



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB**

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO HOLD FUTURE DOG SHOWS

Educational activities for club members and the public.

**To:** All Show-Giving Clubs  
**Subject:** Eligibility Requirements to Hold Future Dog Shows

- Every Specialty, Group and All-Breed dog club that does not hold a benched show must meet certain criteria to maintain its eligibility to hold shows. (To be considered a Benched Show for compliance purposes, the benching hours must be published, the breed specific benching area designated with signage, the show must be advertised to the general public and the benching requirements and hours published in the premium list.)
- Clubs should make every effort to introduce the sport of dogs to new exhibitors and make them feel welcome at AKC events.
- No club will be approved to hold a conformation show unless it has met the appropriate criteria and filed the statement of compliance.

For clarification purposes, the following definitions are being provided:

- Parent Club National Specialty – an event held once a year by a Parent Club.
- Parent Club Regional Specialty – an event hosted by a regional division of the parent club or an independent club holding a Parent Club specialty within their territory that is not the National Specialty.
- Independent Specialty – a conformation event open only to a single breed.

Parent Club and Regional Club Judges Education Programs at National or Regional Specialty satisfies all Parent Club and Regional Club education requirements (i.e. a judges education program at a National Specialty satisfies the Parent Club requirement and a judges education program at a Regional Specialty satisfies the Regional Club requirement).

### **Major Activities:**

Every club applying to hold a show must host at least ONE major activity within the calendar year to be approved for the next calendar year's show(s) or TWO major activities if the club holds no show within 10 miles of their territory during the previous year.

Examples of Major Activities include:

1. **AKC National Owner-Handled Series held in conjunction with regular show**
2. **4-6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition Event (Counts as Double Compliance) As outline in 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition Regulations**
3. **An Independent AKC Sanctioned Match** (Independent is defined as: A stand-alone event not associated with a licensed or member dog show.) Clubs may hold an independent AKC sanctioned match within 10 miles of their territory with emphasis on attracting and assisting new exhibitors.
4. **Obedience, Rally, Agility Match or Trial** (Independent is defined as: A stand-alone event not associated with a licensed or member dog show.) Clubs may hold an independent AKC sanctioned match within 10 miles of their territory with emphasis on attracting and assisting new exhibitors.
5. **RDO Day** Clubs participate in this national event.

(EVENT OPERATIONS)

PO Box 900051 Raleigh, NC 27675-9051 Tel 919 816-3579 Fax 919 816-4220 [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

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## 6. An AKC Canine Good Citizen® Test

Clubs may hold an AKC Canine Good Citizen Test. Clubs can locate a local CGC Evaluator of the AKC website. In order to receive CGC information, contact:  
American Kennel Club  
ATTN: Canine Good Citizen  
PO Box 900064  
Raleigh, NC 27675-9064  
(919-816-3637)

## 7. An Active Public Education Program

Examples of a Public Education Program include:

- Youth programs (4-H, Scouting Groups, etc)
- Active Canine Ambassador Programs
- Public Education Programs at community functions or civic organizations
- Public library programs
- Support of an AKC Veterinary Outreach activity
- Active canine legislation representative
- AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day event (May be conducted outside the club territory)
- Purebred Rescue (Provide evidence of actual participation)
- Participate in other community activities within 10 miles of the club territory.

## 8. Performance Events

An AKC licensed or member performance event. If a Specialty Club holds its show in conjunction with an AKC Performance Event (Field Trials, Hunting Tests, Earthdog, Coursing, Herding) in order to emphasize the combination of form and function in the breed, and if because of grounds or facility requirements related to the Performance Event, the specialty show is held outside the club's territory a second "major activity" and two "additional activities" would not be required to maintain the club's show eligibility. Submit the description with the Statement of Compliance to [eventplans@akc.org](mailto:eventplans@akc.org).

## 9. National or Regional Judges Education

Judges Seminars that include a hands-on component and ringside mentoring conducted by Parent Clubs and clubs that are formed as a Region or Division of the Parent Club will satisfy the compliance requirements since they do not have a defined territory to serve.

## 10. New Exhibitor Mentoring Program

The New Exhibitor Mentoring Program matches your clubs designated mentors (experienced dog fanciers and breeders) with recent registrants of AKC dogs. Seasoned handlers and exhibitors share their expertise with those expressing an interest in entering the exciting world of the AKC and events competition.

## 11. Other Educational or Outreach Programs

Unlisted club outreach or educational activities may be used to satisfy this Major Activity requirement if the club receives advanced approval from AKC Event Operations. In order to have an activity approved, the club must submit a description of the activity, the intended audience, and the location of the activity. Submit the description with the Statement of Compliance to [eventplans@akc.org](mailto:eventplans@akc.org).

## Additional Activities

Every show-giving club is required to conduct and document at least TWO Additional Activities within the calendar year to be approved for the next calendar year's show(s).

FOUR of these category B activities are required if the club's shows are held beyond 10 miles from the club's territory.

Examples of Additional Activities include:

### 1. Conformation and/or Obedience/Rally, or Agility Training Classes

Training classes that meet this requirement are those involving obedience, agility, or conformation and are open to the public.

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2. **Breeder Referral Service** The key to a meaningful breeder referral lies in making it known to the public that this information is readily available. The club must indicate how it advertises the referral service to the public (i.e. on a club website, show catalog, the local Yellow Pages or advertises in local newspapers etc.).
3. **Concurrent or Evening Match** Clubs may hold a match concurrently or following a licensed or member dog show. Matches should be utilized to welcome new exhibitors to AKC sports and to provide an opportunity for new club members to organize and run an event. Holding matches during a show weekend provides new exhibitors with the opportunity to participate in a relaxed event while exposing them to the point show.
4. **Two Educational Programs for Club Members and the Public or Formal Judges Education**  
Clubs hold regular meetings and some of these meetings should involve educational programs that are of interest to the membership and the public. If the club is fulfilling this requirement, it should specify the dates of its educational meetings a brief description of the programs. Clubs are encouraged to invite the public to these meetings. Specialty clubs can satisfy this requirement by offering breed specific judges education programs including ringside mentoring, or on-line presentations (i.e. On-line video, Power Point, or similar presentations).
5. **Dog Show Tours** (May be conducted at events held outside the club territory)  
Dog shows tours help spectators understand the classes, ring procedure, championship points system, dog show etiquette, and promotes the sport of purebred dogs. These tours must be listed in the premium list or other notice to the public. These may be conducted by the AKC Field Staff at all-breed shows (with the assistance of the local clubs) or conducted by designated club members at specialty shows.
6. **Registered Handler Seminars or Workshops** (May be conducted at events held outside the club territory) Clubs that provide AKC Registered Handler seminars that educate new exhibitors and/or junior handlers encourage new exhibitors and promote the sport of dogs.
7. **New Exhibitor Briefing** (May be conducted at events held outside the club territory)  
New exhibitor briefings should help new exhibitors understand the dog show and feel more comfortable with the sport. The briefing must be publicized in the judging program and should include scheduled times. The briefing should explain the duties of the superintendent or show secretary, the AKC Executive Field Staff, the event committee, the ring steward, ring location, exercise areas, and assist with grooming space. An explanation of dog show classes, points computation, and verification of placements (judges book tear sheets). These briefings must be listed in the premium list or other notice to the public.
8. **Opportunities for Provisional Judges** (Those judges approved for NO MORE than one group)  
(May be conducted at events held outside the club territory) The success of tomorrow's show depends on the beginning judges of today. AKC encourages clubs to provide new provisional judges with opportunities to judge. For those clubs hiring at least four provisional conformation judges, credit is given for satisfying this eligibility requirement. (One provisional for specialties satisfies the requirement)  
As a general guideline, the suggested correlation between entries and number of provisional judges is: (a) for entries of less than 1,000, a minimum of four (4) provisional; (b) for entries of 1,000 to 2,000, a minimum of six (6) provisional; (c) for entries greater than 2,000, a minimum of eight (8) provisional.
9. **AKC Show Committee Seminars** (May be conducted at events held outside the club territory)  
Event committee education contributes to a successful and well-run event. Clubs that provide this educational opportunity will be recognized for this activity. Event Operations will document these seminars. (Specialty Clubs satisfy this requirement by attending the AKC Show Committee Seminar)
10. **Disaster Planning** Clubs that have an AKC-approved Disaster Preparedness Plan for natural disasters within their territory will be recognized for this activity. AKC Communications Department will document completion of this activity.
11. **Meet the Breeds** (May be conducted at events held outside the club territory)  
Meet the breed exhibits educates the public about the various AKC breeds and aids in creating responsible dog owners.

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**12. Health Clinics** (May be conducted at events held outside the club territory)

Health clinics sponsored by the show-giving club that are open to the public, that offer specific health screenings. Examples of acceptable clinics include CERF, Cardiac testing or other health screening examinations not generally offered by general practice veterinarians.

**Your club's Statement of Compliance or the check off on the Event Application should be completed and returned to AKC's Event Operations at PO Box 900051, Raleigh, NC 27675-9051 for review and approval. No application for future shows will be processed until this has been received and approved.**

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