

YKC Young Kennel Club

HANDLING REGULATIONS



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DEFINITION

- The YKC hosts twelve handling competition finals at Crufts culminating in a Grand final in the YKC ring at Crufts to determine the YKC handler of the year. To qualify for the finals, members must compete in YKC handling classes held at shows throughout the year, these classes can be found at www.ykc.org.uk
- Handling qualifiers run from the 1st January to the 31st December for the following year's Crufts.

CLASSES

- There are several different classes for you to enter depending on which show is holding the qualifier.
 - Some shows are held on one day, these shows will typically be open to every breed of dog.
 - Large championship shows may be across more than one day, as such on a particular day the show may only accept entry of one or two groups.
- Dogs do not need to be entered into a breed class to participate in an YKC Handling class at a championship or open show.
 - If a member wishes to handle a crossbreed or non-pedigree dog, and the show permits a non-pedigree dog entry, the dog should be entered according to the group the dog most resembles.

Example:

The "Amazing Dog Show" is held across a 4 day period. As such they decide to split the entries to the show so that different groups are on different days. They have split the show as follows:

- *Day 1: Gundog and Terrier*
- *Day 2: Working and Pastoral*
- *Day 3: Toy and Utility*
- *Day 4: Hound*

You own a Border Collie, which is part of the "Pastoral" group. As such, you should only enter YKC handling on day 2 with the Border Collie.

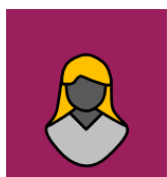
HANDLERS



- Regardless of which class is being held, there will always be 3 separate age categories per class:



- **Under 12** (Handlers 6 years and up to, but not including 12th birthday)



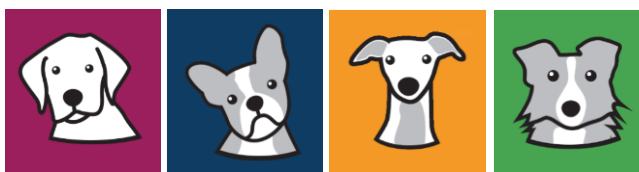
- **12 Years and Over** (Handlers 12 years and up to, but not including 18th birthday)



- **18 Years and Over** (Handlers 18 years and up to, but not including 25th birthday)

- There will be separate awards for each age group.
- A handler may only exhibit once per class.
- A handler should enter the age category they will be on the first day of the show. If the member would move up into another age group by Crufts, the YKC Office will invite them to compete in their new age group category.
- In order to enter any YKC competition, you must be a fully paid up member at the time of entry and competition. If you enter a Crufts qualifier and you have not previously paid your membership fee then any award will be forfeited.

DOGS



- Only dogs of six (6) calendar months of age and over on the day of competition are eligible for entry into an YKC Handling class.
- Dogs must be on a Kennel Club register to compete in a YKC handling competition.
 - Please note that, some shows may require the dog to be on the breed register to enter any competition at the show. Always check with the show schedule before entering the class. This may impact which shows crossbreeds can enter.

QUALIFYING FOR CRUFTS

To Qualify for Crufts, members must gain points by being placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in YKC Handling qualifying events. There will be a 1st – 2nd – 3rd for each age group in each class

To guarantee qualification, members must reach **30** points for the year

Points are gained by the following:



- **1st Place: 30 POINTS**



- **2nd Place: 15 POINTS**



- **3rd Place: 10 POINTS**

- If you are placed either first, second or third, your points will be towards which ever group you were handling when you received the points.
 - If you receive 30 or more points for a group, you will be invited participate in the handling final with a breed from that group.
 - If a handler receives points across more than one group, they will only be invited to compete at Crufts with the group(s) of dog which they have 30 or more points with.
 - Should a handler get more than 30 points in more than one group, they must choose one dog between those groups to enter at Crufts.

Example: John Smith came second a 6-11 handling class with a Bichon Frise (part of the toy group). John Smith then went on to win two 6-11 handling classes with a whippet (part of the hound group). John Smith is then placed second 4 times with 2 different Border Collies (part of the pastoral group).

John Smith's points tally will look like this:

- John Smith – Hound: 60 Points
- John Smith – Pastoral: 60 points
- John Smith – Toy: 15 Points

When the YKC invite John to compete at Crufts, he will be asked whether he wishes to enter a dog from the Hound group **OR** a dog from the Pastoral group. John only received 15 points in the Toy group, therefore he cannot use a dog from the Toy group in the handling finals at Crufts. The dog does not have to be the same as the dog who qualified, but it does have to be in the same group.

- All points are reset to 0 on 1st January of each year. No points are carried over from previous years.
- If a member who received first, second or third is disqualified after the awards have been announced, there will not be any re-allocation of points.

COMPETING AT CRUFTS

- The same dog may not be handled by two or more separate handlers in the same class.
- When competing at Crufts there will be 4 distinct classes each with 3 different age groups making a total of 12 classes.
 - The classes will be grouped in the same manner in which Crufts is grouped:
 - Gundogs
 - Working and Pastoral dogs
 - Utility and Toy dogs
 - Terrier and Hound dogs
- The winner of each class and age group will qualify for the “Handler of the Year” competition on Sunday making 12 finalists.
 - These finalists should handle the same dog as they qualified for the final with.
 - Exceptional circumstances will be considered if the same dog cannot be used.
 - All 3 age groups will compete together to try to win the coveted “Handler of the Year” award.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

The YKC also offer members the chance to win badges based on achievements in the handling ring. This award scheme is separate from the Crufts qualification process, although members will gain points by entering YKC Handling competitions.

- Points can be gained by being placed at YKC handling competitions
- Points must be collected in a special awards book to record any places gained in all handling classes at shows.
 - A book can be requested by emailing the YKC office with your name and address.
- Members should ensure that each entry into the book is fully completed before asking a judge, steward or secretary to sign and verify the award.
- A separate book must be used for each dog being handled.
- The information recorded in the book must comply with the competition rules (see class definition).
- Details of where to send the award book after completion are available inside the book.