

# DISQUALIFICATION AND REINSTATEMENT

If you have any questions that this instruction sheet has not answered, contact:  
Event Operations at 919-816-3538  
[EventRecords@akc.org](mailto:EventRecords@akc.org)



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

## The AKC's Mission.

*The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.*

### THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB EVENT OPERATIONS

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## DISQUALIFICATION AND REINSTATEMENT



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The AKC® realizes that there may be various conditions that led to your dog's disqualification. Some dogs may qualify to return to competition if they meet the criteria set forth in the reinstatement procedure. This instruction sheet explains the process of reinstatement and what you, the dog's owner must do should you apply to have your dog reinstated.

## Disqualification Details

- A dog that is disqualified by a judge for attacking a person in the ring, disqualified by an Event Committee for attacking and injuring a person or a dog, has been administratively barred due to multiple excusals for aggression, or that is disqualified by a judge for a permanent change in its appearance by artificial means, is ineligible to compete, nor be on the grounds at any AKC events until the dog has been reinstated.
- If a dog is disqualified under the Breed Standard (height, weight, dentition, etc.), or if a male has been disqualified for not having two normal descended testicles, the dog may continue to compete. However, if three separate judges disqualify the dog for the same reason, the dog is ineligible for AKC conformation competition or for reinstatement. (Dogs disqualified by breed standard can continue to compete in AKC companion events and certain AKC performance events.)
- When a judge disqualifies a dog, he or she marks the dog disqualified, and the reason for the disqualification, in the judge's book. In cases of a dog attacking a judge, the judge also completes a disqualification form. This form is sent to AKC in accordance with the instructions on the form.
- When the Event Committee disqualifies a dog the disqualification form is completed and sent along with any details or documentation to the AKC Event Operations Department.

## Reinstatement Procedure Details

Reinstatement is a time-consuming process. Dogs that are disqualified more than once under the provisions of Chapter 11 Section 8-A of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* are ineligible for reinstatement. Dogs that are approved for a reinstatement examination are only allowed one attempt to pass. Dogs that fail the reinstatement examination are no longer eligible for reinstatement.

The owner must send a letter requesting reinstatement to:

American Kennel Club®  
Attn: Event Operations  
PO Box 900051  
Raleigh, NC 27675-9051

The letter should state the circumstances that led to the disqualification and why you feel the dog should be reinstated. A dog's prior record is not sufficient reason for reinstatement. Recent documentation of stability training such as successful obedience training should be included. Additionally, successful completion of a Canine Good Citizen test is recommended.

**A \$50.00 non-refundable check or money order payable to the American Kennel Club must accompany your reinstatement request.**

The reinstatement process cannot start until all documentation from the event has been received.

After the AKC receives your letter, the reinstatement processing fee, and the applicable documents, staff will take one of the following actions:

- If disqualified by a judge, the judge must agree that the dog is suitable for reinstatement consideration.
  - If disqualified by an event committee all reports from the committee and documentation presented with the reinstatement request will be reviewed and addressed by a staff review committee.
1. The request for reinstatement, the judge concurrence, staff concurrence, evidence of recent successful training, and the dog's event records

are sent to a special staff committee to evaluate. If the committee decides against reinstatement, you will receive written notification from the Event Operations Department.

2. If the committee decides to allow the dog to return to competition, a hands-on examination will be necessary for the final determination. You will be asked to provide a list of events you can attend with the dog for the purpose of the hands-on examination. Documentation of a current rabies vaccine and personal liability insurance for the owner(s) must be provided to AKC prior to scheduling the hands-on examination. A committee of three will individually evaluate the dog in circumstances similar to those when it was disqualified.
3. An examination is scheduled on the day of an event, 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time for regular judging. After arrival at the predetermined event, locate the Superintendent's/ Secretary's table, and ask for the AKC Executive Field Representative.
4. After the examination you are required to remove the dog from the event grounds, the Event Operations Department will notify you in writing about the final determination of your dog's eligibility.

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Owners of dogs disqualified for attack by a judge may appeal the disqualifying judge's decision to deny the opportunity for reinstatement no sooner than one year after the date of the incident. Appeals should include documentation of significant post-incident stability training, post-incident CGC and/or participation in other non-AKC venues without incident. The disqualifying judge will be asked to provide a detailed explanation of why the dog should be denied the opportunity to pursue reinstatement. The AKC Disqualification Review committee will review all information and determine if the appeal should be granted to allow the reinstatement request to progress to hands-on examination.



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