



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

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The Board at its October 2013 meeting adopted the following policy concerning the approval of AKC judges to judge groups at its Conformation events, effective **April 1, 2014**:

- An AKC judge approved to judge breeds comprising 80% of the entries in a group competition the previous year could be approved for the group after passing the breed standard tests and submission of a \$25 non-refundable processing fee per breed for the remaining breeds in that group.
- The group approval would be for no more than three years, dating from the first group assignment.
- May not be assigned breeds not currently approved on either regular or permit basis constituting the balance of the group.
- Group status removed after three years if judge has failed to gain approval for the balance of the breeds within the group.

Once all Conformation events have been processed for the preceding year, entry numbers for the breeds in each group, and the number of entries that equates 80% of the entry for each group will be posted on the AKC website. To facilitate the process, Judging Operations will notify all judges eligible to request group status under this policy. In addition, Judging Operations will notify individuals who become eligible as a result of additional breeds granted at the monthly Judges Review Committee meeting.

Following are points of interest regarding the implementation of the policy:

- Two or more missed questions or one DQ question is considered failing an exam and judge will be advised to retake the breed exam. Failure to pass the exam on the second attempt will result in the denial of the Group request. (This is consistent with the process for Group Judges to maintain their status when new breeds are admitted to a group)
- Individuals whose request is denied due to failed exams may request Group Status after a period of six months has passed.
- Judges granted Group status under this policy are required to pass breed exam and submit a \$25 processing fee for any newly recognized breeds whose date of full recognition falls within the three year period to maintain Group status.
- Individuals who request and receive group status under this policy will not be affected if combination of breeds approved equals less than 80% of entries in subsequent years.

The required form to be completed will be posted online in the beginning of the New Year along with detailed information concerning the implementation of the policy. In addition, it will be discussed further in the winter issue of the judges newsletter, *The Standard*, scheduled to be distributed in February.