



## 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. The following information will help you know when you need to be in the building to show your dog or help you figure out when a specific breed is going to show on that day, how the dogs are judged, what the judge is looking for and how the dogs win their classes and proceed to Best In Show.

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

The dogs are split into 7 Groups - Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting and Herding. Know what group the dog you are looking for is in and what time the group starts. This time will be posted at the beginning of the Group Column. Count all the dogs from the start time to the breed you are looking for. Times this number by 2 and relate that to a clock. So if the group begins at 9 a.m. and there are 43 dogs ahead of yours, times 43 by 2 = 86 (86 minutes) that means the approximate time your dog will be showing is 10:26 a.m.

When showing or as a spectator, always be in the building at least 1 hour before your scheduled show time. Sometimes judges run a bit fast in their judging and you do not want to miss your ring.

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 as per the breed standard. The Breed Standard is the printed standard established by the Breeders.

### 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.

<b>Baby Puppy</b>	For dogs over 3 months old, but under 6 months old, on the day of the show.
<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, NonSporting 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.



## UNDERSTANDING OBEDIENCE AND RALLY OBEDIENCE TRIALS

Obedience trial events are often held in conjunction with Confirmation Shows. Not only do these sports encourage the use of a dog's natural ability, but also the remarkable qualities of an animal-human team.

### OBEDIENCE

Obedience trials test a dog's ability to perform a group of obedience exercises at different levels of competition. However, at each level you must score more than 50% of the possible points (ranging from 20-45) to get a total score of at least 170/200 points. Each time your dog gets 170 or over, it has obtained a qualifying score ("leg") toward an obedience title. Three "legs" is an obedience title.

CD and CDX competition include "A" (beginners) and "B" (experienced handlers, trainers, and for those whose dogs have obtained previous titles). There are 3 levels of obedience, from Novice to Utility. Dogs competing in the Novice classes obtain a CD title, the Open class a CDX title, and the highest level is Utility.

### RALLY OBEDIENCE

"Rally is a sport newly recognized by the CKC, intended to introduce owners and dogs to basic obedience training skills. CKC Rally Trials enable owners to have fun earning official titles in a competition while interacting with their dogs naturally, using praise, encouragement, and petting. In a trial, owner and dog teams individually execute a timed and scored course consisting of 10 - 20 required "stations" or exercises, with a sign at each indicating what is to be done. The judge designs different courses for each event. In the Novice level, all exercises are performed on leash. In Advanced and Excellent, all work is off leash, and more difficult stations are added. Dogs have to be able to heel under control, sit, down and stand, perform a variety of turns in heel position, and recall to sit in front, and then return to heel. Advanced exercises include low jumps, requiring a dog to back up at heel, and weave in and out of obstacles, or ignore food on the ground. Dogs need to pass in three separate trials to win a certificate at each level. Rally enables owners of all ages and skills to demonstrate the useful skills they have taught their dogs. Marion Postgate"

**RALLY NOVICE A & B** must have between 10 – 15 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than five (5) stationary exercises per class.

**NOVICE A** - Dogs competing in this class may not have won a CKC Rally Novice (R.N.) title or any CKC Obedience title. The handler of any dog in this class must be the owner, co-owner, or member of their immediate family. A dog may not be exhibited in this class after official notification from the CKC that the dog has won the title. No dog may be entered in Rally Novice A & B in any one trial. A person may enter more than one dog in this class.

**NOVICE B** – Any dog may compete in this class until a qualifying score in the Rally Advanced class is earned. The owner or any other person may handle a dog in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class

**RALLY ADVANCED A & B** must have the R. N. title and the course must have between 12 – 17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than seven (7) stationary exercises per class.

**ADVANCED A** – This class shall be for dogs that have won the Rally Novice (R.N.) title but have not won the Rally R.A. title or any CKC Novice Obedience title. The handler of any dog in this class must be the owner, co-owner, or member of their immediate family. No dog may be entered in Rally Advanced A & B in any one trial. A person may enter more than one dog in this class.

**ADVANCED B** – This class will be for dogs that have won the Rally RN title. A dog may continue to compete in this class indefinitely. The owner or any other person may handle a dog in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class.



**RALLY EXCELLENT A & B** must have the R. A. title and the course must have between 15 – 20 stations (Start and Finish not included) with no more than seven (7) stationary exercises per class. Two jumps must be used in these classes. An honour Exercise must be included in the Rally Excellent Class.

**EXCELLENT A** – This class shall be for dogs that have won the Rally Advanced (R.A.) title but have not won the Rally R.E. title or any CKC Novice Obedience title. The handler of any dog in this class must be the owner, co-owner, or member of their immediate family. No dog may be entered in Rally Excellent A & B in any one trial. A person may enter more than one dog in this class.

**EXCELLENT B** – This class will be for dogs that have won the Rally RA title. A dog may continue to compete in this class indefinitely. The owner or any other person may handle a dog in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class.