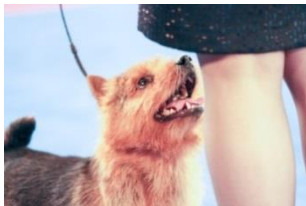




Dogs Shows are Fun for Everyone!

Showing dogs is a great sport where anyone with an AKC registered dog can experience the thrill of competition and spectators enjoy seeing beautiful purpose bred dogs.

A dog show is a competitive event where the overall appearance and structure of a dog is evaluated. Dog Show Judges compare the dogs with their mental image of the “ideal” dog as described in the breed’s standard. Dogs compete for points toward their championship. It takes 15 points to become a conformation champion. Dog earning the Champion title can list “Ch.” before their name. In one show, a dog can win 1-5 points towards the champion title. Once the dog is a champion, it competes in the Best of Breed class.



There are different classes in which **non-champion** dogs can compete:

PUPPY	Between 6 and 12 months of age
6-TO-9 MONTHS	Between 6 and 9 months of age
9-TO-12 MONTHS	Between 9 and 12 months of age
15-TO-18 MONTHS	Between 15 and 18 months of age
NOVICE	Never won a blue ribbon in any of the other classes OR has won less than 3 ribbons on the novice class
AMATEUR-OWNER-HANDLER	For dogs that are at least 6 months of age. Open to exhibitors who have not been a professional handler, an AKC approved conformation judge, or employed as an assistant to a professional handler.
BRED BY EXHIBITOR	Exhibitor is also the breeder
AMERICAN BRED	Dog’s parents mated in America and the dog was born in America
OPEN	Any dog of that breed

These classes are held for male and female dogs separately and are judged for each breed entered in the show. All the first place class dogs compete again in a Winners class to choose the best male and best female class dog. The Winners Dog and Winners Bitch (best male and female class dogs) earn championship points. They then go on to compete in the Best of Breed class against the Champions where the judge will award Best of Breed.

Each Best of Breed winner goes on to compete in its respective Best in Group class. There are seven groups: Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting and Herding. Once the Best in Groups are selected, these seven dogs compete for the Best in Show, the highest award at dog shows.

