GUIDE TO JUDGING IN CANADA

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Breed Standards

When judging in Canada, you are required to follow the breed standards as established by the Canadian Kennel Club. A complete list of all CKC-recognized breed standards can be found here: <u>Breed Standards</u>.

CKC Observers

If you have not judged in Canada within the past three years, the Canadian Kennel Club will assign an Observer to your ring. Their role is to observe your procedures and ensure you're comfortable with Canadian judging protocols.

The Observer will typically introduce themselves to you on your first day of judging. They are there to support you and are available to answer any procedural questions you may have.

Guidelines for Visiting Conformation Judges

The following section is taken from the Handbook for CKC Conformation Judges (January 1, 2024 - Section 5):

Ring Procedures

- 1. You must mark all awards in your judge's book yourself.
- You must check all armband numbers and record absentees. You
 may accept a late arrival at your discretion up to the point where
 you have examined all dogs and have made an indication of your
 placements.
- 3. The order of final awards is BB, BOS, BW, Select Male, Select Female
- 4. Dogs must be placed in front of the award markers and the book marked BEFORE the ribbons are awarded.
- 5. Awards are made in the order 1, 2, 3, 4 NOT the reverse.
- 6. SELECT awards are at the judge's discretion and may be withheld by the judge.

- 7. You are expected to judge 20-25 dogs per hour, and respect the times as published in the judging schedule.
- 8. At the Group level, ALL dogs must be gaited. Any dog not previously judged at that event must be examined.
- 9. At Best in Show level, ALL dogs must be examined and gaited.
- 10. You must NOT kneel down in front of or beside a dog.
- 11. You may not use a measure or calipers in the ring when you are judging. The official CKC measure only may be used for a height or weight disqualification.
- 12. A class is considered judged when placements are indicated and the book is marked. You may not re-judge a class.
- 13. A judge may not discuss the merits of the dogs with the stewards, exhibitors or spectators.

Examination

- 1. All dogs MUST be examined individually as appropriate for that breed, including the use of table or ramp, which for some breeds is mandatory use.
- 2. All dogs MUST be gaited individually and as a group in the class.
- If re-examination of a table or ramp breed is wanted, it must be done on the table or ramp. Do not re-examine a table or ramp breed on the ground.
- 4. The bite may be shown by the exhibitor but if the judge is not satisfied with the examination, it is permitted for the judge to examine the mouth.
- 5. Be aware that not all breeds require full dentition. There is an Oral Examination document available that summarizes the required examinations for each breed according to the standard.

Rules

- 1. There are certain conditions for which a judge MUST excuse or disqualify a dog.
- 2. A form must be filled out if excusing or disqualifying a dog. The form will be provided by the show secretary or by the ring steward and

- must be completed before the dog leaves the ring. One copy of the form goes to the exhibitor.
- 3. There are exemptions on breed disqualifications and excusals for entries in the Baby Puppy class. (teeth, testicles, size)
- 4. Any questions on rules & procedures should be referred to the Show Superintendent for an answer or explanation.
- 5. The CKC requires a judge's observation programme, and a visiting judge may, at the request of the CKC, be observed by a trained Observer. This Observer is required to introduce themselves to the judge prior to the start of judging and will meet with the visiting judge following the assignment to review the observation document.
- 6. The Observer is there to assist the judge in having a positive judging experience.

Weighing & Measuring Dogs

In Canada, you may only weigh or measure breeds that have a disqualification based on height or weight—and only at your discretion as the judge. Exhibitors cannot request **that** a dog be weighed or measured.

You must use the official equipment provided by the show secretary. Personal measuring or weighing devices are not permitted.

For guidance, this <u>video</u> from the American Kennel Club demonstrates proper procedures for measuring and weighing dogs in the ring. Please note that while the video is from the AKC, the judge's authority on this matter aligns with Canadian practices.

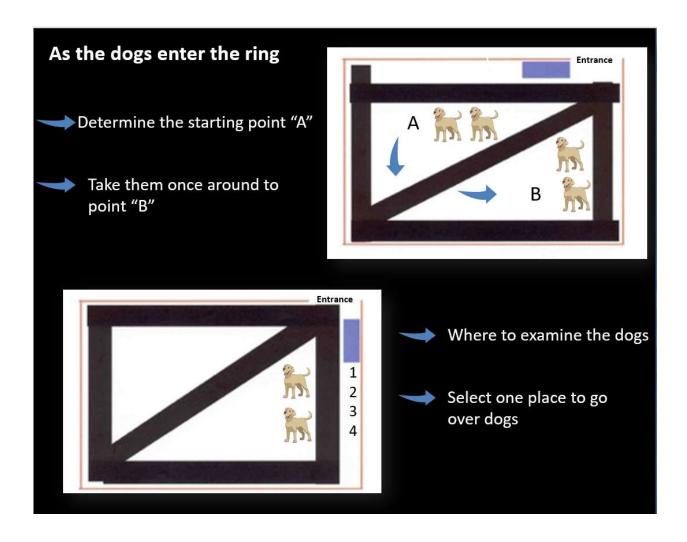
Oral & Individual Examination

A complete list of the oral exam and dentition requirements for all CKC recognized breeds, as well as where they are judged (table, ramp, or ground), can be found here.

Ring Patterns

You may use any ring pattern you prefer, provided that all dogs are moved both as a group and individually.

The pattern suggested below is commonly used for its efficiency and minimal movement required on your part.



Reading the Judging Schedule

9:00 a.m.	6	C.K.C. Spaniel	2-2-2-0
	1	Chihuahua (LC)	0-0-0-1
	1	Chihuahua (SC)	0-0-1-0
	1	Chinese Crested	0-0-1-0
	1	BP - Chinese Crested	1-0
	2	Coton de Tulear	0-0-0-2
	16	Havanese	3-10-0-3
	2	BP - Havanese	2-0
	4	Italian Greyhound	1-2-1-0
	3	Maltese	1-1-0-1
10:30 a.m.	1	Papillon	0-0-0-1
	1	BP - Papillon	0-1
	6	Pekingese	0-3-2-1
	3	Pomeranian	1-0-2-0
	1	BP - Pomeranian	1-0
	2	Poodle (Toy)	2-0-0-0
	12	Pug	1-1-7-3
	1	BP - Pug	0-1
	1	Toy Manchester	0-0-1-0
	5	Yorkshire Terrier	1-2-1-1
11:50 a.m.		Judging Group 5	

The four columns represent the following: the number of class (non-Champion) males, class bitches, male Specials (Champions), and bitch Specials.

For example, in the Havanese entry shown above, there are 3 class dogs, 10 class bitches, 0 male Specials, and 3 bitch Specials.

BP stands for Baby Puppy. In Havanese, there are 2 male baby puppies and no female baby puppies.

Other unofficial classes you might see include Veterans, Altered, and Brace.

When a specific time is listed for a breed, judging may not begin before that time. In the example above, judging for Papillons and any breeds following them cannot begin before 10:30 a.m.

The same rule applies to group judging—if your group has a scheduled start time, it must be followed.

As a general guideline, judging schedules are based on a pace of 25 dogs per hour.

Classes

At a regular show, the official classes for each sex include:

- 6–9 Month Puppy for dogs between 6 and 9 months of age
- 9–12 Month Puppy for dogs between 9 and 12 months of age
- 12–18 Month for dogs between 12 and 18 months of age
- Canadian Bred for dogs bred in Canada; must be at least 6 months old
- Bred by Exhibitor must be at least 6 months old and shown by the breeder of the dog
- Open for any dog over 6 months of age

From these classes, you will select your Winners Dog and Winners Bitch, as well as your Reserve Winners Dog and Reserve Winners Bitch.

When selecting Reserve, remember to call back the second-placing dog from the same class the Winners Dog or Bitch came from.

Once Winners Dog and Winners Bitch have been selected, the Specials Only Class enters the ring. This includes:

- All Champion males and bitches (referred to as "Specials")
- The Winners Dog
- The Winners Bitch

From this class, you may (but are not required to) award the following:

- Best of Breed
- Best of Opposite Sex
- Best of Winners selected from Winners Dog and Winners Bitch
- Select Dog a Champion male (not the Winners Dog) who, in your opinion, deserves points toward a Grand Championship
- Select Bitch a Champion bitch (not the Winners Bitch) who, in your opinion, deserves points toward a Grand Championship

 Best Puppy – must be between 6 and 12 months old. You may need to call back any puppy that remains undefeated by another puppy for this award. If your Best of Breed winner is a puppy, they are automatically Best Puppy in Breed

Unofficial Classes

Some clubs may also offer unofficial classes as special events, including:

- Baby Puppy for puppies between 4 and 6 months old
- Brace two dogs shown together as a pair
- Altered for sexually altered (desexed) dogs
- Veteran for dogs over 7 years old; may be desexed, except when entered in Best of Breed competition at a regular show (not a Specialty), in which case the dog must be intact
- Bred By awarded either from winners of the Bred by Exhibitor class, or in the Best of Breed ring if the club chooses
- Owner Handled must be handled by the owner; the winner can come from any class

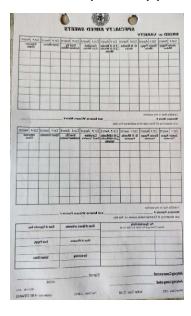


Specialty Shows – Unofficial and Breed-Specific Classes

Specialty shows may offer a variety of unofficial classes, including those listed above, as well as classes that highlight the breed's original purpose or performance abilities—such as Best Field Dog.

At single-breed specialties, Veterans are eligible to compete for Best of Breed, even if they are sexually altered (desexed).

This exception applies only to single-breed specialties.



Ring Procedure at the Breed Level

You will be provided with a judge's book, which is your responsibility to complete. Your ring steward will have a separate book to record their notes.

On the front of your judging book, you must:

- Record the time you began judging
- Indicate all absentees
- Sign the book to confirm its accuracy

Your book must be clearly and correctly marked, as it serves as the official record.



Each breed will have its own dedicated page(s) in your judging book, with classes listed in columns.

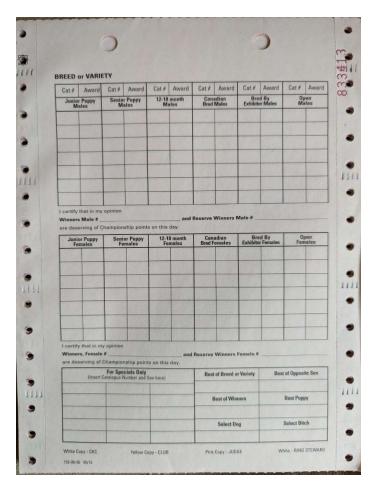
As each class enters the ring:

- Verify that each dog's armband number matches the number listed in your book for that class
- Mark any absentees with an "A" in your book
- Once all dogs are present and absentees are recorded, you may begin judging the class

At a minimum, you are required to:

- Check dentition and bite on all exhibits
- Verify the presence of two testicles on all male dogs
- Check for any disqualifying faults specific to the breed (e.g., absence of double dew claws on a Great Pyrenees)
- Move all dogs individually

A **complete** list of disqualifying faults can be found <u>here</u>.



Recording Placements

After you have determined your placements (1st through 4th), you must:

- Verify the armband numbers of the dogs you've placed
- Record each placement in your judging book by writing the placement next to the corresponding armband number

Your judging sheet also includes designated spaces to mark the following awards:

- Winners Dog / Winners Bitch
- Reserve Winners Dog / Reserve Winners Bitch
- Best of Breed
- Best of Opposite Sex
- Best of Winners

Best Puppy Select Dog / Select Bitch

Group-Level Ring Procedure

At the group level, you will receive a new judge's book that lists the armband numbers of your Best of Breed and Best Puppy in Breed winners.

All Best of Breed winners will enter the ring first. Before beginning, confirm that each dog's armband number matches your book.

You may then begin judging. All dogs must be gaited as a group **and** evaluated individually. For any breeds you did not judge at the breed level, you are required to perform a full examination. This includes:

- · Checking dentition and bite
- Verifying the presence of two testicles in males
- Identifying any disqualifying faults

You may choose to make a cut, but it is not mandatory. If you do, a minimum of six dogs should be retained for final consideration. You will award four group placements.

For Best Puppy in Group:

- If any of your four group placements are also puppies. In that case, they are only eligible to compete for Best Puppy in Group if the breed that defeated them at the group level also had a puppy entered.
- If your Group First winner is a puppy, they are automatically awarded Best Puppy in Group.
- Otherwise, judge Best Puppy in Group using the same process as Best in Group.



Ring Procedure at the Best in Show Level

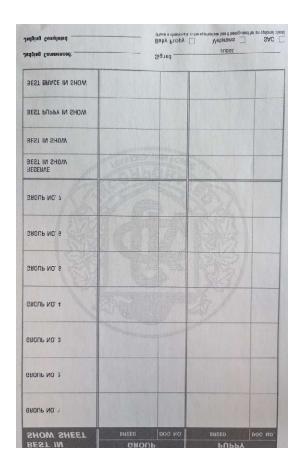
At the Best in Show level, you will receive a new judge's book listing all Group winners and Puppy Group winners.

All Group winners will be called into the ring first. Each dog competing for Best in Show must be fully examined and moved, even if you judged the dog earlier in the day.

You are required to select:

- Best in Show
- Reserve Best in Show

The Best Puppy in Show competition follows the same procedure. All Puppy Group winners must also be fully examined and moved before making your final decision.



Disqualifications, Excusals & Lack of Merit

Effective June 2025, all disqualifications, excusals or withholdings for lack of merit incidents must be recorded on the form.

When to Use the Form:

Disqualification (DQ)

If a dog is disqualified for any reason, the form must be completed.

Copies go to:

- The handler
- The Event Secretary (for submission with the results)

Excusal (EX)

If a dog is excused for any reason, the form must be completed.

Again, copies go to:

- The handler
- The Event Secretary

Withholding an Award (WH/LOM)

If you are withholding an award for Lack of Merit or any other reason, the form must be completed and distributed as above.

Exhibitor Requests to Be Excused:

If an exhibitor asks to be excused, the judge must formally excuse them and complete the form, providing a reason.

What to Record in the Judge's Book:

Be sure to mark:

- DQ for Disqualification
- EX for Excusal
- WH/LOM for Withholding due to Lack of Merit

These must be recorded along with the completed form, following Section 14.1.3 of the CKC Conformation Show Rules:

"When a judge withholds an award for lack of merit, or disqualifies or excuses a dog, the reason must be recorded in the judge's book. The judge must also fill out the appropriate form. The owner or handler must be given the yellow copy of the form before leaving the ring."

"A disqualified dog must not receive ribbons, prizes, or awards. The CKC may cancel any past awards and request ribbons/prizes be returned."

Withholding First Place

As per Section 4.4.9, if first place is withheld:

- A form must be completed for each dog in the class
- All further placements in that class are automatically withheld
- Forms go to the handler and the Event Secretary

Please refer to section 14 of the CKC Handbook for Conformation Judges for a complete description of disqualification and excusals.



5397 EGLINTON AVE W, SUITE 101, ETOBICOKE, ON, M9C 5K6 | TEL (416) 675-5511 | 1 (855) 364 - 7252 | www.ckc.ca JUDGE'S DISQUALIFICATION / EXCUSAL/ LACK OF MERIT FORM Instructions Place a check (*) in the appropriate boxes to indicate if a dog is being Disqualified, Excused or not being given an Award for Lack of Merit and the reason therefore. Once the form is complete, please provide the handler with the yellow copy. If the dog is being permanently disqualified, please put a check (*) in both boxes marked with an asterisk. Otherwise only place a check (*) in the box for "Bit another dog or person". Dog's Armband Number Breed ☐ "AWARD WITHHELD/LACK OF MERIT ☐ "EXCUSAL Dog is under the influence of drugs or other ■ Two Testicles not located in the scrotum substance Lame Unable to be examined Measured/Weighed Out (Poodles/Shetland Sheepdogs/Dachshunds) (Use additional comment section if necessary) ☐ Use of dye or chalk or other substance to alter colour of dog's coat/Foreign substance in the coat (please include details in ad-☐ Specials Incorrectly Entered by Gender ☐ Other ust provide specific reason in additional comments) ☐ Threatened, Menaced **Additional Comments** DISQUALIFICATION Appearance Change (artificial or surgical) Breed Standard Disqualification Attempted to bite judge, person, or another dog Neutered/ Spayed Permanently Disqualified (If a dog is being permanently disqualified please check the appropriate box and the box with the salarisk. If not being permanently disqualified, place a check only in the appropriate box.) Deaf Measured/Weighed Out Bit another judge, person, or dog Permanently Disqualified Blind (in one or both eyes) Additional Comments Judge's Signature Handler Signature Event Holding Club **Please remember to advise the exhibitor/handler that the dog is no longer eligible to compete in that event for the rest of the day

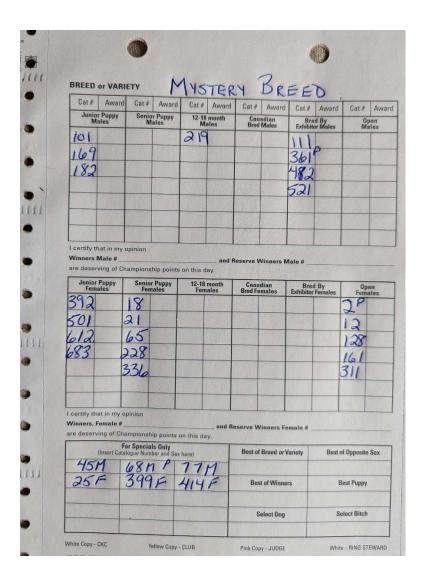
Yellow Copy-Handler

150-00-51 05/25

White Copy-CKC

Breed Judging Example Book

In our Mystery Breed, we have entries in several classes. All puppies that are not entered in the puppy classes are marked with a P. In our example below, 361, 2 and 68 are all puppies between the **ages of 6 and 12** months.



The first class to be called in will be the male Junior Puppies. Check **the armbands** and then proceed to judge the class. Once you have **decided** on your placements, you will need to mark your book **if** you **choose** first place to dog 169, second to dog 182 and third to dog 101. You would mark it in the following way:

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Once you have marked your book and handed out the ribbons, your steward will call your next class (12–18-month-old males). Once all three classes of males have been judged, the winner of each class will be called back into the ring for **the Winner's** Dog. In our example below, it would be dogs 169, 219, and 521.

		Y BR	EED	
Cat # Award	Cat # Award	Cat # Award	Cat # Award	Cat # Aw
Senior Puppy Males	12-18 month Males	Canadian Bred Males	THE RESERVE ASSESSMENT	Open Males
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			100 d	500000000000000000000000000000000000000
			102 2	
			521	
8	Telliales	bleu remaies	EXHIBITOR Females	7 P
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3/2		4-13		311
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Specials Only	x here)	Best of Breed or	Variety Bes	st of Opposite Se
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399F	414F	Best of Winn	ers	Best Puppy
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	inion Impionship points Senior Puppy Females 8 1 5 3 8 3 Inion Inpionship points Specials Only	males Males A 19 Inpionship points on this day. Senior Puppy Females A 1 1 2-18 month Females A 2 3 1 2-18 month Females A 3 1 2-18 month Females A 1 2-18 month Females A 2 3 1 2-18 month Females A 4 1 2-18 month Females A 5 2 2 2-18 month Females A 5 2 2 2-18 month Females A 6 2 2-18 month Females A 7 2-18 month Females A 8 1 2-18 month Females A 9 2 2-18 month Females A 1 2-18 mont	Senior Puppy Males 12-18 month Males Bred Males 2 19 inion and Reserve Winners In mpionship points on this day. Senior Puppy Females Bred Females 8 1	Senior Puppy Males

Check the armbands and choose your winner. Feel free to re-examine and move any or all the dogs in the ring. Winners Dog will receive points towards their CKC championship. After you have chosen your Winners Dog (521 in our example), you will need to call the second-place dog from the class (361) back in before deciding on your Reserve Winners Dog, 361 in our example below.

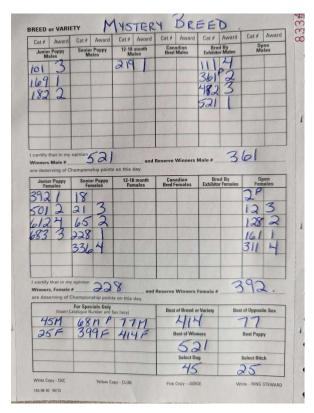
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Proceed to judge the females. In our example below, female 228 from the Senior Puppy Class goes Winners Bitch and Reserve goes to 392.

Cat #	Award	Charles of the last	Award	Cat#	Award	Cat#	BRI	Cat#	Award	Cat# A	ward
Junior Ma	Puppy	Senio M	r Puppy ales	12-18 Ma	month iles	Cana Bred	ndian Males	Bre Exhibite	d By or Males	Open Male:	3
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501	2	21	2							12	2
012.	4	65	2							128	0
,83	3	228								161	1
		33/	4							311	1
certify tha	t in my c	pinion	22	0					-	29)
Vinners, Fo	emale#	•	72	8		Reserve	Winner	rs Femal	e#	219	
re deservi		or Specia		s on this	аау.	T p.	st of Bree	d or Vario	N	Best of Oppo	osite Se
(Insert Cata	alogue Nur	nber and S	ex here)		Be	St of bree	u or vario	,		
451	1	681	7 1	77	M					Best P	unny
25 F		399	1F	414	1F		Best of V	Vinners		Destri	-641
										Calcat	Ritch
							Select	Dog		Select	DITCH

For Best of Breed, the Specials will enter the ring along with the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch. Check the armbands and proceed to judge the class. Any animal in the ring can go Best of Breed, regardless of whether they have finished their championship. In our example, female 414 becomes Best of Breed. Best of Opposite Sex can then go to any animal in the ring that is the opposite sex of the Best of Breed choice. In our example, you can choose any male dog in the ring for Best of Opposites.

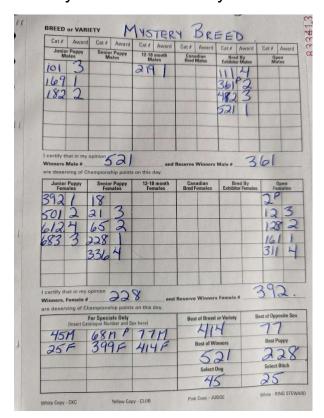
We'll say you chose male 77. Select Dog and Select Bitch can go to any champion in the ring that you have not already chosen. You are not obligated to award Select if you don't feel the remaining animals are deserving of Grand Championship points. In our example, male 45 and female 25 went Select. Best of Winners is chosen next from your Winners Dog and your Winners Bitch. In our example, the Winners Dog is given Best of Winners. Mark your book with all your placements and hand out the ribbons. These animals can now leave the ring.



For Best Puppy in Breed, you will need to call the following dogs in:

- male Special 68 he's your only puppy Special and has only been defeated by adult dogs, had he gone Best of Breed he would automatically be your Best Puppy
- Reserve Winners Dog 361 he has defeated all the class male puppies except the Specials male puppy
- Winners Bitch 228 she has defeated all the class females but has not been defeated by either the Specials male or the Reserve Winners Dog

Make your choice. Mark your book and hand out your ribbon.



When you have finished judging all the breeds in your book, make sure that you note the time you finished judging on the book cover, answer the questions on the cover and sign the book.