

2026 Boerboel Expo is adding a Regional Specialty AKC show in conjunction with the American Boerboel Club, AKC parent club. This show features only Boerboels. Each dog can be exhibited (“handled”) by its breeder, owner, or the owner’s chosen “handler”. To compete in the American Boerboel Club’s AKC show, your dog must meet the following eligibility requirements

Eligibility

- Six months or older on the day of the show
- Registered with the AKC (process outlined below)
- NOT spayed or neutered
- No disqualifying faults, as stated by their breed’s parent club organization Breed Standard. The closer the dog aligns with their breed standard, the better the chance they have of winning.
- In sound health and up to date on vaccinations.

How to register with AKC

Your Boerboel must first be registered with the American Boerboel Club [Registration to The American Boerboel Club](#)

As part of application process, you will need to provide the American Boerboel Club (ABC) with a copy of your current registration showing the dog is registered in your name, a picture of your dog, and a copy of your dog’s three-generation pedigree from the registering organization. If your dog has ANY black dogs within its’ pedigree, it will NOT be able to be registered with the ABC or AKC. Also required for registration is the submission of your dog’s **AKC DNA** profile. A prepaid AKC DNA kit costs \$55 per dog. [AKC DNA Kit | AKC Shop](#)

This process will take several weeks to complete. To eliminate delays in processing ABC registrations, **please have all your information** prepared to upload before completing the online application. Of course, if there are any issues or you need to send any additional information, you can send to register.boerboel@gmail.com.

After completing the online application, you will be transferred to another page where you can make payment. Payment must be made before applications are processed.

Pricing is:

Non-ABC Member: \$125 per dog

ABC Member: \$50 per dog

Along with your ABC registration you will receive an application for American Kennel Club registration.

AKC Pricing:

Foreign Born Dog: \$160

American Born Dog: \$50

Steps to Enter an AKC Dog Show

Ensure your dog is registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC). You can register your dog online through the AKC website if it is not already registered. This is a crucial step as only registered dogs can participate in AKC events.

Obtain the AKC dog show entry form from the show's premium list, which contains all necessary information about the event, including judges, classes offered, and entry fees. You can fill out the form online or print it out to submit by mail.

Entries must be received by the show secretary or superintendent approximately two and a half weeks before the event. Ensure you submit your entry form by the specified closing date, either online or by mailing the printed form. Entries must be received by the show secretary or superintendent approximately two and a half weeks before the event. Ensure you submit your entry form by the specified closing date, either online or by mailing the printed form.

Make sure to fill out the form accurately, providing all required information about your dog, including its breed, registration number, and **the class you wish to enter (see below)**.

How to Select a Conformation Dog Show Class

Now that you've decided to enter your dog in a [conformation dog show](#), you will need to decide which dog show class to compete in. Your dog will be eligible for some classes and not for others, so that should help eliminate some of the guesswork.

If your dog is not yet a "Champion of Record," you will need to enter your dog in one of the seven regular classes offered at a dog show. In these regular classes, males (dogs) and females (bitches) compete separately within their respective breeds, and each has unique criteria for which dogs may be entered.

The seven regular classes at a conformation dog show include:

- **Puppy Class:** dogs at least 6 months and under 12 months of age. The club may also further divide this class into 6-9 months and 9-12 months.

- **12-18 Month Class:** dogs at least 12 months and under 18 months old. This class may also be further divided into 12-15 months and 15-18 months by the club.
- **Novice Class:** dogs that have not previously won 3 first places in Novice Class, a 1st place in Amateur-Owner-Handler, Bred-by-Exhibitor, American-bred, or Open Classes or who have not earned one or more points toward their championship.
- **Amateur-Owner-Handler Class:** dogs handled by the registered owner who has not, at any point, been a professional dog handler, an AKC approved conformation judge or employed as an assistant to a professional handler.
- **Bred-by-Exhibitor Class:** dogs handled and owned by its breeder. The club may also further divide this class into Adult Bred-by-Exhibitor and Puppy Bred-by-Exhibitor.
- **American-bred Class:** dogs whose sire and dam were mated in America, and the dog was born in America. This is a required class.
- **Open Class:** a required class that any dog may enter. This is the only regular class that Champions are eligible to complete in.

After a breed's regular classes are judged, all the dogs that won first place in a class return to the ring to compete to be named Winners Dog (males) or Winners Bitch (females) and earn championship points and advance to best of breed judging.

Non-Regular Classes

Some dog shows may also offer non-regular classes, which are held after the regular classes are judged. Non-regular class winners are not eligible to compete for championship points. The premium list will state which, if any, non-regular classes are offered. You'll most likely find these classes held at specialty dog shows.

The most common non-regular class is the **Veterans Class**, which is for dogs who meet a minimum age requirement set by the club. Age varies with breed; often dogs 7 years of age or older are eligible to enter. The winners of the class are eligible to compete for Best of Breed.

Once you've decided what class to enter your dog in, you can complete your entry form for the show you've selected. Entries for dog shows typically close 2 and half weeks prior to an event and the superintendent or show secretary will need to receive your entry, by mail or via online submission, by the date and time designated on the premium list.

(The information and link to enter electronically will be added approximately six weeks prior to the actual show date)

How to Prep Your Dog – and Yourself

Take Handling Classes - A conformation class will prepare you and your dog for your first experience – and for your best chances at winning. Classes are often conveniently held on weeknights and focus on how to handle your dog in the show ring. [Contact a local AKC Club to ask about training opportunities.](#) Your dog should know basic behavior like how to walk on a leash on your left side and how to stack. He should also be very comfortable being around other dogs. On top of taking classes, we encourage you to visit places where you can practice their socialization skills

What you will be required to do in the Ring

- Stacking - The dog must stand, or “stack,” for the judge’s examination. Stacking involves training a dog to stand still. When dogs stand in a stacked position, they’re in an aesthetically pleasing and physically balanced way, so the judge can see their body. When being stacked, a dog is being examined by the judge to evaluate their overall condition and structure. This includes a judge putting their hands on the dog to literally feel the dog’s structure. Look online at pictures of your breed at shows to see how handlers stack their dogs, then start to practice with your dog.
- Gaiting - The judge will then ask the handler to walk or gait their dog around the ring to evaluate the dog’s movement from the front, rear, and side. Gaiting refers to moving a dog in the direction and movement pattern (up and back, so going across the ring and back), or around the ring as specified by the judge. The judge must observe each entry individually, gaiting from the front, the side, and the rear. When gaiting a dog, we want to see a dog moving smoothly in a free and easy gait, which shows their build. When practicing at home, it can be useful to watch videos of dogs of your breed being shown, so you can get an idea for how they should be moving in the ring.
- Take Videos of Training Sessions - You can also take video recordings while practicing gaiting your dog, so you can make sure the movement you get is fluid and makes your dog look their best. As you watch the training session back, you’ll be able to see places where your dog might have been struggling with focus, or where your handling was less effective. Take notes on things you want to fix and then work on that during your next practice session and/or share with a mentor.
- Keep Training Fun - While regular training and practice is important to ensure your dog is ring-ready, remember to keep training sessions short, fun, and playful. You don’t need to have long practice sessions where you drill behaviors repeatedly. Instead, short training sessions spread out during the day are more effective. You

can even incorporate practicing ring skills, like stacking, into your dog's daily life as you're playing together, prepping your dog's meals, or while out on walks. The more fun your dog is having showing, the better they'll present at shows.

- **Grooming** - Learn how to groom your dog for the best show presentation. Bathe your dog, trim its nails, and brush or comb.
- **Manage Your Anxiety** - When getting more involved in conformation a lot of focus is understandably on the dog. However, it's just as important to focus on improving your skills and that starts with your mental game. Stepping into the ring can be anxiety-provoking for even the most experienced handlers. Our anxiety and stress can travel down the leash to our dogs. If you're stressed at a dog show, your dog is more likely to exhibit signs of stress in the ring. This can make showing less fun for your dog and negatively influence their performance. Working on self-confidence and managing your stress on show days can help you to be a stronger handler, which in turn can help your dog show better.

While it might seem like a lot to learn, don't forget that the goal here is for you and your dog to have fun together!

Attending the Show

Arrive at the show and check in with the Show Secretary and follow the schedule provided. Pick up your armband and have your dog ready to be called into the ring. The show will start at the prescribed time the judge will not wait for you to get ready. Do not gather too close to the ring entrance and make sure you give your dogs plenty of room away from other dogs, particularly of the same sex, outside and inside of the ring.

When you enter your first dog show with your dog, remember that win or lose, you're leaving the ring with your best friend at the end of your leash.

Requirements to Become an AKC Champion

Your dog must accumulate a total of 15 points. Points are awarded based on the number of dogs competing in the breed at the show. The more dogs present, the more points can be earned. The maximum number of points awarded is five points.

Out of the 15 points, at least two major wins are required. A major win is defined as a win worth three, four or five points. These major wins must be awarded under different Judges.

Boerboels Division 5: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio

1 POINT: Dogs (2) Bitches (2)

2 POINTS: Dogs (3) Bitches (3)

3 POINTS: Dogs (4) Bitches (4)

4 POINTS: Dogs (5) Bitches (5)

5 POINTS: Dogs (6) Bitches (6)

Additional Resources

[AKC Code of Sportsmanship](#)

[Conformation for Beginners: Part 2 - The Basics - Overview](#)

[2025 AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin | AKC.tv](#)

[Stacking](#)

[Breed Points - AKC Conformation Points Calculator](#)