



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**

Judging Operations Department  
PO Box 900062  
Raleigh, NC 27675-9062  
[judgingops@akc.org](mailto:judgingops@akc.org)  
[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

### **TO: JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP APPLICANTS**

Enclosed is a **Junior Showmanship Application Kit** for your completion and return. The kit includes:

- Requirement Sheet: Explanation of application process
- Occupational Eligibility Addendum: Explanation of Chapter 7, Section 1 of the Rules.
- JS Application: Information on background and experience
- Current permit judges must be granted regular status on all breeds before applying for Junior Showmanship. (Applied to New Breed Judges). Adjunct breeds are exempt from this requirement.
- Booklet, it is recommended that you refer to the [Junior Showmanship Regulations/Judging Guidelines](#): Upon receipt of a completed application, you will be enrolled into the AKC Canine College for this exam.

An application fee of \$35 must be submitted with the application. Fees are non-refundable. Checks, money orders and credit cards will be accepted. Any application considered incomplete by Staff will be returned together with the processing fee.

Return the forms to Judging Operations Department and keep a copy for your files. Reminder, the application **MUST** be signed and dated.

In order to accept your application the following items must be returned to the office:

- ✓ Junior Showmanship Application
- ✓ Occupational Eligibility Addendum: Explanation of Chapter 7, Section 1 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows.
- ✓ Check/Money order/Credit Card

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call (919) 816-3862 or email [judgingops@akc.org](mailto:judgingops@akc.org)

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## JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP APPLICANT

### Judging Requirements

Junior Showmanship All-Breed applicants must meet THREE of the following requirements and pass an Open Book Exam to be eligible to apply. Junior Showmanship- Limit applicants must meet TWO of the following requirements and pass an Open Book Exam to be eligible to apply:

- ◆ A previous Junior Show Handler
- ◆ Judged Junior Showmanship at least 3 times at AKC All Breed Sanctioned Matches
- ◆ Parent of a Junior
- ◆ Professional Handler
- ◆ Applicant attended a seminar on judging of Junior Showmanship in the last 24 months sponsored by the AKC Judging Operations Department.\*\*
- ◆ Taught All-Breed Handling classes
- ◆ Two ringside junior showmanship procedural observations with different members of the Executive Field Staff within two years preceding application

*\*\* Attendance at a Junior Showmanship Seminar may count as two of the requirements.*

**Approval to judge All Breed JS requires extensive background in many breeds, and experience must be noted on the application.**

Application must be submitted with Occupational Eligibility Addendum form and fee. Notification will be sent via the AKC Canine College informing the applicant they have been enrolled and may now complete the Junior Showmanship exam. Reminder, passing grade must be achieved on exam, prior to scheduling your final interview.

The approval process includes an opportunity for the fancy to respond to each application to judge. Applicants will be published twice in the Secretary's Page of the AKC GAZETTE. The applicant's name will be published in the first available issue of the AKC GAZETTE following receipt by the Department allowing the fancy to be aware of and comment on the judges' application. Upon the review of any responses received you will be advised of any questions or concerns that arise and provided the opportunity to respond before any further AKC action is taken if warranted.

Following the interview, the result of the interview with the Executive Field Representative and any comments received from the fancy will be reviewed by the Department. Judges will be informed by mail or email of the result of the Department's review. Applicants may not accept assignments until they have received official notification of their status from the Department.

After completing **five** permit assignments with three satisfactory observation reports on file, the judge may request regular status. A Staff Committee evaluates requests and the judge is advised of the Staff Committee's decision. The judge's name and class are added to AKC's Website and published in the next available issue of the *Gazette*.



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## OCCUPATIONAL ELIGIBILITY ADDENDUM

### **Chapter 7, 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.*

An interpretation of the above Rule is as follows:

#### **I. Individuals in the following categories are occupationally ineligible to judge:**

- 1). Persons who buy or sell dogs not bred by them as means of livelihood in whole or in part, whether or not they are known as dealers. (This is trafficking in dogs.)
- 2). Persons who show dogs for others. (Does not apply to Junior Showmanship Judges.)
- 3). Publishers and persons who promote show dogs through the active solicitation or acceptance of advertisements in commercial dog publications.
- 4). Persons who are professional superintendents or employees of superintendents.
- 5). Persons connected with dog food, dog remedy or kennel supply companies in the capacity of solicitor or salesman.
- 6). Persons who reside in the same household as a professional handler or licensed superintendent.

**(A salesman is one whose primary activity or occupation involves the sale or attempted sale of goods or services to specific individuals or entities. A solicitor is one whose primary activity or occupation involves the seeking or facilitating of the direct sale of goods or services to specific individuals or entities.)**

#### **II. Individuals with the following occupations will be eligible to judge, but cannot accept assignments at any show, companion show, circuit or cluster at which they offer their services.**

- 1). Concessionaires.
- 2). Dealers in dog art, antiques or memorabilia.
- 3). Dog show photographers.
- 4). Professional dog artists and photographers.
- 5). Judges who are household members of persons with ineligible occupations may not accept assignments at any show, companion show, circuit or cluster at which the ineligible person is offering their services.

#### **III. Individuals in the following occupations are eligible to judge. Any entry made under such judges is subject to the same restrictions as Chapter 11, Section 13 of the Rules:**

- 1). Grooming shop owners or employees.
- 2). Kennel owners and kennel employees.
- 3). Veterinarians.

Violations of the restrictions on these occupational categories will result in the cancellation of all awards made to the ineligible dog(s). Violation of these restrictions will subject the judge to review of his or her judging approval with the possible action up to and including loss of judging approval. Any dog-related occupations not covered by the above interpretation will require individual evaluation.

I have read and agree to abide by the above as related to AKC Conformation Judging Approval.

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Signature

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date





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**February 2024**

## Junior Showmanship Application

All Breed ☐

Limited ☐

Designated areas of the application should be completed before attaching additional documentation. All attachments should be identified with the applicant's name. This application should be completed by persons **18 years** of age or older who would like approval to judge Junior Showmanship at AKC® Licensed or member shows. Any junior no longer eligible to compete in Junior Showmanship Competition may apply for approval to judge Junior Showmanship (JS). An application fee of **\$35** must be submitted with this application. Upon review and completed application you will be enrolled in the AKC Canine College to complete the JS exam. Fees are non-refundable. **Please print. Make a copy for your records.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Judges #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr./Mrs./Miss./Ms.) (For office use)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Verify Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Publish? Yes ☐ No ☐ Publish? Yes ☐ No ☐ Publish? Yes ☐ No ☐ Publish? Yes ☐ No ☐

1. Are you 18 years of age or older? Yes ☐ No ☐ Initials \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you or anyone in your household in any way connected with a dog-related occupation or dog registry other than AKC? Yes ☐ No ☐

If your occupation falls under Chapter 7, Section 1 of the Rules or you have an interest in any other registry, please describe in detail your/their duties and activities, and provide written assurance that if approved to judge, all parties will completely divorce themselves from this occupation upon being granted permit status (eligible to accept assignments) and will immediately report any resumption to AKC.

(See *Occupational Eligibility Addendum-signature*)

3. Have you ever been (1) suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club, (2) convicted of cruelty/inappropriate treatment of animals or a conviction of a similar offense involving inhumane or cruel treatment ("inappropriate treatment" means any offense involving a dog that alleges cruelty, abuse, neglect, or improper treatment of a dog as defined by AKC, or (3) convicted or any crime involving moral turpitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please on a a separate sheet state the date and circumstance.

4. In what year did you start exhibiting, and in what type of competition? \_\_\_\_\_ (ex: JS, Breed, Obedience, Performance)

5. Have you judged at **any** AKC Sanctioned Matches? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please complete the information below:

Club	Date	Type of Competition	# of Entries

6. List any clubs of which you are a member: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Give names and addresses of 2 persons (not related) in the sport who could attest to your knowledge of ring and handling procedures.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

8. List dates you can attend for the purpose of the final interview. Clusters/Multi-day events should be listed as one date (example 5/27-30/11 - Mission Circuit/CA). Interview must be arranged through the Judging Operations Department. At least 2-3 weeks advance notice from the date of submission is recommended. Office may schedule interviews via Skype on a basis of need. Please check applicable box if Skype interview is an option.

Skype interview: Yes ☐ No ☐

Date  
(ex: 5/27-30/2011 - Example)

Show  
(ex: Mississippi State KC & Brandon KC of MS Jackson, MS - Example)


9. Junior Showmanship **All-Breed applications** must meet **THREE** of the following requirements and pass an Open Book Exam to be eligible to apply. **Junior Showmanship Limit** applicants must meet **TWO** of the following requirements and pass an Open Book Exam to be eligible to apply.

- ☐ A previous Junior Show Handler. (Junior #: \_\_\_\_\_ )
- ☐ Judged Junior Showmanship at least 3 times at AKC All Breed Sanctioned Matches. Specify information below.
- ☐ Parent of a Junior. Name or Number of Junior: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Professional Handler
- ☐ Applicant attended an seminar on judging of Junior Showmanship in the last 24 months sponsored by the AKC Judging Operations Department.\*\* If attended, complete the following and submit certificate. (Attendance at JS seminar-counts as two requirements)
- Yes ☐ No ☐ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Taught All-Breed Handling classes. (Indicate dates below and submit copy of letter or flier .)

Two ringside junior showmanship procedural observations with different members of the Executive Field Staff within two years.

**Approval to judge all Breed JS requires extensive background in many breeds, and experience must be noted on the application.**

Please provide specifics to substantiate the requirements you have indicated above. You must include dates, shows, and/or club names. (without specific information on the application, it will be returned.)

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10. List number of dogs and breeds that you have bred, owned and or handled to their championship.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



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## INTERVIEW PROCESS

Your complete application should be sent to the office, together with the processing fee. Upon receipt of complete application, you will be enrolled in the Junior Showmanship exam and directed to the AKC Canine College to complete. Upon a passing grade and all requirements have been met the interview must be scheduled through Judging Operations. Interview will include a discussion of rules and ring procedure, demeanor and expectations of judges. Expect interview to be approximately 30 minutes in length. Applicants may choose to come into the North Carolina office for their interview.

## SIGNING/CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY submit my application to the Conformation Judging Approval Staff of the AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB for its consideration and make the following certification:

I certify that I am familiar with the American Kennel Club's Rules, Regulations, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges and agree to abide by them. That I am occupationally eligible to judge under AKC Dog Show Rules and will adhere to the restrictions, if applicable, outlined in the Occupational Eligibility Addendum clarifying Chapter 7, Section 1.

If granted permit judging or regular status, I fully understand that my judging eligibility is conditional and, therefore, reviewable by the AKC at any time subsequent to the date the status is initially granted. I understand a failure to abide by American Kennel Club's Rules, Regulations, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges could result in disciplinary action to affect my judging privileges and I agreed to abide by any decisions made in accord with them.

I certify that I understand and acknowledge that if I am charged with cruelty, inappropriate treatment of animals or similar offense involving inhumane or cruel treatment ("inappropriate treatment" means any offense involving a dog that alleges cruelty, abuse, neglect or improper treatment of a dog as defined by AKC), or charged with any crime involving moral turpitude, especially as it concerns dog-related activities. The AKC may temporarily place my judging privileges on referral and judging status as Inactive while the charges are pending. Further, after receiving notification of the referral, I am prevented from judging or from accepting assignments to judge. When the charges are resolved and AKC's inquiry into the matter determines that no action will be taken by the AKC to cause a suspension of my judging privileges, the temporary judging referral will be removed.

I attest the information given in this application is true and correct.

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**SIGNATURE**

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**Dated**

**Method of Payment:** VISA ☐ Amex ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐

A processing fee of \$35 must be submitted.

Make Check/Money Order payable to: The American Kennel Club

Print Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Is billing address same as home address Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, provide address below:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ CVS: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### For Office Use Only:

CK#:

CK Amount: \$

Date R'cvd: