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| All-Breed Show | Conformation show where all breeds are exhibited. |
| Best of Breed | Dog selected by the judge as the best representative of a particular breed on that day. |
| Bitch | A female dog. |
| Breed Standard - Illustrated | An illustrated addendum that is an accompaniment to the written Breed Standard, used as a guideline and visual aid to help clarify the Standard. It serves only as an aid, and is not considered part of the official Standard.  |
| Breed Standard - Written | A word picture describing how the perfect dog of a breed should look, move, and behave. The breed standard is owned by the parent club, with full use extended to the AKC. |
| Catalog | Booklet sold at an event that contains information on individual dogs entered in the event. |
| Champion | A title conferred on a dog by the AKC as a result of defeating a specified number of dogs in specified competition at a series of AKC licensed or member dog shows. It requires a total of 15 points, with two major wins from two separate judges. |
| Class Competition | A class made up of dogs from the regular classes. There are 8 regular classes for each sex: 6-9 months, 9-12 months, 12-18 months, amateur owner-handler, bred-by-exhibitor, novice, open. |
| Cluster | Four all-breed shows held in four consecutive days at the same location. |
| Cobby | Compact, with a short body. |
| Conformation | The form and structure, make and shape; arrangement of the parts in conformance with breed standards. |
| Dam | The female parent. |
| Disqualification | Conformation/obedience: a decision made by a judge or an event committee following a determination that a dog has a condition that makes it ineligible for any further competition under the dog show rules or obedience regulations, under the standard for its breed or due to an undesirable feature of the dog that results in this action. |
| Dog | Male dog or term used to refer generically to all dogs, male or female. |
| Double Handling | The act of someone, other than the handler, getting a dog's attention in the ring to help the dog to show or look better. |
| Dudley Nose | Flesh-colored. |
| Entry | The submission of a written entry to a superintendent or show secretary. |
| Excused (Dog) | Asking the exhibitor to remove a dog from the event for any reason listed in the rules or regulations pertaining to competition. In conformation and obedience events, a dog that is excused does not count as having been present in computing points. In performance events, a dog that is excused may or may not be counted in computing points, depending on the event. |
| Finished | Term used to describe when a dog has completed its title requirements. |
| Grand Champion | A title conferred on a dog by the AKC as a result of defeating a specified number of dogs in specified competition at a series of AKC licensed or member dog shows. It requires a total of 25 points, with three major wins form three separate judges. |
| Group Class | A class made up of dogs designated best of breed or best of variety for their specific group. No separate entry is made for this class. Each group winner is eligible to compete in the best in show competition. |
| Groups (7) | The breeds as grouped into seven divisions by the AKC to facilitate judging. The seven groups are: sporting, hound, working, toy, terrier, non-sporting, and herding. |
| Judge | Official approved by the AKC to evaluate dogs in specific AKC events. |
| Judge’s Book | Book in which the judge records the results from the event being officiated. |
| Judging Schedule/Program  | A program that lists the time scheduled for judging of each breed or variety, obedience class, and other classes that are offered for the event on that day. Also called judging program. |
| Major Win | A win that consists of 3, 4, or 5 points in conformation events and some performance events. |
| Move-up | 1. *Events*: dogs that, according to their owner's records, have completed the requirements for a championship after the closing of entries for the show (but whose championships are unconfirmed by the AKC) may be transferred from one of the regular classes to the best of breed or variety competition.
2. *Event records*: if an award in any of the regular classes is canceled, the dog judged in the next order of merit will be given that award. The result of the award will be counted the same as if it had been the original award.
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| National Specialty | Any event held by the parent club. |
| Non-Sporting Group | Group of dogs that may share attributes, but don't fit into the mold of other groups. Bulldogs are in this group. |
| Parent Club | The national organization designated by the AKC to represent a specific breed. |
| Pedigree | The written record of a dog's genealogy of three generations or more. |
| Piebald | Covered with patches of two colors, especially black and white. Color definitions may vary by breed. Always check the breed standard for the definitive color description. |
| Premium List | Official announcement of the club's event sent to prospective participants. It contains the details of an upcoming event. |
| Professional Handler | A person who exhibits dogs for a fee. |
| Provisional (Permitted) Judge | Title assigned to judges while they are being evaluated on their knowledge of designated breed(s) and/or level of obedience class in accordance with the current AKC judging approval system. |
| Puppy Class | A regular class for dogs that are six months of age or over, but under twelve months, that are not champions. Puppy classes may be divided into the 6-9 month and 9-12 month classes. |
| Registration Number | Unique number assigned to a dog when it is individually registered. Under the current registration system, this number is the litter number plus a slash mark (/) and a two-digit number. |
| Show Chairman | The member of the event-giving club who is responsible for proper planning, conducting, and reporting the results of the event. Any of these duties may be delegated to other people or organizations, such as the event secretary or superintendent, but the event chairman is ultimately responsible for these duties. |
| Show Secretary | Person who receives entries for an event. |
| Sire | The male parent. |
| Specialty Club | A club formed to serve and responsibly promote the interests of a single breed. |
| Specialty Show | Conformation show in which only dogs of an individual breed or group of breeds are eligible to enter. |
| Steward / Ring Steward | Person who is responsible for the smooth running of a specific ring; for example, assembling the classes, distributing armbands, etc., thereby enabling the judge to concentrate on judging the dogs. |
| Superintendent | An individual licensed by the AKC and hired by a club to be responsible for the actual mechanics of holding an event. |
| Sweepstakes | A non-regular competition offered in conjunction with regular classes at specialty shows for puppies or veterans. Class divisions, requirements, and conditions are established by the club. No championship points are awarded. |
| Topline | The dog's outline from just behind the withers to the tail set. |
| Undershot | The front teeth (incisors) of the lower jaw overlapping or projecting beyond the front teeth of the upper jaw when the mouth is closed. |
| Wry Jaw / Wry Bite | Asymmetrical alignment of upper and lower jaws; cross bite. |