



## UNDERSTANDING CONFORMATION SHOWS

Each day of a dog show weekend is a separate show. The same classes are offered for competition each day and a Best in Show winner is chosen for each day/show.

### Group Categories

**There are Seven (7) different groups of dogs:**

<b>Group 1</b>	Sporting Dogs
<b>Group 2</b>	Hounds
<b>Group 3</b>	Working Dogs
<b>Group 4</b>	Terriers
<b>Group 5</b>	Toys
<b>Group 6</b>	Non-Sporting Dogs
<b>Group 7</b>	Herding Dogs

There are several breeds in each group and the beginning of the day is begun by judging each of the breeds individually to decide on Winners dogs (male and female) for the points and then the Best of Breed winner, which then moves on to Group judging, with each breed being represented for that group. The winner of each of these 7 groups then goes to the Best of Show judging to then decide which dog deserves the Best in Show Award.

It is a process of elimination as winners progress to the next level of competition.

### Judging

As a judge goes over each dog in the ring, he/she compares him/her to a mental picture of the perfect dog of that breed (breed standard).

**Dogs are judged on:**

1. Physical structure (head, teeth, feet, amount of bone, etc.)
2. Condition (proper weight, condition of coat, muscle tone, etc.)
3. Gait as seen from front, side and rear.
4. Temperament - showmanship, personality; penalizing heavily for shyness or aggression.



### Regular Classes

All dogs competing for points at a Show are entered in one of the official classes for their breed and sex. Males entered in these classes are judged first, the females following in the same order of classes.

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| <b>Junior puppy</b>      | For dogs six months and under nine months of age on the day of the show.   |
| <b>Senior puppy</b>      | For dogs nine months and under twelve months of age on the day of the show.  |
| <b>Canadian Bred</b>     | For dogs born in Canada, Champions in any country excluded.  |
| <b>Bred by Exhibitor</b> | For dogs owned and handled in the ring by their breeder.   |
| <b>12-18 Months</b>      | For dogs 12 months and under 18 months of age on the day of the show.  |
| <b>Open</b>              | For all dogs.  |
| <b>Specials Only</b>     | For registered, Champion dogs only. Dogs in this class do not compete for class placement & ribbons, but instead compete directly for breed placement & ribbons. |

### Winners Classes

**Winners Male** - After the official classes (except for Specials) for males have been judged, the undefeated males compete for Winners Male and a purple ribbon.

**Reserve** - All dogs which have been defeated only by the dog awarded Winners (the other 1st place class winners and the 2nd place class winner from the class that the Winners Male was selected) are then judged for the award of Reserve Winners Male, which receives a lavender ribbon.

After the Reserve Winners Male is chosen, the same procedure is used to judge the females and a Winners Female and Reserve Winners Female are chosen.



## Breed Competition

**Specials Only** - Dogs entered for Specials Only and the dogs awarded Winners Male and Winners Female are brought into the ring to compete for Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex judging.

**Best of Breed** - Judging for Best of Breed is confined to the dogs awarded Winners Male and Winners Female and any dogs entered for Specials Only in the breed. The winner of this competition has now defeated all the other competitors in this particular in this particular breed and receives a red, white and blue ribbon.

**Best of Opposite Sex** - The dogs which are of the opposite sex to the Best of Breed winner and which competed in the judging for Best of Breed compete for Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed. The winner of this award receives a green and white ribbon.

**Best of Winners** - The Winners Male and Winners Female are judged at the same time as Best of Breed for the award of Best Of Winners. If the Winners Male or Winners Female is chosen as Best of Breed, that dog is automatically awarded Best of Winners. The Best of Winners ribbon is purple and gold.

**Best Puppy in Breed** - The final breed award is made to the Best Puppy In Breed. All puppies which have not been defeated by another puppy during class judging compete. If a puppy is awarded Best Of Breed, he receives this award automatically – a pale blue ribbon.

## Group Judging

**Best In Group** - The recognized breeds are divided into seven groups: Sporting Dogs, Hounds, Working Dogs, Terriers, Toys, Non-Sporting Dogs and Herding Dogs. The dogs awarded Best Of Breed compete in their respective groups for awards of Group 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The rosettes are blue, red, yellow and white, respectively.

**Best Puppy in Group** – The judge will also select a Best Puppy In Group winner. Each of the Best Puppy In Breed winners compete, unless a puppy has placed in the Best In Group judging. i.e. If the Group 1st winner is also a puppy then it is automatically awarded the pale blue rosette. If the Group 2nd winner is a puppy, then it will only compete against the puppy of the same breed as the Group 1st winner (since it has indirectly beaten all other group puppies by placing in the Group). The same logic flows down if the Group 3rd or 4th winner is a puppy.



## Best In Show

The seven (7) **Best In Group** winners are then judged for the top award, **Best in Show**. A rosette of red, white and blue is presented to the winner. If the Best In Show winner is a puppy, it automatically receives a pale blue rosette. If the Best In Show winner is not a puppy, the seven puppies awarded Best Puppy In Group will compete for Best Puppy In Show.

A dog earns points toward his Championship from the level of Winners Male or Winners Female and up, according to the number of dogs in competition as set down by the Canadian Kennel Club. The maximum number of points awarded to a dog at any one Show is five (5). This means that even if a dog from the Junior Puppy is awarded Best In Show, he is credited with a maximum of five points, depending on the number of dogs he defeated.

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Show information adapted from AKC website:

<http://www.albertakennelclub.org/aboutshows.html>

Judging written by Kathleen J. Stewart Klompen Keeshonden:

<http://www3.telus.net/public/klompen/dogshow.htm>

Group categories and summary of dog shows written by Wendy Petkau Auburnmist:

<http://www.auburnmist.com/>