

Breeders' Competition

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To recognise and support the commitment and talent shown by UK breeders, the Kennel Club has created a new competition – **The Kennel Club Breeders' Competition**. The competition creates a new arena where breeders can demonstrate their breeding skills and take pride in showing off their stock.

Kennel Club Chairman, Ronnie Irving, explained, "This is a very exciting innovation. This creates for the first time a genuine Best Breeder competition for every breed at every Championship Show. There has never before been a regular competition where a breeder can go home at the end of the day saying their stock allowed them to be judged as the breeder of the best breeder's group at that show. Who in dogs would not wish to aspire to that? The Kennel Club believes in the quality of dogs bred in this country and this competition is the ideal way to showcase the pride we have in our pedigree dogs."

Mr Irving continued, "The fact that this competition will culminate in an annual Final of Best Breeder's Group at Crufts will give all UK breeders the ultimate opportunity to demonstrate to the world of dogs that their lines are at the top for excellence."

There will be a Crufts Final in 2010 and the main features are:

- Competition scheduled at all Championship shows for every breed, with or without CCs (Breed Club, Sub Group, Group and General Championship Shows included)
- Entries can be made on the day of competition
- Breeders become eligible to enter by having bred four dogs being present and exhibited at that show in that breed
- Competition judged by the breed judge immediately after awarding Best of Breed and Best Puppy in Breed
- Best Breeder in Breed goes through to a Best Breeder in Group Award
- A cumulative points system will be applied to all wins
- 20 points available per calendar year (1 point for a breed win, 4 points for winning a Group, 3 points for coming second in Group, 2 points for third place in Group, 1 point for fourth place in Group)
- After achieving 20 points in a calendar year breeders withdraw from competition for rest of that year
- 20 points required to qualify for Semi Final or Final at Crufts in following year. (The total number of successful qualifiers may dictate that additional heats or qualifications may be necessary to secure a place in the Final.)

[Breeders' Competition Guide for Judges](#)

Breeders' Competition Guide for Judges

16-Mar-092009-03-16

Breed Judges

1. Judging will take place after Best of Breed and Best Puppy in Breed have been declared. Ask the Steward to announce the competition and call teams into the ring. Note - If sexes were split, the dog and bitch judge will make a joint decision. If a joint decision cannot be reached, the referee must be called.
2. It is anticipated that the judge who has been appointed to judge the breed will also judge the best breeder in breed award, however, at breed club shows where this has been announced in the schedule, the referee may be appointed to judge the Best Breeder in Breed award without the involvement of the dog and bitch judges. If you are unsure whether you will be judging this award, please check with the show society.
3. If dogs required by a breeder for the competition are unavailable or unready after being called twice into the ring, agree with the Steward that no further time will be allowed and proceed with judging of the award
4. If there are too many teams to be safely or easily accommodated in the ring at one time, it is acceptable to split the judging of the teams in the same way as for a particularly large breed class.
5. After judging of the Best Breeder in Breed award, sign the appropriate entry in the breeder's Record Book. The winner of Best Breeder in Breed will be awarded one point.
6. Ensure that after judging is complete, the full name of the winning Breeder is recorded at the end of the judging book. It is the name of the breeder that should be recorded and it is not necessary to record the names or exhibit numbers of the dogs in the team. If the Judging Book has not been pre-printed with Best Breeder and a space to record the name it is acceptable to write Best Breeder and the winning breeder's name after the spaces for the CCs.
7. There is no need to make a detailed examination of every dog, even if you officiated in the other sex and have not been over all of the dogs in the breed competition. You will be expected to make a quick assessment of the dogs standing together and then, if possible, the dogs will be moved together once up and down the ring. Some judges may wish the dogs to be moved together around the ring once.

At some shows time will be at a premium and you should, as you normally would, give consideration to any breeds following in that ring.

8. You may withhold the award if you believe that the dogs do not show sufficient merit.
9. As the Best Breeder in Breed and the Best Breeder in Group awards form part of the breed competition, you are encouraged to write a critique.

Group Judges

1. To Judge this award, you must be suitably qualified to judge that Group or Best in Show.
2. If dogs required by a breeder for the competition are unavailable or unready after being called twice into the ring, agree with the Steward that no further time will be allowed and proceed with judging of the award.
3. If there are too many teams to be safely or easily accommodated in the ring at one time, it is acceptable to split the judging of the teams in the same way as for a particularly large breed class.
4. There is no need to make a detailed examination of every dog even if you officiated in the other sex and have not been over all of the dogs in the breed competition. You will be expected to make a quick assessment of the dogs standing together and then, if possible, the dogs will be moved together once up and down the ring. Some judges may wish the dogs to be moved together around the ring once. At some shows time will be at a premium and you should, as you normally would, give consideration to any breeds following in that ring.
5. You may withhold the award if you believe that the dogs do not show sufficient merit
6. Ensure that after judging is complete, the full name of the top four winning Breeders are recorded at the end of the judging book. It is the name of the breeder that should be recorded and it is not necessary to record the names or exhibit numbers of the dogs in the team.
7. After judging of the Best Breeder in Group award, sign the appropriate entry in the Breeders' Record Books. Points are allocated as follows:
 - 4 for Best Breeder in Group
 - 3 for 2nd place in Best Breeder in Group
 - 2 for 3rd place in Best Breeder in Group
 - 1 for 4th place in Best Breeder in Group
8. As the Best Breeder in Breed and the Best Breeder in Group awards form part of the breed competition, you are encouraged to write a critique.

Breeders' Competition Guide for Stewards

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Stewarding in the Breed ring

1. Judging will take place after Best of Breed and Best Puppy in Breed have been declared. Announce the competition and call teams into the ring. Note - if sexes were split, the dog and bitch judge will make a joint decision. If a joint decision cannot be reached, the referee must be called. Alternatively, at breed club shows where this has been announced in the schedule, the referee may be appointed to judge the Best Breeder in Breed award without the involvement of the dog and bitch judges.
2. Breeders wishing to compete should show you their Breeder's Record Book, duly completed and signed by the show management confirming that an entry has been made.
3. You do not need to check or query ownership or breeding of the dogs making up the team – this will have been carried out by the show management at time of entry.
4. Check that there are four dogs per team (no more, no less). Teams may consist of both dogs and bitches.
5. If a dog has missed its breed class through no fault of its owner, entered dogs can still compete in the Breeders' Competition.
6. All must be present and entered at the show and are expected to compete in any classes for which they are entered. Dogs entered for classes such as Veteran and Champion, or variety classes, which do not necessarily form part of the main breed competition, may take part in the Breeders' Competition, but please note that the award is only offered for those breeds which are separately classified at the show. Dogs entered into Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes may not take part.
7. The breeder for each team should have a Breeders Competition Record Book – please note it is the breeder's responsibility to keep this up to date and accurate. If the breeder has forgotten their Record Book he/she must obtain another from the Show Secretary's office.
8. If dogs required by a breeder for the competition are unavailable or unready after being called twice into the ring, agree with the Judge that no further time will be allowed and proceed with judging of the award.
9. If there are too many teams to be safely or easily accommodated in the ring at one time, remind the judge that it is acceptable to split the judging of the teams in the same way as for a particularly large breed class.
10. After judging of the Best Breeder in Breed award, it is important to ensure that the judge signs the appropriate entry in the Breeder's Record Book as this will be used as evidence of points gained by the breeder. The winner of Best Breeder in Breed will be awarded one point.
11. Ensure that after judging is complete, the full name of the winning Breeder is recorded at the end of the Judge's judging book. It is the name of the breeder that should be recorded and it is not necessary to record the names or exhibit numbers of the dogs in the team. If the Judging Book has not been pre-printed with Best Breeder and a space to record the name, it is acceptable to write Best Breeder and the winning breeder's name after the spaces for the CCs.
12. **Q.** Regulation F(1)27.e states that 'The dog declared Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show... must not compete in any subsequent competition.' At a Breed Club Show, the competition would be judged after BOB (=BIS) so could this dog still compete in the breeders' competition?

A. Yes, dogs winning BIS and RBIS may compete in the Breeders' Competition as they are being judged as part of a team rather than in any competition for individual dogs.

13. Remind the Judge that it is desirable for him/her to write a critique on the winning team.

Stewarding in the Group ring

1. Announce the competition and call teams into the ring.
2. Check entries against paperwork supplied by the show management.
3. Check that there are four dogs per team (no more, no less). Teams may consist of both dogs and bitches.
4. You do not need to check or query ownership or breeding of the dogs making up the team – this will have been carried out by the show management at time of entry.
5. The breeder for each team should have a Breeders' Competition Record Book – please note it is the breeder's responsibility to keep this up to date and accurate. If the breeder has forgotten their Record Book he/she must obtain another from the secretary's office.
6. If dogs required by a breeder for the competition are unavailable or unready after being called twice into the ring, agree with the Judge that no further time will be allowed and proceed with judging of the award.
7. If there are too many teams to be safely or easily accommodated in the ring at one time, remind the judge that it is acceptable to split the judging of the teams in the same way as for a particularly large breed class.
8. After judging of the Best Breeder in Group award, ensure that the judge signs the appropriate entry in the Breeders' Record Books. Points are allocated as follows:
 - 4 for Best Breeder in Group
 - 3 for 2nd place in Best Breeder in Group
 - 2 for 3rd place in Best Breeder in Group
 - 1 for 4th place in Best Breeder in Group

9. Ensure that after judging is complete, the full name of the top four winning Breeders are recorded at the end of the Judge's judging book. It is the names of the breeders that should be recorded and it is not necessary to record the names or exhibit numbers of the dogs in the team. If the Judging Books have not been pre-printed with Best Breeder in Group and a space to record the name, it is acceptable to write Best Breeder in Group and details of the winning teams.
10. Remind the Judge that it is desirable for him/her to write a critique on the winning teams.

Breeders' Competition Guide for Organisers

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1. This competition is to be scheduled at all Championship shows for every breed, with or without CCs (Breed Club, Sub Group, Group and General Championship Shows included).

Before the show:

2. It is anticipated that the judge who has been appointed to judge the breed will also judge the Best Breeder in Breed award, Alternatively, at breed club shows where this has been announced in the schedule, the referee may be appointed to judge the Best Breeder in Breed award without the involvement of the dog and bitch judges.
3. There will be no 'Best Breeder in Group' for Sub Group shows. At Sub Group shows, the only awards available will be those for Best Breeder in Breed i.e. one award for each breed classified at the show.
4. List the award for every separately classified breed (both CC and non-CC) in your schedule. Remember that the competition takes place immediately after the breed judging has taken place and should be listed in the schedule and catalogue accordingly. Updated Specimen Schedules are now available to download from the Kennel Club website, www.thekennelclub.org.uk under the Activities and Events/ Exhibiting (Showing) section. **Note:** there is no entry fee.
5. Designate someone to handle the booking in process. The more breeds your show has scheduled the more administrative help you may need but it is anticipated that for General & Group Championship shows no more than two people would be required even at peak times. It is open to you to delegate this process to responsible ring stewards if you wish.
6. Should you wish, for logistical reasons, to specify a limit to the time at which entries can be made at the show you may do so. In this case an announcement to this effect must be placed in the schedule and catalogue. It would also be helpful to make regular announcements at the show to that effect.
7. Ensure that there is space to record the full name of the winning breeder at the end of the judging book. At Group level the top 4 breeders' names will need to be recorded in a similar fashion.
8. Allow additional timing for this award. Although difficult to gauge, a competition similar to this runs very successfully in Scandinavia where the judging of Best Breeder takes only five to ten minutes per breed.
9. Allocate a ring for the Best Breeder in Group competition. This does not have to be held in the Main Ring but may be scheduled in any suitable ring or rings.
10. Ensure you have a supply of Record Books. These may be obtained from the Kennel Club and are priced at £1.50 each.
11. Note any entries received with entries for other classes as this may help you gauge expected numbers and will assist you in planning your ring layout. Please note that on the day the Record Books for these entries will need to be checked and completed. Given the difficulty most breeders will have in trying to coordinate the required number of dogs of their breeding to be at a particular show it is unlikely that you will receive many entries in advance and most entries will be made on the day of the show.
12. It is recommended that Show Societies who provide stewarding cards for their stewards should add a box for the steward to record the number of teams entered for Best Breeder in Breed or group, and the name of the winning breeder (breeders in the case of Group competition).
13. Fosse Data (or other supplier) will supply the correct number of award cards for the number of breeds you have scheduled – these do not need to be ordered separately.

At the show:

14. Make regular announcements if there is a limit to the time at which entries can be made at the show.
15. If possible, brief judges and advise them that a detailed examination of each dog in the breed competition is not required as time constraints may not allow for this. Judges may also be advised that awards may be withheld if he/she feels that exhibits lack sufficient merit. Judges should also be advised that the writing of critiques is to be encouraged.
16. Ensure all stewards have a copy of the 'Guide for Stewards' sheet.
17. 17. Accept entries made on the day. The breeder should list the details of four dogs present at the show that will be competing for the award in the Record Book and present it to the Show Secretary, or other designated official, for verification. If a breeder wishes to enter and does not have a Record Book with them then you cannot accept the entry. There is, however, nothing to prevent a breeder from purchasing a new Record Book at the show in order to make an entry – the important point is that there must be a proper verifiable record of the entry made in a Record Book. A breeder may enter more than one team.
18. **Notes:** only the breeder or his/her delegated representative may enter. The breeder is the breeder of record with the Kennel Club. If three dogs have been bred by Mrs X and a fourth dog has been bred by Mrs X and Mrs Y then the fourth dog does not have the same breeder and therefore cannot take part in the competition. If the dogs have all been bred and registered by the same partnership any one of the partners may enter the

competition on the day, provided they have permission to enter shows on behalf of the partnership. This competition is for UK resident breeders only.

19. For each entry, check that all the dogs have been bred by exactly the same person or partnership. All must be present and entered at the show and are expected to compete in any classes for which they are entered. Dogs entered for classes such as Veteran and Champion, or variety classes, which do not necessarily form part of the main breed competition, may take part in the Breeders' Competition, but please note that the award is only offered for those breeds which are separately classified at the show. Dogs entered into Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes may not take part.
20. **Q:** If an exhibitor explains that there is an error in the catalogue and that all four dogs named in the record book were bred by them despite what the catalogue says, should the entry be accepted? (With the proviso that points gained by ineligible teams may be disqualified later).

A: Yes, such entries should be accepted. Please note that those entering the competition may be required to provide proof of the above at a later date.

21. Note: for big breeds it is likely that four handlers will be necessary but for smaller breeds, three, two or even one handler may be acceptable. If, in the opinion of the Show Management, there are insufficient handlers to show a particular team safely, further handlers may be insisted upon or a team may be excluded from competition.
22. Once a breeder has amassed 20 points they cannot enter any further Best Breeder competitions for that calendar year. Once 20 points have been reached the breeder can then apply to the Kennel Club Canine Activities
23. To indicate that the entry has been verified, sign the appropriate place in the Record Book to indicate that approval to compete has been issued.
24. Alert the ring steward that an entry has been made. The easiest way to accomplish this is to advise the breeder to show the ring steward the completed and signed Record Book as proof of entry. You will also need to make a note of the number of teams taking part in the competition for each breed as the Kennel Club requires this information to be submitted after the show on a Competition Feedback Form, along with the catalogue.
25. **Q.** Regulation F(1)27.e states that 'The dog declared Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show...must not compete in any subsequent competition.' At a Breed Club Show, the competition would be judged after BOB (=BIS) so could this dog still compete in the breeders' competition?

A. Yes, dogs winning BIS and RBIS may compete in the Breeders' Competition as they are being judged as part of a team rather than in any competition for individual dogs.

26. There is no Best Breeder in Show award.

After the show:

27. Submit information to the Kennel Club on number of teams taking part in the competition for each breed on a Competition Feedback Form along with the catalogue.

Note:

A cumulative points system will be applied to all wins.

20 points available per calendar year (1 point for a breed win, 4 points for winning a Group, 3 points for coming second in Group, 2 points for third place in Group, 1 point for fourth place in Group)

After achieving 20 points in a calendar year, breeders withdraw from competition for the rest of that year.

20 points are required to qualify for Semi Final or Final at Crufts in following year. (The total number of successful qualifiers may dictate that additional heats or qualifications may be necessary to secure a place in the Final.)

Breeders' Competition Guide for Exhibitors

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Best Breeder in Breed

1. Obtain your Breeders Competition Record Book from the Kennel Club [Online Shop](#) or by contacting the [Publications Department](#) at the Kennel Club 0870 606 6750 ext. 278 or by obtaining one from the [Kennel Club Roadshow](#) stand which attends many shows throughout the year and are priced at £1.50 each. A limited supply of Record Books will be available from the Secretary at General & Group Championship shows. Full instructions on how to enter the competition, and what information needs to be completed, are detailed in the Record Book. It is the Breeder's responsibility to keep the Record Book up to date and accurate.
2. This award is offered for all separately classified breeds at Championship shows. At the show, determine if there are four dogs present, all bred by you, who can take part in the competition, and discuss entering the competition with the owners. Other owners are not obliged to take part but it is hoped that people will enjoy competing in this new arena. You may if you wish enter more than one team.
3. **Notes:** only the breeder or his/her delegated representative may enter. Each team to consist of four different dogs. The breeder is the breeder of record with the Kennel Club. If three dogs have been bred by Mrs X and a fourth dog has been bred by Mrs X and Mrs Y then the fourth dog does not have the same breeder and therefore cannot take part in the competition. If the dogs have all been bred and registered by the same partnership any one of the partners may enter the competition on the day, provided they have permission to enter shows on behalf of the partnership. This competition is for UK resident breeders only.
4. Dogs forming part of the team have to be entered at the show and are expected to be shown in order to be eligible to compete in the Breeders' Competition. Dogs entered for classes such as Veteran and Champion, or variety classes, which do not necessarily form part of the main breed competition, may take part in the Breeders' Competition, but please note that the award is only offered for those breeds which are separately classified at the show. Dogs entered into Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes may not take part.
5. It may not be essential in all breeds to have a handler for each of the dogs. For big breeds it is likely that four handlers will be necessary but for smaller breeds three, two or even one handler may be acceptable. The important thing is that the judge can see the dogs properly and that the safety of dogs and people be maintained. If, in the opinion of the Show Management, there are insufficient handlers to show a particular team safely, further handlers may be insisted upon or a team may be excluded from competition.
6. When selecting handlers, breeders should exercise caution as to whom he/she asks to handle dogs. Anyone asked to do so should be asked whether they are to judge within the next 12 months, as the dog they are to handle cannot be exhibited under them within the previous 12 months to the judging appointment. F(1)30a(11).
7. As soon as you know that you have an eligible team, complete the details in your record book and then go to see the show secretary, or other designated official of the show, and 'book-in' for the Competition. This is much the same procedure as is adopted at many Companion Dog Shows. There is no entry fee for this competition.
8. Be aware that at some shows, Societies may need to limit the time in which entries can be made for logistical reasons. In such cases an announcement to this effect should appear in the schedule and catalogue, and Societies are asked to make regular announcements at the show to that effect.
9. The judge is required to judge the dogs solely on their merit. The dress of handlers will not be taken into account and it is not suggested that teams wear matching clothing.
10. Advise the Ring Steward that you wish to compete, and present your Record Book when asked to do so to confirm your entry.
11. The steward will call for exhibitors for this competition after Best of Breed and Best Puppy in Breed have been awarded. If dogs required by a breeder for the competition are unavailable or unready after being called twice into the ring, no further time will be allowed and judging of the award will proceed.
12. The judge is not expected to go over every dog as time constraints may not allow this. Normally judges will be expected to make a quick assessment of the dogs standing together and then, if possible, the dogs will be moved together once up and down the ring. Some judges may wish the dogs to be moved together around the ring once.
13. Where sexes are split the dog and bitch judge will make a joint decision. When a joint decision cannot be reached the Referee will be called upon to decide. At breed club shows where this has been announced in the schedule, the referee may be appointed to judge the Best Breeder in Breed award without the involvement of the dog and bitch judges. If you are unsure who will be judging this award, please check with the show society.
14. Once judging of the Competition has been completed, the judge should sign and date the Record Book of the winning exhibitor, and update it with the number of points won by that team. One point will be awarded to the Best Breeder in Breed.

15. Should you be awarded Best Breeder in Breed, please remain in the ring as the Judge will be encouraged to write a critique.
16. If you have been awarded Best Breeder in Breed, you will then go on to the Group competition.
17. If you are beaten in the Best Breeder in Breed Award, your dog's eligibility to compete for other awards at the show is not affected.

Best Breeder in Group

1. The Best Breeder in Group may be judged by the Best in Group Judge, the Best in Show Judge, or another judge suitably qualified to judge that Group or Best in Show, as preferred by the show society.
2. There will be no 'Best Breeder in Group' for Sub Group shows. At Sub Group, the only awards available will be those for Best Breeder in Breed i.e. one award for each breed classified at the show.
3. In the Group competition, four teams will receive awards.
4. Once judging of the Competition has been completed, the judge should sign and date the Record Book of the winning exhibitor, and update it with the number of points won by that team as follows:
 - 4 for Best Breeder in Group
 - 3 for 2nd place in Best Breeder in Group
 - 2 for 3rd place in Best Breeder in Group
 - 1 for 4th place in Best Breeder in Group

Crufts final

In order to qualify for the final at Crufts, Breeders amass points throughout the calendar year based on how well their teams have performed.

Once a breeder has amassed 20 points they cannot enter any further Best Breeder competitions for that calendar year. Once 20 points have been reached the breeder can then apply to the Kennel Club Canine Activities Department to take part in the Crufts Final, or Semi Final by providing a copy of the completed Record Book. The points in the Record Book must be properly recorded and signed by the officiating judges to ensure eligibility. **Note:** It is possible that the total numbers of breeders qualifying for the Crufts Final or Semi Final may dictate that additional heats or qualifications are required to secure a place.