

AMERICAN CANINE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

P.O. Box 121107 Clermont, FL 34712
1-800-651-8332

► Sanctioned Conformation Dog Show Rules & Regulations

MISSION:

Our goal is to create and promote an ongoing positive attitude and fun relationship between a dog and its owner.



I. Definition of a sanctioned ACA conformation dog show

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A sanctioned ACA conformation dog show is when a dog show has been assigned a time and place and is sponsored by an individual, group, club, organization, business owner or the like. (Please note: the word sponsor will indicate the individual, club, group, organization, business owner or the like, for the remainder of this guide). The dogs are judged based on their conformation compared to their breed standard and against comparable dogs in the ring. Points will be obtained from health certification and winning their classes. There must be at least one judge present and pre-approved by an ACA official or representative.

II. Canine Requirements

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The canine competing in the ACA sanctioned competition must have an ACA registered number or temporary ACA assignment number prior to the competition. The owner or handler is required to accompany a dog on the show floor. A veterinarian signed health form and current rabies shot record will need to be available at check-in. There is not an age requirement, however, dogs younger than six months will not be allowed to carry any winning show points.

III. Entry Forms and Fees

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The entry forms and fees should be mailed to the ACA officer/rep aiding in your show. The ACA officer/rep will send a copy of the entries to the sponsor prior to the show.

IV. Breed & Group Classifications

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ACA recognizes all purebred dogs. Each purebred dog will fall under one of the **six ACA recognized groups**: **1. Sporting and Hounds** **2. Herding and Working**, **3. Terriers**, **4. Toy** **5. Non-Sporting** and **6. Miscellaneous**. Each dog will show in competition with other dogs of their own breed. The judge will pick the best looking specimen for that breed and the dog will move on to **The Best in Group Competition**. The judge will pick the best dog from the group and that dog will move on to **The Best in Show Competition**. There will be no more than one dog from each group in **The Best in Show Competition**.

V. Show Points

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To earn the title of Champion, a total of 20 cumulative points are required and, a dog must participate in a minimum of three shows. Points will not carry on a dog's record until it is six months old. Up to six points can be obtained from a certified veterinarian check by having a Health Certification Form (ask your ACA officer/rep for this form) filled out and submitted back to ACA officer/rep.

VI. Handlers

VII. Disqualifications

VIII. Pictures

The remainder of the points will need to come from the sanctioned ACA conformation dog shows. The judges will pick the dogs in the order of best matching conformation to least. The point system is as follows:

Best of Breed	Best of Group	Best of Show
1st Place-1 to 5 pts	1st Place-2 pts	1st Place-3pts
2nd Place-0 pts	2nd Place-1 pts	2nd Place-2 pts
3rd and below-0 pts	3rd and below-0 pts	3rd and below-0 pts

The highest number of points awarded at any conformation show per canine is 10 points, even if the same dog wins Best of Breed, Best of Group, and the Best of Show. The points would carry to the dog's permanent record and cumulate from each show to equal a total of 20 points for the Championship. All judge's decisions are final. If there is only one dog per breed and/or group, the dog will receive the points as indicated and move on to the next class. To obtain a conformation Championship Title, the canine must receive conformation points awarded by at least two (2) different judges.

VI. Handlers

There is not an age requirement for the handler. The handler of the dog must present him/her self in a professional and mature manner with their dog and to the judges and officials of the show.

VII. Disqualifications

A dog can be disqualified for aggressive behavior towards another dog or person and be asked to leave the premises immediately by the sponsor or an ACA officer/rep. A dog may be disqualified by a judge if it has apparent means for disqualification based upon its breed standard. A dog may NOT be disqualified for spay/neutering.

VII. Pictures

ACA requests that pictures are taken of the winners from each breed, group, and best in show. Your ACA officer/rep will be the photographer for each class, unless other arrangements are made between the sponsor and ACA. These pictures may or may not be available for purchase from ACA.

The ACA officer/rep will present all show information to the home office. Show points obtained at any show are final, unless the owner of the dog is contacted within two weeks of show date and notified otherwise.

These rules and regulations are subject to change at any time without notice upon approval of the ACA. They are intended for use by the owner/handler and the dog that is in the show ring. These rules and regulations are effective September 8, 2006.

American Canine Association can be contacted by calling our toll free number 800-651-8332, which is ACA's home office. An ACA customer service representative will direct you to your local ACA officer/rep to get a sanctioned ACA conformation dog show scheduled in your area.

ACA provides many benefits for the dog owner:

- Lifetime Lost and Found Tag Service
- Microchip and tattoo registration
- Ask-A-Vet Service
- Ask-A-Trainer Service
- Full Pedigree Service
- Lifetime genetic health tracking
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Canine Search & Rescue Teams
- Legislation Concerns
- Preferred Veterinarian Program
- Toll Free "800" phone numbers
- Bilingual Staff (Spanish and English)
- 4-H Sponsored Events
- Educational Training and Seminars
- Super Weenie Race-off
- Obedience
- Hunting and Field Trials
- Conformation Dog Shows

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