic nares, or an elongated soft palate resection*
5. *Any procedure to change ear set or carriage other than permitted by the breed standard*
6. *Restorative dental procedures, the use of bands or braces on teeth, or any alteration of the dental arcade*
7. *The removal of excess skin folds or the removal of skin patches to alter markings*
8. *Correction of inguinal, scrotal or perineal hernias*
9. *Surgery for hip dysplasia, O.C.D., patellar luxation and femoral head restriction*
10. *Alteration of the location of the testes or the insertion of an artificial testicle*
11. *Altering the set or carriage of the tail*

**SECTION 8-A.** A dog that in the opinion of the judge menaces or threatens or exhibits any sign that it may not be safely approached by the judge or examined by the judge in the normal manner shall be excused from the ring. When the judge excuses the dog, he shall mark the dog "Excused," stating the reason in the judge's book. A dog so excused shall not be counted as having competed. A dog recorded as "Excused for threatening or menacing" by a judge on three occasions will be administratively disqualified by the American Kennel Club.

A dog that in the opinion of the judge attacks any person in the ring shall be disqualified. When the judge disqualifies the dog, he shall mark the dog "Disqualified," stating the reason in the judge's book.

When a dog has been disqualified under this Section, any awards at that show shall be canceled by The American Kennel Club, and the dog may not again compete unless and until, following application by the owner to The American Kennel Club, the owner has received official notification from The American Kennel Club that the dog's show eligibility has been reinstated.

Any dog, that in the opinion of the Event Committee attacks a person or dog at an AKC event resulting in an injury and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of The American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

**SECTION 8-B.** A dog that is lame in any class may not compete in that class. It is the judge's responsibility to determine whether a dog is lame. The judge shall not



obtain the opinion of the show veterinarian. In situations where the judge determines a dog to be lame, the judge shall excuse the dog from the ring and withhold from the dog the awards for that class or competition. The judge shall mark his book "Excused—lame." Dogs so excused will not count as having competed in the class from which it was excused. If the dog has completed previous classes at the event without being excused, it shall count for those classes and keep any awards from those classes.

**SECTION 8-C.** No dog shall be eligible to compete at any show and no dog shall receive any award at any show in the event the natural color or shade of natural color or the natural markings of the dog have been altered or changed by the use of any substance whether such substance may have been used for cleaning purposes or for any other reason. Such cleaning substances are to be removed before the dog enters the ring.

If in the judge's opinion any substance has been used to alter or change the natural color or shade of natural color or natural markings of a dog, then in such event the judge shall withhold any and all awards from such dog, and the judge shall make a note in the judge's book giving his reason for withholding such award. The handler or the owner, or both, of any dog or dogs from which any award has been withheld for violation of this section of the rules, or any judge who shall fail to perform his duties under this section, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

**SECTION 8-D.** Any dog whose ears have been cropped or cut in any way shall be ineligible to compete at any show in any state where the laws prohibit the same except subject to the provisions of such laws.

**SECTION 9.** No dog with a communicable disease shall be on the show grounds or premises. Exhibitors should follow their veterinarian's recommendations to ensure that their dogs are free of internal and external parasites, any communicable disease, and have appropriate vaccinations.

**SECTION 10.** A club may engage dogs not entered in its show as a special attraction provided the written approval of The American Kennel Club is first obtained.

**SECTION 11.** Only dogs that are eligible to be shown under The American Kennel Club rules shall be allowed within the show precincts, except that dogs engaged as a special attraction with American Kennel Club approval may also be present.

There shall be no benching, nor offering for sale or breeding, nor any displaying of unentered dogs. These dogs shall be subject to all rules relating to health and veterinarians. The owners or agents shall be responsible for the care and safety of such dogs.

If, because of space consideration or other reason, a club wishes to restrict the presence of unentered dogs from some part or all of the show precincts, such restriction shall be stated in the premium list.

**SECTION 12.** Any person acting in the capacity of Superintendent (or Show Secretary where there is no Superintendent), at a show, or any person residing in the same household with the Superintendent or Show Secretary shall not exhibit, act as agent or handler at the show, and dogs owned wholly or in part by him or by any person residing in the same household with him shall be ineligible to be entered at that show. The official veterinarian shall not exhibit, act as agent or handler at the show, and the dogs owned wholly or in part by him shall not be eligible to be entered at that show.

A Superintendent, an individual licensed to superintend events as an employee of the Superintendent, any other employee of the Superintendent, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing, shall not exhibit or act as agent or handler, at any show held thirty days before or after a show which the Superintendent has been approved to service by The American Kennel Club.

Dogs owned wholly or in part by a Superintendent, an individual licensed to superintend events as an employee of the Superintendent, any other employee of the Superintendent, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing, shall be ineligible to be entered at any show held thirty days before or after a show which the Superintendent has been approved to service by The American Kennel Club.

For the purpose of this section, the employees of a Superintendent would include only those individuals who represent the Superintendent or superintending organization at dog shows.

**SECTION 13.** No judge or any person residing in the same household with a judge shall exhibit or act as agent or handler at a show at which he/she is officiating as judge and dogs owned wholly or in part by such judge or any member of his/her household shall be ineligible to be entered at such show. Subject to the foregoing, members of a judge's immediate family as defined in this section who no longer reside in the same household may enter or handle a dog at a show if the judge is not officiating over any competition, including a group class or Best in Show, for which the dog is entered or may become eligible.

No entry shall be made at any show under a judge of any dog which said judge or any member of his/her immediate household or immediate family has been known to have owned, handled in the ring more than

twice, sold, held under lease or boarded within one year prior to the date of the show.

For the purposes of this section, the members of an immediate family are one's spouse, domestic partner, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, daughters-in-law, and sons-in-law; adopted, half, and step members are also included in immediate family.

The above will apply to judges of sweepstakes or futurities held with licensed or member shows exactly as it does to judges of regular competition at shows.

This provision prohibiting judges or those residing in the same household from exhibiting on the same day does not apply to the judge of the Four-to-Six Month Competition or to Junior Showmanship only judges. Such judges may also exhibit on the day(s) they judge.

**SECTION 14.** Any show-giving club which accepts an entry fee other than that published in its premium list, or in any way discriminates between exhibitors or entrants, shall be disciplined. No show-giving club shall offer to any one owner or handler any special inducement, such as trophies, reduced entry fees, rebates, additional prize money, or any other concession, for entering more than one dog in the show.

**SECTION 15.** An Event Committee may decline any entries or may remove any dog from its show for cause, but in each such instance shall file good and sufficient reasons for so doing with The American Kennel Club.

# CHAPTER 12

## THE CATALOG

**SECTION 1.** Every Show Committee shall provide a published catalog which shall contain:

- Exact location of the show
- Date/dates on which the show will be held
- Show hours (opening and closing)
- List of all officers and members of the Event Committee
- Names and complete addresses of all judges
- Name and address of Superintendent and/or Show Secretary
- Name of the Veterinarian or Veterinary Clinic, and whether the veterinarian will be in attendance or on call
- Names and addresses of all exhibitors
- Information on all entered dogs as described in Chapter 12, Section 4
- Information on all entered Junior Handlers
- Judging Program

**SECTION 2.** Every catalog must include the following on its cover or title page:

- Name of show-giving club(s)
- Date of show
- The statement, “This show is held under American Kennel Club rules”
- The American Kennel Club logo

**SECTION 3.** If the show shall be given by a nonmember club or association, the words “Licensed Show” must be published on the title page of the catalog.

**SECTION 4.** The catalog shall be published and available. The catalog, if printed, shall be in book form. It shall be from 5 ½ x 8 ½ inches to 8 ½ x 11 inches. It shall contain the following information for all entered dogs, arranged in this order:

- Catalog (armband) number
- Complete registered name of dog
- One of the following for each dog:
  - AKC registration number
  - *or* PAL number
  - *or* foreign registration number and country for an unregistered imported dog
  - *or* identification number issued by AKC
- Date of birth
- Name of breeder(s)
- Name of Sire

- Name of Dam
- Name of owner(s)/co-owner(s)
- Name of owner's agent (if any)

The address of the owner shall follow the owner's name, or shall be included in a separate alphabetical list of all exhibitors contained elsewhere in the catalog.

The entries shall be catalogued by Groups, Breeds, Varieties, and regular classes in the order given in Chapter 3.

Information on dogs entered in single entry non-regular classes shall be listed between the information for the regular bitch classes and the information for the Best of Breed class.

Information on dogs entered in classes where a judge's decision is based on the merits of more than one dog shall be listed after the Best of Breed class. These classes include Brace, Team, Stud Dog and Brood Bitch.

The particulars of those dogs entered for Exhibition Only shall appear following all other entries in the breed or variety.

The Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club may set additional requirements for format and content of the catalog.

**SECTION 5.** A current schedule of championship points for the appropriate division of the country for each breed shall be published in the catalog. Points are to be determined based on the location of the show site.

**SECTION 6.** All prizes/trophies offered in a show's premium list shall be published in the catalog. If the condensed form of a premium list is used, all prizes/trophies offered in a separate list shall be published in the catalog. No change shall be made in the description or conditions of these prizes or trophies.

**SECTION 7.** The American Kennel Club approved breed standard shall be published in the catalog for every independent national specialty show.

# CHAPTER 13

## BENCHING OF DOGS

**SECTION 1.** At a Benched Show, every dog that is entered and present must be at its assigned location throughout the specified hours for the benching of entered dogs at the show, except for necessary periods when it is actually being prepared for showing, or is being taken to or from these places. The specified hours shall be the hours listed in the premium list when dogs must be at their benches.

**SECTION 2.** The show-giving club may stipulate, in the premium list, reasonable additional regulations covering benching requirements for their show(s).

**SECTION 3.** Failure to comply with these rules and regulations may cause cancellation of the dog's winnings, and subject the owner, handler, and Superintendent or Show Secretary to a fine and suspension of license and privileges.

**SECTION 4.** Each show-giving club may specify whatever signage and/or decorations will be allowed at the individual benches. No prizes or ribbons shall be displayed on the bench except those won by the dog at that show.

# **CHAPTER 14 MEASURING, WEIGHING AND COLOR DETERMINATIONS WHEN FACTORS OF DISQUALIFICATION IN BREED STANDARDS OR ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF A CLASS OR DIVISION OF A CLASS CANCELLATION OF AWARDS**

**SECTION 1.** Every dog which is present in the ring for a class in which it is properly entered must continue to compete in all competition in its breed or variety for which it is entered or becomes eligible, unless it has been excused, dismissed, disqualified or found to be ineligible under the rules.

**SECTION 2.** Any club or association giving a dog show must provide arm cards and shall see that every person exhibiting a dog wears, when in the ring, an arm card containing thereon the catalog number of the dog being exhibited; but no badges, coats with kennel names thereon or ribbon prizes shall be worn or displayed, nor other visible means of identification used, by an individual when exhibiting a dog in the ring.

**SECTION 3.** In those breeds where certain heights are specified in the breed standard as disqualifications, or in any class specifying height limits, the judge has the authority to determine whether any dog measures within those limits, provided the dog has not been previously measured during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities, and other special attractions.

If, in the opinion of a competing exhibitor in the ring, the height of a dog in that ring appears to be outside the limits of the breed standard or the conditions of that class, such exhibitor may, before every dog has been individually examined and individually gaited, request that the judge measure the dog and the judge

shall comply provided the dog has not been previously measured during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities, and other special attractions.

If the judge finds that the dog's height is within the breed standard or the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book "Measured in." If the judge finds that the dog's height is outside the allowable limits of the breed standard, s/he shall disqualify the dog and mark and initial the judge's book "Measured out – disqualified."

A dog that has thus been disqualified by three different judges may not again be shown.

If the judge finds that the dog's height is not in accordance with the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book "Measured out – ineligible." A dog thus declared ineligible for its class shall be considered entered incorrectly and cannot be transferred to any other class at that show. A dog thus found ineligible by three different judges may not again be shown in that class. In subsequent shows, this dog may be entered in another class for which the dog meets the height limit or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6.

In all cases, the judge shall use a wicket that meets American Kennel Club requirements.

**SECTION 4.** In those breeds where certain weights are specified in the breed standard as disqualifications, or in any class specifying weight limits, the judge has the authority to determine whether any dog weighs within those limits, provided the dog has not been previously weighed during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities and other special attractions.

If, in the opinion of a competing exhibitor in the ring, the weight of a dog in that ring appears to be outside the limits of the breed standard or the conditions of that class, such exhibitor may, before every dog has been individually examined and individually gaited, request that the judge weigh the dog, and the judge shall comply provided the dog has not been previously weighed during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities and other special attractions.

If the judge finds that the dog's weight is within the breed standard or the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book "Weighed in." If the judge finds that the dog's weight is outside the allowable limits of the breed standard, s/he shall disqualify the dog and mark and initial the judge's book "Weighed out - disqualified."

A dog that has thus been disqualified by three different judges may not again be shown.



If the judge finds that the dog's weight is not in accordance with the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Weighed out - ineligible." A dog thus declared ineligible for its class or division shall be considered entered incorrectly and cannot be transferred to any other class at that show. A dog thus found ineligible by three different judges may not again be shown in that class. In subsequent shows, this dog may be entered in another class for which the dog meets the weight limit or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6.

In all cases, the judge shall use a scale that meets AKC requirements including a platform of sufficient size as determined by the American Kennel Club to safely accommodate all applicable breeds.

**SECTION 5.** Event Committees shall be responsible for providing suitable equipment meeting all AKC requirements for determining eligibility with respect to height and weight at every show. Event Committees may delegate this responsibility to Superintendents/ Show Secretaries. All-breed shows shall be required to have at least one complete set of wickets (two sets for shows with entries of 1,000 or more) and at least one digital scale with a platform of sufficient size to safely accommodate all weighable breeds. A certified and stamped weight is also required.

Specialty Shows and Group Shows where measurable or weighable breeds are entered shall provide the appropriate wicket(s) and/or a digital scale with a platform of sufficient size to safely accommodate all breeds that might be measured or weighed at the event. A certified and stamped weight is also required.

**SECTION 6.** In those breeds where certain color(s), pattern or markings are specified in the breed standard as disqualifications, or in any class or division of a class where certain color(s), pattern or markings are required, the judge shall determine if a dog is to be disqualified or declared to be ineligible for the class provided that such determination has not been previously made during competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities, and other special attractions.

If, in the opinion of the judge, the dog's color(s), pattern or markings require disqualification, the judge shall disqualify the dog, and mark and initial the judge's book "Disqualified – Color (or Pattern or Markings)".

If, in the opinion of the judge, the dog's color(s) pattern or markings do not meet the requirements of the class or division of a class in which the dog is competing, the judge shall declare the dog ineligible to compete in

that class or division of class, and, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Ineligible – Color (or Pattern or Markings)".

If, in the opinion of any competing exhibitor then in the ring, the color(s), pattern or markings of a dog in the ring are disqualifications under the breed standard or do not meet the requirements of the class or division of a class, such exhibitor may, before every dog in the ring has been individually examined and individually gaited, request that the judge render an opinion of the dog's color(s), pattern or markings, and the judge shall comply provided that such determination has not been previously made during competition at that show. If the judge finds that the dog's color(s), pattern or markings are disqualifications under the breed standard, the judge shall disqualify the dog and mark and initial the judge's book "Disqualified – Color (or Pattern or Markings)". A dog that has thus been disqualified by three different judges may not again be shown.

If the judge finds that the color(s), pattern or markings of the dog do not meet the requirements of the class or division specified by the breed standard, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Ineligible – Color (or Pattern or Markings)".

Any dog thus declared ineligible for its class shall be considered entered incorrectly and cannot be transferred to any other class or division at that show. In subsequent shows, this dog may be entered in another class for which the dog meets the requirements or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6.

**SECTION 6-A.** In those breeds where certain physical traits (ear carriage, coat length, etc.) are specified as a condition of a class or a division of a class, the judge has the authority to make a determination as to whether a dog meets those requirements. If the judge finds that the dog does not meet the requirements of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Excused, ineligible for class." Any dog thus declared ineligible for a class or division of a class shall be considered to have been incorrectly entered and cannot be transferred to any other class or division at that show. In subsequent shows, this dog may be entered in or transferred to another class for which the dog meets the requirements or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6.

**SECTION 7.** If an ineligible dog has been entered in any licensed or member dog show, or if the name of the owner given on the entry form is not that of the person or persons who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed, or if shown in a class for which it

has not been entered, or if its entry form is deemed invalid or unacceptable by The American Kennel Club under these rules, all resulting awards shall be canceled by The American Kennel Club. In computing the championship points, such ineligible dogs, whether or not they have received awards, shall be counted as having competed.

**SECTION 8.** At the request of the owner or handler of an exhibit, any errors in the catalog and/or judge's book at any show, which are contrary to the information appearing on the entry form of that dog for that show, shall be corrected in the judge's book by the Show Secretary or the Superintendent prior to the judging and in the marked catalog to be sent to The American Kennel Club. Said dog may compete in all classes and for all prizes for which it was properly entered on the entry form.

**SECTION 9.** If an award in any class is canceled, including non-regular classes, groups and Best in Show, the dog(s) judged next in order of merit in all placements of that class shall be moved up. The award(s) to the dog(s) moved up shall be counted the same as if it had been the original award. If there is no dog of record to move up, the award shall be void.

**SECTION 10.** If the win of a dog shall be cancelled by The American Kennel Club, the owner of the dog shall return all prizes other than ribbons to the show-giving club within ten days of receipt of the notice of the cancellation from The American Kennel Club. The show-giving club shall in each instance of failure to comply with this rule notify The American Kennel Club of such failure and The American Kennel Club, upon receipt of such notice forthwith shall suspend the exhibitor so in default from all privileges of The American Kennel Club and notify the exhibitor so in default that it has done so, and said suspension shall continue until The American Kennel Club is notified that restitution has been made.

# CHAPTER 15

## PROTESTS AGAINST DOGS

**SECTION 1.** Every exhibitor and handler shall have the right to request a veterinary examination of any dog within a show's premises which is considered to endanger the health of the other dogs in a show. This must be in writing and signed by the person making the request to the event chairman, whose duty it will be to direct the subject dog's owner or agent to take the dog to the show veterinarian if deemed appropriate. *Malicious complaints will be considered conduct prejudicial to the sport.*

**SECTION 2.** Any person who is handling a competing dog in the ring in any conformation competition may then verbally protest to the judge before every dog in the class has been individually examined and individually gaited, alleging that a dog being shown in the competition has a condition which makes it ineligible to compete under Chapter 11, Section 8, or Chapter 11, Section 8-C, of these rules or a condition requiring disqualification under the standard for the breed; except that a verbal protest alleging that the height or weight or natural color and markings of a dog requiring its disqualification under the breed standard or a determination of its ineligibility under the conditions of its class must be made under Chapter 14, Sections 3, 4, 6 or 6-A.

When such a protest is made, it shall be the judge's responsibility to examine the dog for the alleged condition. If, following the examination the judge determines that disqualification is required under Chapter 11, Section 8, or under the breed standard, he shall mark the book "disqualified" stating the reason. If the judge finds that the protest is not sustained, he shall note in the judge's book the condition protested and his findings. He shall not obtain the opinion of the show veterinarian.

If the judge determines that the dog is ineligible to compete because of violation of Chapter 11, Section 8-C, he shall withhold any award to the dog and mark the judge's book "Ineligible to compete—award withheld," stating the reason for his decision.

A dog determined by a judge to be ineligible to compete under Chapter 11, Section 8-C, unless such determination is based on the use of a substance only for cleaning purposes, may not again be shown until an official record has been made by The American Kennel Club of its true color or markings. If the color and markings of the dog as recorded are such as not to be a disqualification under the standard of its breed, the dog's show eligibility will be reinstated.

# CHAPTER 16

## CHAMPIONSHIPS

**SECTION 1.** Championship points will be recorded for Winners Dog and Winners Bitch, for each breed or variety listed in Chapter 3, Section 1, at licensed or member dog shows approved by The American Kennel Club, provided the certification of the Secretary as described in Chapter 6, Section 1, has been printed in the premium list for the show.

Championship points will be recorded according to the number of eligible dogs competing in the regular classes of each sex in each breed or variety, and according to the Schedule of Points established by the Board of Directors.

If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Breed or Variety, the dogs of both sexes that have been entered for Best of Breed or Variety competition and that have been defeated in such competition, shall be counted in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.

If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed or Variety, the dogs of its own sex that have been entered for Best of Breed or Variety competition and that have been defeated in competition for Best of Opposite Sex shall be counted in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.

The dog awarded the Best of Winners shall be credited with the number of points calculated for Winners Dog or Winners Bitch, whichever is greater. If no points are credited to the dog awarded Best of Winners, the regular class dogs of both sexes shall be counted in calculating championship points. A maximum of one championship point can be awarded when combining sexes for the Best of Winners point calculation.

Each AKC Breed Parent Specialty Club shall have one designated Parent Club National Specialty show per year. All others shall be termed a Parent Club Specialty show.

Unless the Parent Club, in its Application to the AKC to hold its National Specialty, chooses to exclude the following award: At the National Specialty the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and the bitch designated Reserve Winners Bitch will be awarded a three-point major, provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the Reserve Winner's sex totals at least twice the number required for a five point major, in the region in which the event is held.

No major for Reserve Winners shall be given based upon an award of Best of Winners. In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused or ordered from the ring by the judge, or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included.

In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused or ordered from the ring by the judge, or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included.

A 2020 National Specialty may be held in 2021 in addition to a 2021 National Specialty. If a Parent Club chooses to hold either one or two National Specialties in the 2021 calendar year, the Parent Club may exercise an option with its application to exclude the Reserve Winners three-point major from one or both National Specialties. This paragraph is applicable to 2021 only and will self-eliminate on December 31, 2021.

**SECTION 2.** A dog which in its breed competition at a show shall have been placed Winners and which also shall have won its group class at the same show shall be awarded championship points figured at the highest point rating of any breed or recognized variety or height of any breed entered in the show and entitled to winners points in its group, or if it also shall have been designated Best in Show, shall be awarded championship points figured at the highest point rating of any breed or recognized variety or height of any breed entered and entitled to winners points in the show. The final points to be awarded under this section shall not be in addition to but inclusive of any points previously awarded the dog in its breed competition or under the provisions of this section.

**SECTION 3.** At All Breed or Group Shows in which the winners' classes of certain breeds are divided into recognized varieties of those breeds as specified in Chapter 3, Section 1 of these Rules and Regulations, the procedure for computing championship points shall be the same as if each recognized variety were a separate breed.

At independently held specialty shows for breeds divided into recognized varieties, if a dog designated Winners in its variety is also awarded Best of Breed in inter-variety competition, it shall receive championship points figured at the highest point rating of any variety entered at that specialty show.

If a dog designated Winners in its variety is also awarded the Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed in inter-variety competition, it shall receive championship points figured at the highest point rating of any dog of its sex of any variety entered at that specialty show.

Such points shall not be in addition to, but inclusive of, any points previously awarded the dog in its variety competition.

**SECTION 4.** Any dog which shall have won fifteen points shall become a Champion of Record, if six or more of said points shall have been won at two shows with a rating of three or more championship points each and under two different judges, and some one or more of the balance of said points shall have been won under some other judge or judges than the two judges referred to above. A dog becomes a champion when it is so officially recorded by The American Kennel Club and when registered in the Stud Book shall be entitled to a championship certificate.

**SECTION 5.** Any dog that has been awarded the title of Champion of Record may be designated as a “Dual Champion,” after it has also been awarded the title of Field Champion or Herding Champion. The title of Dual Champion is to recognize those dogs that have shown their superiority in both adhering to the breed standard and their ability to perform the function for which the breed was developed.

Any dog that has been awarded the title of Dual Champion and the title of Obedience Trial Champion or Tracking Champion or Agility Champion may be designated as a “Triple Champion.” This title is to recognize dogs that achieve the title of Dual Champion and continue to excel in non-breed specific American Kennel Club events.

**SECTION 6.** Champions of Record and dogs which have completed the requirements for a championship but whose championships are unconfirmed that are entered in Best of Breed competition are eligible for Grand Championship competition.

Grand Championship points may be recorded for: Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed, Select Dog, and Select Bitch. Grand Championship points will be recorded according to the number of eligible dogs competing in the regular and non-regular (eligible for Best of Breed/ Variety) classes of each breed or variety, as well as dogs competing in Best of Breed competition, according to the Schedule of Points established by the Board of Directors.

- Grand Championship Points will not be awarded for competition beyond Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed competition.
- Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, and Non-Regular Class winners that are not conformation Champions, are not eligible for Grand Championship points.

Grand Championship points for a dog awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed shall count all eligible dogs of their sex competing in Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed competition in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular and non-regular (eligible for Best of Breed/Variety) classes for their sex in calculating Grand Championship points.

A dog awarded Best of Breed will be credited with the number of Grand Champion points calculated for Best of Breed or for the Best of Opposite Sex, whichever is greater.

Grand Championship points for a dog awarded Select Dog or Select Bitch shall count all eligible dogs of their sex in Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed competition less the dog awarded Best of Breed or Variety or Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed or Variety in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular and non-regular (eligible

for Best of Breed/ Variety) classes for their sex in calculating Grand Championship points.

At independently held specialty shows for breeds divided into recognized varieties, if a dog designated Best of Variety is also awarded Best of Breed in inter-variety competition, it shall receive Grand Championship points figured at the highest point rating of any variety entered at that specialty show. If a dog designated Best of Variety or Best of Opposite Sex in its variety is also awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed in inter-variety competition, it shall receive Grand Championship points figured at the highest point rating of its sex in any variety entered at that specialty show. Such points shall not be in addition to, but inclusive of, any Grand Championship points previously awarded the dog in its variety competition.

**SECTION 7.** Any champion which shall have won twenty-five points shall become a Grand Champion of Record, if nine or more of said points shall have been won at three shows with a rating of three or more Grand Championship points each and under three different judges, and some one or more of the balance of said points shall have been won under some other judge or judges than the three judges referred to above and at least one Champion was defeated at three shows. A dog becomes a Grand Champion when it is so officially recorded by The American Kennel Club and shall be entitled to a Grand Championship certificate.

Any Grand Champion which shall have won 100 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Bronze (GCHB). Any Grand Champion which shall have won 200 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Silver (GCHS). Any



Grand Champion which shall have won 400 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Gold (GCHG). Any Grand Champion which shall have won 800 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Platinum (GCHP). After earning Grand Champion Platinum title, for each additional 800 Grand Championship points earned the Grand Champion Platinum title initials will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the quantity of times the dog has met the requirements of the Grand Champion Platinum title as defined above, e.g., 1,600 Grand Championship points = GCHP2. The AKC will identify dogs qualifying for these titles by the appropriate designations preceding their AKC name in all official AKC records. In each case, the higher title will supersede the preceding title in all official AKC records such that the highest title will be listed.

# **CHAPTER 17**

## **SUBMISSION OF A SHOW'S RECORDS TO AKC**

**SECTION 1.** A show-giving club shall pay or distribute all prizes offered at its show within thirty (30) days after The American Kennel Club has checked the awards of said show.

**SECTION 2.** After each licensed or member club dog show, a catalog marked with all awards and absent dogs, certified to by the Superintendent or Show Secretary of the show, together with all judges' books and a report of the show, must be sent to The American Kennel Club so as to reach its office within seven (7) days after the close of the show. All original entry forms must be maintained by the Superintendent or Show Secretary for a period of 6 months after the show, and these original entry forms must be available to The American Kennel Club upon request during the 6 month period. Penalty for non-compliance twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars, and five (\$5.00) dollars for each day's delay beyond the deadline, and other such penalties as may be imposed by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

All recording and event service fees will be submitted to AKC in accordance with AKC Board Policy.

# ADDENDUM A

## STEWARDS

*The following policy has been adopted by the Board of Directors regarding stewarding at conformation dog shows:*

*Clubs should appoint a chief steward well in advance of the date of their show whose duty it will be to invite a sufficient number of experienced persons to act as stewards in the judging rings on the day of the show. No person should be asked to serve as a steward whose judging or handling privileges are suspended or whose superintending privileges have been revoked. The chief steward should, as soon as practicable, confirm in writing, to each person who accepts an invitation to steward, the date and location of the show, the time at which they are to report for duty, and their particular ring assignment.*

*In preparing the schedule of ring assignments, the chief steward and other club officials should keep in mind that no person should serve as steward with a judge under whom he has an entry, or under whom, in the course of the day's judging, such entry may become eligible to compete. If it becomes necessary during the show to reshuffle stewarding assignments, care should be taken to see that a person is not assigned to serve as steward with a judge if there is any possibility that the judge, later in the show, or show cluster (when possible) will be passing upon an entry of the steward.*

*Persons should be selected who are familiar with judging procedure, breed classifications and rules. It should be borne in mind that a good steward makes the work of judging easier by relieving the judge of necessary detail; by assembling classes promptly, he will be able to keep the judging program on schedule and eliminate, to a large extent, delays between classes.*

*The chief steward should use his discretion in the assigning of more than one steward to a ring, but it is advisable that two stewards be asked to serve in those rings where judges have heavy assignments.*

*Stewards will notify the judge when all the dogs are in the ring for each class and call his attention to known absentees. Under no circumstances should a steward make any notation in the judge's book or erase or strike out any notation made by the judge.*

*Stewards will be responsible for returning to the chief steward or superintendent upon the completion of the judging all prize money, trophies and ribbons not awarded.*

*Stewards should have in mind that they have been selected to help the judge and not to advise him. They should carefully refrain from discussing or seeming to*

*discuss the dogs or the exhibitors with the judge and should not, under any circumstances, show or give the appearance of showing the catalog to a judge. Stewards should not take or seem to take any part in judging. When they are not actively engaged in their duties, they should place themselves in such part of the rings as will not interfere with the view of those watching the judging, and should not permit persons to crowd about the ring entrance and interfere with access to the ring.*

*The foregoing policy should be observed by clubs holding member and licensed obedience trials, in addition to the applicable obedience regulations and the practices established for persons stewarding in obedience rings.*

# ADDENDUM B

## TRAINING COLLARS

*Special training devices that are used to control and train dogs, including but not limited to, collars with prongs, electronic collars used with transmitters, muzzles and head collars may not be used on dogs at AKC events, except as allowed in the AKC Rules, Regulations, and policies.*

*The American Kennel Club recognizes that special training collars may be an effective and useful management device, when properly used, for controlling dogs that might be extremely active, difficult to control on a neck collar, or dog aggressive. These collars are also recognized as possibly useful for gaining control at the start of basic obedience training, essential education that dogs deserve and need.*

*There is a point at which owners should have sufficient control of their dogs to manage them on regular neck collars, without the use of special training collars. This is the point at which dogs are acceptable on the grounds of AKC competitive events and will have the opportunity to participate in those events.*

*All dogs must be presented on an acceptable collar and lead when competing at conformation dog shows. An acceptable collar and lead is defined as a single lead and collar combination utilized for the presentation of the dog. Examples of acceptable collars and leads include: slip collar plus lead (loop or snap), slide lead (i.e. resco), swivel lead, martingale (one piece), and martingale collar plus lead.*

*Special training devices and/or devices used to mask deficiencies in training, temperament or conformation are not acceptable and not permitted for use at conformation dog shows; examples include collars with prongs, electronic collars, muzzles, harnesses and head collars. The use of multiple acceptable collars or lead and collar combinations simultaneously is considered use of a special training device and therefore is not permitted.*

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## AKC CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

**PREFACE:** The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage, and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

The *italicized* portions of this book are not rules but are either regulations or explanations.

The *Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline* and forms for the registration of purebred dogs may be obtained by writing to or calling in person at the AKC offices. Complete text of booklet available at: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

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