

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES AT DOG SHOWS IN FINLAND

These guidelines for judges officiating at dog shows licensed and approved by the Finnish Kennel Club (FKC) are based on the FKC show rules and regulations.

The judging system in Finland differs substantially from the British and the U.S. systems. The main differences are:

Each dog is given a written critique of approximately 20–50 words, which the judge dictates to the ring steward in a language that has been agreed with the Show Committee in advance.

The critique should include the judge's overall assessment of the dog and its quality, and it should cover the main merits and faults of the dog. The critique for a non-excellent or non-very good dog should indicate the reason for the grading. A copy of the critique is given to each exhibitor at the conclusion of the breed judging. Critiques are also published in breed club magazines or yearbooks.

In every class, each dog is first judged individually against the **FCI breed standard** and graded according to its quality.

The FKC defines the various grades as follows:

EXCELLENT may only be awarded to a dog which comes very close to the ideal standard of the breed, is presented in excellent condition, displays a harmonious, well-balanced behaviour, is of high class and has excellent posture. Its superior characteristics in respect of its breed permit that minor imperfections can be ignored; it must however have the typical features of its sex.

VERY GOOD may only be awarded to a dog which possesses the typical features of its breed, has a well-balanced structure and is in good condition. A few minor faults may be tolerated, but none of a morphological nature. This award can only be awarded to a dog that shows class.

GOOD may be awarded to a dog that is a typical representative of its breed, however showing clear faults.

SUFFICIENT must be awarded to a dog which corresponds adequately to its breed without possessing the generally accepted characteristics or whose physical condition leaves something to be desired.

DISQUALIFIED shall be awarded to a dog

- whose type or conformation does not correspond with the breed standard,
- whose behaviour does not match with the breed standard,
- who is clearly aggressive,
- who has a missing testicle or abnormal testicles,
- who has severe abnormalities in bite or jaws,
- whose colour or coat quality does not correspond with the breed standard or clearly exhibits signs of albinism,
- who does not appear healthy,

In addition, it can be awarded to a dog that has faults that are listed as disqualifying faults in the breed standard.

Dogs that cannot be awarded with any of the grades mentioned above shall be removed from the ring with the rating:

CANNOT BE JUDGED – This rating is given

- to a dog whose gait is impossible to judge or
- to a dog who is constantly avoiding being examined by the judge and makes it impossible to check its bite and teeth, morphology, tail, or testicles, or
- if there are detectable signs of measures or treatments which look like attempts at cheating or
- if the judge has reason to suspect that a defect in the dog has been corrected (for example eyelids, ears, or tail).

The reason why the dog cannot be judged must be written in the critique.

Colours indicating prizes:

Quality grades:

Excellent – red
Very Good – blue
Good – yellow
Sufficient – green
Disqualified – grey
Cannot be Judged – brown
CC quality (CQ) – pink

Placements:

1st – red
2nd – blue
3rd – yellow
4th – green

Other prizes:

CAC/CC – blue and white
Res-CAC/CC – pale blue
Nordic CAC/CC – black-gold
Res-Nordic CAC/CC – white-silver
CACIB – white
Res-CACIB – orange
Junior CAC/CC – light yellow
Veteran CAC/CC – light green
BOB – red and yellow
BOS – green and white
HP – violet
FIN CH – red and green

Judging classes

Baby puppy class

- 5–7 months
- unofficial class, can only be arranged in breed club specialties and all breed puppy shows, critiques given to the owners
- dogs should be placed (1– 4), but NO grading is given (= no Excellent, Very good, etc.)
- the judge can award as many prizes of honour (HP) as he/she deems necessary, the best puppy of each sex with HP continues in the BOB puppy competition

Puppy class

- 7–9 months
- unofficial class, critiques given to the owners
- dogs should be placed (1– 4), but NO grading is given (= no Excellent, Very good, etc.)
- the judge can award as many prizes of honour (HP) as he/she deems necessary, the best puppy of each sex with HP continues in the BOB puppy competition

Official classes

- the dogs shall be given one of the following grades: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Sufficient, Disqualified or Cannot be judged
- grading (Excellent, Very Good, etc.) is given immediately after judging each individual dog
- the testicles should be examined by the judge (normal/not)
- the potential measurement should be done only by the judge
- dogs graded Excellent or Very Good compete for class placements (1–4), but normally a Very Good dog cannot be placed in front of a dog who has been graded Excellent; however, if this is done, the judge must motivate his/her decision also in the written critique
- the judge may give the CQ (CC quality) to as many of the dogs graded Excellent as he/she deems appropriate; only placed (1-4) dogs with CQ continue in the Best Dog / Best Bitch competition and can compete for the CAC/CC and CACIB

Junior class

- 9–18 months
- excellent dogs (in case there are fewer than four excellent dogs in the class, also dogs graded Very Good) will compete for the class placements 1–4
- Junior CAC/CC is awarded to the best junior class dog entitled to it and awarded with CQ (CC quality) in competition class
- placed dogs with CQ continue in the Best Dog / Best Bitch competition
- junior class dogs DO NOT compete for the CACIB
- winner of the class, if "Excellent and CQ", continues to compete for BOB junior and further in the BIS junior competition if such a competition is arranged (not mandatory)

Intermediate class

- 15–24 months

- excellent dogs (in case there are fewer than four excellent dogs in the class, also dogs graded Very Good) will compete for the class placements 1–4
- placed dogs with CQ continue in the Best Dog / Best Bitch competition

Open class

- 15 months and up
- excellent dogs (in case there are fewer than four excellent dogs in the class, also dogs graded Very Good) will compete for the class placements 1–4
- placed dogs with CQ continue in the Best Dog / Best Bitch competition

Working class

- 15 months and up, and the dog has to have an FCI working title
- excellent dogs (in case there are fewer than four excellent dogs in the class, also dogs graded Very Good) will compete for the class placements 1–4
- placed dogs with CQ continue in the Best Dog / Best Bitch competition

Champion class

- 15 months and up, and the dog is a Finnish Show Champion or has a champion title from another FCI country
- Finnish Champions are only allowed to be entered in Champion class, Working class or Veteran class.
- excellent dogs (in case there are fewer than four excellent dogs in the class, also dogs graded Very Good) will compete for the class placements 1–4
- placed dogs with CQ continue in the Best Dog / Best Bitch competition

Veteran class

- 8 years and up
- excellent dogs (in case there are fewer than four excellent dogs in the class, also dogs graded Very Good) will compete for the class placements 1–4
- Veteran CAC/CC is awarded to the best veteran class dog entitled to it and awarded with CQ (CC quality) in competition class
- placed dogs with CQ continue in the Best Dog / Best Bitch competition
- veterans DO NOT compete for the CACIB
- winner of the class, if "Excellent and CQ", continues to compete for BOB veteran and further in the BIS veteran competition

Best Dog/Best Bitch competition

- placed (1–4) dogs with Excellent and CQ in the Junior, Intermediate, Open, Working, Champion and Veteran classes may participate
- the four best dogs/bitches are placed

*** Junior CAC/CC**

Can only be given to

- the best Junior class dog and female that have received the qualification CQ and do not yet have the merits to the Junior Champion title (three junior CACs from three different judges)

*** Veteran CAC/CC**

Can only be given to

- the best Veteran class dog and female that have received the qualification CQ and do not yet have the merits to the Veteran Champion title (three veteran CACs from three different judges)

*** CAC/CC**

Can only be given to

- Junior or Intermediate class dogs that have received the qualification CQ and been placed in their respective classes, OR
- Open, Working, Champion or Veteran class dogs that have received the qualification CQ and been placed in the respective classes **but do not yet have the merits for the Finnish Champion title** (three CACs/CCs from three different judges, at least one of them received after turning 2 years).

Note: any dog under two years of age, regardless of the class, can only receive two CACs/CCs in total before turning two years.

If the four best dogs/bitches (= those placed 1–4) already have the Champion title merits, the rest of the dogs participating in the Best Dog / Best Bitch class compete for the CAC/CC.

*** Reserve CAC/CC**

The reserve-CAC/CC can be given to the second best dog (with CQ) that does not yet have the merits for the champion title (i.e. at least 3 CAC's/CC's, one of which received after turning 2 years). If the four best dogs/bitches (= those placed 1–4) already have the champion title merits, the rest of the dogs participating in the Best Dog / Best Bitch class compete for the reserve-CAC/CC.

Note: any dog under two years of age, regardless of the class, can only receive two CACs/CCs in total before turning two years.

*** Nordic CAC/CC**

Can only be given to the best dog/bitch class dog.

*** Reserve Nordic CAC/CC**

Can only be given to the second-best dog/bitch class dog.

*** CACIB**

Can only be given to the best dog/bitch class dog that has been competing in Open, Working, Champion or Veteran class (Junior or Veteran class dogs do not compete for the CACIB).

*** Reserve CACIB**

Can only be given to the second-best dog/bitch class dog that has been competing in Open, Working, Champion or Veteran class (Junior or Veteran class dogs do not compete for the reserve CACIB).

The **Best of Breed** is chosen after the Best Dog/Best Bitch competition; only the best dog and the best bitch may participate.

Breeders' class

- four dogs bred by the same breeder or registered under the same FCI approved kennel affix, all with the grade Excellent or Very Good
- the groups should be placed (1–4), but NO grading is given (Excellent, Very Good, Good, Satisfactory)
- the judge can give as many honorary prizes (HP) as he/she wants
- if the winning group has received an HP, it goes on to compete for the BIS-breeders' group title

Please note:

- It is forbidden to use any substance that affects the dog's well-being and health; this also applies to treatment of structure, shape, or colour of the dog's coat as well as dyein of skin and nose. If you suspect that such substances have been used, please contact the show organizer.
- Docked and/or cropped dogs are not allowed to participate in dog shows in Finland.
- Dogs coming too late for judging can only have a written critique and grading. The class is "closed" when the judge has started to place the dogs in the competition class.
- Trainee judges are usually qualified judges who are studying in order to become licensed to a new breed. The judge is expected to teach them while judging by discussing the dogs with them. The judge is not expected to examine the trainees, and she/he is not allowed to ask for the trainees' opinion of the presented dogs until after the quality grade has been given. Trainees do not write any critiques. The trainee must never influence the judge's decisions, measure dogs, check testicles or bites.