

ENTERING A DOG SHOW CLASS (Correctly)

There are 9 classes to choose from when entering your dog in a show. Let's begin at the beginning. First, determine the sex of your dog and enter as either a dog or bitch. This holds for all classes. (i.e. 12-18 month dog class or 12-18 month bitch class)

4-6 MONTH PUPPY CLASS

A new class has been established for “new kids on the block.” It is available for 4 to 6 months old puppies who have not been spayed or neutered. It provides opportunity for puppy and handler to get used to the ring and other dogs and people. Great opportunity for socialization for not only puppies, but for new owners/handlers too. Puppies may earn points towards a Certificate of Merit but not towards their AKC championship from this class.

6-9 MONTH PUPPY CLASS

This is the youngest class for puppies to begin earning points towards their AKC Championship. It is just as stated, for puppy dogs and puppy bitches that are 6 months old, but not over 9 months old.

9-12 MONTH PUPPY CLASS

Again, just as the class states, for puppy dogs and puppy bitches that are 9 months old, but not over 12 months of age.

12-18 MONTH CLASS

An intermediate puppy class for dogs and bitches to compete with dogs and bitches of their own general age group without having to compete with more mature and experienced animals.

NOVICE

For dogs and bitches 6 months and over which have not, prior to closing of entries, won three 1st place prizes in Novice Class or one 1st place prize from the Amateur Owner Handler Class, Bred by Exhibitor Class, American Bred Class or Open Class nor one or more points towards their AKC Championship.

AMATEUR OWNER/HANDLER CLASS

For dogs or bitches that are at least six months old that are not champions. Dogs must be handled by the registered owner of the dog and exhibitors who have not at any point in time been a professional dog handler or judge.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR CLASS

For dogs and bitches that are exhibited by their owner and breeder that are not yet champions. That is, the owner must be the breeder of record.

AMERICAN BRED CLASS

For dogs and bitches that are born in the U.S. from a breeding which takes place in the U.S. and are not yet champions.

OPEN CLASS

For any dog or bitch of the breed, at least 6 months of age and not yet a champion. Points toward AKC Championship may be earned from any of the above mentioned classes with exception of the 4-6 Month Puppy Class.

PROTOCOL FOR GAINING POINTS FROM YOUR ENTRY

Dogs and Bitches are judged separately. After all the above classes have been judged, dogs and bitches, the winner of each class in dogs will compete with each other to determine Winners Dog. Then bitches will be judged the same way. The Winners Dog and Winners Bitch will each earn the points (the number of which is dependent on the size of the total entry of the breed) toward his or her AKC Championship. A total of 15 points is required for Championship with two of the wins coming from "Major" shows (shows of 3 or more points).

After Winners Dog and Bitch have been judged, Best of Breed (BOB) will be judged and chosen. Any champions of record may compete as well as the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch. Judge will select his Best of Breed from all those competing in the BOB ring. At the end of BOB competition, all three awards will be given.

Best of Breed – dog judged to be best representation of the breed.

Best of Winners – the dog judged to be the better of the two winners,
Dog and Bitch.

Best of Opposite Sex – the best dog that is opposite to the Best of Breed winner.

Thank you Mary Lou for the information!!