



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

AKC EVENTS in Brief

Agility ~ Agility blends training and athletic ability, creating challenge and excitement for every breed. Dogs demonstrate their ability to negotiate a complex course that includes climbing an Aframe, jumping through hoops, running through tunnels and pausing on command. Competing in agility requires proper training, as it is a game of physical skill, control, patience and, most of all, teamwork between a handler and dog.

Obedience ~ Obedience trials promote better canine-human companionship by encouraging basic good behavior in dogs. Obedience competitions test a dog's ability to perform a prescribed set of exercises. Competing in obedience requires preparation, as it is a game of control, patience and teamwork between a handler and dog.

Rally® ~ Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of designated stations (10 - 20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience.

Dog Shows (Junior Showmanship) ~ Dog shows celebrate and help preserve the distinctive features of different breeds and provide a forum in which dogs are evaluated for future breeding programs. Handlers enter the show ring with their dogs so judges can evaluate the dogs' conformation, or how closely their physical structure conforms to their particular breeds' standards (detailed descriptions of each breed).

Junior Showmanship offers children between the ages of 10 and 18 years of age an opportunity to develop their handling skills, learn about good sportsmanship and learn about dogs and dog shows. Juniors are judged on their ability to present, or handle, their dogs as they would in the breed ring. Juniors may also gain recognition in performance and field events such as obedience, agility, earthdog and lure coursing.

Field Trials ~ Field trials offer practical demonstrations of a dog's ability to perform in the field the functions for which it was bred. Field events are open to pointing breeds, retrievers, spaniels, Beagles, Basset Hounds and Dachshunds. Events vary according to breeds' functions, but in each case, dogs compete against each other for placements and points toward their championships.

Hunting Tests ~ Hunting tests evaluate a dog's hunting abilities on different elements of pointing, retrieving or flushing. The dog's ability to perform is judged against a standard of perfection established by the AKC regulations.

Earthdog ~ Smaller terriers and Dachshunds, which were originally bred to go into dens and tunnels in pursuit of rats, badgers and other quarry, participate in earthdog tests. The tests give dogs an opportunity to display their ability to follow game and "work" by barking, digging and/or scratching the quarry (game).

Tracking ~ Tracking tests, open to all breeds, evaluate a dog's ability to follow a trail by scent. The dog must find and indicate articles left on the track by a track layer. The handler must show all articles to the judges at the end of the track. Some of the most difficult tests challenge a dog to follow human scent across various surfaces and through changing conditions.

Coonhound Events ~ Coonhound events include bench shows, field trials, nite hunts and water races. At a bench show, dogs are put on benches to be judged for their conformation; then the dogs are taken around the ring at a trot to be judged on their movement. The other events test the dog's ability to follow the scent of a raccoon to the tree where it's hiding and to signal their owners that the quarry is treed.

Herding ~ Herding tests and trials demonstrate a dog's ability to herd sheep, cattle, goats or ducks under the direction of a handler.