

Dog Show Terms +

Angulation -

Angles created by bones meeting at their joints.

Baiting -

Using liver or some treat to get the dog's attention and have him look alert.

Bench Show -

A dog show at which the dogs are kept on assigned benches when not being shown in competition, so they can be viewed and discussed by attendees, exhibitors and breeders.

Best of Breed -

the dog judged as the best in its breed category.

Best of Winners -

the dog judged as the better of the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch.

Best of Opposite Sex -

the best dog that is the opposite sex to the Best of Breed winner.

Exhibitor -

A person who brings a dog to a dog show and shows it in the appropriate class.

Fancier -

A person who is especially interested, and usually active, in some phase of the sport of purebred dogs.

Gait -

The way a dog moves, movement is a good indicator of structure and condition.

Groom -

To brush, comb, trim or otherwise make a dog's coat neat.

Handler -

A person or agent who takes a dog into the show ring or who works the dog at a field trial or other performance event.

Heel -

A command to a dog to keep close beside its handler.

Match Show -

A usually informal dog show at which no championship points are awarded.

Miscellaneous Class -

Transitional class for breeds attempting to advance to full AKC recognition.

Pedigree -

The written record of a dog's family tree of three or more generations.

Points -

Credits earned toward a championship.

Dog Show Terms +

Soundness -

Mental and physical well-being.

Stacking -

Posing the dog's legs and body to create a pleasing picture.

Classes in Show

Puppy -

For dogs between six and twelve months of age, that are not yet champions.

Twelve-To-Eighteen Months -

For dogs twelve to eighteen months of age, that are not yet champions.

Novice -

For dogs six months of age and over, which have not, prior to the date of closing of entries, won three first prizes in the Novice Class, a first prize in Bred-by-Exhibitor, American-bred, or Open Classes, nor one or more points toward their championship.

Bred By Exhibitor -

For dogs that are exhibited by their owner and breeder, that are not yet champions.

American-Bred -

For dogs born in the United States from a mating which took place in the United States, that are not yet champions.

Open -

For any dog of the breed, at least 6 months of age.

Official Standard-

Judges examine the dogs, then give awards according to how closely each dog compares to the judge's mental image of the "perfect" dog described in the breed's official standard.

Types of Conformation Dog Shows

There are three types of AKC conformation dog shows:

All-breed

shows offer competitions for over 150 breeds and varieties of dogs recognized by the AKC. All-breed shows are the type often shown on television

Specialty

shows are restricted to dogs of a specific breed or to varieties of one breed. For example, the Bulldog Club of America Specialty is for Bulldogs only, but the Poodle Club of America's specialty show includes the three varieties of the Poodle - Standard, Miniature and Toy.

Group

shows are limited to dogs belonging to one of the seven groups. For example, the Potomac Hound Group show features only breeds belonging to the Hound group.

Dog Show Terms +

Ribbons

Each dog that receives an award is given a ribbon by the judge. The color of the ribbon indicates the type of award the dog has won.

Blue -

awarded for first place in any regular class. Also awarded to the winner of each group competition, usually in the form of a "rosette".

Red -

awarded for second place in each class. Also awarded for second place in each group competition, usually in the form of a "rosette".

Yellow -

awarded for third place in each class. Also awarded for third place in each group competition, usually in the form of a "rosette".

White -

awarded for fourth place in each class. Also awarded for fourth place of each group competition, usually in the form of a "rosette".

Purple -

awarded to the winners of the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch classes. Since these are the classes in which championship points are earned, these ribbons are highly coveted.

Purple and White -

awarded to the Reserve Winners; that is, the runners-up to the winner of the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch classes.

Blue and White -

awarded to the dog that wins Best of Winners; that is, the better of the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch winners.

Purple and Gold -

awarded to the dog judged "Best of Breed" in each breed competition. This is highly coveted because it allows advancement to the Group competition.

Red and White -

awarded to the Best of Opposite Sex. This means the best dog of the breed that is the opposite sex of the Best of Breed winner.

Red, White and Blue -

only one of these is awarded, at the end of each show. It is given to the ultimate award winner, the Best In Show.