

OPEN SHOW REGULATIONS

APPROVED BY AKC BOARD OF DIRECTORS OCTOBER 2011

CHAPTER 1, GENERAL EXPLANATIONS

Section 1, Open Shows

An Open Show is an informal American Kennel Club sanctioned conformation event at which Championship points are not earned but rather Certificate of Merit (CM) points are awarded to this introductory AKC conformation suffix title. The Open Shows are events at which dog clubs, judges, stewards, and exhibitors and their dogs gain experience needed for licensed events.

Section 2, Rules Applying to Dog Shows

All of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* will apply to sanctioned Open Shows, except where otherwise stated in these Regulations which are subject to amendment by the AKC Board of Directors.

Section 3, Eligibility of Clubs to Hold Open Shows

The Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club may, at its discretion, grant permission to dog clubs to hold sanctioned Open Shows which shall be governed by these Regulations. Any dog club approved to hold a licensed or member dog show is eligible to hold an AKC Sanctioned Open Show. Any inquiries regarding a club's eligibility should be directed to The American Kennel Club, Attention: Club Relations.

Section 4, Conflict Distance

Open Shows will not be approved within 100 miles of a previously approved Open Show on the same date. Sanctioned Open Shows will not be considered to be in distance conflict with championship shows but clubs are urged to consider the impact of shows in their area when scheduling these events.

Section 5, Making Application

An eligible club may hold an Open Show by making application, along with the appropriate application fee, the judging panel and the disaster & emergency plan to The American Kennel Club on a form supplied by AKC. Applications for an Open Show must be submitted to the AKC at least 90 days prior to the date of the event.

CHAPTER 2, GENERAL INFORMATION

Section 1, Open Show Entry Requirements

All-Breed clubs must offer classes for all registerable breeds and varieties and for purebred dogs of any breed eligible for entry in the Miscellaneous Class and all FSS recordable breeds.

- Dogs must be at least 4 months of age on the date of the event.
- Group and Specialty clubs must restrict their competition to the breeds they were formed to serve except Miscellaneous Class breeds may also offer classes for all FSS breeds.

Section 2, Classes

The following breed classes will be offered at all Open Shows:

- 4-6 Month Puppy Class
- 6-9 Month Puppy Class
- 9-12 Month Puppy Class
- Open Class

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Clubs may elect to divide or combine classes by sex. Division of sexes will be uniformly applied to all breeds and shall be published in the premium list and Open Show invitations or announcements.

- Miscellaneous breeds will be considered equivalent to a Group.
- The Miscellaneous Class winner will compete with the Group winners for Best in Show.
- FSS breeds will be considered equivalent to a Group.
- The Best FSS winner will compete with the Group winners for Best in Show.

Clubs may offer Junior Showmanship classes for exhibition only but must notify AKC.

Section 3, Closing of Entries

Entries may close at any time prior to the show or on the day of the show and shall be published in the premium list and Open Show invitations or announcements. Under no circumstances may entries be accepted after the specified closing date and time.

Section 4, Open Show Entry Restrictions

- Dogs less than 4 months of age are ineligible to be on the grounds of licensed or member shows during AKC licensed or member events.
- Dogs are required to be vaccinated in accordance with their veterinarian's protocol (including rabies vaccination) in order to avoid inadvertent transmission of illness by/to puppies not yet fully immunized.
- No dog that is an AKC Champion of Record may compete in an Open Show.
- Professional handlers are not permitted to exhibit in Open Shows. *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.*
- Any person acting in the capacity of Show Secretary at an Open Show, or any member of his immediate household or immediate family (as defined in Chapter 11, Section 13 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*), shall not exhibit, act as agent or handler at the event, and dogs owned wholly or in part by the show secretary or by any member of their immediate household or immediate family shall be ineligible to be entered at that show.
- No judge or any person residing in the same household with a judge shall exhibit or act as agent or handler at an Open Show at which they are officiating as judge and dogs owned wholly or in part by such judge or any member of their household shall be ineligible to be entered at the show. Subject to the foregoing, members of a judge's immediate family 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 dog is to be judged if it is brought into the ring bandaged, taped, glued or stitched anywhere including ears or tail. These dogs must be excused from judging but, at the judge's discretion, may return to be judged after the tape or bandage is removed.

Section 5, Show Chair & Event Administration

- Licensed and member clubs may hold two sanctioned Open Shows each year in addition to their two championship shows.
- The show chair is required to be a member of the show-giving club.

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- A premium list flier must be published and submitted to AKC Event Operations at least 30 days prior to the event. (Electronic submission is acceptable)
- The show results and event service fee of \$2.00 per entry must be submitted to AKC Event Operations within seven (7) days of the event. (Electronic results submission is preferable)
- *Dealing with Misconduct* will be applicable to any person and dog entered in this competition.
- Clubs that hold an Open Show within 10 miles of their club's territory will receive credit for completing a Major Activity for holding the event, as well as credit for an Additional Activity for providing an educational opportunity for AKC judges gaining experience on their unapproved breeds.
- The club must have coordinated veterinarian service to be available throughout the show hours. The services may be provided by an emergency veterinary clinic and written instructions to the veterinary facility must be readily available to exhibitors.

Section 6, Judges

- Open shows must be judged by judges that have an AKC judges number. (Individuals that have successfully completed the Open show application process including the anatomy exam, procedural exam, wicket and scales test will be issued a judges number.)
Visiting judges are not eligible to judge Open Shows.
- AKC approved judges need not be approved for the breeds they are to judge at the Open Show. Open Show judging assignments may qualify as educational or enriching components for additional breed or initial judging approval.
- Judges will be credited with an enriching component for breeds judged in the Open Show.
- The 30 day 200 mile judging conflict criteria will not apply to Open Show judging.
- Judges are expected to comply with *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* and *Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* except as follows:
 - Breed standard disqualifications (i.e. color, height, full dentition, etc.) need not be considered in the 4-to-6 Month Puppy classes and male puppies without 2 fully descended testicles need not be disqualified or excused in the 4-to-6 Month Puppy class but the judge's book must describe the condition.
 - In all other classes, male puppies without 2 fully descended testicles need not be disqualified but should be excused and the judge's book must describe the condition and Certificate of Merit points withheld.
 - The speed of judging expectation is reduced to 20 dogs per hour in order to accommodate puppies and inexperienced exhibitors. Judges should interact and encourage exhibitors in order to make their exhibiting a positive experience.
 - Judges may ask exhibitors if they prefer to open their dog's mouth for examination. However judges have the authority to personally open the dog's mouth.
 - No protests against dogs for height, weight or any other breed specific disqualification may be entertained at Open Shows.
 - A dog with a disqualifying condition or behavior shall not be disqualified but shall simply be excused for the day. The judge may only disqualify dogs for attacking the judge in the ring.

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CHAPTER 3, AWARDS

Section 1, Ribbons and Trophies

Each ribbon or rosette 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 placement, and the name of the show-giving club.

Ribbons for classes, Groups and Best in Show will be as follows:

- First Prize – Rose
- Second Prize – Brown
- Third Prize – Light Green
- Fourth Prize – Gray
- Best of Breed – Orange
- Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed – Lavender
- Best in Show – Pink & Green

All trophies or prizes offered must be awarded for outright award to the owner of the dog. *It is recommended that all participants receive a token of participation in this event.*

Section 2, Certificate of Merit

The Certificate of Merit (CM) title is an introductory title to AKC conformation events. Entrants in each breed shall compete for Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed. Winners of the Best of Breed in each of the individual breeds or varieties will be awarded points toward the CM title based on the number of dogs defeated in their breed or variety. Winners of Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed in each of the individual breeds or varieties will be awarded points towards the Certificate of Merit (CM) title based on the number of dogs defeated in their sex. Group winners will be eligible for the highest number of points earned by any breed within that Group. Best in Show will be eligible for the highest number of points earned by any breed entered.

The Certificate of Merit requires 15 points awarded in accordance with the following points structure.

Dogs Competing	Points
• 2	1
• 4	2
• 8	3
• 12	4
• 16	5

Certificate of Merit points may also be earned in the FSS class, Miscellaneous Class or the 4-to-6 Month class held in conjunction with Championship dog shows.

CHAPTER 4, EMERGENCY PREPERATION

Section 1, Open Show Checklist

There are many small details that go into the conduct of a well-run show. In planning such an event, it is easy to overlook some of these details. Depending on the club's circumstances, particular details, such as grounds or building rental/use, local ordinances, permits, will vary from club to club and it is not possible to list them all here. There are, however, certain things in common to all AKC events. In an attempt to assist clubs with their preparation, this checklist has been prepared. It lists some of the more common, overlooked items. Reviewing the checklist before the day of the club's Show

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should help prevent overlooking some of the details that are so important for holding a well-organized, well-run event.

PERSONNEL

Traffic directors
Set-up and clean-up personnel
Entry takers to accept entries and to prepare
Judges Books
Stewards

RING EQUIPMENT

___ Ring Dividers
___ Placement Markers
___ Mats, if necessary
___ Judging Tables
___ Chairs
___ Armbands, include extra blanks and a felt tip marker.
___ Rubber Bands
___ Poster boards marking ring assignments
___ Cash box and change
___ Tape Measure
___ Placement Ribbons
___ Judges Books

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

___ Potable Water
___ Sanitation Facilities (Animal and Human)
___ Designated Exercise pens
___ Clean-up Equipment
___ Tables and Chairs for entry takers
___ Trash Receptacles
___ Identification Badges for Event/Club Officials
___ Food Concession (if duration is more than a few hours)

PUBLICATIONS

(Part Numbers for ordering are in parentheses)

___ Show/Trial Manual (PBSHW1)
___ Rules Applying to Dog Shows (RREGS3)
___ Open Show Regulations
___ AKC Breed Standards
___ FSS Breed Standards
___ Dealing with Misconduct (RDMSC4)

All of the above publications may be ordered from the AKC's Website at www.akc.org or you may contact Customer Service at (919) 233-9767.

EMERGENCY PREPARATION

___ Closest available veterinarian or 24-hour veterinary clinic
___ Closest hospital and telephone numbers for ambulance service, police and fire departments
___ First-Aid Kits for animals and humans

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For weekend AKC assistance contact the Weekend Club Hotline (800) 252-7894 and leave a message for the appropriate department.