

HOW DOGS ARE JUDGED

(from the AKC website)

Classes

In every breed of dogs (males) are judged first, then bitches. For each sex there are six classes

1. Puppy - for dog between 6 months and one year of age.
2. Twelve to Eighteen Months - for dog between 12 months and 18 months old.
3. Novice - for dogs which have never won a first prize.
4. Bred by Exhibitor - for all dogs except Champions, six months of age and over, which shall be presently owned and exhibited by the same person or kennel who are the recognized breeder on the records of the American Kennel Club.
5. American Bred - for dogs born in the U. S. A.
6. Open - for all dogs American and foreign bred.

Usually the most experienced show dogs are to be seen in the American-bred and Open Classes.

Winners Class

Into this class come the first prizewinners of the above classes and two awards are made: Winners (purple ribbon) and Reserve Winner (purple and white ribbon).

Best of Breed Competition

Dogs of either sex, which are already champions, and the two which were chosen Winners, compete here and one is chosen Best of Breed. This dog competes later in the Groups as sole representative of his or her breed.

Best of Winners

Only two dogs compete in this class - the Winners Male and Winners Bitch. One is chosen Best of Winners.

Championship Points

Championship points can only be won by, one dog and one bitch in each breed. Winners Dog and Winners

Bitch receive these points. The number depends on the number of each sex competing in each breed. When a dog has received 15 points he is a Champion and holds the title all his life.

What a Judge Judges On

As a judge goes over each dog in the ring he is comparing it to a mental picture of the perfect dog of that breed. He judges each dog on:

1. Physical structure (head, teeth, feet, bone structure, muscle tone, etc.)
2. Condition (proper weight, condition of coat, animation, etc.)
3. Gait - as seen from front, side, and rear.
4. Temperament - penalizing heavily for shyness or viciousness.

The End of the Show

In a dog show the competition becomes keener and more exciting at the end. When all breeds have been judged only one dog in each breed remains undefeated, the one which was chosen Best of Breed.

Groups

These dogs (Best of Breed), are called to compete in one of the seven groups, Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting and Herding. One wins each group.

These seven Group Winners meet in the final competition, and one is chosen **BEST IN SHOW.**
This dog alone at the end remains undefeated.