



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO HOLD FUTURE DOG SHOWS

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.
- 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 show unless it has met the appropriate criteria and filed the enclosed 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 an independent club in the Parent Club's name that is not the National Specialty.
- Independent Specialty – a conformation event open only to a single breed.

Parent Club and Regional Club Judges Education Program and National or Regional Specialty satisfies all Parent Club and Regional Club education requirements.

Category A

Every club applying to hold a show must host at least **ONE** of the following five activities within 10 miles of the club territory and within the calendar year to be approved for the next calendar year's show(s).

TWO of these category A activities are required to be held within 10 miles of the club's territory if the club holds no show within 10 miles of their territory during the previous year.

- 1. 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 with emphasis on attracting and assisting new exhibitors within their territory.

- 2. AKC Educational Match**

Clubs may also satisfy this match requirement by co-hosting a multi-club match using the AKC Educational Match format to satisfy this requirement. (These large multi-club independent matches may be held outside the club territory)

In order to make matches interesting and more of an educational experience, the American Kennel Club has permitted clubs to experiment with types of events that may be used to meet this requirement. Clubs have also been permitted to vary judging procedure, critiques and examinations by multiple judges, or other alternate judging procedures. AKC is willing to consider any reasonable proposal for holding an experimental-type match, but will require a detailed explanation of the event on the match application.

For additional information or requests for variations from normal judging procedures at a sanctioned match, contact:

Director of the Event Operations
PO Box 37929
Raleigh, NC 27627-7929
(919-816-3579).

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3. An AKC Canine Good Citizen® Test

Clubs may hold a AKC Canine Good Citizen Test. In order to receive CGC information, contact:
American Kennel Club
ATTN: CGC, PO Box 37930
Raleigh, NC 27627-7930

4. An Active Public Education Program

The Public Education Program must document significant activity. For example, Youth programs (4-H, Scouting Groups, or active Canine Ambassador Programs) or Public Education Programs at community functions, civic organizations, public library programs, support of an AKC Veterinary Outreach activity, a canine legislation representative, AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day event, or participate in other community activities within 10 miles of the club territory. Documentation of PECs, Canine Ambassadors, and suitable educational activities will be submitted to:

Director of Public Education
5580 Centerview Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606

5. Other Educational or Outreach Programs

Other club outreach or educational activities may be used to satisfy this Section A 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 to:

Director of the Event Operations
PO Box 37929, Raleigh, NC 27627-7929
(919-816-3579).

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Category B

Every show-giving club is required to conduct and document at least **TWO** of the following eleven activities in its area 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.

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.

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. **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 and give a summary of the programs for these meetings. 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)

4. **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. A formal educational plan and schedule of tours conducted should be submitted to document this activity.

5. **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.

6. **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). The club must document the briefing in the show report submitted for the event.

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- 7. 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)
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.
Clubs are reminded that the names of provisional judges are published monthly in the Gazette, are identified in the annual Judges Directory, and are available on AKC's website.
- 8. 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.
- 9. 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.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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 offer specific health screening. 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 should be completed and returned to AKC's Event Operations at PO Box 37929, Raleigh, NC 27627-7929 for review and approval. No application for future shows will be processed until this has been done.

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