

## **Q&A Concerning Requirements to Hold Future Dog Shows**

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We have received questions from several clubs regarding the new eligibility requirements for all-breed and specialty clubs to hold dog shows. The new requirements were approved by the AKC Board of Directors following approval by the All-Breed Committee and Parent Club Committee. These requirements will be effective for all-breed shows held after Jan. 1, 2008 and for specialty shows held after Jan. 1, 2009.

We are writing to clarify several points regarding the requirements and explain how the new policy compares to the current one. Please share this overview with your club members.

### **1. What is the current requirement?**

All-breed clubs currently are required to participate in various activities in order to have their show approved. Specialties currently have no requirements.

### **2. My all-breed club was already meeting its requirements. Why are you changing them?**

AKC revised the requirements in an effort to attract more new exhibitors to the sport, increase dog show entries, and attract new club members. Clubs can now choose from a larger list of outreach programs to meet the annual requirements. A recent study revealed that 38% of all dog show entrants do not exhibit in more than six shows. The study showed that we are not losing long-time exhibitors. Rather, we are not keeping the new exhibitors. Our motivation is not to make it more difficult for clubs. Instead we are providing clubs with new opportunities to meet annual requirements. These new opportunities focus on attracting new people to the sport through educational events in the communities. It is hoped that these local events will result in a greater membership pool for clubs and more entries to dog shows. In this manner, we hope to help protect the future of our sport.

### **3. Why do specialty clubs now have to meet the same requirements as the all-breed clubs?**

Specialty clubs are often the first resource for new exhibitors. Puppy buyers contact parent clubs for breeder referrals and rely on them for specific information about their breed. Specialty shows are usually more attractive to new exhibitors than all-breed shows because they are generally less confusing to the newcomer, offer more opportunities for the newcomer to meet possible mentors in their breed, and the smaller scale makes the sport less intimidating to the novice. Because of the great influence the specialty clubs could have with new exhibitors in their breed, AKC believes these clubs also have a responsibility to meet eligibility requirements by holding public education opportunities within their territory.

The AKC Board recently approved two initiatives to benefit specialty clubs and help them reach more exhibitors. One is that clubs may hold two specialties in one day. The

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other initiative allows clubs to travel further outside their territory to cluster with other specialty clubs of the same breed. Because of the ability to now travel farther outside their territory, AKC feels that it is essential for the sport for the specialty clubs to do outreach programs in their territory to attract the new exhibitor.

### **4. My specialty club is very small and has few members and resources. It will be difficult for us to meet these requirements.**

Many of the specialty clubs already offer educational activities at their specialty and throughout the year. The new list gives clubs more options for completing their eligibility requirement. Many require few volunteers and/or revenue, including having a breeder referral service, holding educational programs for club members, and conducting an educational outreach program. An example of an educational outreach program would be having a club member make a presentation on responsible dog ownership to a school group. In addition, you can meet some of your requirements at your specialty by such things as hiring a provisional breeder judge and providing ringside mentoring for potential judges. If none of the listed options are suitable to your club, you can propose an alternate activity to meet one of the three requirements.

By reaching out to local owners of your breed, your club can grow and gain volunteers to help with future events and activities.

### **5. My club has held its show and match in conjunction with a cluster outside our territory because there are limited sites for dog events in our area. Why does my club have additional eligibility requirements?**

Clubs were formed to serve a specific territory, and we find some clubs offer no events within their territories. Evening matches have become more common when clubs hold back-to-back shows or clusters. We understand the appeal of these evening matches as it is hard to find an available weekend for a match, sites are expensive or difficult to find and there is already a potential pool of entries at the cluster. While these evening matches help seasoned exhibitors train new show prospects, they do little to attract or educate potential exhibitors in that club's community. We want to encourage clubs to reach out to new exhibitors and purebred dog owners in their local communities. This will help cultivate new members and promote responsible dog ownership in their hometowns. For this reason, both all-breed and specialty clubs are strongly encouraged to hold more events within their territories. Clubs that hold their shows outside their jurisdictions have to meet more eligibility requirements than those clubs holding shows in their territories.

### **6. What is the AKC Educational Match and how would my club hold one?**

Both all-breed and specialty clubs may satisfy one of their requirements by co-hosting a multi-club match using the AKC Educational Match format. Since several clubs are necessary to hold these matches, they may be held outside the club territory. The matches are targeted at the new exhibitor and must include helpful classes on how to get started in

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dog shows as well as the match competition. More details on how to hold an Educational Match will be published later this year.

### **7. Why do parent clubs have fewer requirements than local specialty clubs?**

Local specialty clubs and all-breed clubs are assigned a specific territory. As such they are to promote all breeds or a specific breed in their designated territory. Parent clubs have no assigned territory but rather serve the entire country, or in the case of regional divisions of the parent club, a specific large region of the country. The parent clubs are responsible for the breed standard. These clubs can therefore meet the educational requirements by presenting a comprehensive judges' education program at their respective National or Regional specialties.

### **8. How do the new requirements compare to the current ones?**

Every club that does not hold a benched show is still required to complete activities from Category A and Category B to qualify to hold a show. Starting in 2009, the new requirements will encompass specialty clubs as well as all-breed clubs. The charts presented below show the current and the new requirements for both categories.

### **Category A Options**

**Current Requirements:** Every group and all-breed club must host at least one of the Category A activities in its area within the calendar year to be approved for the next year's shows. If both your club's shows are held outside your area, two activities are required.

**New Requirements:** Every club (all-breed, group, and specialty) must host at least one of the Category A activities within 10 miles of the club territory and within the calendar year to be approved for the next year's shows. Two activities must be held within 10 miles of its territory if the club held no shows within 10 miles of its territory during the previous year.

#### **Category A Activity Options**

<b>Current</b>	<b>New</b>
AKC Sanctioned Match	Independent AKC Sanctioned Match
Canine Good Citizen Test	Canine Good Citizen Test
Obedience or Agility Trial	AKC Educational Match
	Active Public Education Program
	Other Educational or Outreach Programs

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### **Category B Options**

**Current Requirements:** Every group and all-breed club is required to conduct at least two of the five Category B activities in its area within the calendar year to be approved for the next year's shows. Four activities are required in the club's area if both shows are held outside your club's territory.

**New Requirements:** Every show-giving club (group, all-breed, specialty) is required to conduct at least two of the 11 Category B activities within the calendar year to be approved for the next year's shows. Four activities are required if the club's shows are held more than 10 miles from the club's territory.

### **Category B Activity Options**

<b>Current</b>	<b>New</b>
Conformation and/or Obedience/Agility training classes	Conformation, Obedience/Rally and/or Agility training classes
Breeder Referral Service	Breeder Referral Service
Two Educational Programs for Club Members	Two Educational Programs for Club Members and the Public or Formal Judges Education
Public Education through Dog Show Tours, Schools, Fairs, Libraries, Health Clinics, etc.	Dog Show Tours (may be conducted outside club area)
Opportunities for Provisional Judges	Opportunities for Provisional Judges (may be conducted outside club area)
	New Exhibitor Briefing (may be conducted outside club area)
	Registered Handler Seminars or Workshops (may be conducted outside club area)
	AKC Show Committee Seminars (may be conducted outside club area)
	Area Disaster Planning
	Meet the Breeds (may be conducted outside club area)
	Health Clinics (may be conducted outside club area)