



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 temperament, and 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 and which has well-balanced proportions and is in correct condition. A few minor faults may be tolerated, however none of a morphological nature. This award can only be granted to a dog that shows class.

GOOD is to be awarded to a dog which possesses the main features of its breed however showing faults, subject to that these are not concealed.

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 must be awarded to a dog that

- does not correspond to the type required by the standard;
- displays behaviour clearly not in line with its standard or is aggressive;
- has testicular abnormalities or is castrated. As of 1.1.2017, veterinary certificates concerning castration are no longer accepted and a castrated dog is given the grade Disqualified at all times.
- has dental flaw(s) or a jaw abnormality;
- shows a colour and/or coat imperfection or clearly shows signs of albinism;
- does not appear healthy;
- shows some fault(s) listed in the breed standard as eliminating faults.



Dogs that cannot be awarded any one of the qualifications mentioned above should be released from the ring with:

CANNOT BE JUDGED – This rating is given

- to a dog whose gait and movement cannot be assessed (dog does not move, constantly jumps up and down around its handler or tries to get out of the ring);
- to a dog that constantly avoids the judge so that it cannot be examined to inspect its bite, teeth, anatomy, construction, tail or testicles;
- to a dog that shows traces of operations or treatments that appear like attempts of deception;
- if the judge has reason to suspect operations intended to correct some fault in the dog (e.g. eyelids, ears, tail).

The written critique must clearly state the reason why the dog got rated CANNOT BE JUDGED

Prize ribbons / colours

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
FIN CH – red and green
CACIB – white
Res-CACIB – orange
HP – violet
BOB – red and yellow
BOS – green and white

Judging classes

Baby class

- 5–7 months
- unofficial class, can only be arranged in breed club specialties, critiques given to the owners
- dogs should be placed (1–4), but NO grading is given (= no Excellent, Very good, etc.)
- the judge can give out as many honorary prizes (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 give out as many honorary prizes (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.) 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 VeryGood 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 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 (and if there is less 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
- Junior class dogs do NOT compete for the CACIB

Intermediate class

- 15–24 months
- excellent dogs (and if there is less 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 (and if there is less 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 (and if there is less 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 to Champion class, Working class or Veteran class.
- excellent dogs (and if there is less 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 (and if there is less 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



- veterans DO NOT compete for the CACIB
- winner of the class, if "Excellent", continues to compete for BOB veteran and further in the BIS-veteran competition (CQ is not required!)

Best Dog/Best Bitch competition

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

*** CAC/CC**

Can only be given to

- Junior or Intermediate class dogs that have received the qualification CQ and been placed in the Junior or Intermediate class, OR
- to 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 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 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.

*** CACIB and reserve CACIB**

Similar to CAC/CC competition, however Junior or Veteran class dogs cannot compete for the CACIB / reserve-CACIB. No other restrictions.

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 from the same kennel, 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 substances that affect the colour, form or structure of the coat, nose and skin. 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 if they are born on January 1st 2001 or later. Dogs older than that can be shown. In these breeds it should not have any effect on the judging whether the dog is cropped / docked or not.
- Dogs coming too late for judging can only have a written critique and grading. The class is "closed" when the judge has decided the placing in each 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.