

About CKC

We started out as a small group of purebred dog supporters in 1888 and are now Canada's leading authority on purebred dogs, with close to 20,000 members.

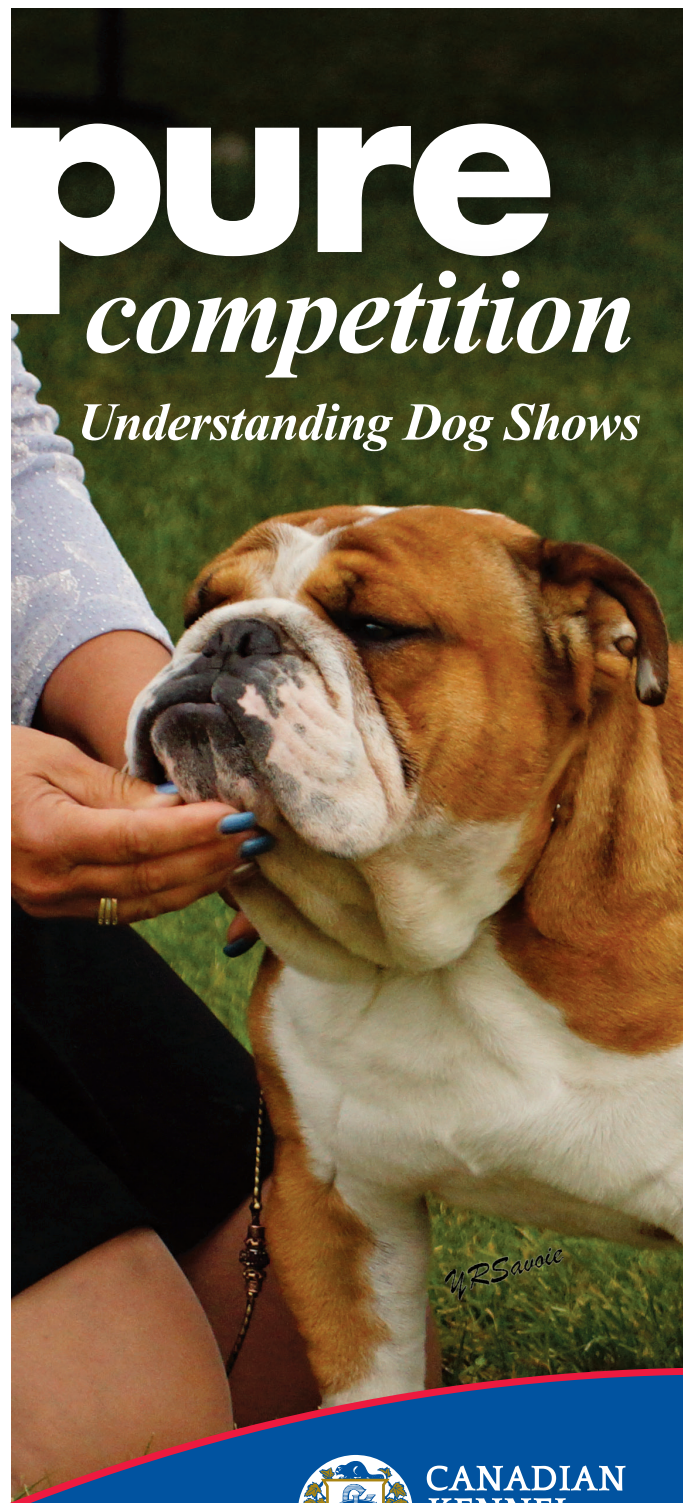
The CKC is a national member-based, non-profit organization that provides registry services for 175 officially recognized breeds of purebred dogs, and approves almost 3,000 dog shows, trials and tests across Canada. We also develop the Rules and Regulations for 18 competitive events and sanction more than 600 dog clubs nationally.

We have a strong tradition of supporting purebreds, responsible owners and reputable breeders and work hard to promote the many benefits that purebred dogs bring to our daily lives.



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Promoting purebred dogs for over 125 years.

How did dog shows get started

More than a century ago in England, a group of sportsmen hit upon the bright idea of having acknowledged dog experts assess their hunting dogs with an eye to selecting the cream of the crop for future breeding stock. That's still the basic premise behind dog shows today.

Along with the quest for quality, dog shows have also become both sporting events where winning is a high, and social gatherings where folks can get together and gab about – what else? – dogs.

Types of dog shows

All Breed – Open to all 175-plus CKC-recognized breeds, these events tend to have the largest entry numbers. Most clubs will host a number of all-breed shows on a weekend, culminating in Best in Show at the end of each day.

Specialty – Generally open to a single breed, these shows will hire judges who are breed specialists. Exhibitors will travel long distances to participate in a specialty and vie for the coveted Best in Specialty (Best of Breed). This award can carry the same prestige as a Best in Show at an all-breed show. Some specialty shows may include a partial group or a number of groups – i.e., a Sighthound Specialty or a Working and Herding Group Specialty.



What happens at a dog show

A dog show is a process of elimination. For each breed, competition starts with the dog entries, in the following order: Junior Puppy, Senior Puppy, 12 to 18 Months, Canadian Bred, Bred by Exhibitor and Open. The winner of each class is brought back into the ring to compete for Winners Dog. Once the Winners Dog is chosen, the dog that placed second in the Winners Dog's class returns to the ring to compete for Reserve Winners Dog. The above is done all over again with the bitches.

The "Specials Only" class is for dogs that are already champions. They compete against other champions and the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch for Best of Breed.

Each Best of Breed then competes at the group level. There are seven CKC groups. The judge looks at all the Best of Breed winners and places them from first to fourth. The winner of each group then goes on to compete for Best in Show. The Best Puppy of each breed competes in the Puppy Group where only one placement is awarded. Best Puppy in Show is judged after Best in Show.



Becoming a champion

A championship certificate is awarded when a dog earns 10 points under three different judges. A dog is awarded points only if it has competition, so the only representative of a breed at a show would not earn any points unless it won a group placement.

The role of the judge

A conformation dog show is not a comparison of one dog to another but a comparison of each dog to a judge's mental image of the ideal breed type as outlined in the individual breed's "standard." This can be challenging because some descriptions are

subjective. As an example, what exactly entails a "full coat" or a "cheerful attitude" can only be learned through experience with the breed that has that particular requirement.

For every class, the judge will assesses each dog's movement and overall structure. Each dog is 'stacked' so that the profile presented to the judge shows the breed's correct outline. The judge will examine the dog, checking head shape and bite (if the teeth are properly aligned), proportions, front and rear angulation, topline, length of ears and tail, height, etc. The dog will then be gaited away from the judge and back, and then sent around the ring to enable the judge to view its side gait. The judge may send all or a few of the dogs around together to compare and then place them.

Tips for the first-time spectator

- Check out the show's catalogue or schedule, usually found at the secretary's table near the entrance.

This will tell you where and when each breed is being judged.
- If you are interested in a particular breed, arrive early. In most cases, once a breed has been judged, those dogs are allowed to leave; if you arrive later, you will miss seeing them. If you miss breed judging, you may still have the opportunity to watch the breed winner in the group ring.
- However tempting, do not pet a dog without asking for permission first. The dog may have just been groomed in preparation for being judged.
- At each dog show you will find vendors and information booths. Many club booths offer helpful information for the general public.
- If you are thinking about getting a purebred dog, talk to the breeders and handlers. They are experts in their breeds. It is best to approach them after they have shown their dog, when they are not too busy to talk.

A process of elimination

